

Latino Settlement in the New Century

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Executive Summary

Since the turn of the century, Hispanics have accounted for more than half (50.5%) of the overall population growth in the United States—a significant new demographic milestone for the nation’s largest minority group. From April 1, 2000, to July 1, 2007, the Hispanic population increased by 10.2 million to 45.5 million, a growth of 29%. During this same period, the much larger non-Hispanic population of the U.S. grew by 10 million, a growth of just 4%. As of mid-2007, Hispanics made up 15.1% of the total U.S. population but accounted for a majority of the nation’s total population increase since 2000. During the 1990s, the Hispanic population also expanded rapidly, but over the course of that decade its growth accounted for less than 40% of the nation’s total population increase.

Accompanying this report, the Pew Hispanic Center is releasing a series of [web-based interactive maps](#) that illustrate the size and spread of Hispanic population growth since 1980.

In a reversal of past trends, Latino population growth in the new century has been more a product of the natural increase (births minus deaths) of the existing population than it has been of new international migration. Of the 10.2 million increase in the Hispanic population since 2000, about 60% of the increase (or 6 million) is due to natural increase and 40% is due to net international migration, according to U.S. Census Bureau figures. By contrast, more of the Hispanic population increase in the U.S. during the 1990s was the result of immigration (56%) rather than births over deaths of existing residents (44%), according to Pew Hispanic Center estimates.¹

There are several other noteworthy trends in Latino growth and settlement patterns. Until two decades ago, the nation’s Hispanic population had been heavily concentrated in long-established areas of Hispanic settlement. In 1990, for example, almost three-quarters of the Hispanic population resided in just 65 of the nation’s 3,141 counties. Beginning in the 1990s, the Hispanic population began to disperse across the U.S.—most notably, establishing significant population centers in many counties in the South and Midwest that historically had very few Hispanics residents.

This dispersal has continued in the new century. However, since 2000 the geographic patterns of Hispanic dispersal have differed somewhat from the

¹ For additional information on past and future trends in the growth of the Hispanic population and total population, see Jeffrey S. Passel and D’Vera Cohn, [U.S. Population Projections: 2005 – 2050](#), February 2008.

patterns of the 1990s, according to a Pew Hispanic Center analysis of the most recent U.S. Census Bureau county population counts.

The most notable difference is that Hispanic dispersion in this new century has been tilted more toward counties in the West and the Northeast than it had been the 1990s; correspondingly, it has also been slightly less tilted toward counties in the South² and Midwest. Despite this new tilt, in the current decade the South accounts for a greater share of overall Latino population growth than any other region. And together, the South and West still account for more than 80% of the Hispanic population growth in this decade, while the Northeast and Midwest account for just under 20%. This ratio was very similar in the 1990s.

Another subtle difference in Hispanic settlement patterns in this decade compared with those of the 1990s has to do with an ever-growing concentration of Hispanic population growth in metropolitan areas. Looking just at counties that have had above-average Latino population growth since 2000, fully 94% are part of what the Census Bureau defines as a metropolitan area. In the 1990s, so-called metropolitan counties also loomed large in Latino population growth, but their share of growth among fast-growing Latino counties was a bit smaller—89%.

It should be noted that under the Census Bureau's classification system, "metropolitan county" does not necessarily refer to a large city. Indeed, many of the "metropolitan counties" that have experienced the fastest rate of growth in their Hispanic population in this decade are either suburbs (typically, outer suburbs) or small or mid-sized cities. For example, the fastest-growing Hispanic county in the country in the current decade—Frederick County, Virginia, whose Hispanic population has more than quadrupled since 2000—is in a small-city metropolitan area adjacent to Washington, D.C.

A handful of big cities have also played a sizable role in Latino population growth in this decade. But because these cities already had a large base of Hispanic residents at the start of the decade, the growth of their Latino population since then—while sizable in number—has been less dramatic in percentage terms. So, for example, the Latino population grew by more than 400,000 from 2000 to 2007 in just three counties: Los Angeles, Maricopa (Phoenix) and Harris (Houston). But when their Hispanic growth is measured as a rate rather than as an absolute number, none of those counties ranks in the top 400 of the nation's fastest-growing Latino counties in the current decade.

For the purposes of this report, the Pew Hispanic Center has identified 676 fast-growing Hispanic counties among the nation's total of 3,141 counties. These

² In the regional analysis used throughout this report, following Census Bureau definitions, Texas (which is second only to California in its total number of Hispanic residents) is classified as a Southern state.

counties all share two characteristics: a 2007 Latino population of at least 1,000; and an above-average Hispanic growth of at least 41% from 2000 to 2007.

More than three-quarters (528) of these 676 fast-growing Hispanic counties also experienced fast Hispanic growth during the 1990s, exemplifying the continuity in Latino settlement patterns since 1990. At the same time, however, the addition of 148 counties experiencing rapid growth, as well as the cooling off of Hispanic population growth in some formerly rapidly growing counties, reflects the changes in the regional and metropolitan patterns in Latino growth in the new century.

For example, some counties in Maine, Vermont and Massachusetts in the Northeast and in Montana, New Mexico and California in the West that have experienced fast Hispanic population growth in the new century were not fast-growers in the 1990s. In the South, too, Hispanics have dispersed to some new settlement areas in this decade—perhaps most notably to several counties in Louisiana, whose Hispanic populations have sharply increased in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Also, while the strong Hispanic growth that some parts of the Midwest experienced in the 1990s has continued into the new century, the formerly fast rates of Hispanic growth in other areas of that region—especially in economically hard-hit counties in western Michigan and western Minnesota—have fallen below average in the new century.

These 676 fast-growing Hispanic counties have also experienced significant growth in their non-Hispanic populations. In the aggregate, the non-Hispanic population of these 676 counties has increased by 9.9 million since 2000, accounting for virtually all of the nation's 10 million increase in non-Hispanics during this decade. In short, growth begets growth, irrespective of ethnicity. The counties to which Latinos are dispersing in the new century are also attracting non-Latinos.

Hispanics residing in these fast-growing Hispanic counties have somewhat different demographic characteristics than their Hispanic counterparts in older, established, but more slow-growing Hispanic counties. The most marked difference is in the adult gender balance. The slow-growing Hispanic counties have slightly more adult male Latinos than adult female Latinos, 104 men for every 100 women. In contrast, in the fast-growing Hispanic counties there are 120 adult men for every 100 adult women. Also, immigrants make up a greater share of the Hispanic population in the fast-growing counties (42%) than they do in older, established Hispanic counties (39%). Similarly, a modestly higher share of Hispanics are not U.S. citizens in the fast-growing counties than in slow-growing Hispanic counties.

However, in some respects Hispanics in the fast-growing areas resemble Hispanics in the slow-growing counties. The English language abilities and levels of high school completion of Latinos are nearly the same in both kinds of counties; so, too, is the poverty rate among Latinos.

