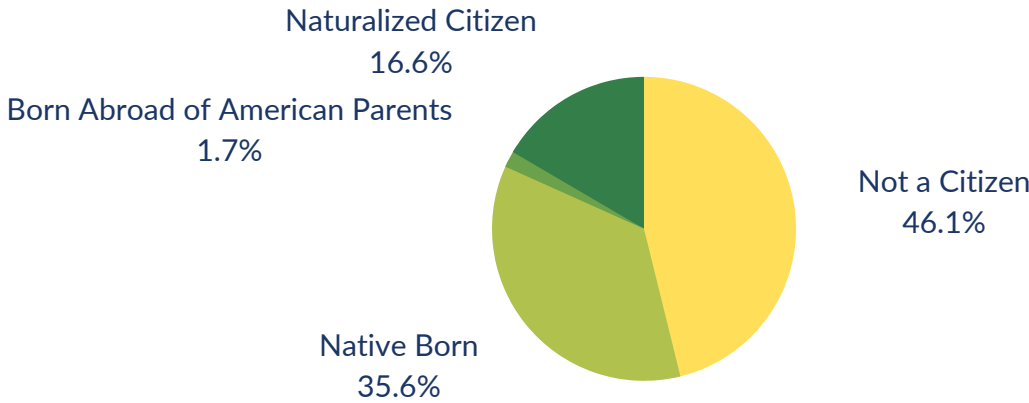




Hispanic/Latinos

National Origins, Citizenship Status, and Income

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Overview

This publication was created to provide South Carolina's citizens, public servants, government officials, and businesses with pertinent data on the State's growing Hispanic/Latino community, particularly around the issue of citizenship and income.

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Although over half of South Carolina's Hispanic population age 25 and over identify as U.S. Citizens, approximately 46% do not.

Hispanic Dynamism and Diversity

Since 2000, South Carolina's Hispanic population has nearly tripled its proportion of the total population (from 2.4% to nearly 6.9%). Over this same period, the Hispanic population grew 366% from around 96,000 to just under 353,000. According to data from the 2010 and 2019 American Community Survey, Mexicans are the single largest Hispanic group in the state at around 53% of the total Hispanic population. However, there is a growing Puerto Rican community (nearly 13.5% of all Hispanics in 2019), an immigration surge from Central America (up 2.3 percentage points to 14.2% of all Hispanics), and slight upticks in populations claiming origins in South America (more than 9% of the total). Thus, the state's Hispanic population is becoming more dynamic and diverse!

These changes signify modifications to both the political, legal, and economic realities facing the state's Hispanic community. Yet, this report only examines citizenship and income figures for those in the population age 25 and over. For the segment of the population age 18 and under, citizenship figures are closer to 92.5%, with only around 7.5% identifying as non-citizens.

US Citizenship in the Hispanic Community

Approximately 53.9% of Hispanic/Latinos aged 25 and over identify as citizens that are either: 1) native-born, 2) foreign-born, or 3) naturalized. Amongst Hispanics, citizenship status differs by national and regional identities. With Puerto Rico being a US territory, nearly 100% of Puerto Ricans in South Carolina are considered US citizens, the highest figure for any Hispanic group. Rates for the other major Hispanic origin groups range from more than 80% (Cubans at nearly 81%) to less than 20%. For the state's largest Hispanic group, Mexicans, only 38.4% of the 25 and older population identified as US citizens. Colombians (the most populous South American group at 4.7% of the total Hispanic population) had a citizenship rate of 64.6%. Ultimately these numbers prevent definitive statements about citizenship rates across the Hispanic community from being made.

Of native-born US citizens, Puerto Ricans make up 38.6% of the total Hispanic population, while others from the Caribbean constitute nearly 46.4% of the total. Indeed, Puerto Ricans (96.1%) and Cubans (50%) are the only two Hispanic groups where native-born US citizens make up a majority of their populations for those age 25 and older.

