

Latinas* in the U.S.: Demographics

Latinos are a large, diverse and growing sector of the U.S. population

- ◆ In 2004, over 41 million Latinos were living in the United States, representing 14% of the total U.S. population.⁹ (See also Figure 1.)
- ◆ Of the total Latino population in the U.S., the 5 largest Latino subgroups were Mexican (59%), “other” Hispanic (16%), Puerto Rican (10%), Central American (5%), and South American (4%).¹ The Latino subgroups with the largest population under 18 were “other” Hispanic (38%), Mexican (37%) and Puerto Rican (34%).¹ In 2004, more than a third (37.5%) of Latinas were under age 20, compared to 26.9% of all women and girls in the U.S.⁸ (See also Figures 1 and 2.)
- ◆ From 1990 to 2000, the Latino population in the U.S. increased by 61%, compared to a 13% increase in the total U.S. population.¹ The Latino population is projected to increase 188% between 2000 and 2050, accounting for 24% of the U.S. population by 2050.³ (See also Figure 3.)

Latino subgroups vary widely by place of birth

- ◆ Almost half (46%) of all foreign-born Latinos through the year 2000 immigrated to the U.S. during the 1990s.¹

Figure 1: Percent age distribution of all women and all Latinas in the U.S., 2004.⁸

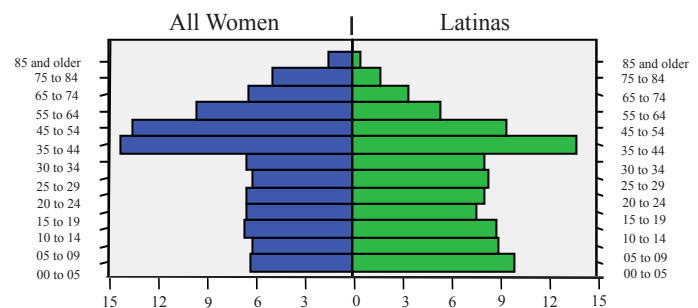


Figure 2: Latinas under age 18 in the U.S., by origin, 2004.⁸

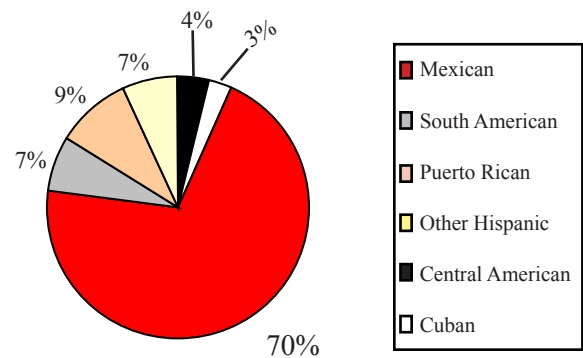
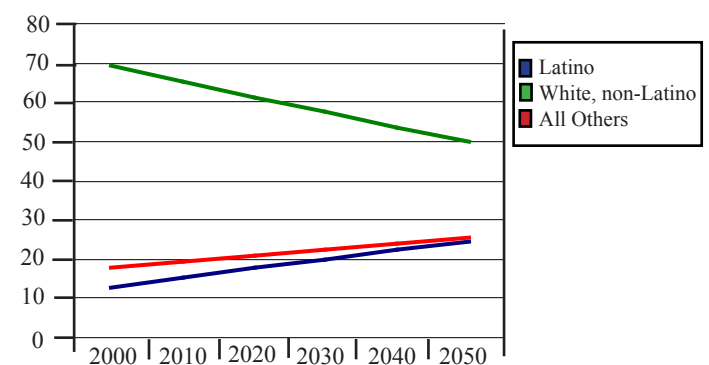


Figure 3: Projected percent of total U.S. population, 2000-2050, by race /ethnicity.³



*Girls Incorporated® has chosen to adopt the U.S. Federal Government’s definition of Latino. They define a “Hispanic or Latino as a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race. Thus, Hispanics [or Latinos] may be any race.”²⁵ The government equates Hispanic and Latino for all government documents. We have chosen to use Latino/a consistently throughout the publications of the Girls Inc. Latina Initiative.