Among the report's other key findings:

- Hispanic population growth in the new century has been widespread. The Hispanic population has grown in almost 3,000 of the nation's 3,141 counties.
- At the same time, Hispanic population growth in the new century has been fairly concentrated. Hispanic population growth in just 178 counties accounts for 79% of the nation's entire 10.2 million Hispanic population increase.
- In spite of the geographic dispersal of Hispanics, the Hispanic population continues to be much more geographically concentrated than the non-Hispanic population. In 2007, the 100 largest Hispanic counties were home to 73% of the Latino population. By contrast, the 100 largest non-Hispanic counties were home to just 39% of the nation's non-Hispanics.
- By this measure, Hispanics are more geographically concentrated than the nation's black population. Nearly six-in-ten (59%) of the non-Hispanic black population live in the nation's 100 largest non-Hispanic black counties.

About this Report

Most of this report's analyses are based on the 2007 county population estimates produced by the U.S. Census Bureau, supplemented by 1990 and 2000 county population counts from the Decennial Censuses. Hispanic population counts are available for all of the nation's 3,141 counties. Virtually all of the growth (98%) in the Hispanic population in both the 1990s and the new century occurred in 1,362 counties, that is, counties that have at least 1,000 Hispanic residents in 2007. The report focuses on the patterns of Hispanic population growth in these 1,362 counties and the impact of Hispanic population growth on total county population growth in this subset of counties. Very little of the nation's non-Hispanic population growth since 2000 is omitted because these 1,362 counties account for 98% of the increase in the nation's non-Hispanic population as well.

A detailed statistical appendix on the 1990, 2000 and 2007 Hispanic population and total population counts is available. Counts are provided for all 3,141 counties. Absolute population increases as well as growth rates (in percent) are also provided.

Public use micro sample data from the Census Bureau's 2007 American Community Survey, as well the 1990 and 2000 Decennial Censuses, are also used to examine the characteristics of Hispanics and non-Hispanics in the new settlement areas versus traditional Hispanic areas. This pioneering use of American Community Survey data provides a detailed snapshot of the broad characteristics of Latinos in the nation's fast-growing Hispanic counties.

A Note on Terminology

The terms "Latino" and "Hispanic" are used interchangeably in this report, as are the terms "foreign born" and "immigrant."

About the Author

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1. The Growth and Dispersion of Hispanics in the New Century

A. The Growth of Hispanics

Census Bureau estimates indicate that the Hispanic population grew by 10.2 million from 2000 to 2007. The increase in the Hispanic population was quite widespread: Of 3,141 counties across the U.S., the Hispanic population increased in 2,991.

Though widespread, the increase in the Hispanic population has nonetheless been fairly concentrated. This is underscored three ways.

First, the 40 counties with the largest Hispanic population increases since 2000 account for half (5.1 million) of the total 10.2 million increase in the nation's Hispanics. These 40 counties tend to be the ones with the largest Hispanic populations (Table 1). A county's Hispanic population size is highly associated with a county's Hispanic population gain (measured in absolute terms) (Table 2). As discussed shortly, in 2000 the Hispanic population was fairly geographically concentrated, so the Hispanic population gains have been fairly concentrated.

County	State	2007 Hispanic Population	2007 Hispanic Population Rank	2000 Hispanic Population Rank	1990 Hispanic Population Rank
Los Angeles County	California	4,677,411	1	1	1
Harris County	Texas	1,520,602	2	3	4
Miami-Dade County	Florida	1,479,530	3	2	2
Cook County	Illinois	1,207,557	4	4	3
Maricopa County	Arizona	1,182,656	5	6	14
Orange County	California	998,032	6	5	6
San Bernardino County	California	938,798	7	9	13
Bexar County	Texas	913,947	8	7	5
Dallas County	Texas	902,160	9	10	16
San Diego County	California	901,369	10	8	8
Riverside County	California	896,116	11	12	18
Bronx County	New York	702,073	12	11	7
Hidalgo County	Texas	635,896	13	15	15
Queens County	New York	600,467	14	13	12
El Paso County	Texas	599,531	15	14	10
Clark County	Nevada	511,146	16	20	47
Kings County	New York	493,961	17	16	9
Santa Clara County	California	449,133	18	18	17
Tarrant County	Texas	436,366	19	21	28
Fresno County	California	433,427	20	19	19
Broward County	Florida	411,769	21	24	36
New York County	New York	400,498	22	17	11
Kern County	California	365,836	23	25	27
Cameron County	Texas	333,657	24	22	20
Travis County	Texas	316,644	25	30	30

Source: Pew Hispanic Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau county population estimates

Second, 178 counties experienced an increase in their Latino population of at least 10,000, and the growth in the Hispanic population in those 178 counties accounts for 79% of the total 10.2 million increase in the nation’s Hispanic population. Map 1 portrays counties by the size of their Hispanic population increase since 2000.

