PROFILE OF THE PUERTO RICAN POPULATION IN UNITED STATES AND PUERTO RICO: 2008

Sonia G. Collazo, Camille L. Ryan, Kurt J. Bauman
U.S. Census Bureau
Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division

This presentation is released to inform interested parties of ongoing research and to encourage discussion of work in progress. Any views expressed on methodological issues are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the U.S. Census Bureau.
Introduction

• The Puerto Rican population is the second largest subgroup of the Hispanic population

• The 4.2 million Puerto Ricans living in the United States (including the 50 states and District of Columbia) have come to surpass those on the island of Puerto Rico (4.0 million)
Economic Difficulties in 1980

Sandefur and Tienda (1988) (1): Of all Hispanic origin groups, Puerto Ricans had

- the lowest labor force participation
- highest unemployment
- highest poverty
- lowest education

Purpose of Research

• Have conditions improved for the Puerto Rican population in the U.S. and Puerto Rico?

• What are the current characteristics, trends, and geographic distribution?
Data Sources

- 1990 Census of Population
- Census 2000
- 2008 American Community Survey (ACS)
- 2008 Puerto Rico Community Survey (PRCS)

We compare U.S. population identifying as Puerto Rican, Cuban, Mexican, non-Hispanic Black and non-Hispanic White. For the population of the island of Puerto Rico, we use total population. (96% of island residents identify as Puerto Rican.)
Decennial Census

• 100-percent characteristics (short form)
  – A limited number of questions were asked of every person and housing unit in the U.S. and P.R. Information is available on:
    • Age
    • Hispanic origin
    • Household relationship
    • Race
    • Sex
    • Tenure (whether the home is owned or rented)
    • Vacancy characteristics
Decennial Census (cont.)

- **Sample characteristics (long form):**
  
  Additional questions were asked of a sample of persons and housing units (generally 1 in 6 households). Data are provided on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Housing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Ancestry</td>
<td>• Farm residence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Disability</td>
<td>• Heating fuel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Grandparents as caregivers</td>
<td>• Number of rooms and number of bedrooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Income the year before Census</td>
<td>• Plumbing and kitchen facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Labor force status</td>
<td>• Telephone service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Language spoken at home and ability to speak English</td>
<td>• Units in structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Marital status</td>
<td>• Utilities, mortgage, taxes, insurance, and fuel costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Migration (10 years before), etc.</td>
<td>• Value of home or monthly rent paid, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is the American Community Survey?

- The ACS is a new approach for collecting reliable, timely information needed by local communities.

- Eliminated the need for a decennial census long form since Census 2010.

- Similar content to the long-form questionnaire.
What is the American Community Survey? (cont.)

- Sample is approximately 3 million addresses per year

- Group quarters include nursing homes, correctional facilities, military barracks, and college/university housing among others

- Fully implement in 2005
Puerto Rico Community Survey

• The PRCS collects same information as ACS

• About 36,000 housing unit addresses are selected annually, across every municipio in Puerto Rico
History and background

• P.R. was annexed to U.S. in 1898 after the Spanish-American war

• Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens and there are no legal barriers to their entry to the U.S.

• Large migration movement started after WWII

• The primary destination was New York metro area
History and background (cont.)

- Sandefur and Tienda (1988) (1): In 1979 (1980 Census) the absolute poverty percent for Puerto Ricans in the United States was 35%.

Hypothesis about the relatively poor economic difficulties for Puerto Ricans in U.S. in the 1980s

- Victims of discrimination

- Limited by economic opportunities in the regions they found themselves

- Victimized by "underclass" behaviors

- Poverty was tied to conditions in Puerto Rico
Figure 1. Median Age for the Hispanic Population in U.S. and the Population in Puerto Rico: 1990, 2000, 2008

Figure 2: Median Household Income for the Hispanic Population in United States and the Population in Puerto Rico: 1990, 2000 and 2008

