

Hispanic Heritage Month 2008

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated nationwide and begun on September 15, 2008, the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries – Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

Mexico achieved independence on September 16th and Chile on September 18th. Hispanic Heritage Month has been celebrated in the United States since 1974, when President Gerald Ford issued a Presidential Proclamation extending Hispanic Heritage Week into a month-long observation.

Some facts about the Hispanic presence in US

Population: 45.5 million. The estimated Hispanic population of the United States as of July 1, 2007, making people of Hispanic origin the nation's largest ethnic or race minority. In addition, there are approximately 3.9 million residents of Puerto Rico.

132.8 million is the projected Hispanic population of the United States on July 1, 2050. According to this projection, Hispanics will constitute 30 percent of the nation's population by that date.

64% is the percentage of Hispanic-origin people in the United States who are of Mexican background. Another 9 percent are of Puerto Rican background, with 3.4 percent Cuban, 3.1 percent Salvadoran and 2.8 percent Dominican. The remainder are of some other Central American, South American or other Hispanic or Latino origin.

About 50 percent of the nation's Dominicans live in New York City and about half of the nation's Cubans in Miami-Dade County, Fla.

27.6 years is the median age of the Hispanic population in 2007. This compares with 36.6 years for the population as a whole.

States and Counties

48%

16 is the number of states with at least a half-million Hispanic residents. They are Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Washington.

1.6 million are the number of Hispanic-owned businesses in 2002. It triples the rate of growth of Hispanic-owned businesses between 1997 and

2002 (31 percent) compared with the national average (10 percent) for all businesses.

\$222 billion is the revenue generated by Hispanic-owned businesses in 2002, up 19 percent from 1997.

9.9 million are the number of Hispanic family households in the United States in 2006. Of these households, 62 percent included children younger than 18.

34 million: The number of U.S. residents 5 and older who speak Spanish at home. Spanish speakers constitute 12 percent of U.S. residents.

\$38,679: The median income of Hispanic households in 2007.

21.5%: The poverty rate among Hispanics in 2007, up from 20.6 percent in 2006.

32.1%: The percentage of Hispanics who lacked health insurance in 2007, down from 34.1 percent in 2006.

60%: The percentage of Hispanics 25 and older who had at least a high school education in 2007.

13%: The percentage of the Hispanic population 25 and older with a bachelor's degree or higher in 2007.

3.3 million: The number of Hispanics 18 and older who had at least a bachelor's degree in 2007, up from 1.7 million a decade earlier.

11%: Percentage of all college students in October 2006 who were Hispanic.

Among elementary and high school students combined, the corresponding proportion was 19 percent.

68%: Percentage of Hispanics 16 and older who are in the civilian labor force.

7.6 million: The number of Hispanic citizens who reported voting in the 2004 presidential election.

Source: www.census.gov

Congratulations to all our Hispanic brothers and sisters for all the richness they brought into our country.