

Hispanic Facts and Figures for the Nation

Celebrando Nuestra Herencia



Celebrating Our Heritage

Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15 - October 15, 2007.

Hispanics are the largest minority group in the United States, representing approximately 16% of the U.S. population.

There are approximately 44 million Hispanics living in the U.S. today.

Mexican Americans are the largest Hispanic sub-group, comprising about 58% of the Hispanic population.

The fast-growing Hispanic population had increased by 58 percent between 1990 and 2000—a much higher rate than the general population increase of 13.2 percent.

Roughly 80 percent of Hispanics live in nine states—California, Texas, New York, Florida, Illinois, Arizona, New Jersey, New Mexico, and Colorado.

In the Midwest, the Hispanic population grew from 1.7 million in 1990 to more than 3 million in 2000.

In the South, Hispanics almost doubled in that region's population—from 6.8 million to almost 12 million.

The Hispanic population is very young. The average age of Hispanics is about twenty-six years. This is approximately nine years younger than the average age of all Americans.

The economic clout of Hispanics has risen from \$212 billion in 1990, to \$798 billion in 2006 and is expected to be almost \$1.2 trillion in 2011. Hispanic buying power is increasing at a rate 3 times higher than non-Hispanics. (Humphreys, Selig Center, 2006)

Local & National Hispanic Advocacy Organizations

American GI Forum

National Council of La Raza (NCLR)

Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce (AHCC)

HELP-NM

Hispanic Round Table (HRT)

Hispanic Statement of Cooperation (HSOC)

Hispanic Women's Council (HWC)

League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

Mujeres de LULAC

Mexican-American Women's National Association

(MANA)

Ser de New Mexico (SER)

United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC)

Notable Hispanic-American Scientists

Luis Walter Alvarez, Nobel Prizewinning physicist

Franklin Chang-Diaz, astronaut

Sid Gutierrez, astronaut

Mario Molina, Nobel Prize-winning chemist

Carlos Noriega, astronaut

Ellen Ochoa, astronaut

Severo Ochoa, Nobel Prize-winning biochemist

Ambassador Jim Sweeney, Scientist

Hispanics in the U.S. Military

Hispanics have fought in every war for the United States since the American Revolutionary War.

American Revolutionary War (1775-1783)

Spain and her superior naval fleet and ground soldiers were instrumental and fundamental in defeating the British. They fought the British in North America, the Caribbean, Central America and Europe. U.S. Admiral David Farragut was the son of an officer of the Spanish Navy.

War of 1812

Spanish speaking soldiers served the U.S. in America's second war for Independence against the British.

Mexican-American War (1846-1848)

Hispanos fought on both sides of this war. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was produced as a result of this war. Many Hispanos still wait for all aspects of this Treaty, especially with regard to Land Grants, to be fully realized and honored.

American Civil War (1861-1865)

Spanish speaking soldiers fought on both sides of the Civil War and were vital players in the defeat of the Confederate forces at the Battle of Apache Pass (Glorieta), often known as the "Gettysberg of the West".

Spanish American War 1898

The 1st. NM Calvary was headquartered in Las Vegas, NM. The first NM Calvary charged up Kettle Hill led by Lieutenant Colonel "Teddy" Roosevelt.

World War I (1914-1918)

Over 200,000 Hispanics served in WWI, the majority of them were Mexican-Americans. David Barkley Cantu, a Mexican-American from Texas, was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions near Pouilly, France on November 9, 1918.

World War II (1939-1945)

Over half a million Hispanic men and women served during WW II. Dr. Miguel Encinias born and raised in Las Vegas, NM, is the only Hispano in the U.S. and one of only 5 American pilots to have flown combat missions in 3 different Wars: WW II, the Korean War and Viet Nam War.

Korean War (1950-1953)

Over 150,000 Hispanics served in the Korean War. Colonel Manuel Fernandez became a 14 victory ace in the first jet-age air war.

Viet Nam War (1959-1973)

Over 80,000 Hispanics served with distinction in Viet Nam. Hispanics made up 25% of the casualties in Viet Nam, at a time when Hispanics made up less than 5% of the entire U.S. population. Everett Alvarez Jr. was the first U.S. Pilot shot down over North Viet Nam and was a POW from 1964-1973. Lieutenant Commander Alvarez was present front and center when the treaty to end the Viet Nam war was signed.