Table A: Unemployment for different groups in the United States and Puerto Rico: 1990, 2000 and 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1990&lt;sup&gt;(1)&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>1990&lt;sup&gt;(1)&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>2008&lt;sup&gt;(2)&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Islander Puerto Rican&lt;sup&gt;(4)&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Puerto Ricans&lt;sup&gt;(3)&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WNH&lt;sup&gt;(5)&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Notes:
(1) Data from U.S and P.R. Decennial Census.
(2) Data from American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey.
(3) Include Puerto Ricans in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.
(4) Include the total population living in Puerto Rico.
(5) WNH – White Non-Hispanic or Latino.
Figure 3: Percent of Hispanic Population in United States and Population in Puerto Rico with High School Diploma and higher: 1990, 2000 and 2008

Figure 4: Percent of Hispanic Population in United States and the Population in Puerto Rico with a Bachelor's Degree and higher: 1990, 2000 and 2008

Conditions for Puerto Rican in U.S. and Puerto Rico: 1990 to 2008
(Summary)

- Recovered from the economic difficulties observed in the 1980s

- Improved conditions of the Puerto Ricans in U.S. and in Puerto Rico

- Large gap in income and employment remain
Table B: Population of Puerto Rico and Puerto Rican Population in the United States by Geographic Location

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Puerto Rico</td>
<td>3,522</td>
<td>3,954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Puerto Rican</td>
<td>2,652</td>
<td>4,217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York MSA</td>
<td>1,185</td>
<td>1,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other U.S</td>
<td>1,226</td>
<td>2,262</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Map 1: Distribution of the Puerto Rican Population in United States: 1990

Legend
- 0 - 48,989
- 50,000 - 198,989
- 200,000 - 399,989
- 400,000 and over

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey.

Legend
- Light pink: 0 - 49,999
- Light red: 50,000 - 199,999
- Red: 200,000 - 399,999
- Dark red: 400,000 and over

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey.
Map 3: Distribution of the Puerto Rican Population in the NY Metropolitan Statistical Area, United States: 1990

Legend
- Light green: 0 - 19,999
- Light greenish-gray: 20,000 - 39,999
- Medium greenish-gray: 40,000 - 59,999
- Dark greenish-gray: 60,000 - 99,999
- Green: 100,000 and over

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census of Population.
Map 4: Distribution of the Puerto Rican Population in the NY Metropolitan Statistical Area, United States: 2008

Legend

- Light green: 0 - 19,999
- Medium green: 20,000 - 39,999
- Dark green: 40,000 - 59,999
- Very dark green: 60,000 - 99,999
- Dark green: 100,000 and over

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey.
Map 5: Percent Point Difference of the Puerto Rican Population in the NY Metropolitan Statistical Area, United States: 1990 - 2008

Map 6: Distribution of the Puerto Rican Population in Florida, United States: 1990

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census of Population.

Legend
- 0 - 9,999
- 10,000 - 19,999
- 20,000 - 29,999
- 30,000 - 39,999
- 40,000 and over
Map 7: Distribution of the Puerto Rican Population in the Florida, United States: 2008

Legend

- 0 - 19,999
- 20,000 - 39,999
- 40,000 - 59,999
- 60,000 - 79,999
- 80,000 and over

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey.
Map 8: Percent Point Difference of the Puerto Rican Population in Florida, United States: 1990 - 2008

Legend

- <= -2.00
- -1.99 - -1.00
- -0.99 - 0.00
- 0.01 - 1.99
- >= 2.00

### Table C: Population Profile of the Total Population and the Puerto Rican Population for Selected Geographies: 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>U.S. Puerto Ricans (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total population</strong></td>
<td>4,216,533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median household income (dollars)</td>
<td>39,039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent below Poverty Level</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT**

- Percent high school graduate or higher: 72.9% 67.0%
- Percent bachelor's degree or higher: 15.8% 21.2%

**LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME AND ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH**

- Population 5 years and over: 3,788,020 3,718,494
- Speak English only: 33.6% 4.8%
- Speaks English only or Speaks another language but speaks English "very well" (3): 80.3% 18.9%

Notes:
1. Include Puerto Ricans in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.
2. Include the total population living in Puerto Rico.
3. The denominator for this measure is the Total Population 5 years and over.

