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U.S. Latino Population Growth and Dispersion Has Slowed Since Onset of the Great Recession

South still leads nation in growth overall, but three counties in North Dakota top list of fastest-growing

BY *Renee Stepler and Mark Hugo Lopez*

FOR MEDIA OR OTHER INQUIRIES:

Mark Hugo Lopez, Director of Hispanic Research

Molly Rohal, Communications Manager

202.419.4372

www.pewresearch.org

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Terminology

The terms “Latino” and “Hispanic” are used interchangeably in this report.

“U.S. born” refers to individuals who are U.S. citizens at birth, including people born in the United States, Puerto Rico or other U.S. territories, as well as those born elsewhere to parents who were U.S. citizens.

“Fast-growing” counties are those counties where the Hispanic population has grown at a rate above the median growth rate for that time period and had at least 1,000 Hispanics in the latter year. For example, from 2007 to 2014 the median Hispanic growth rate for counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2014 was 26.54%. Counties that had growth rates of more than 26.54% and had more than 1,000 Hispanics in 2014 are considered to be fast-growing counties in this time period. “Slow-growing” counties are counties with Hispanic growth rates that fall at or below the median growth rate and had at least 1,000 Hispanics in the latter year. “Negative-growth” counties are those counties where the Hispanic population declined, but still had at least 1,000 Hispanics in the latter year.

Northeast, Midwest, South and West refer to census regions that divide the United States into groups for analyses. The Northeast region is comprised of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania and Vermont. The Midwest region: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. The South region: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma/Indian Territory, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia. The West region: Arizona, Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

The New England census division comprises Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. The Middle Atlantic division: New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. The East North Central division: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin. The West North Central division: Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. The South Atlantic division: Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia. The East South Central division: Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee. The West South Central division: Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma/Indian Territory and Texas. The Mountain division: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. The Pacific division: Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington.

Non-metropolitan counties include those which are within micropolitan statistical areas and outside of the core-based statistical areas (CBSA).

U.S. Latino Population Growth and Dispersion Has Slowed Since Onset of the Great Recession

South still leads nation overall, but three counties in North Dakota top list of fastest-growing

The nation's Latino population has long been characterized by its rapid growth and by its wide dispersion to parts of the country that traditionally have had few Latinos. But a new Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data finds that the growth and dispersion of the U.S. Latino population has slowed since 2007, when the Great Recession started, immigration from Latin America cooled and Latino fertility rates declined sharply.

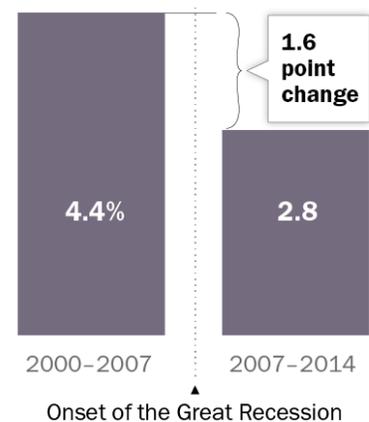
Between 2007 and 2014, the U.S. Hispanic population grew annually on average by 2.8% (its pace of growth has been an even slower 2.4% between 2010 and 2014). This was down from a 4.4% growth rate between 2000 and 2007 and down from 5.8% annually in the 1990s. As a result, the Hispanic population, once the nation's fastest growing, has now slipped behind Asians (whose population grew at an average annual rate of 3.4% from 2007 to 2014) in its growth rate.

This slowdown has been driven by two, large demographic trends affecting the Hispanic community. Immigration, which in the 1980s and 1990s was [the principal driver of Hispanic population growth, began to slow in the mid-2000s](#). And, in the case of Mexico, immigration [has now reversed back toward Mexico since 2009](#). As a result, the main driver of Hispanic population growth [shifted to U.S. births](#). But here too, change is underway: Throughout much of the early 2000s birth rates of Hispanic women ages 15 to 44 were about 95 births per 1,000 women, reaching a peak of 98.3 in 2006. However, since the onset of the Great Recession, [their birth rates have declined](#), steadily falling to 72.1 births per 1,000 Hispanic women ages 15 to 44 in 2014.

General population growth and economic opportunities in places that traditionally had few Latinos led to the dispersal of the Latino population across the U.S. beginning in the 1990s, just as

U.S. Hispanic population growth slows sharply since 2007

Average annual growth rate



Note: The Great Recession began in December 2007 and ended in June 2009.
Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of U.S. Census Bureau population estimates.
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Latino population growth was accelerating.¹ In the 1990s, [North Carolina](#) led in Latino population growth as new immigrant arrivals and their families moved there to pursue job opportunities in agriculture and manufacturing. In the 2000s, [counties in Georgia](#) saw some of the fastest growth nationally in their Latino populations. By 2014, a record 1,579 counties (about half of all U.S. counties) had at least 1,000 Latinos, up from just 833 in 1990. Overall, these 1,579 counties in 2014 contained 99% of the U.S. Latino population.

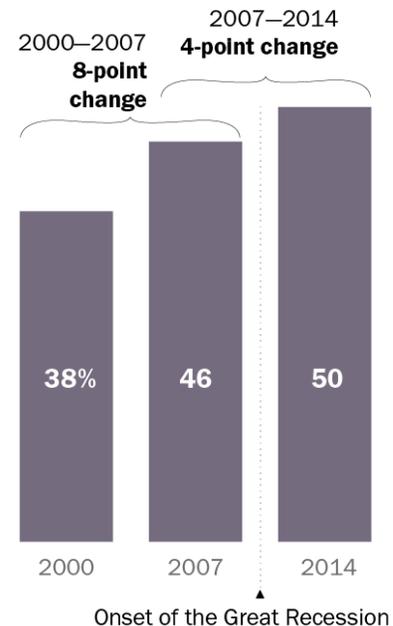
Yet the new analysis shows that Hispanic population dispersion, while continuing, has also slowed since 2007. For example, the share of U.S. counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics rose more rapidly before the onset of the Great Recession than after: Between 2000 and 2007, there was an 8-percentage-point gain in the share of U.S. counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics, rising to 46% from 38% in 2000. Yet while half of U.S. counties met this criterion in 2014, the share that did so was up only 4 percentage points since 2007, when 46% of all counties did. Other measures of dispersion show a similar slowing trend (see Chapter 1 for more details).

The slowdown in Latino settlement to traditionally non-Latino areas reflects changes in the demographics of Latinos, but also that the counties with few Latinos today are generally smaller counties overall. The 1,562 counties with fewer than 1,000 Hispanics in 2014 are largely located in non-metropolitan areas of the country and have a median population of about 13,000 people. In the coming years, while some Latinos may move there, it is possible that the slowdown in dispersion will continue.

These two trends – rapid population growth and geographic dispersion – have led to a number of Latino-driven demographic changes nationwide since 1990. As of 2012, [17 states](#) had kindergarten student populations that were at least 20% Latino, up from just eight states in 2000. And the growing and dispersing Latino population has led to [rising electoral influence](#) of Latino voters in

Hispanic population dispersion slows since onset of the Great Recession

% of counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics in each year



Note: The Great Recession began in December 2007 and ended in June 2009.
Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of U.S. Census Bureau population estimates. “U.S. Latino Population Growth and Dispersion Has Slowed Since Onset of the Great Recession”

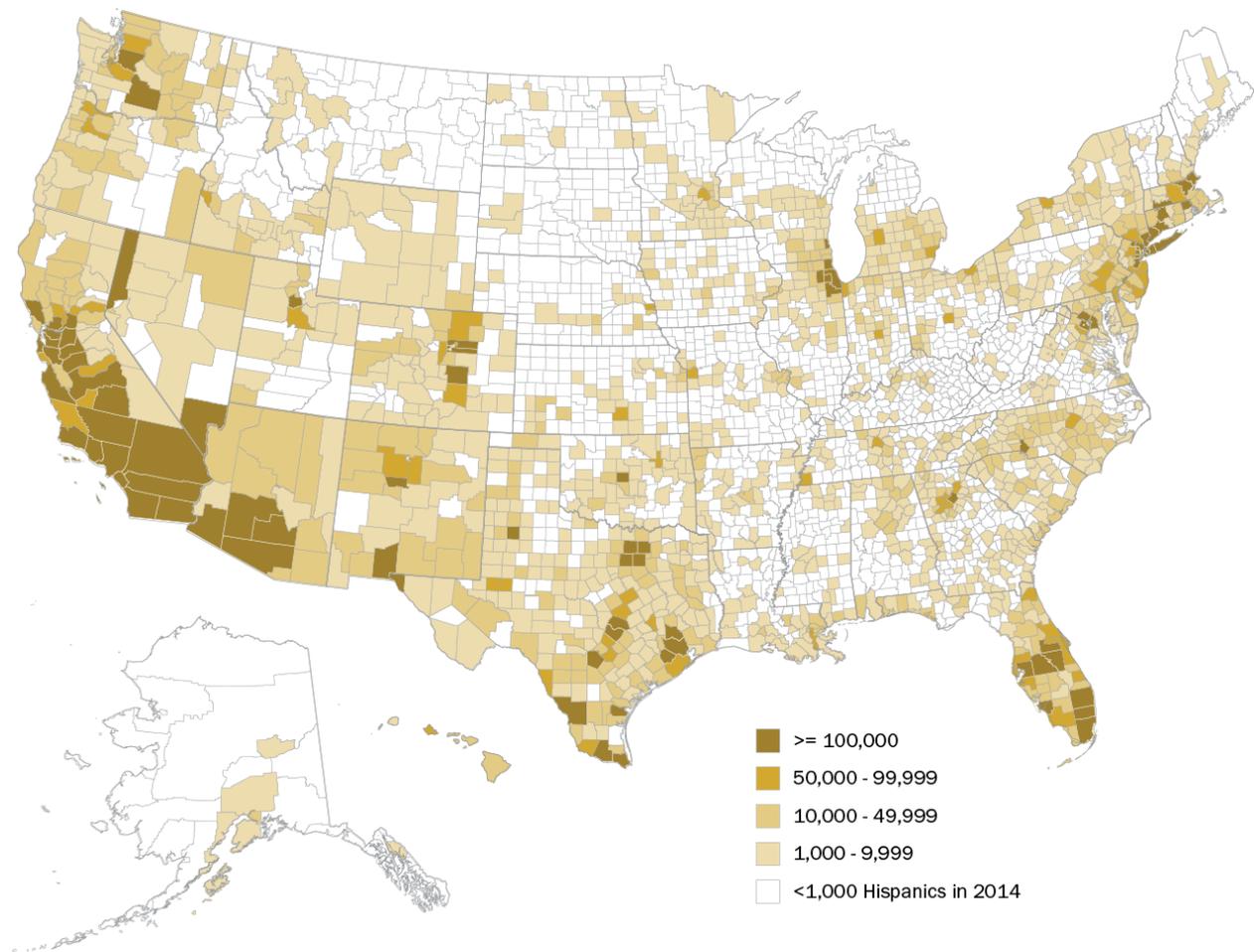
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¹ See [Durand, Telles and Flashman 2006](#) and [Suro and Singer 2002](#).

recent elections as the number eligible to vote has grown in many battleground states such as Colorado, Nevada, Virginia and North Carolina, even though Latino voters are largely concentrated in non-battleground states like California and Texas. Yet the slowdown in Latino population growth and dispersion may slow these trends as well in the coming years.

Nearly all Latinos lived in half of the nation's more than 3,000 counties in 2014

The number of Latinos residing in counties with at least 1,000 Latinos



Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of U.S. Census Bureau population estimates.
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South continues to lead in Hispanic population growth, but three fastest growing counties are in North Dakota

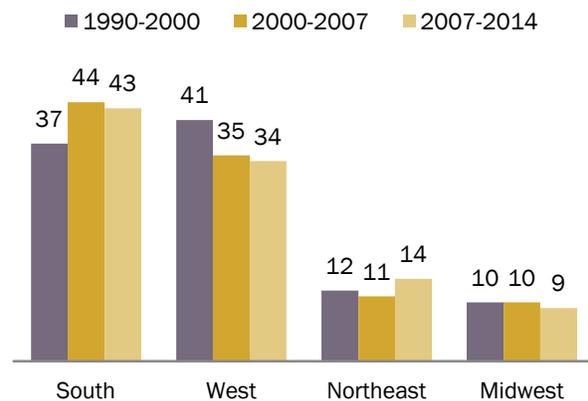
Regional growth patterns have changed some following the start of the Great Recession. While counties in the South continued to account for the largest share of the nation's Hispanic population growth (43% between 2007 and 2014, a small decline from 44% between 2000 and 2007), counties in the Northeast – particularly those in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania – accounted for a larger share of national Hispanic population growth since 2007 than in 2000-2007 (14% vs. 11%, respectively).² There was a small decline for all of the other regions of the U.S. during these periods.

Counties in Southern states have long dominated the list of the fast-growing Hispanic counties. This was especially true from 2000 to 2007, when eight of the 10 fastest growing counties were in the South.

However, since the start of the Great Recession counties in North Dakota have topped the list. Williams County, Stark County and Ward County have all seen their Hispanic populations more than double from 2007 to 2014 (though from a small base). In fact, North Dakota's statewide Hispanic population nearly doubled to 18,000 in this same time period, making it the state with the highest Hispanic growth rate (though it ranks 49th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia by Hispanic population).³ Other counties outside the South that are among

From 2007 to 2014, the Northeast region accounted for a larger share of Latino population growth than in prior periods

% of Hispanic population growth that occurred in counties located in the ...



Note: Based on 1,579 counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2014. Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the U.S. Census Bureau population estimates and the 1990 decennial census (SF-1). "U.S. Latino Population Growth and Dispersion Has Slowed Since Onset of the Great Recession"

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² County estimates used throughout this report are based on the Latino population in 1,579 counties with at least 1,000 Latinos in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau population estimates vintage 2014, unless otherwise noted. These counties contain 99% of the nation's Latino population.