Map 1. Increase in Hispanic Population by County, 2000-2007

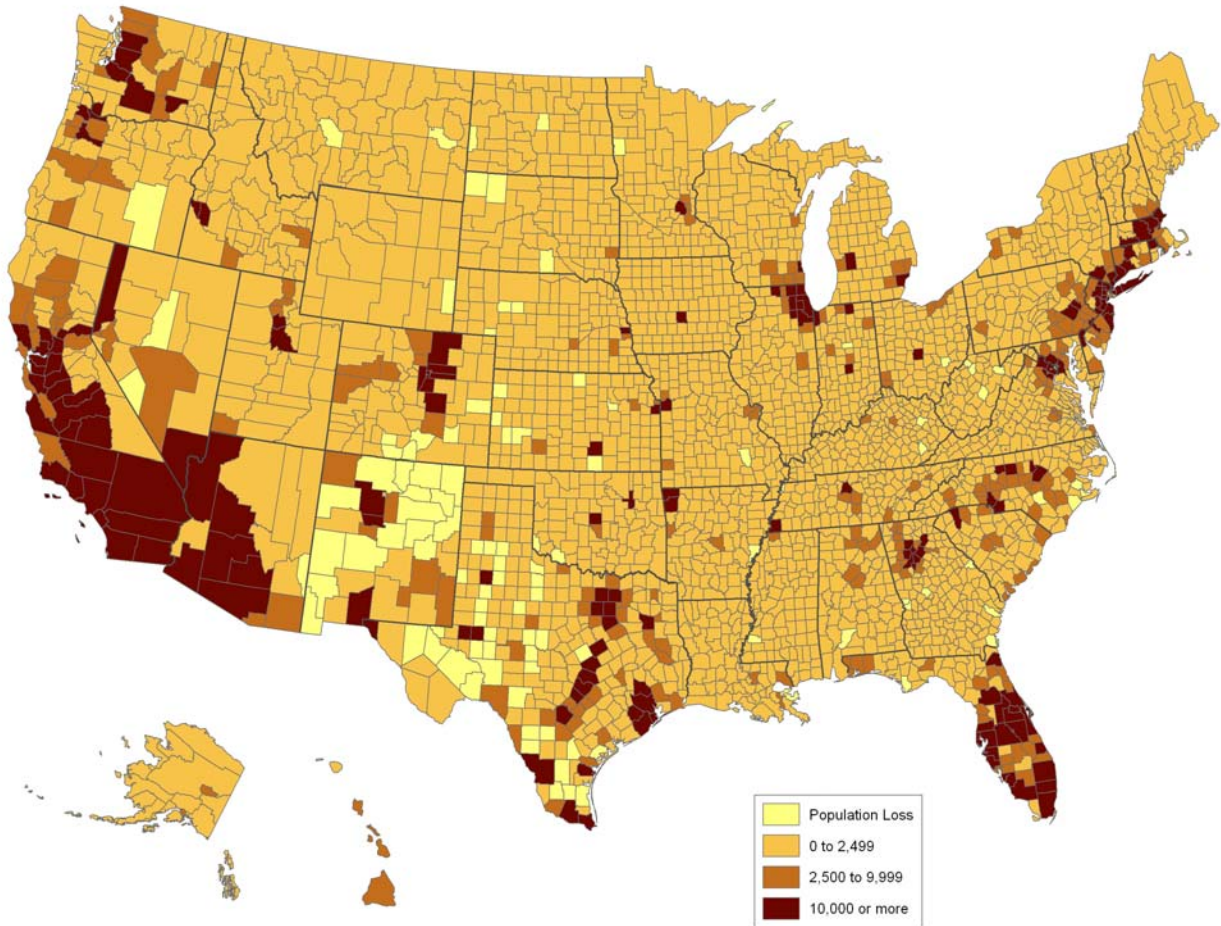


Table 2
25 Counties with Largest Hispanic Population Increase, 2000 to 2007
(number of Hispanics)

County	State	2000 to 2007 Hispanic Population Increase	2000 to 2007 Hispanic Population Increase Rank	1990 to 2000 Hispanic Population Increase Rank
Los Angeles County	California	435,198	1	1
Maricopa County	Arizona	419,295	2	3
Harris County	Texas	400,853	3	2
Riverside County	California	336,541	4	9
San Bernardino County	California	269,411	5	8
Dallas County	Texas	239,426	6	5
Clark County	Nevada	209,003	7	11
Miami-Dade County	Florida	187,573	8	6
Bexar County	Texas	156,914	9	14
Tarrant County	Texas	151,077	10	16
San Diego County	California	150,404	11	10
Broward County	Florida	140,117	12	15
Cook County	Illinois	135,883	13	4
Hidalgo County	Texas	132,796	14	12
Orange County	California	122,453	15	7
Kern County	California	111,800	16	22
Orange County	Florida	90,879	17	21
Travis County	Texas	87,604	18	20
Hillsborough County	Florida	83,464	19	30
Fresno County	California	81,791	20	19
Palm Beach County	Florida	78,227	21	29
Sacramento County	California	76,292	22	28
San Joaquin County	California	72,056	23	38
Pima County	Arizona	68,651	24	25
Gwinnett County	Georgia	67,986	25	42

Source: Pew Hispanic Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau county population estimates

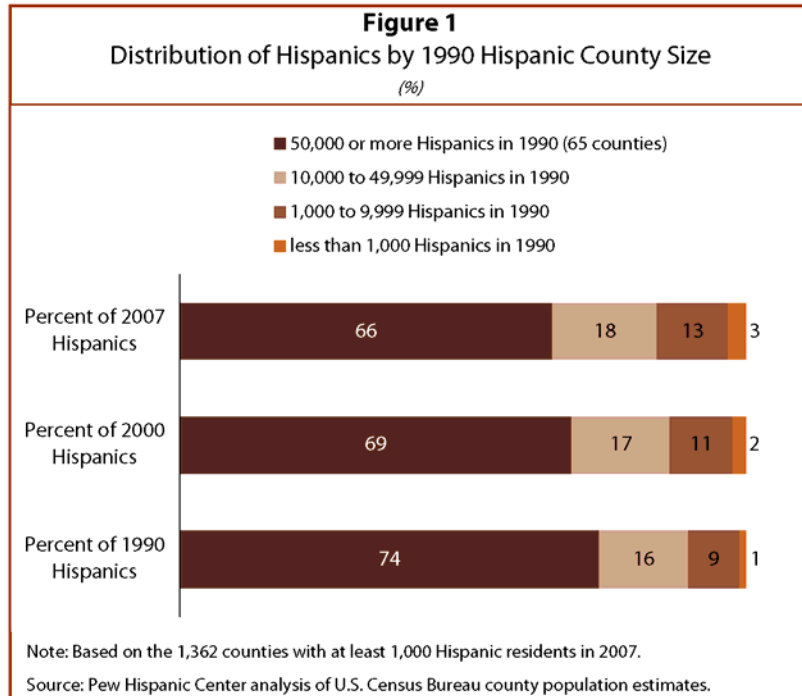
Third, virtually all (99%) of the nation’s Hispanic population lives in the 1,362 (out of 3,141) counties that had at least 1,000 Hispanic residents in 2007. The Hispanic population increased by 10.0 million in these counties since 2000, accounting for virtually all (98%) of the growth in nation’s Hispanic population in this decade.

B. Dispersion of Hispanics

One of the most prominent features of the growth of Hispanics since 1990 has been the dispersal of Hispanics to new destinations (Durand, Telles and Flashman, 2006; Suro and Singer, 2002). As many county supervisors and school districts know, there are now many Hispanics residing in counties that until 1990

had small Hispanic populations.³ This pattern, which took hold in the 1990s, has continued in the new century. Though Latinos remain highly concentrated in a subset of large counties, they are slightly less concentrated now than in 2000. Dispersal continues.

In 1990, 74% of Hispanics resided in 65 counties that had at least 50,000 Hispanics (Figure 1). By 2000, 69% of the total Hispanic population resided in these 65 counties. Since 2000, those 65 counties have continued to have a diminishing share of the Latino population: In 2007, they were home to just 66% of the Hispanic population.



Similarly, in 1990, 90% of the Hispanic population lived in the 220 counties that had at least 10,000 Hispanics residents. In 2000, those same 220 counties had 87% of the nation’s Hispanic population; by 2007, it was 84%.

³ Some measures of dispersal suggest that Hispanic dispersal was fairly stable during the 1980s. For example, 68% of Hispanics in 1980 resided in the 47 counties that had at least 50,000 Hispanics. In 1990, 68% of Hispanics resided in these same 47 counties. Durand, Telles and Flashman (2006) examine dispersion at the state level and conclude that dispersal was stable during the 1980s, although patterns differ for particular national origin subgroups.

2. Fast-Growing Hispanic Counties in the New Century

Since 2000, the nation's Hispanic population has grown by 29%. In half of the counties with at least 1,000 Latino residents, the Hispanic population grew by at least 41% since 2000. Map 2 shows the 676 counties that experienced Hispanic growth rates at or above this nationwide county average. These fast-growing Hispanic counties in the new century tend to be counties that had smaller Hispanic population bases in 2000. In 2000, about one-quarter (23%) of the nation's Hispanic population resided in the fast-growing counties (Table 3). Because of the continued dispersion of Hispanics, by 2007 some three-in-ten Hispanics resided in these fast-growing counties.