Persian Gulf War (1990-1991)

More than 20,000 Hispanic men and women participated in operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm during the Persian Gulf War.

Iraq and Afghanistan

In today's military, Hispanos continue to answer our nation's call to service and duty. Hispanos make up approximately 25% of our troops involved in combat and hazardous duty operations. An estimated 20% of the casualties during these wars have been Hispanic.

Hispanic-Americans in Entertainment & Arts

(Below are just a few—go to nhccnm.org for more Hispanic Entertainers)

Christina Aguilera, pop singer

Isabel Allende, writer

Julia Alvarez, writer

Rudolfo Anaya, writer

Desi Arnaz, actor & producer

Ana Baca, author

Judy Baca, artist

Joan Baez, singer & activist

Jean-Michel Basquiat, artist

Ruben Blades, musician, composer & actor

Fernando Bujones, ballet dancer

Vicki Carr, singer

Lynda Carter, actress

Sandra Cisneros, writer

Celia Cruz, singer

Sammy Davis, Jr., singer & actor

Dolores Del Rio, actress

Cameron Diaz, actress

Gloria Estefan, pop singer

Emilio Estevez, actor

America Ferrera, actor

Andy Garcia, actor

Jerry Garcia, musician

Rupert Garcia, artist

Salma Hayek, actress

Rita Hayworth, actress

Oscar Hijuelos, writer

Maria Hinojosa, journalist

Raul Julia, actor

Jose Limon, dancer & choreographer

George Lopez, comedian & actor

Jennifer Lopez, actor & singer

Mario Lopez, actor

Trini Lopez, singer

Cheech Marin, actor

Ricky Martin, singer

Ricardo Montalban, actor

Rita Moreno, actress, singer & dancer

Edward James Olmos, actor

Anna Pacheco, publisher

Rosie Perez, actress

Anthony Quinn, actor

José Quintero, theater director

Geraldo Rivera, talk-show host & journalist

Paul Rodriguez, actor & comedian

Linda Ronstadt, singer

Carlos Santana, guitarist & singer

Selena, singer

Charlie Sheen, actor

Martin Sheen, actor

Jimmy Smits, actor

Richard Serra, sculptor

Louis Santeiro, writer

Gary Soto, writer

Lupe Velez, actress

Raquel Welch, actress

Hispanic-American Medal of Honor Recipients

Adams, Lucian
Anderson, Bruce
Baca, John P.
Barkeley Cantu, David B.
Bazaar, Philip
Benavidez, Roy P.
Calugas, Jose
Coladillo, Mike
Davila, Rudoph
Decastro, Joseph H.
Desiderio, Reginald B.
De La Garza, Emilio A., Jr.

Diaz, Ralph E.
Fernandez, Daniel*
Garcia, Fernando Luic
Garcia, Macario,
Gomez, Edward
Gonzales, Harold
Gonzalez, Alfredo
Gonzales, David M.
Gullen, Ambrosio
Hernandez, Rodolfo P.
Herrera, Silvestre S.
Jimenez Jose Francisco

Keith, Miguel
Lopez, Baldomero
Lopez, Jose M.
Lozada, Carlos James
Martinez, Benito
Martinez, Joe P.*
Nisperios, Jose B
Obregon, Eugene Arnold
Ortega, John
Perez, Manuel, Jr.
Rascon, Alfred
Rocco, Louis R. *

Rodriguez, Cleto
Rodriguez, Joseph C.
Rubio, Euripides
Ruiz, Alejandro Renteria*
Santiago-colon, Hector
Silva, France
Trinidad, Telesforo
Valdez, Jose F.*
Vargas, M. Sando, Fr.
Versace, Roooe
Villegas, Ysmael R.
Yabes, Maximo
**From New Mexico*

Facts and Figures for New Mexico Hispanics

- The highest proportion of Hispanic residents in the nation is in the state of New Mexico, whose population is approximately 44 % Hispanic.
- Hispanics also comprise approximately 44% of the City of Albuquerque.
- Hispanics in New Mexico are also relatively young, as the median age for Hispanics in New Mexico is 28 compared to 35 for non-Hispanics.