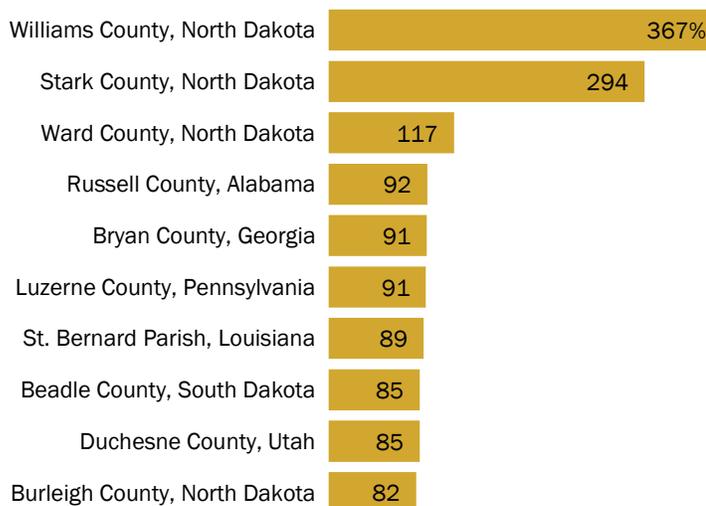
³ Population growth in some parts of North Dakota (and in South Dakota) has [slowed since 2014 as energy production there has cooled](#). U.S. Hispanic population estimates for 2015 indicate that, among counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2015, the Hispanic population continued to grow at the fastest rates since 2007 in Williams County (520%) and Stark County, North Dakota (417%). Ward County and Burleigh County, North Dakota, also remain in the top 10 fastest-growing counties between 2007 and 2015.

the 10 fastest-growing include Luzerne County in Pennsylvania, Beadle County in South Dakota, Duchesne County in Utah and Burleigh County in North Dakota. Overall, just three of the top 10 fastest growing counties by Hispanic population since 2007 were in the South.

More generally, the median growth rate of Latino populations in counties across the nation from 2007 to 2014 was about 27%. Counties that exceeded this average – fast-growing Latino counties – were largely metropolitan, were located in the South and had relatively small Latino populations. Because of the relatively small size of the Latino population in these counties, they account for just 37% of the nation’s Latino population growth.

Three fastest-growing counties by Latino population since 2007 are in North Dakota

Latino population growth rate from 2007 to 2014



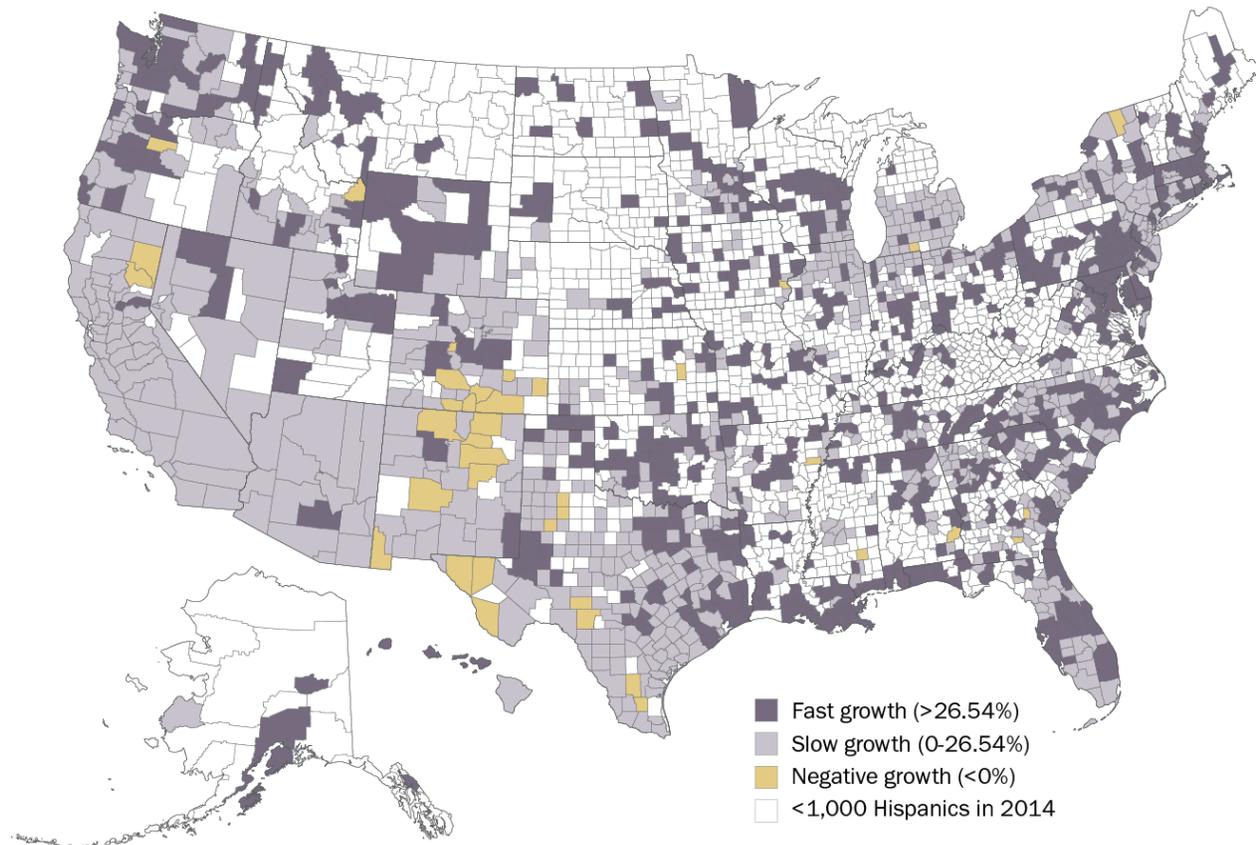
Note: Top 10 counties for Latino population growth are shown, among 1,579 counties with at least 1,000 Latinos in 2014.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the U.S. Census Bureau population estimates. “U.S. Latino Population Growth and Dispersion Has Slowed Since Onset of the Great Recession”

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Accompanying this report are [interactive county maps](#) documenting the Hispanic population in the nation’s counties in 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010 and 2014; an [interactive state map and demographic and economic profiles](#) of the Hispanic population in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia (see Chapter 4 for an overview of the Hispanic population in the states); and [an interactive map and demographic and economic profiles of the 60 metropolitan areas](#) with the largest Hispanic populations (see Chapter 5 for an overview of the Hispanic population in metropolitan areas). The metropolitan area interactive also has a table showing the largest population and shares for the 11 largest Hispanic origin groups: Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Salvadorans, Cubans, Dominicans, Guatemalans, Colombians, Hondurans, Spaniards, Ecuadorans and Peruvians.

Fast-growing Latino counties between 2007 and 2014 were largely located in the South and in metropolitan areas



Note: Fast-growing Latino counties include counties where the Latino growth rate from 2007 to 2014 was greater than the median growth rate in this period for counties with at least 1,000 Latinos in 2014 (approximately 27%).

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of U.S. Census Bureau population estimates.

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Other key findings from the report include:

National population growth

- Despite slowing population growth, Latinos still accounted for more than half (54%) of the nation's population growth between 2000 and 2014.

Latinos in the counties

- Latinos account for more than half of the population growth in 41% of U.S. counties with at least 1,000 Latinos in 2014. About a third of these counties were located along the Southwest border and about half are in non-metropolitan areas.
- The nation's Hispanic population is not growing everywhere. Between 2007 and 2014, the Hispanic population declined in 38 counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2014, most of which were located in Colorado, New Mexico and Texas.
- Among the nation's counties with at least 1,000 Latinos in 2014, 23 counties are majority foreign born among Latinos.

States

- The five states with the largest Hispanic populations are California (15 million), Texas (10.4 million), Florida (4.8 million), New York (3.7 million) and Illinois (2.2 million). Together, these states hold 65% of all Hispanics.
- But New Mexico leads the states for the share of the state population that is Hispanic (48%), followed by California and Texas (39% each). Arizona and Nevada round out the top five states for the share of the population that is Hispanic with 31% and 28%, respectively.
- In most states, U.S.-born Hispanics outnumber foreign-born Hispanics. However, there are two exceptions: In the District of Columbia 53% of Hispanics were foreign born in 2014, and in Maryland half of Hispanics were foreign born. Most of the top 10 states ranked by the foreign-born share among Hispanics are located in the South.

Metropolitan areas

- In 2014, more than half of U.S. Hispanics resided in the 15 largest metropolitan areas by Hispanic population. Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA topped the list with 6 million Hispanics – more than the Hispanic population in all but two states, California and Texas.
- Behind the Los Angeles metropolitan area are New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA (4.8 million), Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL (2.6 million), Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX (2.3 million), Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA (2.2 million) and Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI (2.1 million).
- Among the 15 largest metropolitan areas by Hispanic population, only two are majority foreign born. In Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL, 61% of the area's 2.6 million Hispanics are immigrants. Following that is the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV metropolitan area, where 53% of Hispanics are immigrants.
- The geographic settlement of Hispanics is closely linked with Hispanic origin. Hispanics of Mexican origin are the largest Hispanic origin group in many Southwest border metropolitan areas, but along the East Coast there is more diversity. Cubans are the largest Hispanic origin group in the Miami metropolitan area, while Puerto Ricans are the largest origin group in the New York, Orlando, Philadelphia and Hartford, CT metro areas. Meanwhile, Salvadorans are the largest origin group in the Washington, D.C., area.

1. U.S. Hispanic population dispersion before and after the onset of the Great Recession

The first 14 years of the new century have been marked by the continued growth and dispersion of the U.S. Latino population outside of counties with historically large Latino populations. But since the onset of the Great Recession in 2007, both have slowed⁴ as immigration from Latin America and Latino fertility rates declined.

This chapter explores Hispanic population dispersion trends at the county level through several different measures. The analysis finds that no matter how measured, Hispanic population dispersion is slowing as Hispanic population growth cools.

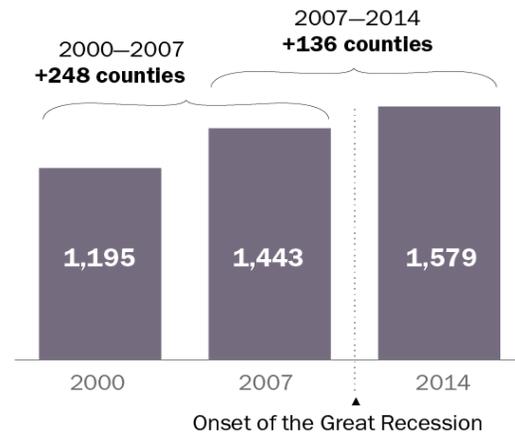
Growth in the number of counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics

About a quarter (27%) of the nation's more than 3,100 counties had at least 1,000 Hispanics in 1990. That share grew to nearly four-in-ten (38%) in 2000 as the Hispanic population [grew rapidly during the 1990s](#). And by 2007, the share of counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics grew by 8 percentage points to 46%.

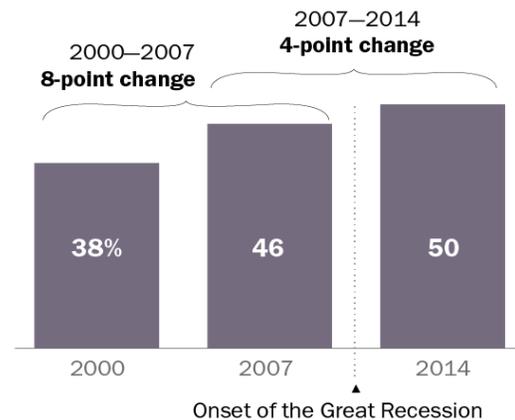
However, national [Hispanic population growth began to cool](#) after the start of the Great Recession as Hispanic [immigration to the U.S. slowed](#) and [Hispanic fertility rates declined](#). As a result, between 2007 and 2014,

Half of U.S. counties in 2014 had at least 1,000 Hispanics, up from 46% in 2007 and 38% in 2000

Number of counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics



% of counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics



Note: The Great Recession began in December 2007 and ended in June 2009.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of U.S. Census Bureau population estimates.

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⁴ The [Great Recession](#) began in December 2007 and lasted until June 2009, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research's Business Cycle Dating Committee, which defines national recessions.

the share of counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics grew by just 4 percentage points, to 50% of the nation’s counties.

Since 1990, Latinos have increasingly settled in counties outside the largest U.S. metropolitan areas such as Los Angeles, Houston, New York City or Miami, all of which also have some of the country’s largest Latino populations. In 2014, nearly half (44%) of counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics were non-metropolitan – up from 34% in 1990.

A declining share of Latinos live in counties that had more than 50,000 Latinos in 1990

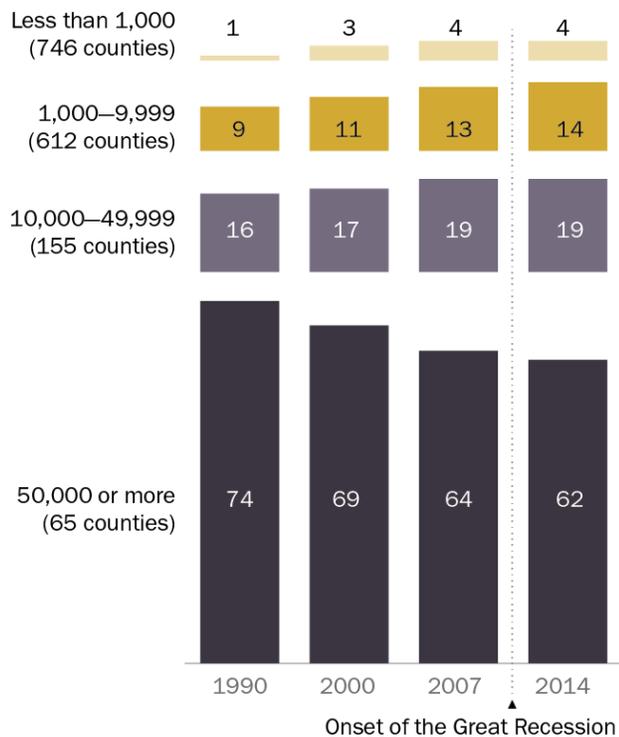
Another way to examine the dispersion of the nation’s Latino population is to examine the share that lives in counties with historically large Latino populations. Since 1990, this share has declined, slowing after the onset of the Great Recession in 2007.

In 1990, roughly three-quarters (74%) of Latinos lived in counties with 50,000 Latinos or more (65 counties in 1990). The share of Latinos that lived in the same 65 counties fell to 69% in 2000 and 64% in 2007. By 2014, the share of Latinos living in counties with historically large Latino populations declined another 2 percentage points to 62%.

Meanwhile, the share of Latinos who lived in the 612 counties with 1,000 to 9,999 Latinos in 1990 has nearly doubled. While these counties had relatively large populations overall, they had few

Since 1990, the Latino population has dispersed to counties with historically fewer Hispanics

% of Latinos residing in counties where Latino population was _____ in 1990



Note: Based on 1,578 counties with at least 1,000 Latinos in 2014 and that existed in each year studied. Totals for each year may not add to 100% due to rounding. The Great Recession began in December 2007 and ended in June 2009.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of U.S. Census Bureau population estimates and the 1990 decennial census (SF-1). “U.S. Latino Population Growth and Dispersion Has Slowed Since Onset of the Great Recession”

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Hispanics in 1990.⁵ In 2014, 14% of Latinos lived in these counties – up from 13% in 2007, 11% in 2000 and 9% in 1990.