Map 2. Fast-Growing Hispanic Counties, 2000-2007

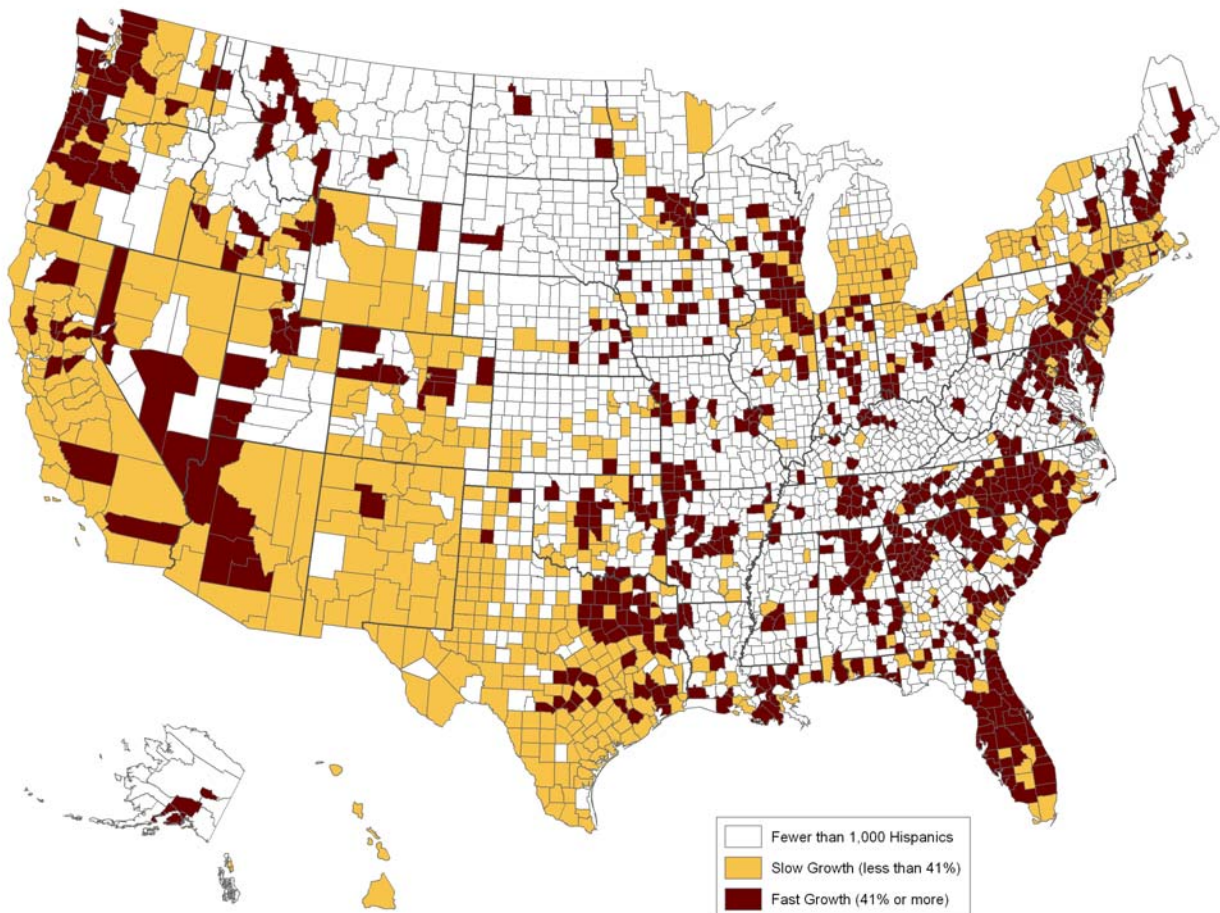


Table 3
Hispanic Population, 2000 and 2007
(number of Hispanics)

	2007	Percent	2000	Percent	Increase 2000 to 2007	
					Population	Rate
Total	44,924,008	100	34,888,835	100	10,035,173	29
In fast-growing Hispanic counties	13,282,280	30	8,164,801	23	5,117,479	63
In slow-growing Hispanic counties	31,641,728	70	26,724,034	77	4,917,694	18

Note: Based on the 1,362 counties with at least 1,000 Hispanic residents in 2007.
Source: Pew Hispanic Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau county population estimates

Overall, the Hispanic population in the 676 fast-growing counties grew by 63%. However, many of the fast-growing counties had Hispanic population growth rates above that.

Table 4
25 Counties with Largest Hispanic Population Growth, 2000 to 2007
(Hispanic growth)

County	State	2000 to 2007 Hispanic Population Growth (in %)	2000 to 2007 Hispanic Population Growth Rank	1990 to 2000 Hispanic Population Growth Rank	2007 Hispanic Population
Frederick County	Virginia	335	1	273	4,371
Culpeper County	Virginia	312	2	200	3,533
Paulding County	Georgia	306	3	159	5,677
Kendall County	Illinois	279	4	522	15,466
Henry County	Georgia	243	5	131	9,240
Fauquier County	Virginia	240	6	700	3,791
Barrow County	Georgia	239	7	132	4,946
Luzerne County	Pennsylvania	222	8	722	11,971
Newton County	Georgia	214	9	339	3,628
Spotsylvania County	Virginia	208	10	329	7,800
Stafford County	Virginia	203	11	400	10,139
Wapello County	Iowa	202	12	258	2,413
Loudoun County	Virginia	183	13	181	28,529
Flagler County	Florida	180	14	636	7,108
Frederick County	Maryland	177	15	382	12,900
Douglas County	Georgia	174	16	264	7,235
Berkeley County	West Virginia	171	17	347	3,127
Lake County	Florida	163	18	375	31,071
Robertson County	Tennessee	161	19	61	3,782
Hamilton County	Indiana	158	20	229	7,518
Delaware County	Ohio	157	21	290	2,853
Jefferson County	West Virginia	155	22	800	1,871
Prince William County	Virginia	153	23	356	69,222
St. Lucie County	Florida	152	24	412	39,695
Lancaster County	South Carolina	151	25	185	2,453

Note: Based on the 1,362 counties with at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2007.
Source: Pew Hispanic Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau county population estimates

A. Dispersion by Metropolitan versus Non-Metropolitan County

In the new century, Hispanics have been dispersing overwhelmingly to counties in metropolitan areas.⁴ The Hispanic population residing in the 676 fast-growing Hispanic counties increased by 5.1 million from 2000 to 2007 (Table 5). Almost 4.8 million of that population growth, or 94%, has been in metropolitan counties. Two-thirds (447 counties) of the 676 fast-growing counties are metropolitan counties.

	2007	2000	Increase 2000 to 2007	
			Population	Share (%)
Total Hispanics in the fast-growing Hispanic counties	13,282,280	8,164,801	5,117,479	100
In Fast-growing Metropolitan Hispanic counties	12,451,942	7,655,684	4,796,258	94
In Fast-growing Non-metropolitan Hispanic counties ¹	830,338	509,117	321,221	6

Note: Based on the 1,362 counties with at least 1,000 Hispanic residents in 2007.
¹Non-metropolitan includes counties in micropolitan statistical areas as well as counties outside core-based statistical areas (CBSAs).
 Source: Pew Hispanic Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau county population estimates

The importance of metropolitan counties is evident in the Table 4 list above of the 25 counties with the largest Hispanic population growth rates in the new century. Of the 25 fastest-growing counties, 22 are metropolitan counties. The only exceptions are Culpeper (Virginia), Wapello (Iowa), and Lancaster (South Carolina) counties, which are in micropolitan (non-metropolitan) statistical areas.