• Compared with U.S. Puerto Ricans:
  – Island of Puerto Rico incomes remain low
  – Island of Puerto Rico poverty is higher
  – Island of Puerto Rico more have less than high school, more have bachelor’s degree or higher
  – Island of Puerto Rico has very low English speaking ability
Figure 5: Percentage of the Puerto Rican Population who were born in Puerto Rico by Selected Geographies: 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geography</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>31.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>43.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY MSA</td>
<td>28.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey.
Table D: Population Profile of the Total Population and the Puerto Rican Population for Selected Geographies: 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>United States Puerto Rican(1)</th>
<th>Florida Puerto Rican</th>
<th>NY MSA Puerto Rican</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total population</td>
<td>4,216,533</td>
<td>744,473</td>
<td>1,209,884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median household income (dollars)</td>
<td>39,039</td>
<td>41,892</td>
<td>36,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent below Poverty Level</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SEX AND AGE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>United States Puerto Rican(1)</th>
<th>Florida Puerto Rican</th>
<th>NY MSA Puerto Rican</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>50.8%</td>
<td>47.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>49.2%</td>
<td>52.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age (years)</td>
<td>29.0</td>
<td>31.7</td>
<td>31.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Type</th>
<th>United States Puerto Rican(1)</th>
<th>Florida Puerto Rican</th>
<th>NY MSA Puerto Rican</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female householder, no husband present, family with own children under 18 years</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Attainment</th>
<th>United States Puerto Rican(1)</th>
<th>Florida Puerto Rican</th>
<th>NY MSA Puerto Rican</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent high school graduate or higher</td>
<td>72.9%</td>
<td>78.3%</td>
<td>68.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent bachelor's degree or higher</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME AND ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language Spoken</th>
<th>United States Puerto Rican(1)</th>
<th>Florida Puerto Rican</th>
<th>NY MSA Puerto Rican</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population 5 years and over</td>
<td>3,788,020</td>
<td>678,363</td>
<td>1,106,084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speak English only</td>
<td>33.6%</td>
<td>24.5%</td>
<td>29.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaks English only or Speaks another language but speaks English &quot;very well&quot; (3)</td>
<td>80.3%</td>
<td>77.3%</td>
<td>79.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
(1) Include Puerto Ricans in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.
(2) Include the total population living in Puerto Rico.
(3) The denominator for this measure is the Total Population 5 years and over.

Summary

• New growth of Puerto Rican population has taken place in Florida
  – Job opportunities may explain part of the reason for Puerto Rican migration to Florida
  – Well-educated Puerto Ricans are probably not remaining on the island due to economic opportunity
  – Puerto Ricans in Florida is that more households contain families
Conclusion

• The Puerto Rican population of the U.S. seems to have recovered from the economic difficulties observed in the 1980s

• Improved conditions of the Puerto Ricans in U.S., have been accompanied by improved conditions in Puerto Rico

• Large differences in income and employment remain between Puerto Rico and the Puerto Ricans in U.S.

• New growth of Puerto Rican population has taken place in Florida
Contact Information

U.S. Census Bureau
Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division
Education and Social Stratification Branch
Tel: 301-763-2464

• Sonia G. Collazo
  Email: sonia.g.collazo@census.gov
  Tel: 301-763-3350

• Camille L. Ryan
  Email: camille.l.ryan@census.gov
  Tel: 301-763-6168

• Kurt Bauman
  Email: kurt.j.bauman@census.gov
  Tel: 301-763-6171
Contact Information

U.S. Census Bureau

Population Division
Ethnicity and Ancestry Branch
301.763.2403
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and Census 2000
go to factfinder2.census.gov

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Legacy American FactFinder for data from the American Community Survey, the Economic Census, and Population Estimates
go to factfinder.census.gov
For data from Census 2010 and Census 2000, visit factfinder2.census.gov

As we transition to the NEW American FactFinder, you can still find data here for the following:
the American Community Survey, the Economic Census,
and the Population Estimates Program.
• http://www.census.gov/hhes/socdemo/education/data/acs/index.html
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Questions / Comments
Thank You!!!