Since 2007, Latino growth is less concentrated in counties where the Latino population has grown by at least 10,000

Between 2007 and 2014, there were 170 counties where the Hispanic population grew by at least 10,000 – down from 202 counties from 2000 to 2007 and 192 from 1990 to 2000. These counties began with relatively large Hispanic populations. In fact, with few exceptions, the 170 counties where the Hispanic population increased by 10,000 or more were also among the top 200 counties with the largest Hispanic populations in 2007.

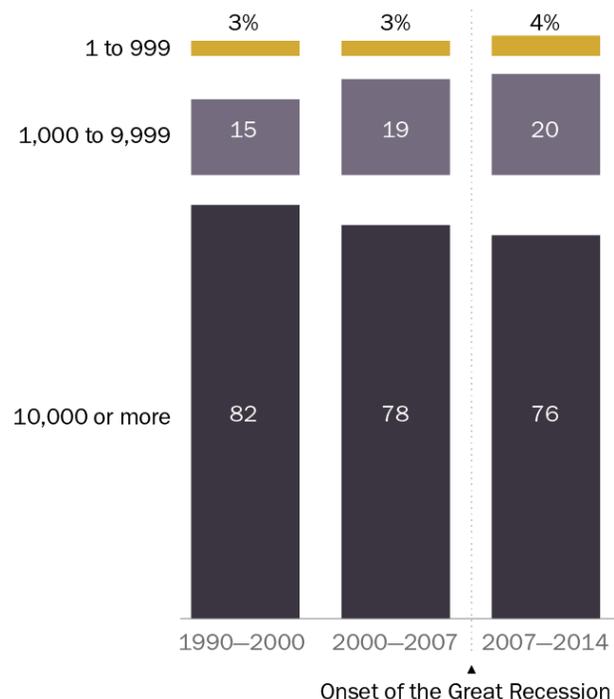
Latino population growth has become less concentrated in counties with historically large Latino populations and whose Latino population grew by at least 10,000. This dispersion of Latino population growth was more rapid between 2000 and 2007 than in 2007 to 2014, mirroring the slowdown in dispersion measured in other ways.

Fully 82% of U.S. Latino population growth between 1990 and 2000 was in counties where the Latino population grew by at least 10,000. This share fell by 4 percentage points to 78% between 2000 and 2007. And between 2007 and 2014, this share reached 76% – only 2 points less than the prior period.

Increasingly, a greater share of the growth of Latino population is occurring in counties

Declining share of growth occurs in counties that have experienced an increase of 10,000 Latinos or more

% of U.S. Latino population growth occurring within counties where Latino population increased by ...



Note: Based on 1,579 counties with at least 1,000 Latinos in 2014. Hispanics residing in counties with declining Hispanic populations are not shown. The Great Recession began in December 2007 and ended in June 2009.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of U.S. Census Bureau population estimates and the 1990 decennial census (SF-1). "U.S. Latino Population Growth and Dispersion Has Slowed Since Onset of the Great Recession"

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⁵ The median total population for these counties with 1,000-9,999 Hispanics in 1990 exceeded the median county population size of about 22,000 people. For example, the three largest counties with 1,000-9,999 Hispanics had populations of at least 900,000. They were Allegheny County, Pennsylvania (with 1.3 million residents); St. Louis County, Missouri (994,000); and Franklin County, Ohio (961,000).

where the Latino population increase has been between 1,000 and 9,999 people. Between 1990 and 2000, 15% of the Latino population growth occurred in these types of counties, compared with 19% between 2000 and 2007 and 20% between 2007 and 2014.

Hispanics are more evenly dispersed across U.S. counties in 2014 than previously, but their dispersion has slowed since 2007

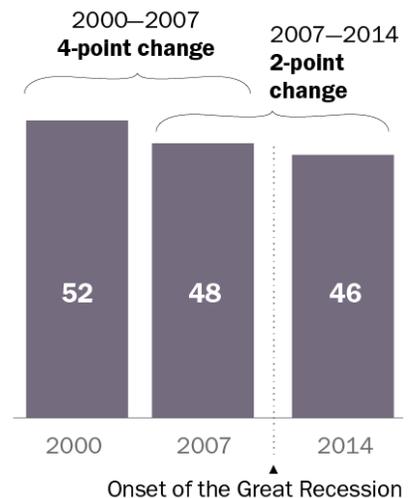
One broad overall [measure of dispersion](#) is the [dissimilarity index](#). This measure ranges in value from 0 to 100 and provides a single summary metric that measures dispersion. It does this by showing what percentage of Hispanics would need to move in order to have the proportion of Hispanics in each county equal the proportion of Hispanics in the nation's population. A dissimilarity index value of zero would indicate that Hispanics are evenly distributed across U.S. counties, while an index of 100 would indicate complete segregation of the U.S. Hispanic population from non-Hispanics.

In 1990, the dissimilarity index for the U.S. Hispanic population was 57 – meaning that 57% of Hispanics would need to move to ensure Hispanics were evenly distributed across U.S. counties. By 2000, the Hispanic population was more dispersed throughout U.S. counties as the index fell to 52.

From 2000 to 2007, the dissimilarity index fell again, to 48 in 2007, indicating the continued dispersion of the U.S. Hispanic population across the nation's counties. The index also declined from 2007 to 2014, but only by 2 points, reaching 46 in 2014. This means in 2014, 46% of Hispanics would need to move to have the same proportion of Hispanics in each county as the proportion of Hispanics in the national population. Yet while this measure indicates that Hispanics continued to move to counties where there were fewer Hispanics after the onset of the Great Recession, dispersion was slower than it had been from 2000 to 2007.

Since 2007, the nation's Hispanic population has dispersed at a slower rate

Dissimilarity index for non-Hispanics to Hispanics



Note: The dissimilarity index measures how many Hispanics or non-Hispanics would need to move to have the same proportion in each U.S. county as the proportion of Hispanics in the nation as a whole. The Great Recession began in December 2007 and ended in June 2009.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of U.S. Census Bureau population estimates. "U.S. Latino Population Growth and Dispersion Has Slowed Since Onset of the Great Recession"

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Northeastern counties account for a growing share of Hispanic population growth since 2007

Though Hispanic population growth has been largely centered in the Southern and Western regions of the U.S., since 2007 counties in the Northeast have made up a rising share of this growth. As the Northeast made up a larger portion of the nation's Hispanic population growth between 2007 and 2014, there was a slight decline for all of the other regions of the U.S. compared with the seven years prior.

Between 2007 and 2014, 14% of the nation's Hispanic population growth occurred in Northeast counties – up from 11% between 2000 and 2007. Between 1990 and 2000, 12% of Hispanic growth occurred in the Northeast. Counties located in the Middle Atlantic division accounted for a larger portion of this rising share than counties located in New England. In fact, 11% of Hispanic population growth between 2007 and 2014 was in counties in the Middle Atlantic division, compared with 4% in the New England division.⁶

Counties in the South have accounted for a larger portion of the nation's Hispanic population growth since the 1990s. Between 1990 and 2000, 37% of the Hispanic population growth occurred in southern counties – a share that rose to 44% between 2000 and 2007 before declining slightly to 43% between 2007 and 2014. While the South Atlantic division followed this pattern, the West South Central division accounted for a growing share of Hispanic growth throughout all three time periods – reaching 22% between 2007 and 2014. The East South Central division accounted for 2 percent or less of Hispanic population growth. However, counties in the West South Central region made up an

Hispanic population growth in the Northeast makes up larger portion of growth since the Great Recession

% of Hispanic population growth that occurred in counties located in the ...

	1990-2000	2000-2007	2007-2014
Midwest	10	10	9
East North Central	8	7	6
West North Central	3	3	3
Northeast	12	11	14
Middle Atlantic	9	8	11
New England	2	3	4
South	37	44	43
East South Central	1	2	2
South Atlantic	16	21	19
West South Central	19	20	22
West	41	35	34
Mountain	12	12	9
Pacific	29	24	24

Note: Based on 1,579 counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2014.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of U.S. Census Bureau population estimates and the 1990 decennial census (SF-1).

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⁶ Northeast, Midwest, South and West refer to census regions that divide the U.S. into groups for analyses. Likewise, census divisions divide the country into nine different areas for group analyses. See [terminology](#) for a list of the states included in each of the regions and divisions.

increasing share of the nation's Hispanic population growth throughout each of the time periods. Between 2007 and 2014, counties in the West South Central area (22%) and South Atlantic (19%) made up most of the South's share of Hispanic population growth.

By contrast, the share of the nation's Hispanic population growth that happened in the West declined for each period. Between 2000 and 2007, Hispanic population growth in counties in the West accounted for 35% of national Hispanic population growth – a decline of about 5 percentage points from 41% during the decade prior.⁷ Counties in the Pacific division of the West largely drove this decline: Between 2000 and 2007, the Pacific division accounted for 24% of national Hispanic population growth, compared with 29% in the decade prior. The West's share of Hispanic population growth was 2 percentage points lower – or 34% – for the period between 2007 and 2014. This was largely driven by counties in the Mountain division, whose share of Hispanic growth declined to 9% for the period between 2007 and 2014 – down from 12% for the period between 2000 and 2007.

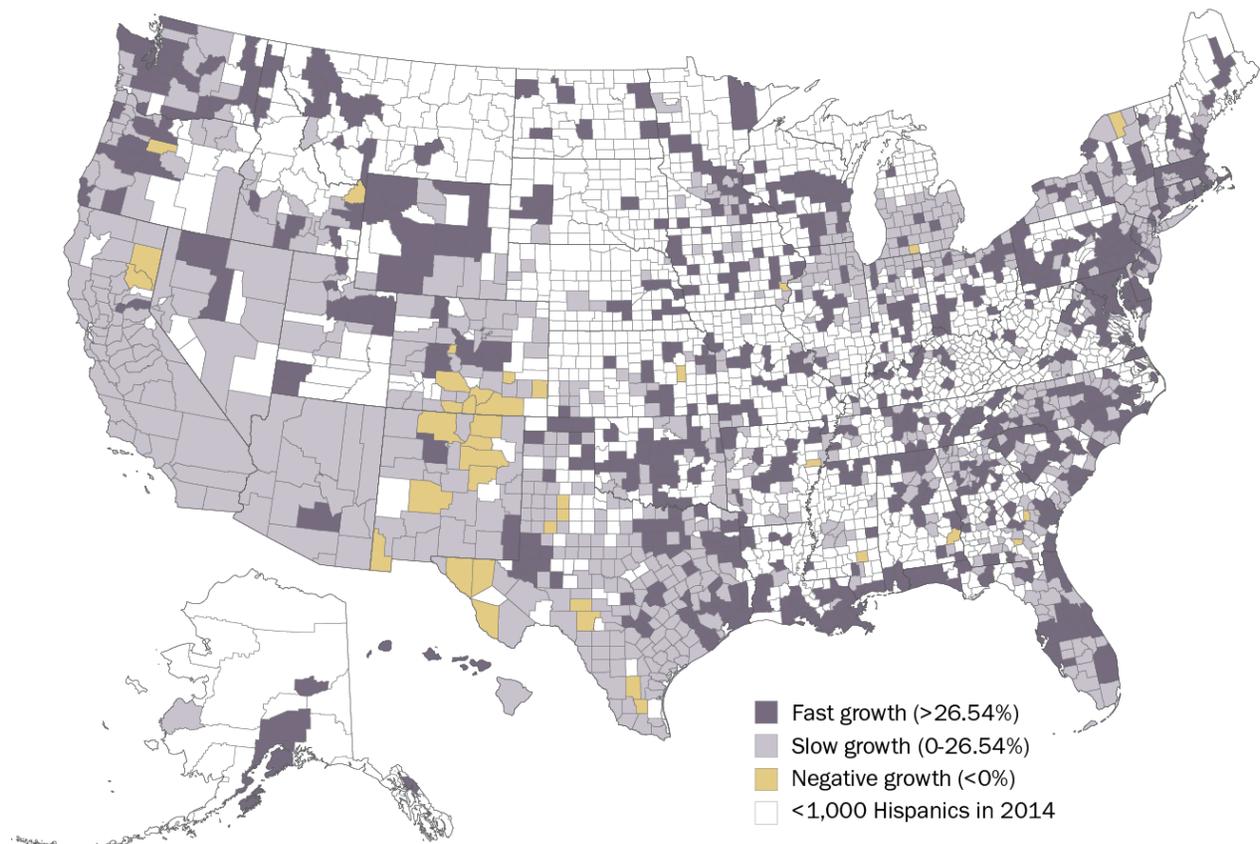
Counties in the Midwest made up a slightly declining share of Hispanic population growth since 2000, but this was largely driven by small declines in the East North Central division, which includes counties in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin. Between 1990 and 2000, and again between 2000 and 2007, counties in the Midwest accounted for 10% of the Hispanic population growth. This share declined to 9% during the period between 2007 and 2014.

⁷ Change is calculated prior to rounding.

2. Fast-growing and slow-growing Hispanic counties

Since the 1990s, a growing share of the country's Latino population has lived in fast-growing Latino counties. These are counties that have Latino population growth rates that exceed the national county median growth rate for the Latino population (about 27% from 2007 to 2014, for example) and have at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2014. Overall, these counties have several characteristics in common – most are in the South, are part of metropolitan areas and have largely U.S.-born Latino populations. This chapter explores the trends and characteristics of fast-growing and slow-growing Latino counties.

Fast-growing Latino counties for 2007 to 2014 largely located in Southern states



Note: Fast-growing Hispanic counties include counties where the Hispanic growth rate from 2007 to 2014 was greater than the median growth rate in this period for counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2014 (approximately 27%).

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of U.S. Census Bureau population estimates.

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North Dakota counties lead in Hispanic population growth since 2007

The top three counties with the highest Hispanic population growth rates between 2007 and 2014 were located in North Dakota. The Hispanic population in each of these three counties (Williams, Stark and Ward) more than doubled since 2007, though in each case, these populations started from a small base. These counties also experienced general population growth as the oil production boom gained momentum after the Great Recession. (See [Appendix C](#) for a table presenting the top 30 fast-growing Hispanic counties for 2007 to 2014.)

The 10 fastest-growing county Hispanic populations since the onset of the Great Recession (among those that had at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2014) are dispersed across the country and include Luzerne County in Pennsylvania, Beadle County in South Dakota and Duchesne County in Utah. Only three counties in the top 10 were in Southern states.