The fact that Hispanics are dispersing to counties in metropolitan areas does not mean those counties have large Hispanic populations. Figure 1 above shows that Hispanics are increasingly residing in counties that had fewer than 10,000 Latinos in 1990—many of which are metropolitan counties, according to the Census Bureau definition. In fact, half of the metropolitan counties in the country had Hispanic populations of 2,315 or less in 1990.

B. Dispersion by Region

In this decade, the bulk of the Hispanic population growth in fast-growing counties has occurred in the South and the West. Southern counties alone account for almost half (2.5 million) of the 5.1 million increase in the Latino population in the fast-growing counties, while Western counties account for over one-third

⁴ Hispanics are spatially concentrated in metropolitan areas. Nearly 93% of the Hispanic population resided there in 2000 (Johnson and Lichter, 2008). Fischer and Tienda (2006) note the increasing metropolitanization of Hispanics since 1980. Indeed, they show that in general Americans are increasingly likely to reside in metropolitan areas.

(Table 6).⁵ A majority of the fast-growing Hispanic counties (58%) are in Southern states. Georgia and North Carolina have more fast-growing Hispanic counties (51 each) than any other state.

	2007	2000	Increase 2000 to 2007	
			Population	Share (%)
Total Hispanics in the fast-growing Hispanic counties	13,282,280	8,164,801	5,117,479	100
In Northeastern Fast-growing Hispanic counties	847,685	556,963	290,722	6
In Midwestern Fast-growing Hispanic counties	1,377,166	847,602	529,564	10
In Southern Fast-growing Hispanic counties	6,102,505	3,572,685	2,529,820	49
In Western Fast-growing Hispanic counties	4,954,924	3,187,551	1,767,373	35

Note: Based on the 1,362 counties with at least 1,000 Hispanic residents in 2007.
Source: Pew Hispanic Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau county population estimates

⁵ Table 6 is analyzing Hispanic population growth only in the 676 fast-growing Hispanic counties. Almost half of that occurred in Southern counties. Nationally the Hispanic population increased by 10 million and only 43% of that increase occurred in Southern counties (Appendix Table B1).

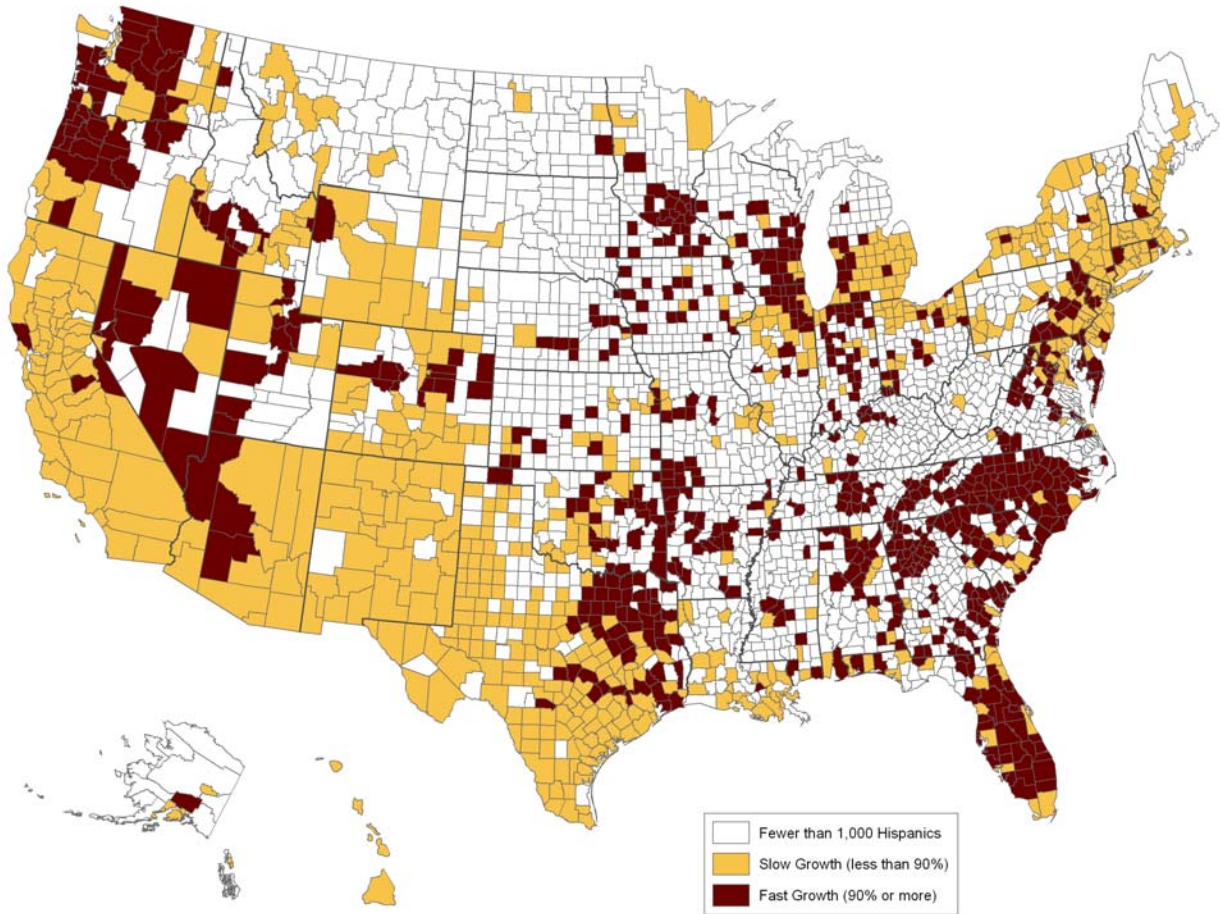
3. Hispanic Dispersion in the 1990s

During the 1990s, the Hispanic population increasingly resided in counties that had not been long-standing magnets for Latinos. The counties attracting Latinos in the 1990s are not identical to the 676 fast-growing Hispanic counties that have been attracting Latinos since 2000. Hispanic dispersion in the new century is more tilted toward metropolitan counties and counties in the West and Northeast.

From 1990 to 2000, the Hispanic population increased by 12.8 million (58%) in the 1,362 counties that had at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2007.⁶ In 681 counties, the Hispanic population grew by at least 90% during the 1990s, and we identify those counties as fast-growing Hispanic counties during the 1990s. Map 3 shows the counties attracting Hispanics at a rapid rate during the 1990s, and it is not identical to Map 2.

⁶ The Hispanic population increased by 13.0 million in the nation's 3,141 counties from 1990 to 2000. Thus, the 1,362 counties that are included in the analysis, and where 12.8 million of the Hispanic population increase occurred, account for 98% of the growth in the Hispanic population during that period.

Map 3. Fast-Growing Hispanic Counties, 1990-2000



In the new century, 447 of the fastest-growing counties are metropolitan counties. In the 1990s, only 381 of the fastest-growing counties were metropolitan counties. In addition, a smaller share of the growth in the fast-growing counties during the 1990s was in metropolitan counties (89%) compared with the new century (94%) (Table 7).