According to the 2020 U.S. Census Bureau's Redistricting Data

6.9%

Of the state's population classified themselves as Hispanic or Latino

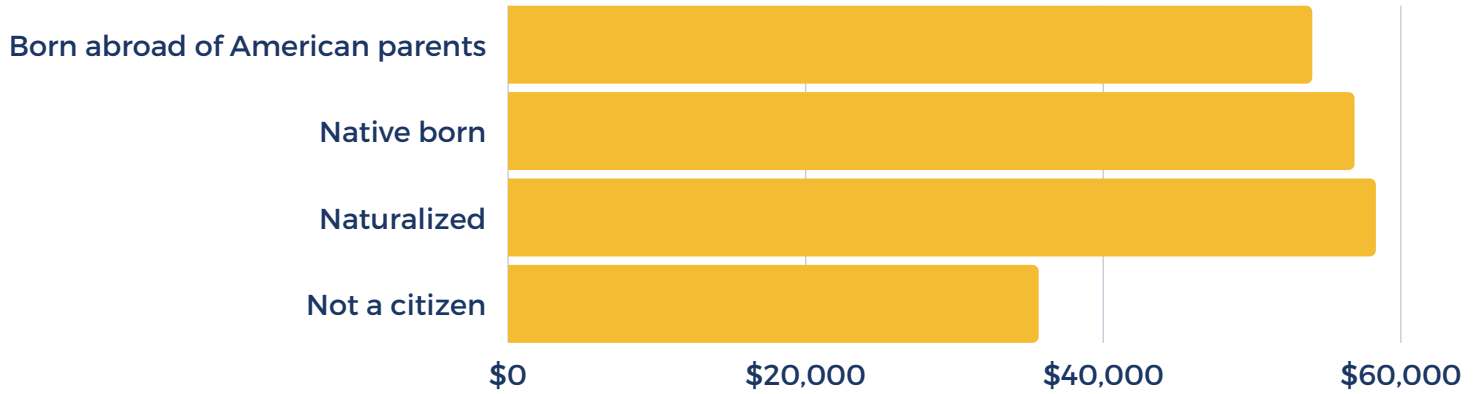


~54%

Of the Hispanic population ages 25 and up possess citizenship in the State of South Carolina



Citizenship and Median Family Income for Hispanic Families



In contrast, Mexicans accounted for 34.9% of all native US citizens for Hispanics age 25 and over. Nevertheless, native US citizens only accounted for 25.1% of the state's Mexican population, while Central Americans (9.71%) and South Americans (15.3%) each had lower rates for native-born US citizens.

Naturalized and Foreign-Born Citizens

Of the 53.9% of Hispanics age 25 and up, who are also US Citizens, approximately 30.8% (or 16.6% of the total) are naturalized citizens, and around 3.2% (or 1.7% of the total) are US citizens that were born abroad. Panamanians were the only Hispanic group to have a substantially higher share (12.6%) of their US citizen population born abroad. For other groups, this share ranges between 0% to 3.8%.

The more intriguing and variable data is reserved for naturalized citizens. As expected, Puerto Ricans had the lowest share of their population (0.4%) as naturalized US citizens, while Colombian naturalization rates stood at around 47.9% - the highest of any national group and the primary reason why South American naturalization rates were so high (46.2%).

In contrast, naturalized Mexicans figured as only 12.1% of the entire Mexican population, but 36% of the entire Hispanic naturalized population. Oddly enough, despite lower native-born US citizenship rates than Mexicans, the Central American naturalization rate was 19.4%, with numbers aided by Costa Rican (33.2%), Salvadoran (27.8%), Panamanian (37.5%), and Honduran (15.3%) rates of naturalization.

Non-Citizens

Although only 46.1% of Hispanics over the age of 25 identify as non-citizens, when these groups are broken down by regional and national origin, several subgroups have rates that far exceed this number. For example, nearly 61.6% of Mexicans, the state's largest Hispanic group, are not US citizens. For Hondurans, that number reaches almost 81%. Guatemalans, however, had the highest rates at 85.5%, and for other Central Americans, 69.2% of all individuals age 25 and over are not US citizens.

As expected, Caribbean Latinos had the lowest rate of non-US citizenship at only 5.9%, with the highest rates going to Cubans at 19.1%. South American Latinos, then, had the second lowest regional rate of non-US citizenship at 36%, although Colombians, more than half of all South American Latinos, had a rate just half a percentage point less.

Citizenship and Income

Citizenship and immigration status are major factors influencing individual and family socioeconomic status. In South Carolina, Hispanic families with members who are born abroad to U.S. citizens have a median family income of \$54,000. This number increases to \$56,840 for families whose members are native-born citizens, and to \$58,272 for families whose members are naturalized citizens. Families with at least one member that is a non-US citizen, had a median family income of \$35,610. Families comprised completely of non-US citizen members count on median incomes around 36.8% less than peer households with a least one US citizen family member.

The growth of a vibrant Hispanic community, particularly one with an ever-expanding share of US citizens, is a promising development for the state, and ensures that its minority political and economic power continues to expand!