By contrast, counties in Southern states dominated the list of fastest-growing Hispanic counties prior to the Great Recession. From 2000 to 2007, eight of the 10 fastest-growing Hispanic counties were in the Southern states of Georgia (home to three such counties), Mississippi (one),

Non-Southern counties dominate 2007 to 2014 list of 10 fastest-growing Hispanic populations; top 10 for 2000 to 2007 largely located in the South

	2007-2014		2000-2007		
	% growth in Hispanic population	2014 Hispanic population	% growth in Hispanic population	2007 Hispanic population	
Williams County, North Dakota	367	1,671	Stewart County, Georgia	1,254	1,070
Stark County, North Dakota	294	1,495	Telfair County, Georgia	737	1,800
Ward County, North Dakota	117	3,544	Adams County, Mississippi	501	1,641
Russell County, Alabama	92	3,007	Trempealeau County, Wisconsin	395	1,187
Bryan County, Georgia	91	2,148	Frederick County, Virginia	388	4,903
Luzerne County, Pennsylvania	91	28,925	Culpeper County, Virginia	361	3,959
St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana	89	4,249	Paulding County, Georgia	334	6,074
Beadle County, South Dakota	85	1,763	Luzerne County, Pennsylvania	308	15,167
Duchesne County, Utah	85	1,642	Sevier County, Tennessee	292	3,466
Burleigh County, North Dakota	82	1,707	Macon County, North Carolina	273	1,692

Note: Counties shown had the top 10 fastest growth rates for the Hispanic population between 2007 and 2014 or 2000 and 2007. Counties for the 2007 to 2014 time period are based on 1,579 counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2014. Counties for the 2000 to 2007 period are based on 1,443 counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2007. Stewart County, Georgia, has an immigration detention center run by the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and Adams County, Mississippi, has a federal correctional institution that houses many undocumented immigrants. Foreign-born Hispanics account for the vast majority of Hispanics in each county (96% in Stewart County and 90% in Adams County). It is likely that these facilities are contributing to the rapid growth of the Hispanic populations in both of these counties.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of U.S. Census Bureau population estimates.

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North Carolina (one), Tennessee (one) or Virginia (two). Two exceptions were Trempealeau County, Wisconsin, and Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, where the number of Hispanics more than quadrupled. Stewart County, Georgia, topped the list for the highest growth rate of Hispanics between 2000 and 2007. By 2007, Stewart County had only 1,070 Hispanics, nearly 14 times the number that lived there in 2000.⁸ (See [Appendix C](#) for a table presenting the top 30 fast-growing Hispanic counties for 2000 to 2007.)

Though counties in the South no longer dominate the list of the top 10 fast-growing Latino county populations, more than half (54%) of fast-growing counties by Latino population are in the South. From 2007 to 2014, fast-growing counties in the South accounted for the majority (64%) of the Latino growth in fast-growing counties. Northeastern fast-growing Latino counties accounted for 14%, Western fast-growing Latino counties accounted for 12% and Midwestern fast-growing counties accounted for 10% of this growth.

How many fast-growing Hispanic counties since 2007?

There were 789 counties where the growth rate of Hispanics exceeded the national county median growth rate between 2007 and 2014 and had at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2014. Together they make up about 50% of all counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2014. These fast-growing counties are smaller in their Hispanic populations than other counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics. In 2014, the average Hispanic population size of the 789 fast-growing Hispanic counties was 17,000. By contrast, the average Hispanic population among *all* counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics in

Hispanic population growth in fast-growing counties, by region

	2007	2014	Increase 2007 to 2014	
			Population	Share (%)
Total Hispanics in fast-growing counties	9,834,000	13,228,000	3,394,000	100
South	6,296,000	8,482,000	2,186,000	64
Northeast	1,383,000	1,855,000	472,000	14
West	1,186,000	1,586,000	399,000	12
Midwest	968,000	1,305,000	337,000	10

Note: Based on 789 fast-growing Hispanic counties between 2007 and 2014; see terminology for more details. Hispanic population and absolute growth figures rounded to nearest thousand.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of U.S. Census Bureau population estimates.

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⁸ Stewart County, Georgia, has an immigration detention center run by the Department of Homeland Security’s Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that opened in the early 2000s. Given that Stewart County’s Hispanic population is 96% foreign born, it is likely that this facility has contributed to the rapid growth of the county’s Hispanic population.

2014 was much larger – 35,000. Looked at another way, there were only 230 fast-growing counties with at least 10,000 Hispanics or more in 2014, making up 29% of the fast-growing Hispanic counties. And despite their above-average growth rates, these 789 fast-growing Hispanic counties accounted for a little more than a third (37%) of all U.S. Hispanic population growth between 2007 and 2014.

About a quarter of the U.S. Hispanic population lived in fast-growing counties in 2014

These fast-growing counties were home to a rising share of the nation’s Hispanic population in 2014, exemplifying the group’s growth and dispersion. That year, about a quarter (24%) of the nation’s Hispanics lived in these fast-growing counties – nearly twice the 13% of Hispanics who lived in these same fast-growing counties in 1990.⁹ In 2000, 17% of the nation’s Hispanic population lived in these fast-growing counties, and 21% lived in these counties by 2007.

Still, most Hispanics lived in slow-growing counties – though this share has declined over time. In 2014, three-quarters of the Hispanic population lived in counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics and where their population growth was under the median Hispanic population growth rate – down from 77% in 2007, 82% in 2000 and 85% in 1990.

Fast-growing Hispanic counties from 2007 to 2014 accounted for a larger share of the Hispanic population in 2014 than prior years

	1990	2000	2007	2014	Share 1990	Share 2000	Share 2007	Share 2014
Total Hispanic population	22,354,000	35,306,000	46,197,000	55,387,000	100	100	100	100
In fast-growing counties	2,975,000	5,978,000	9,834,000	13,228,000	13	17	21	24
In slow-growing counties	19,076,000	28,849,000	37,730,000	41,396,000	85	82	77	75
In negative-growth counties	144,000	179,000	184,000	176,000	1	1	<0.5	<0.5

Note: Hispanic population and shares for each year are based on counties that were fast-growing, slow-growing or negative-growth from 2007 to 2014. Fast-growing Hispanic counties include counties where the Hispanic growth rate from 2007 to 2014 was greater than the median growth rate in this period for counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2014 (approximately 27%). See terminology for more details. Total Hispanic population figures are based on all counties, while figures for fast-growing, slow-growing and negative-growth counties are only based on 1,579 counties with 1,000 or more Hispanics in 2014. Therefore, figures for fast-growing, slow-growing and negative-growth counties will not sum to the total Hispanic population. Hispanic population figures rounded to nearest thousand.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of U.S. Census Bureau population estimates and the 1990 decennial census (SF-1).

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⁹ In this section, the figures reported for each year are based on the share of Hispanics living within counties with fast-growing or slow-growing Hispanic populations from 2007 to 2014.

Fast-growing Hispanic counties are largely in metropolitan areas

The fast-growing Hispanic counties between 2007 and 2014 were largely counties in metropolitan areas. Metropolitan fast-growing counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2014 accounted for 94% of the growth that occurred in fast-growing Hispanic counties, compared with 6% for non-metropolitan fast-growing counties. Likewise, between 2000 and 2007, metropolitan fast-growing Hispanic counties accounted for 94% of the growth in fast-growing counties.

Metropolitan counties account for most of the Hispanic population's growth among fast-growing Hispanic counties

	2007	2014	Increase 2007 to 2014	
			Population	Share (%)
Total Hispanics in fast-growing counties	9,834,000	13,228,000	3,394,000	100
Metropolitan	9,275,000	12,463,000	3,188,000	94
Non-metropolitan	559,000	765,000	206,000	6

Note: Based on 789 fast-growing Hispanic counties between 2007 and 2014; see terminology for more details. Non-metropolitan counties include those that are within micropolitan statistical areas and outside of the core-based statistical areas (CBSA). Hispanic population and absolute growth figures rounded to nearest thousand.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of U.S. Census Bureau population estimates.

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Geography of the fast-growing Hispanic counties

More than half (54%) of the fast-growing Hispanic counties from 2007 to 2014 were located in the South (426 counties); 24% were located in the Midwest; and 11% each were located in the West and Northeast. In the seven years prior, the South made up 60% of fast-growing counties, the Midwest made up 22%, the West made up 10% and the Northeast made up 8%.

Characteristics of fast-growing Hispanic counties

Many fast-growing Hispanic counties are majority U.S. born

Many of the fast-growing counties by Hispanic population have more U.S.-born Hispanics than foreign-born Hispanics. And in 21% of these counties U.S.-born Hispanics outnumbered the foreign born by about 4 to 1 or more. Nationally, [34.9% of all Hispanics are immigrants](#).

There were 23 fast-growing counties with majority foreign-born Hispanic populations in 2014, most of which were narrow majorities. Stewart County, Georgia, had the greatest share of foreign-born Hispanics (96%) among the fast-growing Hispanic counties. Following closely behind was Adams County, Mississippi, where 90% of Hispanics were foreign born; Telfair County, Georgia (82% foreign born); Edgefield County, South Carolina (64% foreign born); and Northampton County, Virginia (63% foreign born).¹⁰

Fast-growing Hispanic counties with the top five shares of foreign born

% of Hispanics in each county that are foreign born, 2010-2014



Note: Top five of the 789 fastest-growing counties with the highest share of foreign-born Hispanics shown; see terminology for more details. Stewart County, Georgia has an immigration detention center run by the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Adams County, Mississippi has a federal correctional institution that houses many undocumented immigrants. It is likely that these facilities are contributing to the large share of foreign-born Hispanics in these counties and the rapid growth of these counties' Hispanic populations.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

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¹⁰ Stewart County, Georgia, has an immigration detention center run by the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Adams County, Mississippi, has a federal correctional institution that houses many undocumented immigrants. It is likely that these facilities are contributing to the large share of foreign-born Hispanics in these counties and the rapid growth of these counties' Hispanic populations.

A majority of Hispanics in fast-growing counties are English proficient

On average, about four-in-ten Hispanics (39%) ages 5 and older living in fast-growing counties speak only English at home. This is more than 10 percentage points higher than the [26.5% of all Hispanics](#) ages 5 and older who speak only English at home.

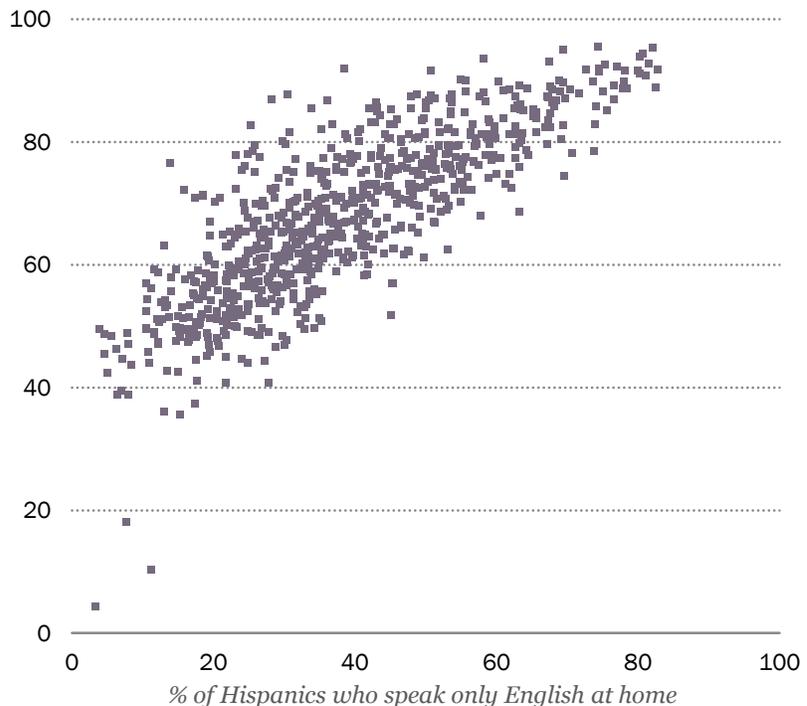
What's more, on average, 72% of Hispanics in fast-growing counties are English proficient – meaning they speak only English at home or speak a non-English language at home but say they speak English very well. This is above the national average for Hispanics – [68% of all Hispanics ages 5 and older are proficient in English](#).

Fast-growing Hispanic counties with larger shares of English-proficient Hispanics also tend to have larger shares of U.S.-born Hispanics. For example, 99% of Hispanics in Flathead County, Montana, are English proficient – the highest share among all fast-growing Hispanic counties – and 89% of Hispanics in this county are U.S.-born.

Among the 789 fast-growing Hispanic counties between 2007 and 2014, a majority of Hispanics ages 5 and older in 113 of these counties (14%) speak only English at home. Most of these counties were located in states in the Midwest (43) and the West (36). There were 18 such counties in the

In fast-growing Hispanic counties, the share speaking only English at home is correlated with the share of Hispanics who are U.S. born

% of Hispanic population that is U.S. born

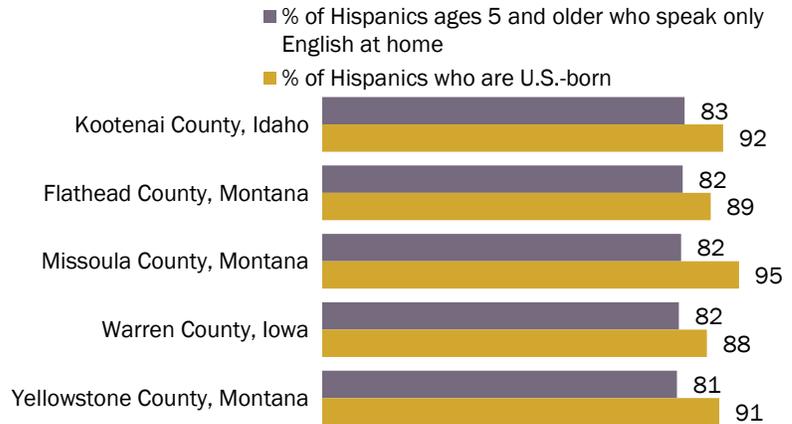


Note: Based on 789 fast-growing Hispanic counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2014. The share speaking only English at home is based on Hispanics ages 5 and older. Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. "U.S. Latino Population Growth and Dispersion Has Slowed Since Onset of the Great Recession"

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South and 16 counties in the Northeast. Kootenai County, Idaho, tops the list for the share of Hispanics ages 5 and older who speak only English at home (83%). Flathead County, Montana (82%); Missoula County, Montana (82%); Warren County, Iowa (82%); and Yellowstone County, Montana (81%) round out the list for the top five fast-growing Hispanic counties with the largest share of Hispanics ages 5 and older who speak only English at home.

Top five fast-growing counties for Hispanics who speak only English at home



Note: Top five of the 789 fastest-growing counties with the highest share of Hispanics ages 5 and older who speak only English at home shown; see terminology for more details.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

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Counties with declining Hispanic populations

The Hispanic population is not growing in every county of the country. In 2014, there were 38 counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics that saw their Hispanic populations decline between 2007 and 2014. These counties were mainly non-metropolitan ones, with the exception of Crosby County and Lynn County, Texas, in the Lubbock metropolitan area, and Hudspeth County, Texas, in the El Paso metropolitan area. Half of these counties were located in Western states, including Colorado (8), New Mexico (7), California (2), Idaho (1) and Oregon (1). There were 10 counties with declining Hispanic population in Texas alone (Texas is classified as a Southern state).