Table 7
Hispanics in the 681 Fast-Growing Hispanic Counties, 1990 and 2000
(number of Hispanics)

	2000	1990	Increase 1990 to 2000	
			Population	Share (%)
Total Hispanic in the fast-growing Hispanic counties in the 1990s	7,549,275	2,920,073	4,629,202	100
In Fast-growing Metropolitan Hispanic counties in the 1990s	6,782,327	2,677,399	4,104,928	89
In Fast-growing Non-metropolitan Hispanic counties in the 1990s ¹	766,948	242,674	524,274	11

Note: Based on the 1,362 counties with at least 1,000 Hispanic residents in 2007.
¹Non-metropolitan includes counties in micropolitan statistical areas as well as counties outside core-based statistical areas (CBSAs).
 Source: Pew Hispanic Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau county population estimates

Regionally, Hispanic growth since 2000 has shifted toward counties in the West and Northeast. The number of fast-growing Hispanic counties in the Northeast has increased from 24 counties in the 1990s to 54 counties in the new century. The share of Hispanic growth in the fast-growing areas has picked up in the Northeast from 3% in the 1990s to 6% in the new century (Table 8). Western counties accounted for 28% of the growth in fast-growing counties in the 1990s. The share of growth in fast-growing Hispanic counties among Western counties increased to 35% in the new century.

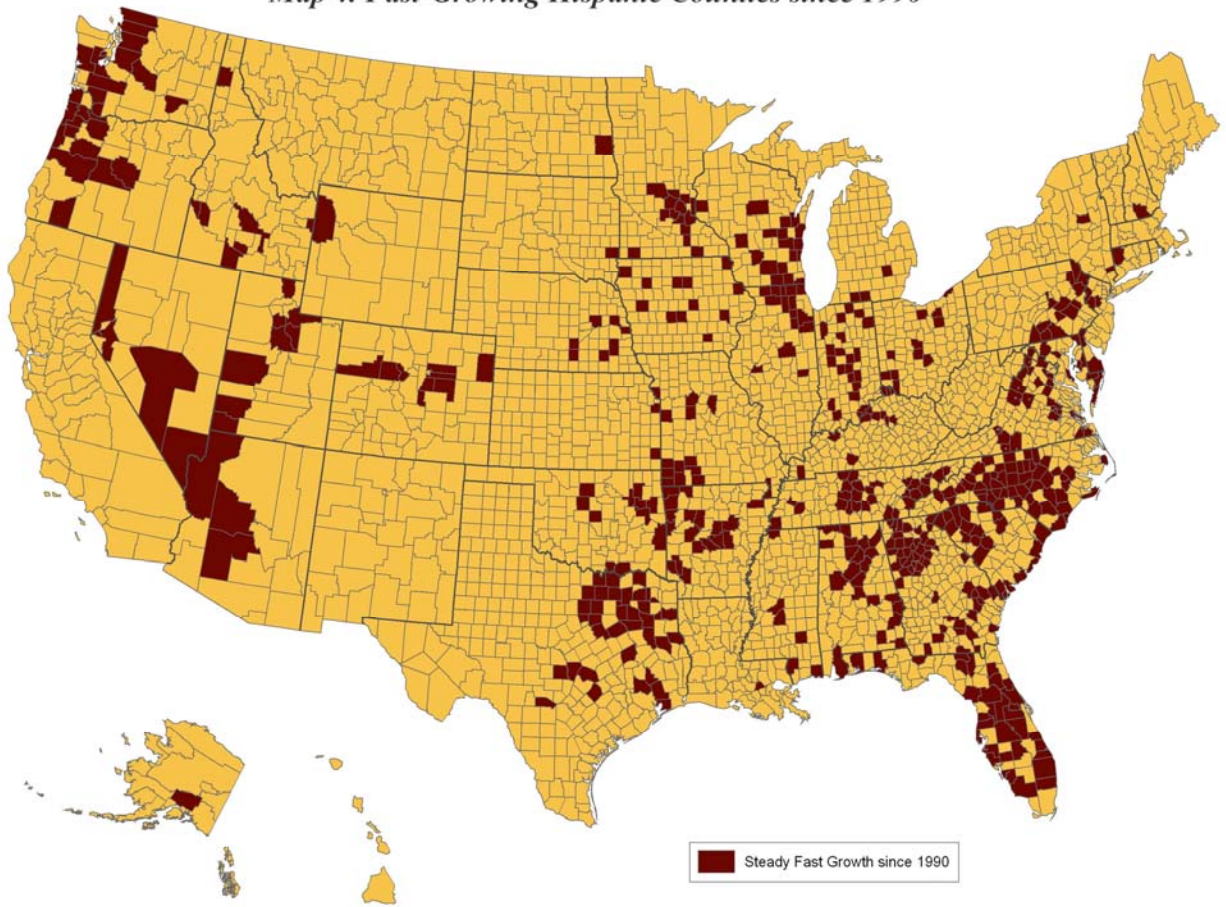
Table 8
Hispanics in Fast-Growing Hispanic Counties, by Region
(number of Hispanics)

	2007	2000	Increase 2000 to 2007	
			Population	Share (%)
Total Hispanics in the fast-growing Hispanic counties in the 2000s	13,282,280	8,164,801	5,117,479	100
In Northeastern Fast-growing Hispanic counties	847,685	556,963	290,722	6
In Midwestern Fast-growing Hispanic counties	1,377,166	847,602	529,564	10
In Southern Fast-growing Hispanic counties	6,102,505	3,572,685	2,529,820	49
In Western Fast-growing Hispanic counties	4,954,924	3,187,551	1,767,373	35
	2000	1990	Increase 1990 to 2000	
			Population	Share (%)
Total Hispanics in the fast-growing Hispanic counties in the 1990s	7,549,275	2,920,073	4,629,202	100
In Northeastern Fast-growing Hispanic counties	284,311	130,752	153,559	3
In Midwestern Fast-growing Hispanic counties	1,120,278	426,637	693,641	15
In Southern Fast-growing Hispanic counties	3,920,014	1,450,322	2,469,692	53
In Western Fast-growing Hispanic counties	2,224,672	912,362	1,312,310	28

Note: Based on the 1,362 counties with at least 1,000 Hispanic residents in 2007.
Source: Pew Hispanic Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau county population estimates

Though Hispanic dispersion has tilted more to counties in the West and Northeast in the new century, most counties that were fast-growing in the 1990s continued to experience above-average growth in the new century. There are 528 counties that were fast-growing Hispanic counties in both the 1990s and 2000s (Map 4). The share of the Hispanic population in these core growing counties steadily increased from 10% in 1990 to 17% in 2000 and then to 22% in 2007 (Figure 2). While each region of the country has counties that have steadily attracted Latinos, counties in the South are disproportionately among those that have steadily attracted Hispanics.

