

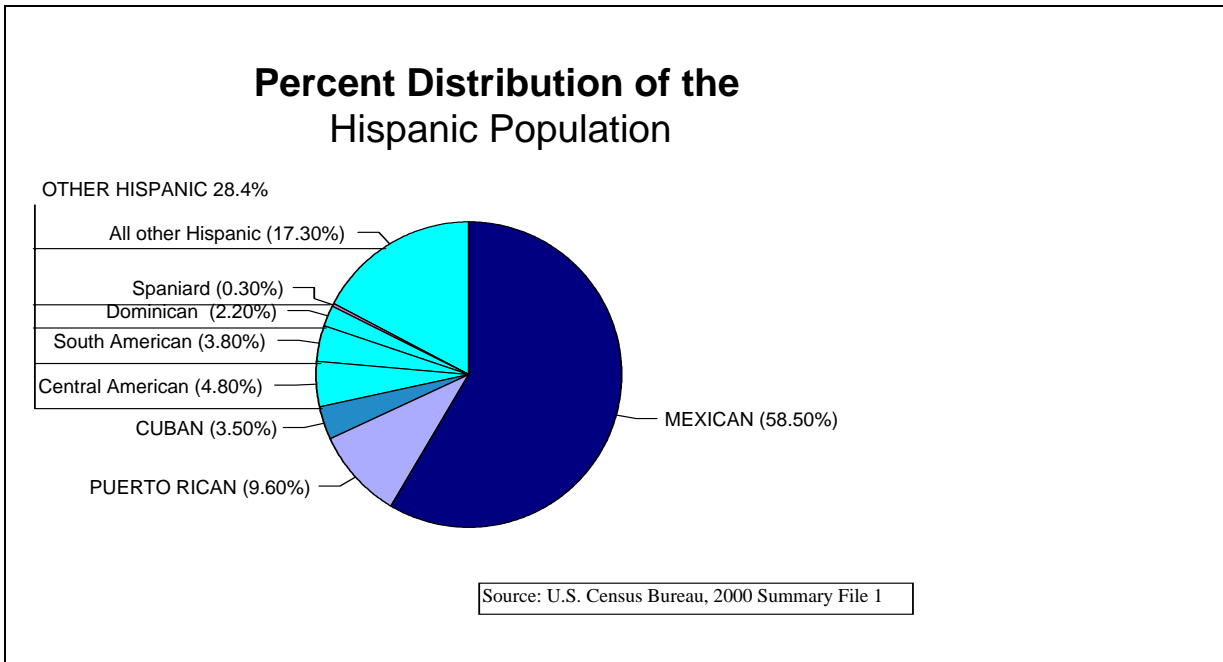
the Office of Quality Assurance and the Office of Latino Services for providing the IDCFS data.

#### 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

South, fifteen percent (15%) live in the Northeast, and nine percent (9%) live in the Midwest.<sup>3</sup> The community of East Los Angeles has the highest concentration of Latinos (98%) in the nation. Chicago ranked as the third largest city in total Hispanic population.

### ***Socioeconomic and Demographic Characteristics***

The growth in the Latino population is largely due to high fertility rates in Latino families. The resulting increase in the Latino child population has translated into dramatic shifts in the complexion of the U.S. child population. A 2001 report<sup>4</sup> issued by the National Council of Latino Executives (a Child Welfare League of America Advisory Group) highlighted the following information:

- Latinos are the largest growing and youngest segment of the U.S. population. The median age of the Latino population in 2000 was 25.9 compared to the median age of the general population, which is 35.3 years.
- Latino children are the second largest group of children in the nation (12 million), surpassing the African American child population.

### ***Immigration***

Immigration is another factor influencing Latino population growth. The issue of immigration has been hotly debated in the national scene and remains of critical importance to Latino communities across the country.

- The number of foreign-born Hispanics was 12.8 million or 39% of the total Latino population.
- Of the foreign born Latino population almost half or 43% are new immigrants who entered the United States since 1990.
- Latinos represent 51% of the U.S. total foreign-born population; close to 17.9 million U.S. residents were born in Latin America.

### ***Education***

National statistics consistently show that Latinos lag behind other groups in educational attainment. Generally, Latinos have much lower high school completion rates than African-American and whites.<sup>5</sup>

- In the 2000 Census, 57% of Latinos age 25 and over had at least a high school education. Also, 27.3% of Latinos had less than a 9<sup>th</sup> grade education.

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<sup>3</sup> Guzman, Betsy, 2000, *The Hispanic Population*: May 2001, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington DC

<sup>4</sup> Guzman, Betsy, 2000, *The Hispanic Population*: May 2001, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington DC

<sup>5</sup> Child Trends by Stephanie Williams and Edited by Jenice Robinson

- In 1998, Latinos had a higher drop out rate (9 percent) than whites (4 percent) or African-American (5 percent).
- Higher education statistics show that about 11% of Latinos age 25 and over have at least a bachelor's degree. This represents an average that ranges from 23% for Cuban Americans to 7% for Mexican Americans.
- Only 1.6% of Latinos or 573,000 have an advanced degree (Master's, Ph.D., M.D. or J.D.)

### ***Adolescent Birth Rate***

A similar pattern is evidenced with respect to teen pregnancy. While the national adolescent birthrate has dropped, Latino teenagers continue to have higher birth rates than whites and African-Americans.

- Between the ages of 15-17 Latinos had 69.0 live births per 1,000, while whites had 20.6 and African-Americans had 66.6 live births.
- Between the ages of 18-19 Latinos had 151.1 live births per 1,000 while whites had 63.7 and African-Americans had 136.6.<sup>6</sup>

### ***Poverty & Unemployment***

Latinos are the fastest growing poor of any ethnic/racial group in the country today. According to U.S. Census figures released in 2000, the Latino poverty rate has surpassed every other ethnic/racial group in the country.