Among these 38 counties for Hispanic population decline from 2007 to 2014, 19 had also experienced Hispanic population decline from 2000 to 2007. (See [Appendix C](#) for a table listing these counties.) These counties were mainly located in Colorado, New Mexico and Texas and were mostly in non-metropolitan areas. The Hispanic population in 12 of these counties accounted for more than half of the county’s general population in 2014.

Overall, between 2000 and 2007, there were a total of 46 counties where the Hispanic population declined (among counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2007). More than a third (37%, or 17

counties) were located in Texas. There were also 11 in New Mexico and seven in Colorado. The other counties were in New York (three); Kansas, Louisiana and Virginia (two each); and Arkansas and Georgia (one each).

Between 1990 and 2000, only 25 counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2000 experienced declining Hispanic populations. These counties were predominately located in the South, and half were in Texas. (See [Appendix B](#) for a map showing these counties.)

Top 20 counties for Hispanic population loss from 2007 to 2014

County	Hispanic population 2014	% decline of Hispanic population
Culberson County, Texas	1,665	-15
Saguache County, Colorado	2,370	-14
Presidio County, Texas	5,771	-11
Huerfano County, Colorado	2,224	-10
Mora County, New Mexico	3,702	-8
Hidalgo County, New Mexico	2,609	-8
Las Animas County, Colorado	5,979	-8
Hudspeth County, Texas	2,510	-8
Guadalupe County, New Mexico	3,548	-6
Lyon County, Kansas	6,871	-6
Edwards County, Texas	1,023	-5
Lake County, Colorado	2,782	-5
St. Francis County, Arkansas	1,181	-5
Colfax County, New Mexico	6,214	-5
Conejos County, Colorado	4,472	-4
Brooks County, Texas	6,449	-4
Costilla County, Colorado	2,294	-4
Jones County, Mississippi	2,919	-4
Duval County, Texas	10,210	-4
San Miguel County, New Mexico	21,805	-4

Note: Counties that experienced Hispanic population loss from 2007 to 2014, ranked by percent decline.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of U.S. Census Bureau population estimates.

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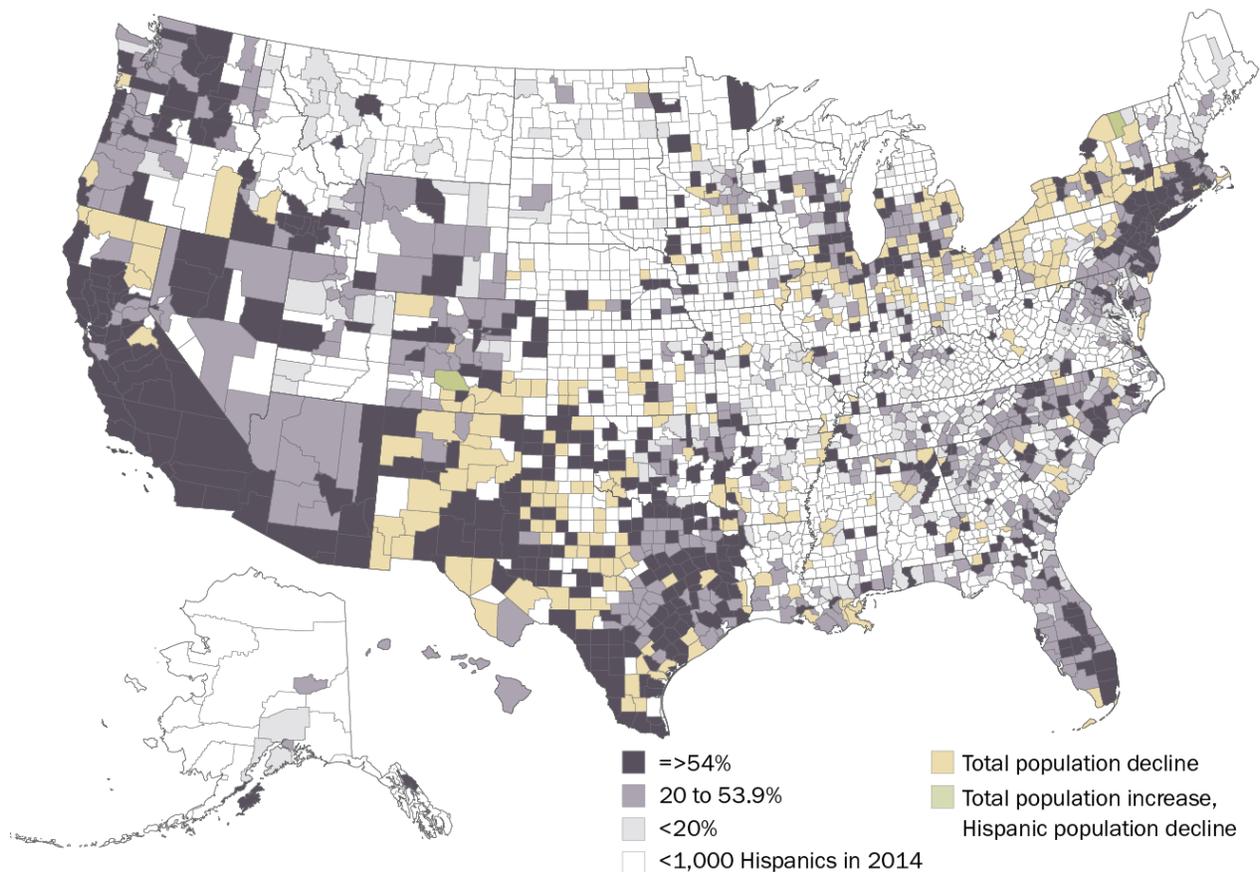
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3. Where Hispanic population growth is driving general population growth

The growth of the Hispanic population accounted for over half (54%) of total U.S. population growth from 2000 to 2014. In about 41% (524) of the 1,270 counties where the total population grew from 2000 to 2014 and the Hispanic population totaled at least 1,000 in 2014, Hispanic population growth accounted for at least 54% of the total population growth – in other words, it

Hispanic share of population growth in 41% of U.S. counties equals or exceeds that of the Hispanic share of the nation's population growth between 2000 and 2014

% of total population growth accounted for by Hispanics



Note: Nationally, the growth of the Hispanic population accounted for 54% of the total U.S. population growth from 2000 to 2014. Total population decline includes counties where the total population declined from 2000 to 2014, but the Hispanic population may have increased or decreased.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulation of U.S. Census Bureau population estimates.

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matched or exceeded the Hispanic share of population growth nationwide.^{11,12}

A plurality (46%) of these 524 counties was located in the South, 24% were located in the West, 18% were located in the Midwest and 12% were located in the Northeast. Over one-third (181) of these counties were located in Southwest border states – including more than one-in-five (115) counties that were located in Texas alone.¹³

About half (53%) of these counties where the Hispanic share of population growth was equal to or exceeded the Hispanic share of national population growth were non-metropolitan counties. By comparison, 47% of these counties were in metropolitan areas.

In 2014, about two-thirds (65%) of the U.S. Latino population lived in these counties where the Latino share of population growth at least equaled the Latino share of national population growth.

Hispanic population and growth in counties, by Hispanic share of population growth

	2014		Increase 2000 to 2014	
	Hispanic population	% of Hispanic population	Population	Share (%)
All counties	55,387,000	100	20,080,000	100
Counties where Hispanic growth accounts for >=54% of total population growth	36,073,000	65	11,576,000	58
Counties where Hispanic growth accounts for 20% to <54% of total population growth	13,053,000	24	6,359,000	32
Counties where Hispanic growth accounts for 0% to <20% of total population growth	2,671,000	5	1,091,000	5

Note: Nationally, the growth of the Hispanic population accounted for 54% of the total U.S. population growth from 2000 to 2014. Hispanic population figures may not sum to the figures for all counties because counties with less than 1,000 Hispanics in 2014 and those with declining total populations and/or declining Hispanic populations are not included. Figures rounded to nearest thousand.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of U.S. Census Bureau population estimates.

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¹¹ The analysis in this chapter is based on counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2014 and counties where the total population increased from 2000 to 2014. From 2000 to 2014, among counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2014, there were 308 counties where the total population declined. These counties were not included in this analysis of where Hispanics have driven population growth during this time period.

¹² From 2000 to 2007 and 2007 to 2014, the Hispanic share of national population growth was roughly similar (55% and 52%, respectively). Between 2000 and 2007, there were 429 counties (with at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2007) where the Hispanic share of population growth was on par with or exceeded the Hispanic share of national population growth. Between 2007 and 2014, there were 525 counties that did so, among those with at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2014. There were 266 counties that exceeded the national share in both time periods. See Appendix C for a detailed table showing the top 20 counties for the Hispanic share of county population growth for both time periods.

¹³ Southwest border states are Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California.

That amounts to 36.1 million Latinos. The Latino population in these counties increased by 11.6 million from 2000 to 2014 – accounting for 58% of the nation’s Latino population growth in this period.

Counties where Hispanic population growth made up at least 20% but less than 54% of the total population growth

In 475 counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2014, the growth of the Hispanic population accounted for a substantial share of the total county population growth (at least 20% but less than 54%) in 2014. Many of these counties were located in the South (55%) and West (21%). Some 17% were in the Midwest and 7% were located in the Northeast.

In 2014, 13.1 million Hispanics lived in counties where Hispanic population growth accounted for at least 20% but less than 54% of the county’s total population growth (and there were at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2014). Between 2000 and 2014, the Hispanic population in these counties increased by 6.4 million. Overall, these counties accounted for 32% of the Hispanic population growth during that time.

Counties where Hispanic population growth accounted for less than 20% of total population growth

In 269 counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2014, the Hispanic population growth from 2000 to 2014 accounted for a relatively small portion (less than 20%) of the county’s total population growth. The average size of the Hispanic population in these counties was 10,000 – considerably smaller than the average of 35,000 for all counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2014. But the majority of these counties (211) were metropolitan counties.

More than half (57%) of these counties where Hispanic population growth made up less than 20% of total population growth and there were at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2014 were located in the South and 28% were in the Midwest. About one-in-ten of these counties were located in the West and 6% were in the Northeast.

In 2014, 2.7 million Hispanics (5% of the nation’s total Hispanic population) lived in these counties where Hispanic growth accounted for less than 20% of the total population growth and there were at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2014. Between 2000 and 2014, the Hispanic population in these counties increased by 1.1 million – accounting for about 5% of the nation’s Hispanic population growth.

4. Ranking the Latino population in the states

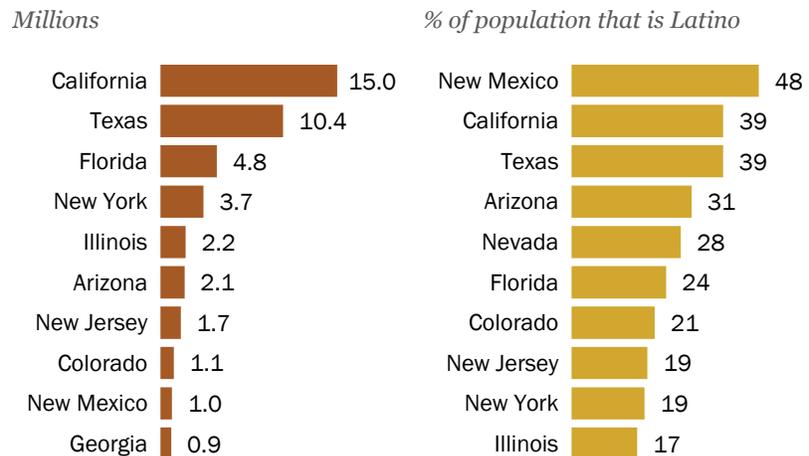
By 2014, eight states had Latino populations of at least 1 million: California, Texas, Florida, New York, Illinois, Arizona, New Jersey and Colorado.¹⁴

With 15 million Hispanics residing in California, its Hispanic population accounts for more than a quarter (27%) of the nation's Hispanic population. California also passed a milestone in 2014, when the [state's Hispanic population](#) was for the first time ever the largest of any [racial or ethnic group](#).

Following California is Texas. Nearly one-in-five Hispanics nationwide (19%) reside in Texas, where the Hispanic population reached 10.4 million in 2014. In third place is Florida, with 4.8 million Hispanics, accounting for nearly one-in-ten (9%) of the nation's Hispanics.

Nearly half (48%) of New Mexico's population is Latino, the highest share among the states. New Mexico is followed by California and Texas, whose populations are 39% Latino in each. Nearly one-third of Arizona's population (31%) was Latino in 2014, as were about a quarter of Nevada's (28%) and Florida's (24%). In Colorado (21%), New Jersey (19%), New York (19%) and Illinois (17%) about one-in-five people were Latino.

Top Latino states in 2014, by population and share



Note: Charts show the top 10 states for the number of Latinos and the share of the population that is Latino.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2014 American Community Survey (IPUMS) "U.S. Latino Population Growth and Dispersion Has Slowed Since Onset of the Great Recession"

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¹⁴ New Mexico had 994,000 Latinos in 2014, which rounded up to 1.0 million in the chart.

From 2000 to 2014, the Latino population in South Dakota [grew fastest among the 50 states and the District of Columbia](#). South Dakota's Latino population has nearly tripled, reaching 29,000 in 2014 – up from 10,000 in 2000. The Latino populations in Tennessee and South Carolina have also nearly tripled. In 2014, Tennessee had 322,000 Latinos, up from 117,000 in 2000, and South Carolina had 258,000 Latinos in 2014, up from 95,000 in 2000. North Dakota and other Southern states rounded out the top 10 states for Latino population growth.

The Hispanic population in North Dakota, however, has been the fastest-growing between 2007 and 2014 – the number of Hispanics has nearly doubled in that time. In 2014, about 18,000 Hispanics lived in North Dakota, up from 9,000 in 2007. Others in the top five for the fastest-growing state Hispanic populations between 2007 and 2014 are Kentucky (66%), Louisiana (64%), Delaware (64%) and Maryland (60%).

South Dakota has the fastest-growing state Latino population since 2000

	2014 Latino population	2000 Latino population	% change 2000-2014
South Dakota	29,000	10,000	190
Tennessee	322,000	117,000	176
South Carolina	258,000	95,000	172
Alabama	190,000	72,000	164
Kentucky	145,000	57,000	154
Arkansas	205,000	85,000	141
North Dakota	18,000	7,000	141
Maryland	556,000	231,000	141
North Carolina	890,000	377,000	136
Virginia	732,000	333,000	120

Note: Top 10 states for Latino population growth from 2000 to 2014 shown.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2000 decennial census and the 2014 American Community Survey (IPUMS).