- ◆ In addition to Puerto Ricans, who are U.S. citizens by birth, the Latino subgroups of “other” Hispanic (73%) and those with roots in Spain (60%) and Mexico (59%) have over half their population born in the U.S.-- significantly higher proportions than those with roots in Cuba (32%), the Dominican Republic (32%), Central America (24%), and South America (23%).¹ (See also Figure 4.)
- ◆ Among Latino subgroups, those with roots in Cuba were most likely (41%) to have become naturalized citizens. Those with roots in Central America (56%) and South America (48%) were most likely not to have been born as or to have become U.S. citizens.¹ (See also Figure 4.)
- ◆ Overall, 21% of Latinos reported speaking only English at home, 38% spoke a non-English language (primarily Spanish) at home, while also speaking English “very well,” and 41% spoke a non-English language at home, while also speaking English less than “very well.” Latinos with roots in Spain (40%) were the most likely to speak only English at home, and Latinos with roots in the Dominican Republic were least likely to do so (7%). Puerto Ricans (49%) were the most likely to speak a non-English language at home, while also speaking English “very well.”¹

Figure 4: Percent of U.S. native born, foreign born citizens, and foreign born non-citizens among Latino subgroups, 2000.¹

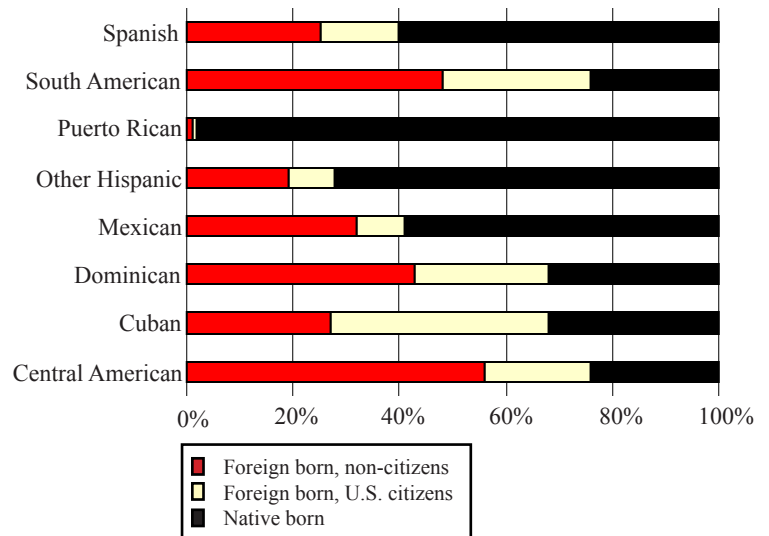
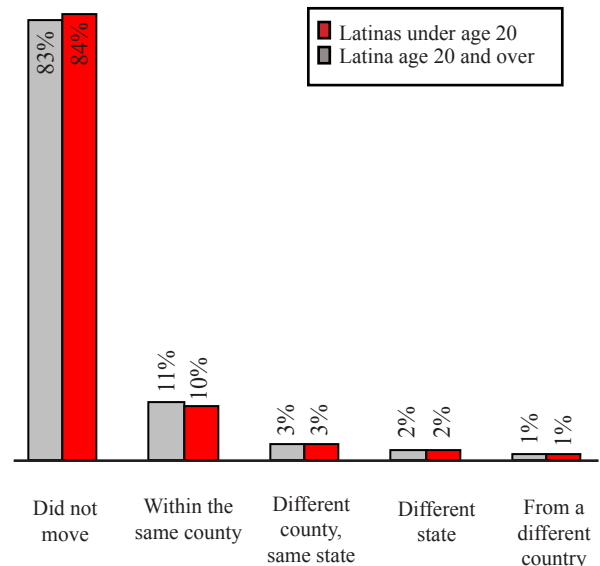