- New Mexico has the greatest Hispanic representation in state government -about 40 percent of New Mexico's state legislators are Hispanic.
- Hispanics comprise about 30% of the student body at UNM

New Mexican Hispanics in Politics

Governor Don Ezequiel C de Baca (1864-1917)

- New Mexico's First Hispano Governor since statehood in 1912.

Governor Octaviano Ambrosio Larrazolo (1858-1954)

- Fourth NM Governor (1919-1920) who was responsible for writing the NM Constitution in 1912 naming NM as an official bi-lingual state where both English and Spanish will be treated with "Perfect Equality". The only Hispano in the history of the United States to serve both Governor of a State (1919-1920) and U.S. Senator (Elected 1928).

Senator Dennis Chavez (1888-1962)

- The first American-born Hispanic Senator and represented NM for 27 years in the U.S. Senate. Sen. Chavez represented NM in the U.S. Senate from 1935-1962. Chavez was the only minority in the chamber at the time. The civil rights legislation for the 1960's grew directly out of Chavez's efforts in the 1940's. as he became an advocate for minorities nationwide.

Rep. Benigno Cardenas Hernandez (1862-1954)

- First Hispanic from N.M. to serve as a full member of Congress.

He served in the 64th and 66th Congresses beginning in 1917.

Rep. Antonio Manuel Fernandez (1902-1956)

- Democrat elected to the 78th Congress and who served to the 85th Congress until his death. Under the direction of Joint Committee on Printing, He supported the Hispanic Division of the Library of Congress.

Concha Ortiz y Pino de Kleven (1910-2006)

- One of New Mexico's first female state legislators. She was elected to the Legislature for three terms, in 1936, 1938 and 1940. In 1941, at age 30, she became Democratic majority whip, the first woman to hold such a position in state government.

Senator Josphe Montoya (1915-1978)

- In 1936 at age twenty-one, became the youngest representative in the history of the state to be elected to the New Mexico State House of Representatives. Joining the U.S. Senate in 1964, he served on the Appropriations Committee; the Public Works Committee; the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy; and most memorably, the Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities, popularly known as the Senate Watergate Committee.

Rep. (CA) Edward Roybal (1916-2005)

- Born in Albuquerque, NM and raised in Los Angeles, CA. U.S. State Representative Democrat of California. Roybal was committed to Hispano issues including; bilingual education, immigration, senior citizen public housing and rural mental-health care programs.

Congressman Manuel Lujan (1928-)

- Elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1968. He was reelected in 1970 and

became the longest serving Republican from NM in the U.S. House of Representatives, serving 20 years. In 1989 Lujan was appointed Secretary of the Interior by President George Bush.

Governor Jerry Apodaca (1934-)

- Elected Governor in 1975, becoming the first Hispanic governor in the U.S. since 1918. Apodaca was appointed to a national level position by President Jimmy Carter, who named him Chair of the President's Council on Physical Fitness in 1978.

Governor Toney Anaya (1941-)

- Elected Governor in 1983 after serving as Attorney General. Declared NM a sanctuary for political refugees as a response to the turmoil in Central America in the mid 1980's.

Raymond G. Sanchez

- First elected Speaker in 1983, then again from 1987 - 2001. Raymond Sanchez has been the longest serving Speaker of the House in New Mexico's history and that is also the longest term for a Hispano in the country.

Senator "Manny" Aragon (1947-)

- Served as a NM State Senator for many years from 1974-2004. From 1988 until 2000, he served as President Pro-Tempore in the NM State Senate, the first Hispanic in the country to hold the position.

Rebecca Vigil Giron (1954-)

- Vigil-Giron was first elected New Mexico Secretary of State in 1986 at age 31, becoming the highest ranking Hispanic woman elected official in the country. She was re-elected New Mexico Secretary of State in 1998 and served through 2006 when she was term limited.