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Between 2007 and 2014, the Latino population in North Dakota has grown faster than in other states

	2014 Latino population	2007 Latino population	% change 2007-2014
North Dakota	18,000	9,000	97
Kentucky	145,000	87,000	66
Louisiana	222,000	135,000	64
Delaware	83,000	51,000	64
Maryland	556,000	347,000	60
Vermont	10,000	6,000	58
Alabama	190,000	122,000	57
Wyoming	57,000	37,000	56
Mississippi	80,000	52,000	53
South Carolina	258,000	168,000	53

Note: Top 10 states for Latino population growth from 2007 to 2014 shown.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2007 and 2014 American Community Surveys (IPUMS).

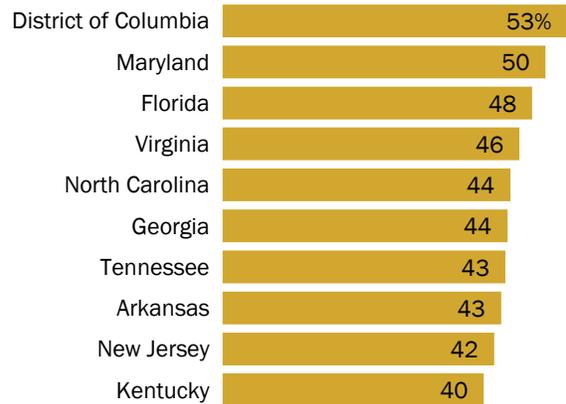
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In most of the states, the Latino populations were majority U.S. born in 2014. But in the District of Columbia, 53% of Latinos are foreign born. And in Maryland, 50% are foreign born. With the exception of New Jersey, each of the top 10 states for the share of Latinos that are foreign born was located in the South.

States with the highest foreign-born shares among Hispanics are mostly in the South in 2014

% of Hispanics that are foreign born



Note: The top 10 states for the share of Latinos that were foreign born in 2014 are shown.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2014 American Community Survey (IPUMS).

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5. Ranking the Latino population in metropolitan areas

More than half (53%) of the nation's Hispanics lived in 15 metropolitan areas in 2014 (see chart to the right for a list of these areas).

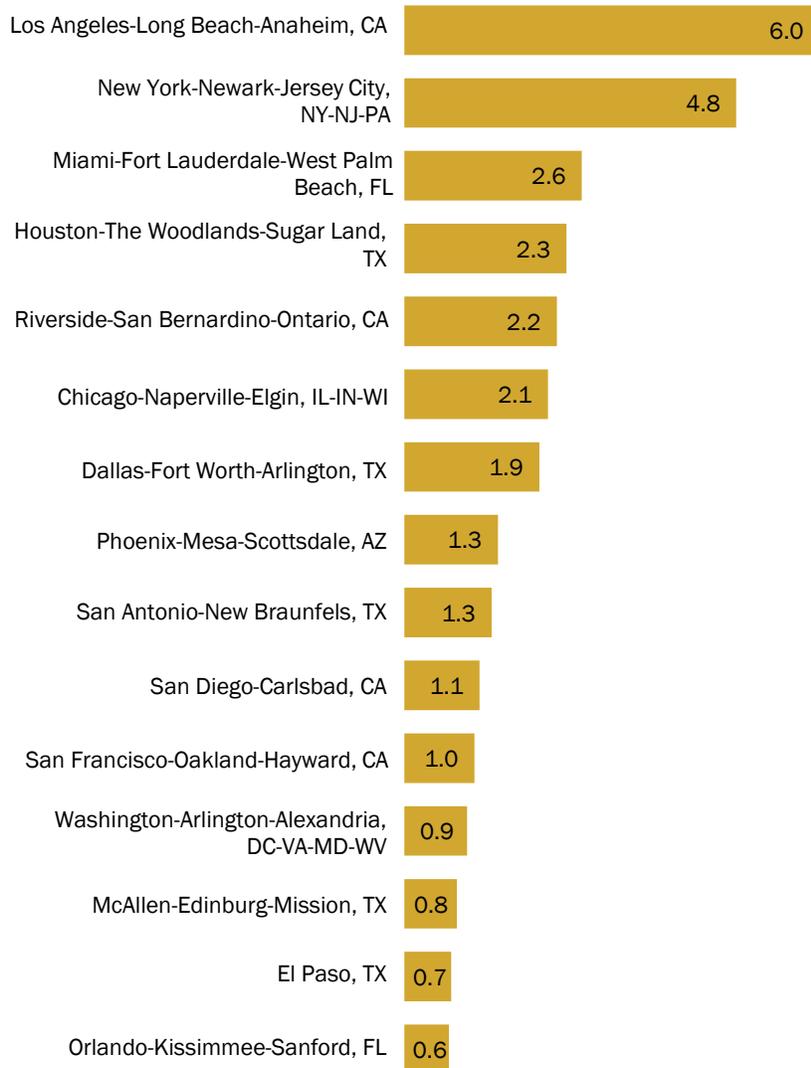
There were 11 metropolitan areas where at least 1 million Hispanics resided.

Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim topped the list with 6 million Hispanics in 2014. About one-in-ten (11%) Hispanics nationwide live in this one metropolitan area. And this metropolitan area has more Hispanics than all but two states: California and Texas.

The New York-Newark-Jersey City and Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach metropolitan areas round out the top three by Hispanic population, with 4.8 million and 2.6 million Hispanics, respectively. These top three metropolitan areas account for about a quarter (24%) of the nation's Hispanic

More than half of U.S. Hispanics live in the top 15 metropolitan areas for Hispanic population in 2014

Number of Hispanics in millions



Note: The 15 largest metropolitan areas by Hispanic population size in 2014 are shown. Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2014 American Community Survey (IPUMS). "U.S. Latino Population Growth and Dispersion Has Slowed Since Onset of the Great Recession"

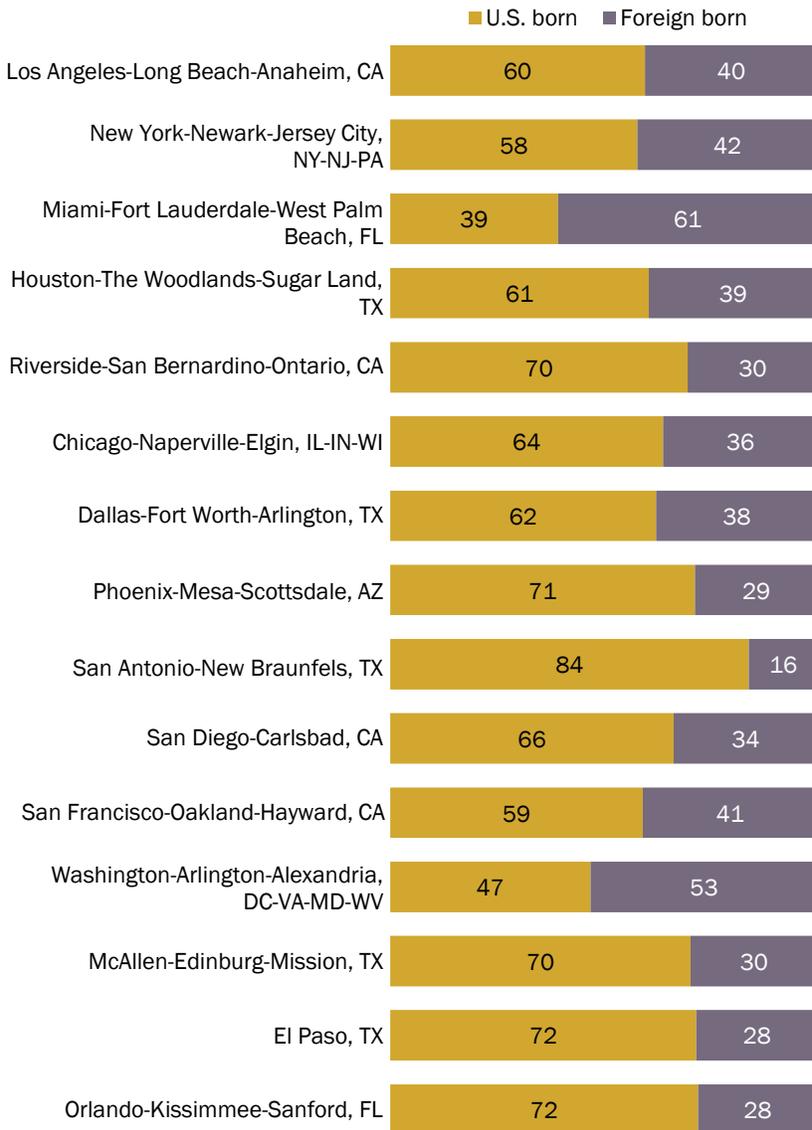
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population: 9% of all Hispanics nationwide live in the New York-Newark-Jersey City metropolitan area and 5% live in the Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach area.

Among the top 15 metropolitan areas, nine are located within two states – California (four) and Texas (five). In addition to Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, top Hispanic metropolitan areas located in California are Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario (with 2.2 million Hispanics), San Diego-Carlsbad (1.1 million Hispanics) and San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward (1 million). In Texas, the following metropolitan areas fall within the top 15 for Hispanic populations nationally: Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land (2.3 million Hispanics), Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington (1.9 million), San Antonio-New Braunfels (1.3 million), McAllen-Edinburg-Mission (800,000) and El Paso (700,000 Hispanics). Two

In 2014, most of the top 15 Hispanic metropolitan areas were majority U.S. born

% of Hispanics who are ...



Note: The 15 largest metropolitan areas by Hispanic population size in 2014 are shown. Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2014 American Community Survey (IPUMS). "U.S. Latino Population Growth and Dispersion Has Slowed Since Onset of the Great Recession"

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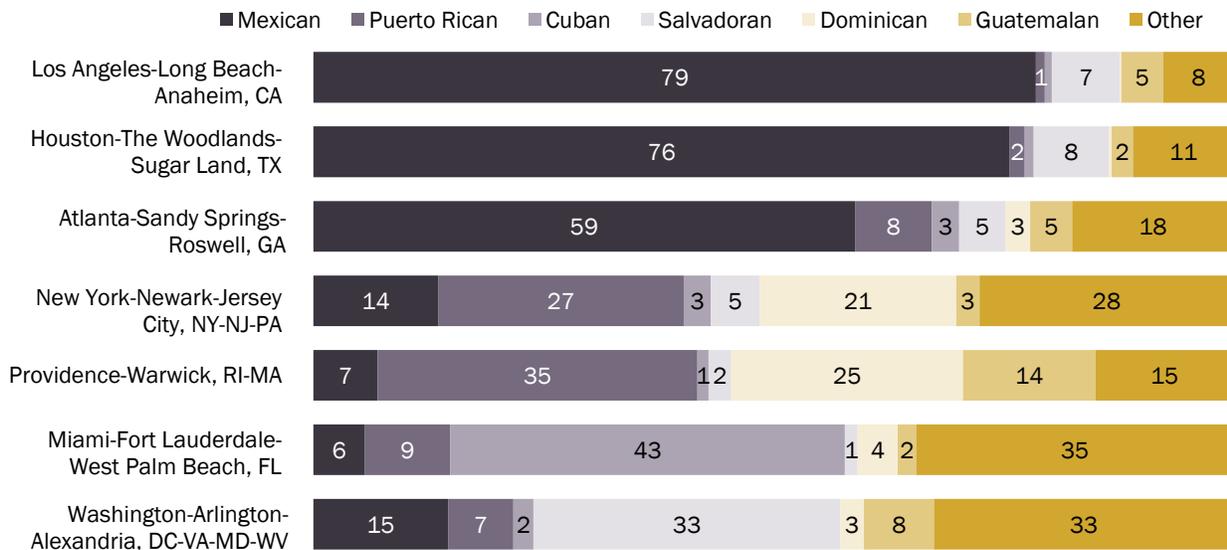
of the top 15 metropolitan areas are in Florida: Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach and Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, each with 600,000 Hispanics.

Among the top 15 metropolitan areas, most of the Hispanic populations are majority U.S. born. There are two notable exceptions: Hispanics in Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach and Washington-Arlington-Alexandria (in D.C., Virginia, Maryland and West Virginia) are majority foreign born. About six-in-ten Hispanics (61%) in the Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach metropolitan area and more than half (53%) of Hispanics in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area are foreign born.

The geographic settlement of Hispanics across the U.S. is linked to Hispanic origin. For example, 79% of the Hispanics living in Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim and 76% of Hispanics in Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land were of Mexican origin in 2014. Hispanics of Mexican origin are dominant groups in other metropolitan areas in the Southwest border states.¹⁵ And in some metropolitan areas, such as El Centro, California, and McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, Texas, nearly

Hispanic populations in metropolitan areas along the East Coast have more diverse origins than in metropolitan areas in states along the Southwest border

% of Hispanics who are of _____ origin



Note: Hispanics of Dominican origin make up less than 0.5% of the Hispanic population and Hispanics of Salvadoran origin make up about 1% of the Hispanic population in the Los Angeles and Houston areas.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2014 American Community Survey (IPUMS).
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¹⁵ Southwest border states are Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California.

all Hispanics are of Mexican origin (98% and 97%, respectively).

In metropolitan areas along the East Coast, the origins of the Hispanic populations are more diverse. While the Hispanic population residing in the Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, Georgia, metropolitan area is predominately of Mexican origin, Puerto Ricans and Dominicans are the largest Hispanic origin groups in New York-Newark-Jersey City and Providence-Warwick, Rhode Island-Massachusetts. In Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, 43% of Hispanics were of Cuban origin in 2014. And in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, a third of Hispanics were of Salvadoran origin.

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The accompanying geography databases and interactives were compiled by Stepler and number checked by López, Brown and Eileen Patten, research analyst. Keegan; Yolanda Martinez, associate web producer; Danielle Alberti, web developer; and Ben Wormald, web developer , provided web support for the report and its accompanying interactives.

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Methodology

County data in Chapter 1 to Chapter 3 for this report come from the 1990 decennial census SF-1 file. The 2000 data are from the U.S. Census Bureau's population estimates, April 1, 2000, base for the vintage 2009 county population estimates. These may differ slightly from the 2000 decennial census counts because of post-enumeration corrections. The 2007 data come from the U.S. Census Bureau's county intercensal estimates (2000-2010), available [here](#) at the Census Bureau's website. The 2014 county estimates are from the U.S. Census Bureau's county population estimates, vintage 2014, found at <http://www.census.gov/popest/data/counties/asrh/2014/index.html>.

Chapter 2 includes characteristics of the Hispanic population (including nativity and English proficiency) in selected counties where the Hispanic growth rate exceeds the nation's median Hispanic growth rate. These counties are referred to as fast-growing. Detailed population characteristics at the county level are from the 2010 to 2014 American Community Survey 5-year file obtained via American FactFinder.

The state and metropolitan area level analysis in Chapters 4 and 5 are based on the 2014 American Community Survey. The ACS microdata files developed by the University of Minnesota Population Center, or IPUMS files, were utilized. Documentation of the IPUMS version of the microdata files is available at <https://usa.ipums.org/usa/>.