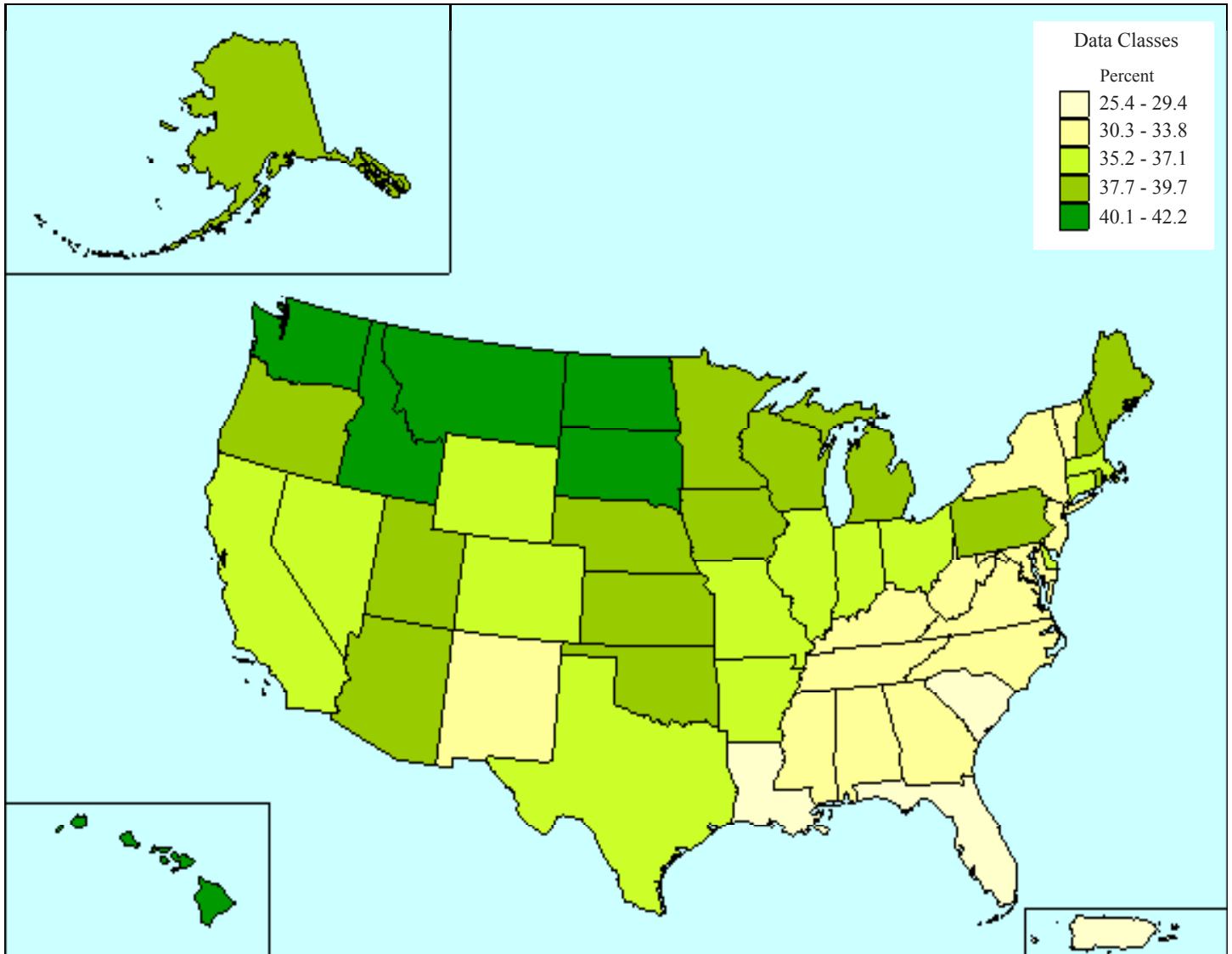
Figure 5: Type of move by Latina, by age group, 2004.⁷



Latinos have moved across all regions of the United States

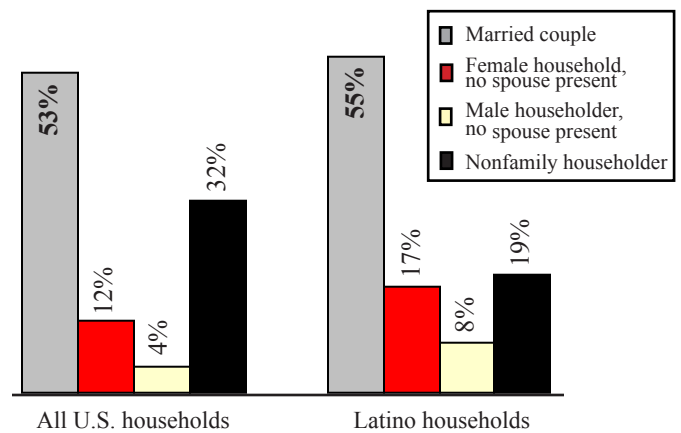
- ◆ In 2004, the largest numbers of Latinos were concentrated in California, Texas, Florida, New York, and Illinois.⁹ The same five states and Arizona had the largest numbers of Latina students in grades K-12 in the 2003-2004 school year.¹⁰
- ◆ Of all Latinas under age 20, 83% did not relocate in 2004, 11% moved within the same county, 3% moved to another county within the same state, 2% moved to a different state, and 1% moved to the U.S. from a different country. Latinas age 20 and over had similar relocation proportions as Latinas under age 20.⁷ (See also Figure 5.)