Patricia Madrid (1947-)

In 1978 when she became the first woman elected to sit as a district court judge in New Mexico. In 1998, she became the first woman elected Attorney General of the State of New Mexico. She was re-elected in 2002.

Martin Chavez (1952-)

Is the current Mayor of Albuquerque, New Mexico. From 1989 to 1993 he served in the New Mexico State Senate and was elected to his first term as Mayor in 1993. In 2005, Chavez was elected to a third term. Under his leadership, the city has begun enjoying national prominence in a number of studies and reports for factors ranging from business climate to cultural amenities.

Governor Bill Richardson(1947-)

The current Governor of New Mexico. He is a candidate in the 2008 United States presidential election. He has previously served as a U.S. Representative, Ambassador to the United Nations, and as the U.S. Secretary of Energy. He was chairman of the 2004 Democratic National Convention as well as Chairman of the Democratic Governors Association in 2005 and 2006.

New World & New Mexican Explorers

In 1492, Explorer Christopher Columbus (1451 - 1506) discovered the Americas while leading an expedition under the crown of Spain. The ships were named the Niña, the Pinta and the Santa Maria. This was the beginning of over 500 years of Hispano contributions to the Americas and is often regarded as the most significant event of the 2nd Millennium.

In 1518 Spanish Explorer Hernan Cortez (1485 -1547) In 1518, discovered Mexico and led an expedition into Mexico in 1519. Cortez fathered the first "Meztizo" or mixed blood son with Doña Marina or La Malinche, an Aztec Indian woman. A "Meztizo" is a mixture of Spanish and Native American descent and 95% of Hispanos today in the southwest are considered "Meztizos".

Francisco Vasquez de Coronado (1510-1544). He led the Expedition in 1539 across the eastern border of what is now Arizona, across New Mexico through what is now Albuquerque, Bernalillo (City of Coronado), Santa Fe and through Las Vegas all the way to modern day Kansas City. He was in search of a City made of Gold named Cibola. Although he never discovered the City of Gold, he led one of the greatest expeditions in New Spain.

Don Juan de Onate (1552-1626) was a Spanish explorer, colonial Governor of the New Spain (present-day Mexico) province of New Mexico, and founder of various settlements in the present day Southwest of the United States. He is known as New Mexico's first Governor and "The Last Conquistador". His expedition introduced domestic animals, including horses, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs to the Americas.

In 1690, Diego de Vargas (1643 - 1704) was appointed Governor of New Mexico. . is most famous for leading the re-conquest of the territory in 1692 following the Pueblo Revolt of 1680.

Famous Hispanics of New Mexico

Rudolfo Anaya, author
Manuel Armijo, NM Governor
Jimmy Santiago Baca, author
Maria Benetiz, flamenco dancer
Juan Bautista de Anza, NM Governor
Fray Angelico Chavez, poet, artist, historian
Edward Condon, physicist
Clarita Garcia de Aranda, flamenco dancer
Sidney Gutierrez, astronaut
Maria and Julian Martinez, potters
Padre Martinez, social reformer
Steve Ontiveros, baseball player
Katherine Ortega, U.S. treasurer
Simon Ortiz, poet
Virgil Ortiz, artist
Albino Perez, NM Governor
Edward L. Romero, Ambassador to Spain
Vicente Romero, flamenco dancer
Bill Richardson, NM Governor
Eva Encinias Sandoval, dancer and founder,
National Institute of Flamenco

Hispanic Civil Rights Leaders from New Mexico

Dolores Huerta
Sen. Dennis Chavez
Dr. George Sanchez
Felix Martinez
Juan Jose Peña
Chuck Montano
Ralph Arellanes
Jose Armas
Loretta Armenta
Joseph Gutierrez
Dolores Huerta
Connie Martinez
Donaldo "Tiny" Martinez
Pablo Martinez
Millie Santillanes
Louis and Isabelle Tellez
Christine Trujillo
Evangeline Trujillo
Manuel Trujillo
Facundo Valdez
Dr. Henry Casso
Padre Antonio Jose Martinez

(This fact sheet was compiled by the Hispanic Heritage Month committee. This document is a work in progress. To add information or request changes for future publications, please email Vivian La Valley at vivian@ahcnm.org)