Figures throughout the report have been rounded to the nearest thousand.

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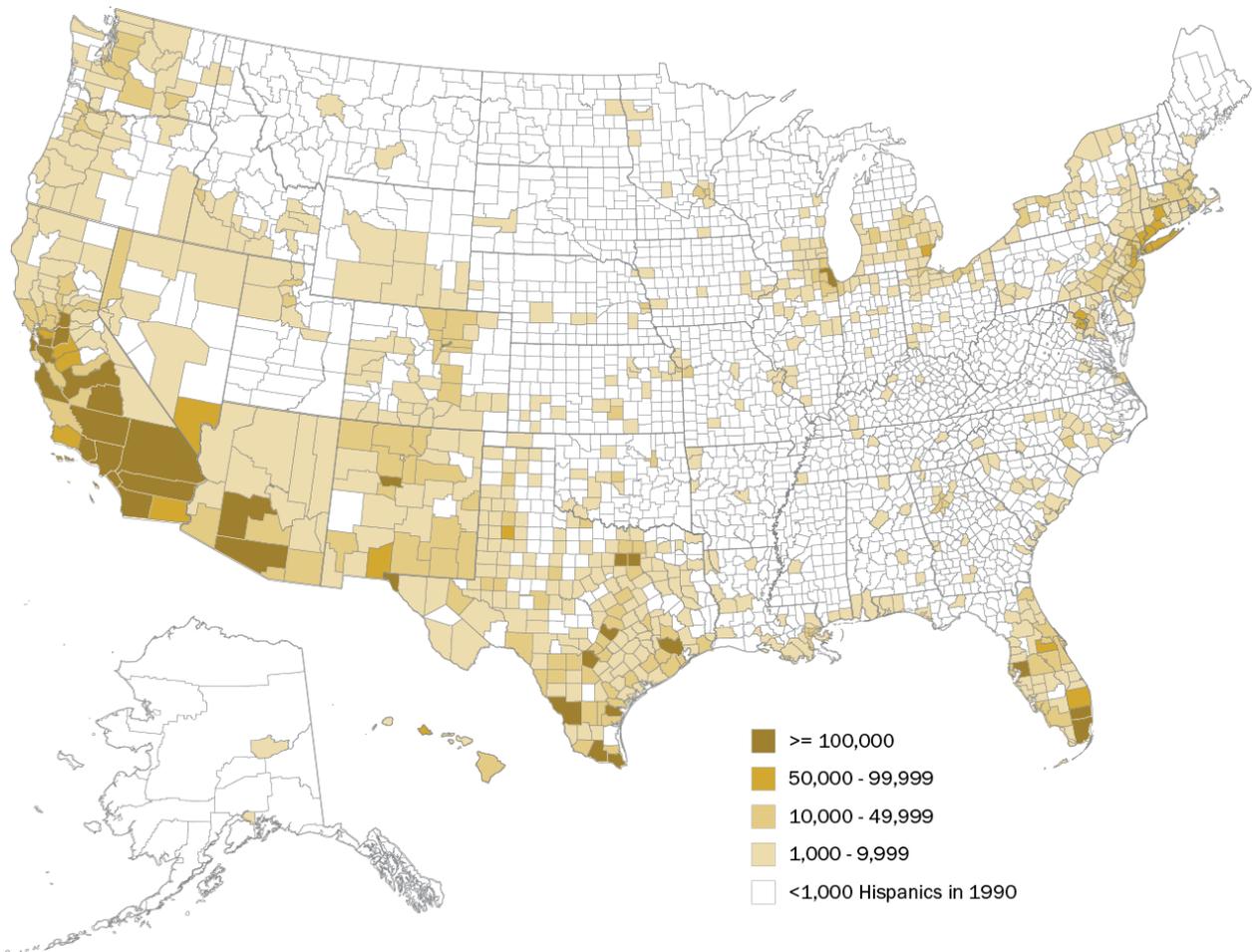
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Appendix B: Maps

Hispanic population, 1990

The number of Latinos residing in counties with at least 1,000 Latinos

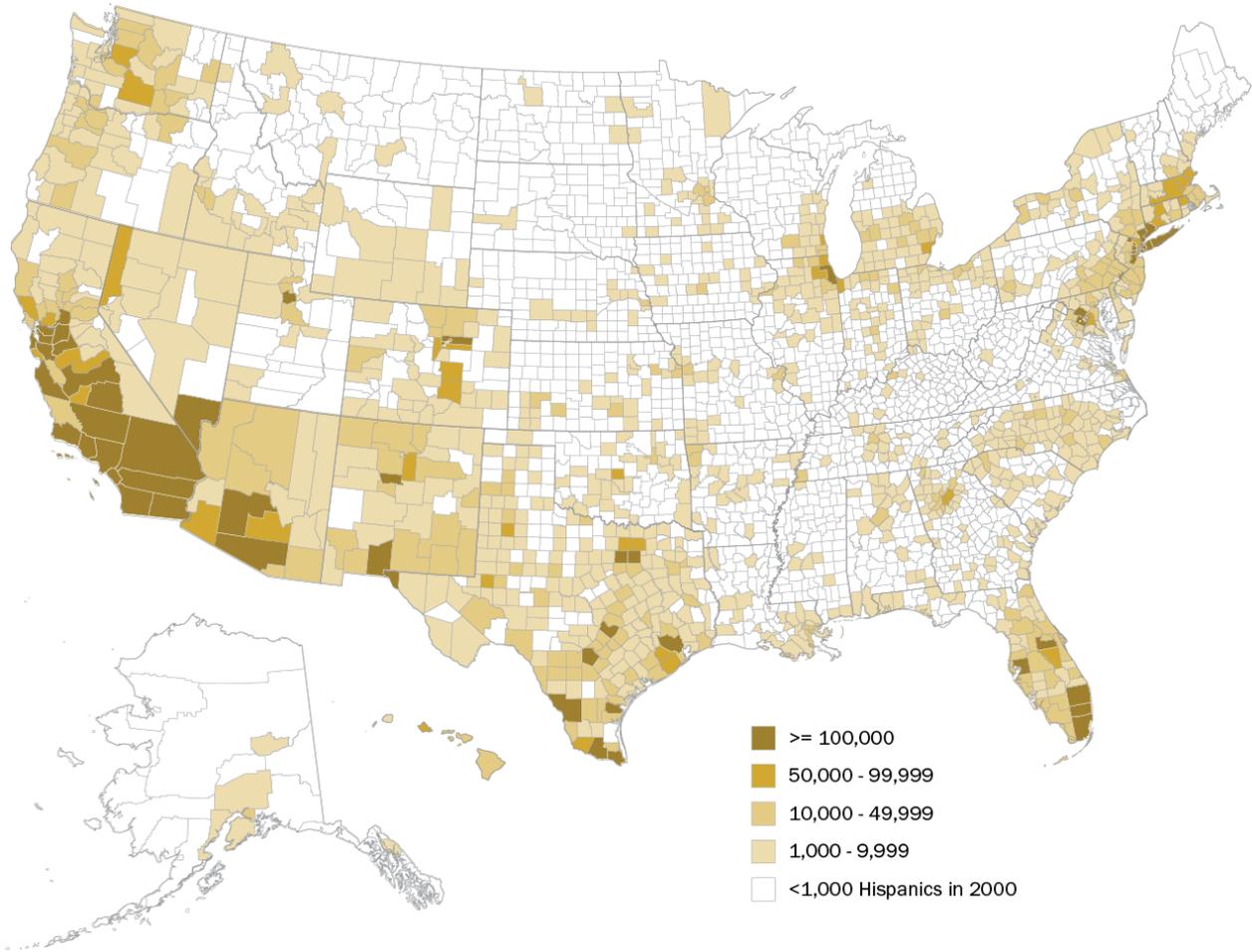


Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of 1990 decennial census (SF-1).
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Hispanic population, 2000

The number of Latinos residing in counties with at least 1,000 Latinos

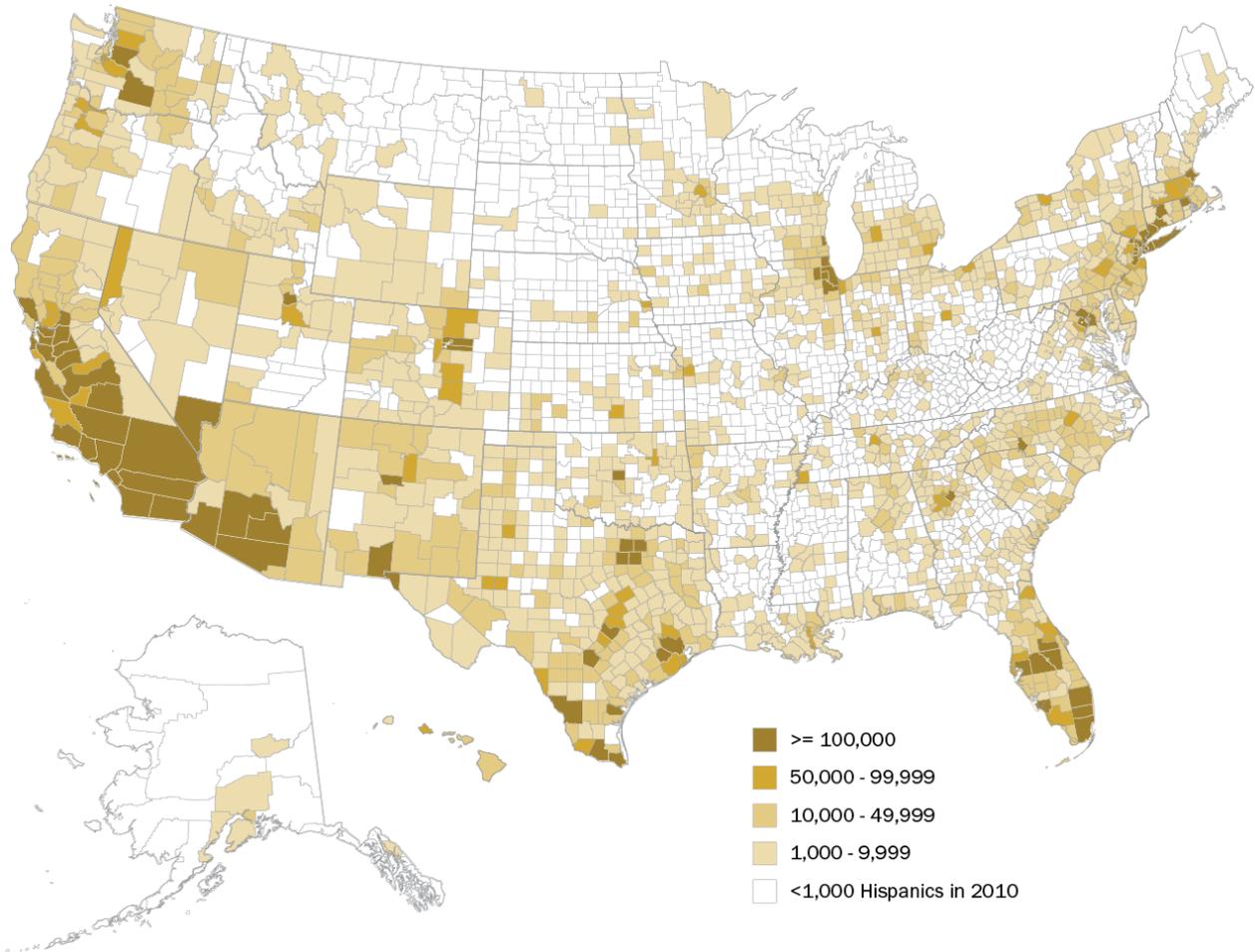


Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of U.S. Census Bureau population estimates.
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Hispanic population, 2010

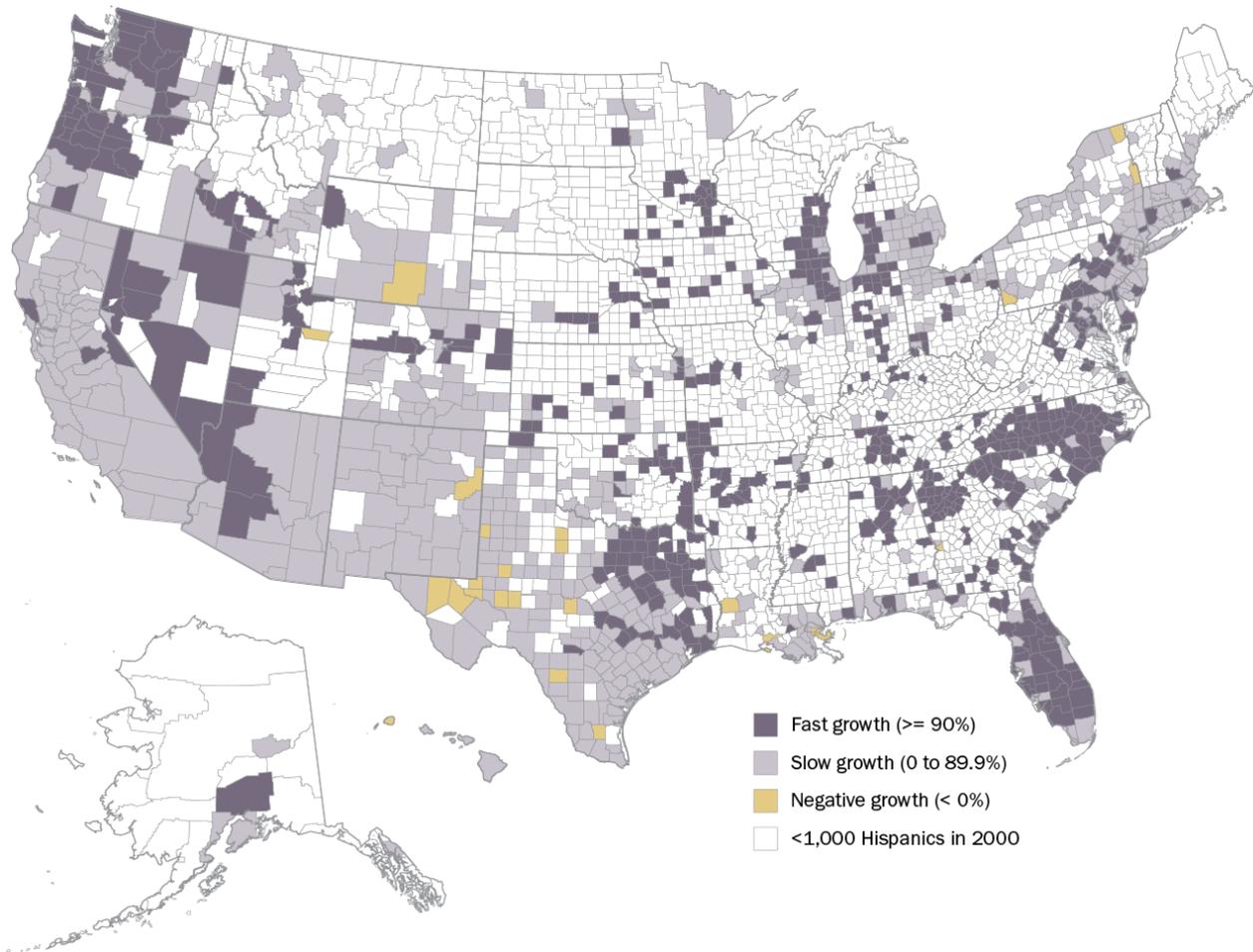
The number of Latinos residing in counties with at least 1,000 Latinos



Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2010 decennial census P.L. 94-171 summary files.
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Counties with fast-growing, slow-growing and declining Hispanic populations, 1990 to 2000



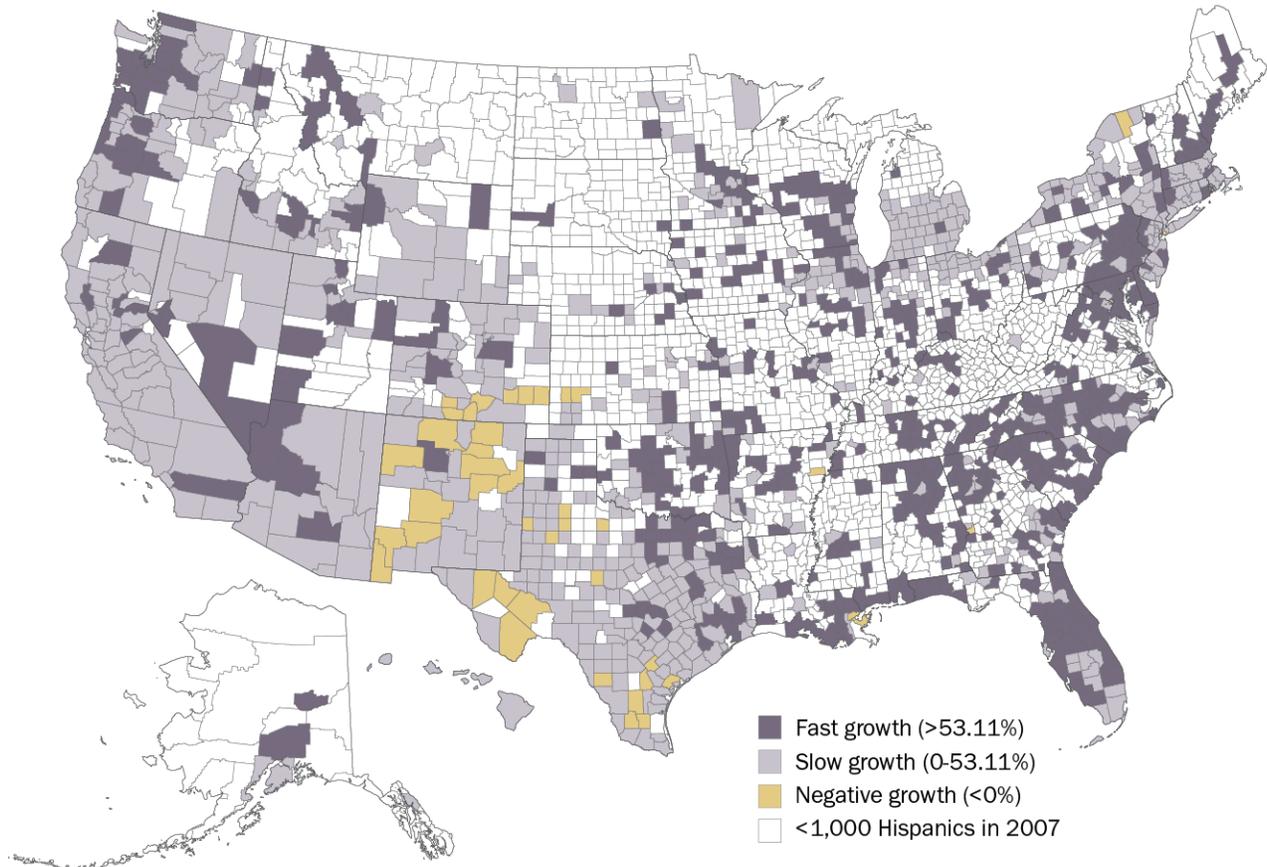
Note: Fast-growing Hispanic counties include counties where the Hispanic growth rate from 1990 to 2000 was greater than or equal to 90% for counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2000. The median growth rate for this period was 83%.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of U.S. Census Bureau population estimates.

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Counties with fast-growing, slow-growing and declining Hispanic populations, 2000 to 2007



Note: Fast-growing Hispanic counties include counties where the Hispanic growth rate from 2000 to 2007 was greater than the median growth rate in this period for counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2008 (53.11%).

Source: Pew Research Center tabulation of U.S. Census Bureau population estimates.

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Appendix C: Detailed tables

Top 40 counties for absolute Hispanic population growth, 2000 to 2007 and 2007 to 2014

Top counties 2000-2007	2007 Hispanic Population Rank	Top counties 2007-2014	2014 Hispanic Population Rank
1 Harris County, Texas	3	1 Los Angeles County, California	1
2 Riverside County, California	10	2 Harris County, Texas	2
3 Maricopa County, Arizona	5	3 Miami-Dade County, Florida	3
4 Los Angeles County, California	1	4 Riverside County, California	6
5 San Bernardino County, California	7	5 San Diego County, California	9
6 Miami-Dade County, Florida	2	6 Maricopa County, Arizona	5
7 Clark County, Nevada	16	7 Bexar County, Texas	7
8 Bexar County, Texas	8	8 Dallas County, Texas	11
9 Dallas County, Texas	11	9 San Bernardino County	8
10 San Diego County, California	9	10 Orange County, California	10
11 Tarrant County, Texas	20	11 Cook County, Illinois	4
12 Hidalgo County, Texas	13	12 Hidalgo County, Texas	13
13 Broward County, Florida	22	13 Tarrant County, Texas	17
14 Kern County, California	23	14 Broward County, Texas	18
15 Orange County, Florida	31	15 Clark County, Nevada	16
16 Cook County, Illinois	4	16 Orange County, Florida	26
17 Hillsborough County, Florida	32	17 Bronx County, New York	12
18 El Paso County, Texas	14	18 Travis County, Texas	24
19 Sacramento County, California	30	19 Kern County, California	22
20 Fresno County, California	19	20 Hillsborough County, Florida	30
21 Palm Beach County, Florida	37	21 Queens County, New York	15
22 Travis County, Texas	27	22 Fresno County, California	21
23 San Joaquin County, California	34	23 Palm Beach County, Florida	33
24 Gwinnett County, Georgia	57	24 Santa Clara County, California	20
25 Orange County, California	6	25 El Paso County, Texas	14
26 Pima County, Arizona	25	26 Suffolk County, New York	38
27 Suffolk County, New York	39	27 Sacramento County, California	31
28 Lee County, Florida	79	28 Alameda County, California	27
29 Contra Costa County, California	36	29 King County, Washington	48
30 Bronx County, New York	12	30 Montgomery County, Maryland	51
31 Stanislaus County, California	41	31 Ventura County, California	29
32 Bernalillo County, New Mexico	29	32 Contra Costa County, California	37
33 Tulare County, California	35	33 Osceola County, Florida	64
34 Prince George's County, Maryland	70	34 Pima County, Arizona	28
35 Osceola County, Florida	77	35 Westchester County, New York	42
36 Ventura County, California	28	36 Nassau County, New York	44
37 Cameron County, Texas	24	37 Fort Bend County, Texas	63
38 Will County, Illinois	83	38 Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania	45
39 Denton County, Texas	80	39 Bergen County, New Jersey	58
40 King County, Washington	53	40 Fairfax County, Virginia	54

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of U.S. Census Bureau population estimates.
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Top 30 fast-growing Hispanic counties, 2007 to 2014

Rank	County, State	% growth in Hispanic population	2014 Hispanic population
1	Williams County, North Dakota	367	1,671
2	Stark County, North Dakota	294	1,495
3	Ward County, North Dakota	117	3,544
4	Russell County, Alabama	92	3,007
5	Bryan County, Georgia	91	2,148
6	Luzerne County, Pennsylvania	91	28,925
7	St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana	89	4,249
8	Beadle County, South Dakota	85	1,763
9	Duchesne County, Utah	85	1,642
10	Burleigh County, North Dakota	82	1,707
11	Nantucket County, Massachusetts	81	1,387
12	Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana	79	1,512
13	Columbia County, Georgia	77	8,690
14	Lycoming County, Pennsylvania	77	2,382
15	Walton County, Florida	72	3,760
16	Geary County, Kansas	72	5,500
17	Garfield County, Oklahoma	71	7,193
18	Uintah County, Utah	70	2,959
19	Trempealeau County, Wisconsin	69	2,008
20	James City County, Virginia	69	3,993
21	Bedford County, Virginia	68	1,564
22	Lee County, Alabama	65	6,089
23	Fredericksburg city, Virginia	65	3,088
24	Saline County, Arkansas	64	4,815
25	Warren County, Iowa	64	1,206
26	St. Johns County, Florida	64	13,347
27	Dorchester County, Maryland	64	1,503
28	Ellis County, Kansas	63	1,668
29	Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania	62	13,263
30	Plymouth County, Iowa	62	1,008

Note: Based on 1,579 counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2014.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of U.S. Census Bureau population estimates.

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Top 30 fast-growing Hispanic counties, 2000 to 2007

Rank	County, State	% growth in Hispanic population	2007 Hispanic population
1	Stewart County, Georgia	1,254	1,070
2	Telfair County, Georgia	737	1,800
3	Adams County, Mississippi	501	1,641
4	Trempealeau County, Wisconsin	395	1,187
5	Frederick County, Virginia	388	4,903
6	Culpeper County, Virginia	361	3,959
7	Paulding County, Georgia	334	6,074
8	Luzerne County, Pennsylvania	308	15,167
9	Sevier County, Tennessee	292	3,466
10	Macon County, North Carolina	273	1,692
11	Kendall County, Illinois	271	15,139
12	Henry County, Georgia	265	9,832
13	Wapello County, Iowa	252	2,812
14	Clearfield County, Pennsylvania	250	1,647
15	Fauquier County, Virginia	249	3,890
16	Newton County, Georgia	245	3,986
17	Douglas County, Georgia	240	8,968
18	Spotsylvania County, Virginia	238	8,560
19	Barrow County, Georgia	236	4,912
20	Stafford County, Virginia	221	10,717
21	Frederick County, Maryland	219	14,868
22	Independence County, Arkansas	219	1,667
23	Loudoun County, Virginia	217	31,978
24	Pasquotank County, North Carolina	217	1,358
25	Calumet County, Wisconsin	213	1,361
26	Blaine County, Oklahoma	212	2,472
27	Madison County, Mississippi	208	2,284
28	Loudon County, Tennessee	202	2,701
29	Wasatch County, Utah	202	2,337
30	Hendricks County, Indiana	201	3,502

Note: Based on 1,443 counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2007. Stewart County, Georgia, for example, has an immigration detention center run by the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Adams County, Mississippi, has a federal correctional institution that houses many undocumented immigrants. Foreign-born Hispanics account for the vast majority of Hispanics in each county (96% in Stewart County and 90% in Adams County). It is likely that these facilities are contributing to the rapid growth of the Hispanic populations in these counties.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of U.S. Census Bureau population estimates.

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Top 20 counties for the Hispanic share of total county population growth, 2000 to 2007 and 2007 to 2014

Hispanic share of total population growth from 2000-2007		Hispanic share of total population growth from 2007-2014		
1	Roanoke city, Virginia	50,440	Karnes County, Texas	8,833
2	Cass County, Illinois	21,050	Putnam County, New York	8,345
3	Geary County, Kansas	20,975	Luzerne County, Pennsylvania	2,305
4	Blaine County, Oklahoma	4,938	Matagorda County, Texas	2,230
5	Monterey County, California	3,920	Lake County, California	1,904
6	Mower County, Minnesota	2,506	Meade County, Kentucky	1,481
7	Lavaca County, Texas	2,479	Union County, New Mexico	1,427
8	Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania	2,388	Union County, Pennsylvania	1,350
9	Montgomery County, New York	1,821	Colorado County, Texas	1,335
10	Lyon County, Kansas	1,543	Lyon County, Nevada	1,280
11	Scurry County, Texas	1,536	San Patricio County, Texas	1,258
12	Parmer County, Texas	1,492	Shelby County, Texas	1,204
13	Franklin County, Massachusetts	1,355	Castro County, Texas	1,189
14	Union County, New Jersey	1,222	Dodge County, Nebraska	1,165
15	Morrow County, Oregon	1,174	Warren County, Illinois	1,122
16	Putnam County, Ohio	1,158	Reno County, Kansas	979
17	St. Joseph County, Indiana	1,063	Sheboygan County, Wisconsin	977
18	DuPage County, Illinois	977	Erie County, New York	964
19	Franklin County, Iowa	871	Newport News city, Virginia	876
20	Hockley County, Texas	828	Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska	825

Note: In all of these counties the share of Hispanic population growth exceeds 100% because the non-Hispanic population in these counties declined, but the total population and Hispanic population increased. Counties for 2007 to 2014 time period are based on 1,579 counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2014 and where total population increased. Counties for the 2000 to 2007 time period are based on 1,443 counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2007 and where total population increased.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of U.S. Census Bureau population estimates.

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Counties with Hispanic population loss from 2000 to 2007 and 2007 to 2014

County, State	Hispanic population 2014	% decline of the Hispanic Population, 2000-2014
Culberson County, Texas	1,665	-23
Hidalgo County, New Mexico	2,609	-22
Huerfano County, Colorado	2,224	-20
St. Francis County, Arkansas	1,181	-17
Franklin County, New York	1,710	-17
Mora County, New Mexico	3,702	-12
Brooks County, Texas	6,449	-12
Duval County, Texas	10,210	-12
Conejos County, Colorado	4,472	-10
Prowers County, Colorado	4,376	-8
Crosby County, Texas	3,186	-8
Colfax County, New Mexico	6,214	-8
Costilla County, Colorado	2,294	-7
San Miguel County, New Mexico	21,805	-7
Guadalupe County, New Mexico	3,548	-7
Floyd County, Texas	3,345	-6
Lynn County, Texas	2,753	-6
Rio Arriba County, New Mexico	28,461	-5
Socorro County, New Mexico	8,526	-3

Note: Counties that experienced Hispanic population loss from 2000 to 2007 and 2007 to 2014, ranked by percent decline from 2000 to 2014. Based on counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2007 and 2014.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of U.S. Census Bureau population estimates.

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