- Latinos have a high poverty rate compared to whites and African-Americans. In 1999, 22.8% of Latinos were living in poverty.
- Also, 30.3% of Latino children are living in poverty.<sup>7</sup>
- In 1999, 20% or 1.5 million of Latino families are poor.
- In March 2000, 6.8 % of Latinos in the civilian labor force aged 16 and older were unemployed.<sup>8</sup>
- Forty-one percent of Latinos are employed in service occupations or as laborers. Only about 14% are employed in managerial or professional occupations.

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<sup>6</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Ventura, S.J. Martin, J.A., Curtin, S.C. and Mathews, T.J. (1999)

<sup>7</sup> Therrien, Melissa and Ramirez, Roberto R. 2000, *The Hispanic Population in the United States: March 2000*, Current Population Reports, P20-535, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington DC.

<sup>8</sup> Therrien, Melissa and Ramirez, Roberto R. 2000, *The Hispanic Population in the United States: March 2000*, Current Population Reports, P20-535, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington DC.

## ***Substance Abuse***

The link between substance abuse and child abuse and neglect is well established. The relationship is complex, as substance abuse can be both a factor in precipitating child abuse as well as a consequence of child maltreatment. Latino children report using illicit drugs at higher percentages than their white and African-American peers.

- In 1997, 15.9% Latino 8<sup>th</sup> graders had used an illicit drug compared to 13.7% for white and 10.8% for black. For 10<sup>th</sup> graders 24.2% of Latinos had used an illicit drug compared to 23.8% for white and 17.7% for African-Americans. For 12<sup>th</sup> graders 23.9% Latinos, 26.4% for white and 20.0% for African-Americans.<sup>9</sup>

## ***Family Structure***

Latinos reported having larger families than other racial groups.

- Latinos tend to live in larger families, with 31% of Latinos living in households consisting of five or more people.<sup>10</sup>
- About 53% of Latinos age 18 or older reported being married and living with their spouse in the 2000 census.
- The majority of Latino children (65%) under 18 are living with both parents.

## **Child Abuse and Neglect Statistics**

Nationwide, Latino children continue entering the child welfare system at unprecedented rates, yet statistically they remain underrepresented, over represented or when not counted by ethnicity, virtually invisible. The use of the term “Latino” or “Hispanic” is problematic since most child welfare studies fail to differentiate Latino subgroups and instead give the impression that Latinos are a monolithic ethnic group.<sup>11</sup>

- In 1998, Latinos had a large presence in the substitute care child population of several states, representing about 32.7% (20,342) in California, 40.7% (3,001) in New Mexico, 25.8% (13,533) in New York.

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<sup>9</sup> Johnston, L.D., O’Malley, P.M., and Bachman, J.G. (1998). *National Survey Results on Drug Use* from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1997.

<sup>10</sup> Therrien, Melissa and Ramirez, Roberto R. 2000, *The Hispanic Population in the United States: March 2000*, Current Population Reports, P20-535, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington DC.

<sup>11</sup> Robert M. Ortega, MSW, Ph.D. *Latinos and Child Well-being: Implication from Child Welfare*, September 2000.

- In 2003, 90,177 Latino children of all ages were victims of maltreatment in 49 states, accounting for 11.5% of the child maltreatment population in these states (NCANDS)<sup>12</sup>.
- Nearly 90% of the victim reports for the nation's Latino children could be accounted for in eleven states including California (25%), Texas (18%), New York (11%), Arizona (7%), Connecticut (7%), Massachusetts (5%), Washington (5%), New Mexico (4%), Illinois (4%), Colorado and New Jersey (2% each)<sup>13</sup>.

## V. LATINOS IN THE LAND OF LINCOLN: A GROWING PRESENCE IN ILLINOIS

### State of Illinois Demographics

There are many parallels between national trends and the Latino demographic data in Illinois. For example, the Latino population is the second largest minority group and the fastest growing population in the state, increasing by 69.2% over the last decade.

- Census 2004 update data indicated that the Latino population for the State of Illinois had increased to 1,739,870. Latinos make up about 14.0% of the total state population, which is estimated at 12,390,521.
- Latino population statistics show a tremendous increase, up by 69.2% from 1990 to 2000 Census figures. In comparison, the non-Hispanic white population decreased by about 1.5% and the African American population has grown only 10.9%.

The Latino community has established itself as a vibrant segment of the City of Chicago, which has about 2,869,121 residents.<sup>14</sup> Latinos represent about 26% of the city's residents or about 745,818. Together with African-Americans, Latinos now outnumber whites in the city by more than 900,000. The following statistics on Latinos in the Chicago area were also revealed from the <sup>15</sup>2000 Census:

- A surge of new Latino residents during the last decade has propelled a population boom throughout the Chicago Metropolitan area and fueled the first rebound in Chicago's population since the decade of the 50s.
- While the city had a net gain of about 112, 290 new residents during the last decade, the city lost about 150,000 non-Hispanic residents as it added about 207,000 Latinos.

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<sup>12</sup> National Center for Child Abuse and Neglect Data System.

<sup>13</sup> Robert M. Ortega, MSW, Ph.D. *Latinos and Child Well-being: Implication from Child Welfare*, September 2000.

<sup>14</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey

<sup>15</sup> Teresa Puente & Bob Kemper, City Population Bounces Back, *Chicago Tribune*, March 15, 2001.