Map 4. Fast-Growing Hispanic Counties since 1990



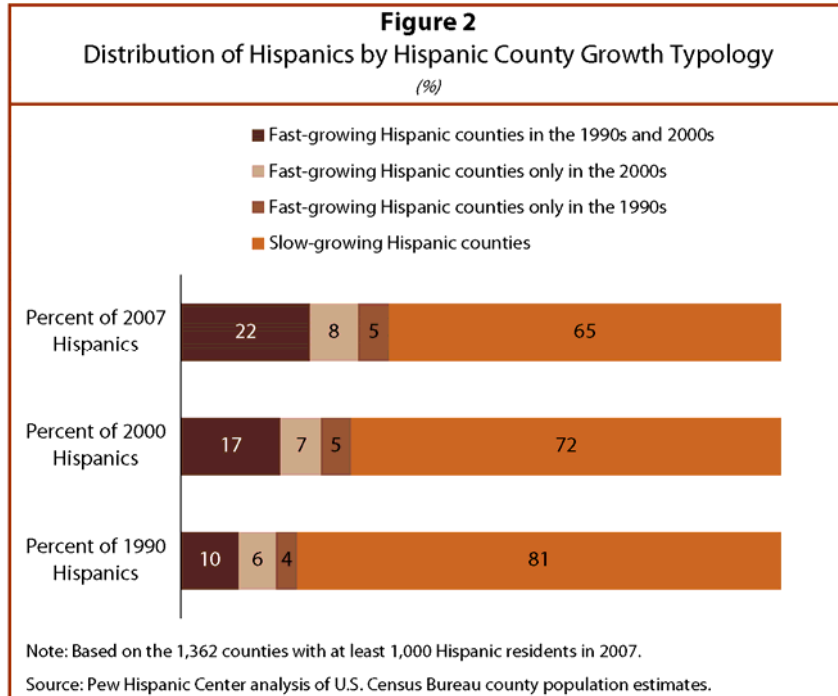


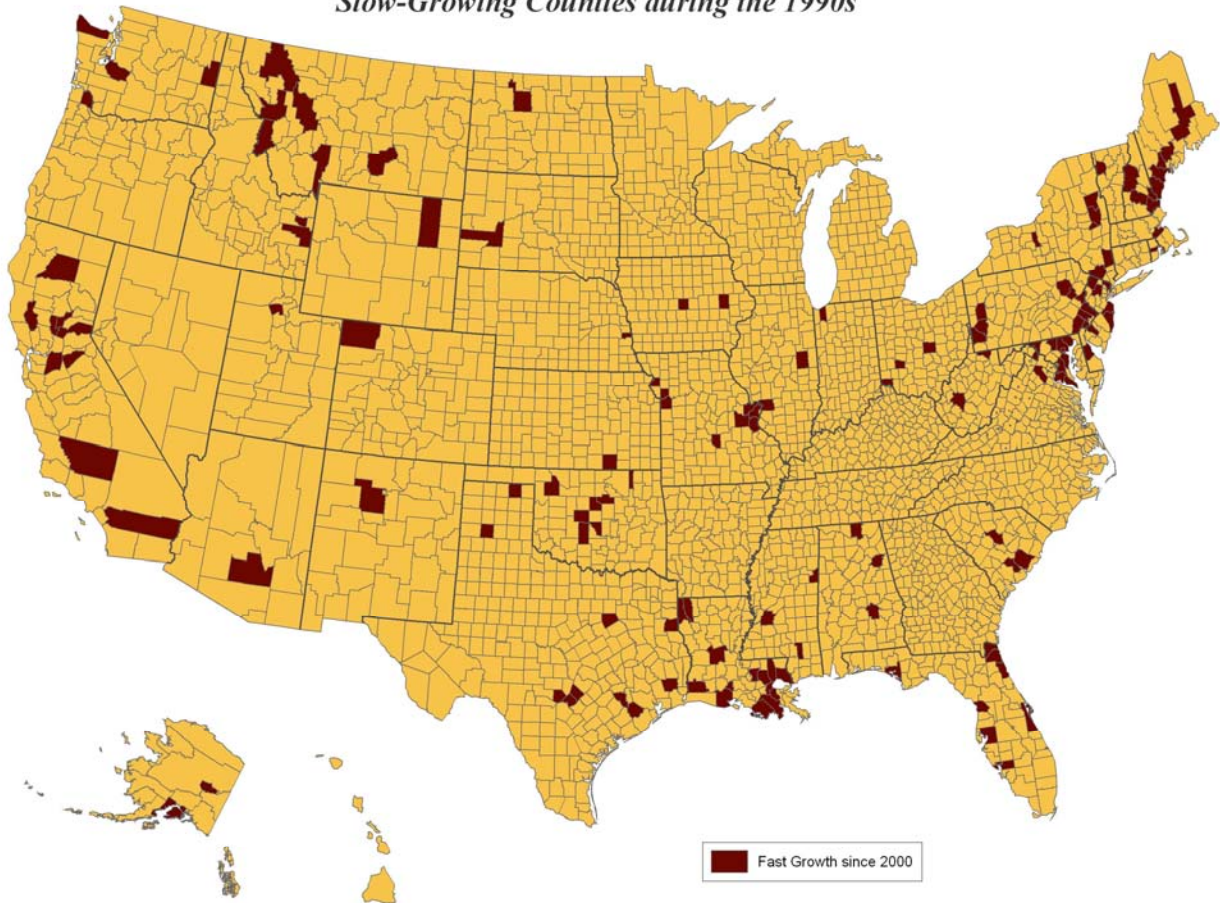
Table 9
Examples of Patterns of Hispanic County Growth
(counties)

Fast-growing counties in the 1990s and 2000 to 2007							
Northeast		Midwest		South		West	
COUNTY	STATE	COUNTY	STATE	COUNTY	STATE	COUNTY	STATE
Berks County	Pennsylvania	Kane County	Illinois	Tarrant County	Texas	Maricopa County	Arizona
Lehigh County	Pennsylvania	Lake County	Illinois	Broward County	Florida	Clark County	Nevada
Somerset County	New Jersey	Will County	Illinois	Orange County	Florida	Salt Lake County	Utah
Hillsborough County	New Hampshire	Hennepin County	Minnesota	Palm Beach County	Florida	Adams County	Colorado
Monroe County	Pennsylvania	Marion County	Indiana	Gwinnett County	Georgia	King County	Washington
York County	Pennsylvania	Douglas County	Nebraska	Osceola County	Florida	Arapahoe County	Colorado
Putnam County	New York	Franklin County	Ohio	Denton County	Texas	Washoe County	Nevada
Lebanon County	Pennsylvania	McHenry County	Illinois	Collin County	Texas	Washington County	Oregon
Warren County	New Jersey	Johnson County	Kansas	Lee County	Florida	Multnomah County	Oregon
Litchfield County	Connecticut	Winnebago County	Illinois	Polk County	Florida	Snohomish County	Washington
Fast growth began in the 2000s							
Northeast		Midwest		South		West	
COUNTY	STATE	COUNTY	STATE	COUNTY	STATE	COUNTY	STATE
Bergen County	New Jersey	Jackson County	Missouri	Hillsborough County	Florida	Riverside County	California
Orange County	New York	St. Louis County	Missouri	Fort Bend County	Texas	Kern County	California
Monmouth County	New Jersey	Hamilton County	Ohio	Prince George's County	Maryland	San Joaquin County	California
Morris County	New Jersey	Porter County	Indiana	Duval County	Florida	Pinal County	Arizona
Ocean County	New Jersey	Clay County	Missouri	Hays County	Texas	Pierce County	Washington
Dutchess County	New York	Sarpy County	Nebraska	Brevard County	Florida	Placer County	California
Northampton County	Pennsylvania	Champaign County	Illinois	Ellis County	Texas	Sandoval County	New Mexico
Montgomery County	Pennsylvania	St. Charles County	Missouri	Comal County	Texas	Sutter County	California
Chester County	Pennsylvania	Madison County	Illinois	Baltimore County	Maryland	Anchorage Municipality	Alaska
Bucks County	Pennsylvania	Linn County	Iowa	Anne Arundel County	Maryland	Davis County	Utah
Fast growth in 1990s but not 2000s							
Northeast		Midwest		South		West	
COUNTY	STATE	COUNTY	STATE	COUNTY	STATE	COUNTY	STATE
Providence County	Rhode Island	DuPage County	Illinois	Dallas County	Texas	Sonoma County	California
Atlantic County	New Jersey	Kent County	Michigan	Fairfax County	Virginia	Marion County	Oregon
Union County	Pennsylvania	Sedgwick County	Kansas	Jefferson County	Texas	Weber County	Utah
Genesee County	New York	Wyandotte County	Kansas	Hendry County	Florida	Grant County	Washington
		Ramsey County	Minnesota	Hardee County	Florida	Benton County	Washington
		Ottawa County	Michigan	Titus County	Texas	Chelan County	Washington
		Finney County	Kansas	Okeechobee County	Florida	Umatilla County	Oregon
		St. Joseph County	Indiana	Montgomery County	Tennessee	Elko County	Nevada
		Ford County	Kansas	Waller County	Texas	Morgan County	Colorado
		Seward County	Kansas	Texas County	Oklahoma	Douglas County	Washington