Figure 6: Percent of Latinas under age 18 in each state and territory, in 2000.⁵



- ◆ Between 1995 and 2000, the states with the largest numbers of Latino immigrants from outside the United States were California, Texas, Florida, Arizona, and Nevada. The states with the largest net increase of Latinos due to migration within the U.S. were Florida, Nevada, Arizona, Georgia, and North Carolina. California, New York, Illinois, New Jersey, and Hawaii were the five states with the largest net decrease of Latino population due to migration within the U.S.²
- ◆ The highest proportions of Latinos under 18 years of age were in the Northwest states (Washington, Idaho, Montana, and the Dakotas) and Hawaii, where they represent 40% or more of the total Latino population.⁵ (See also Figure 6).

Figure 7: Percent of household type, 2000.¹



More than half of Latinos lived in family households

- ◆ Over half of all Latino families in the U.S. were headed by married couples (55.1%), slightly more than families among the total U.S. population (52.5%). Families with roots in Mexico were the most likely to be maintained by married couples (59.9%), while families with roots in the Dominican Republic (33.5%) and Puerto Rico (26.2%) were the most likely to be maintained by a female householder with no spouse present.¹ (See also Figure 7.)
- ◆ Of Latino families below the poverty level, 41% were headed by a female householder with no husband present, compared to 17% in Latino families at or above the poverty level.⁶

References

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For more information on Latinas, see these Girls Incorporated® Resource Lists and Fact Sheets:

- ◆ **Latinas in the U.S.: Health and Other Issues**
- ◆ **Latinas in the U.S.: Social Issues**
- ◆ **Latina Resources for Girls**
- ◆ **Latina Resources for Parents and Families**
- ◆ **Latina Resources for Youth Workers**

In response to requests from affiliates and as a result of monitoring service trends, Girls Inc. is implementing an initiative to address the strengths and needs of Latinas ages 6 to 18, with the goals of increasing the number of Latina girls served by Girls Incorporated affiliates and increasing the sensitivity to Latinas in all Girls Inc. efforts.

Girls Incorporated® is a nonprofit organization in the United States and Canada that inspires all girls to be strong, smart, and boldSM. With local roots dating to 1864 and national status in the US since 1945, Girls Inc. has responded to the changing needs of girls and their communities through research-based programs and advocacy that empower girls to reach their full potential and to understand, value, and assert their rights.

Girls Inc. programs focus on science, math, and technology, health and sexuality, economic and financial literacy, sports skills, leadership and advocacy, and media literacy for girls ages 6 to 18 throughout the United States and in Canada. While our goal is to reach all girls, we recognize that girls in at-risk communities have an even greater need for our programs. Of those we serve, 76 percent are girls of color and 70 percent come from families earning \$25,000 or less. More than half are from single-parent households, most of which are headed by women.

Girls Inc. in 2004 reached nearly 800,000 girls through Girls Inc. affiliates, our website, and educational products. Guided by our vision of empowered girls and an equitable society, Girls Inc. is committed to reaching millions more girls through its programs and public education efforts.

The National Resource Center (NRC) is the organization's research, program development, national services, and training site. Research and evaluation conducted by the NRC provide the foundation for Girls Inc. programs. The NRC also responds to requests for information on girls' issues and distributes Girls Inc. publications.

Girls Inc. informs policy makers about girls' needs locally and nationally. The organization educates the media about critical issues facing girls. In addition, the organization teaches girls how to advocate for themselves and their communities, using their voices to promote positive change.

Girls Inc. leadership focuses on developing innovative ways to leverage our most valuable asset – acknowledged expertise as the nation's premiere program provider and advocate for girls. Our leaders include Janice L. Warne, Chair of the National Board; Joyce M. Roché, President and CEO; and Donna Brace Ogilvie, Distinguished Chair.

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