

The Hispanic

Population in Alabama

Yanyi K. Djamba • Theresa C. Davidson • Terance L. Winemiller



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Yanyi K. Djamba

Director, Center for Demographic Research

Professor of Sociology

Auburn University at Montgomery

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Alabama's Hispanic population has grown by 145 percent in the last 10 years, placing the state in the second position just behind South Carolina (148%). Despite this growth, Hispanics still represent just 3.9% of the state population, and their socio-demographic and health profiles are markedly different from those of non-Hispanics.

Alabama's Hispanic population grew faster than the non-Hispanic population

- The size of the state's Hispanic population more than doubled from 75,830 in 2000 to 185,602 in 2010.
- This change represents a growth rate of 144.8 percent, compared to a 5.1 percent growth rate in the non-Hispanic population.
- Still, Hispanics represent only 3.9 percent of Alabama's population.

Alabama's Hispanics are of different origins and they mostly live in urban areas

- Alabama's Hispanics are originally from more than 15 countries, but more than half (66.2%) are of Mexican origin.
- People of Hispanic origin live primarily in urban areas in Alabama. In fact, 69.7 percent of Hispanic population growth between 2000 and 2010 occurred in the state's cities.

Alabama's Hispanics are more socio-economically disadvantaged than non-Hispanics

- Nearly half (46.5%) of the state's Hispanics do not have a high school diploma, compared to 15.7 percent for non-Hispanic Whites, and 22.0 percent for non-Hispanic Blacks.
- In 2009, Hispanics had a lower unemployment rate (12.9%) than non-Hispanic Blacks (17.2%). Non-Hispanic Whites had the lowest unemployment rate (9.0%).
- Yet, Hispanics were more like to be in poverty than both non-Hispanic Whites and non-Hispanic Blacks.
- Hispanics had limited access to health care compared to non-Hispanics:
 - 38.3 percent of Hispanics did not have health insurance in 2009, compared to 11.4 percent of non-Hispanic Whites and 18.7 percent of non-Hispanic Blacks.
 - 46.9 percent of live births among Hispanic mothers were associated with late or no prenatal care, compared to 10.0 percent for non-Hispanic white mothers and 24.5 percent for non-Hispanic black mothers.
- Nonetheless, Alabama Hispanics were in more stable marital unions and they lived in larger households than their non-Hispanic counterparts.