Source: Pew Hispanic Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau county population estimates

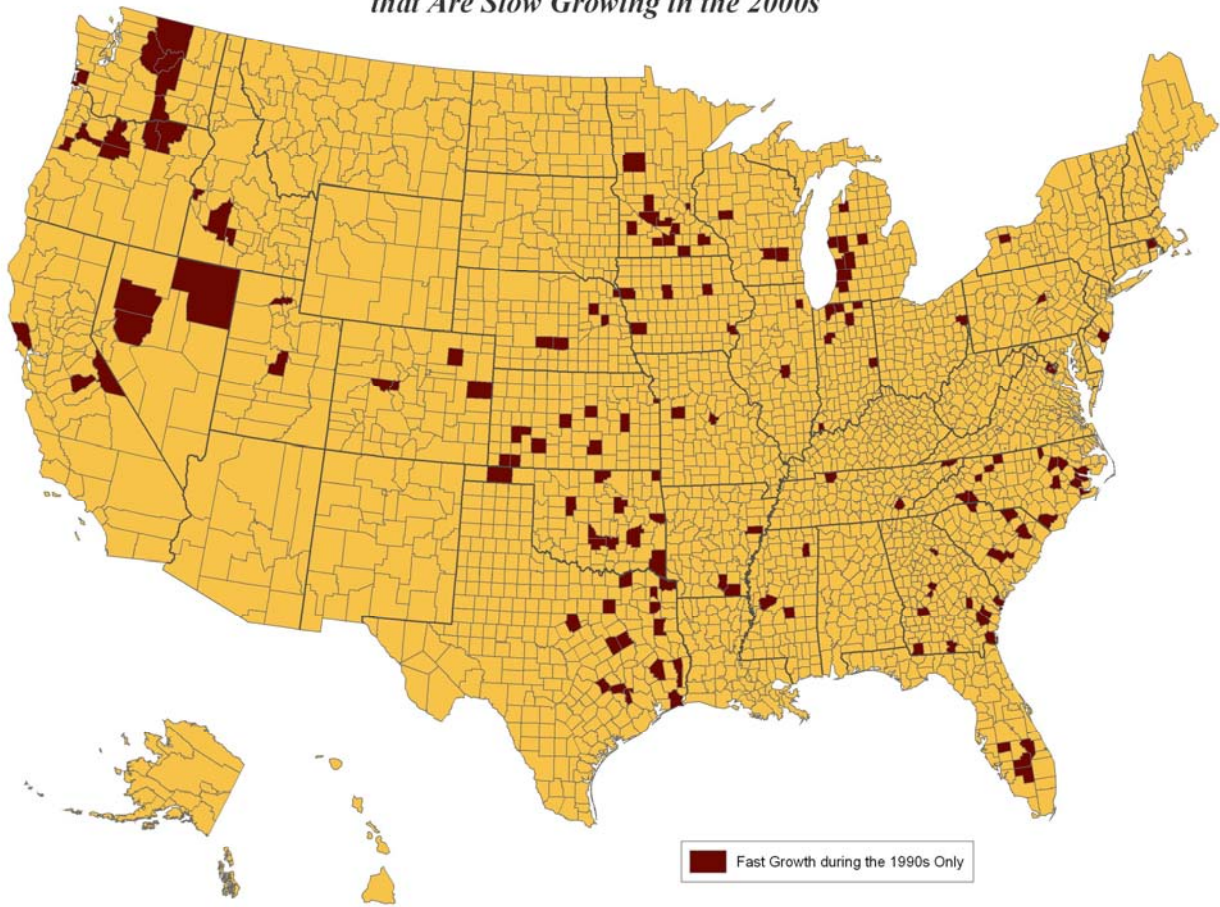
There are 148 counties where the Hispanic population grew slowly in the 1990s but above average in the new century (Map 5). The new fast-growing Hispanic counties are disproportionately in the Northeast. Several of the new fast-growing Hispanic counties are in Maine, Vermont and Massachusetts. California also has several fast-growing Hispanic counties in the new century, and Louisiana is notable for the number of its new fast-growing Hispanic counties.

*Map 5. Fast-Growing Hispanic Counties during the 2000s,
Slow-Growing Counties during the 1990s*



Finally, there are 153 counties that had fast-growing Latino populations in the 1990s but have had below-average Latino population growth in the new century (Map 6). These counties are disproportionately in the Midwest. For example, Hispanic growth has cooled off in western Michigan, western Minnesota and western Kansas. Outside the Midwest, northern Nevada and central Washington were fast-growing in the 1990s but have experienced below-average Hispanic population growth in the new century.

*Map 6. Fast-Growing Hispanic Counties during the 1990s
that Are Slow Growing in the 2000s*



4. The Growth of Hispanics and Non-Hispanics in the New Century

The 10 million increase in the Hispanic population nationwide since 2000 has been accompanied by an increase of 9.8 million non-Hispanics.⁷ The growth among Hispanics has been more widespread but also more concentrated in comparison to non-Hispanic growth.

Most counties experienced an increase in their Hispanic population in the new century. The Hispanic population increased in 1,295 of the 1,362 counties that had at least 1,000 Latinos in 2007. Not all counties experienced growing Latino populations, and Table 10 reports the counties with the largest Hispanic population declines.

Compared to the widespread Hispanic growth, fewer counties experienced an increase in their non-Hispanic population. In about one-third of counties (474 counties), the non-Hispanic population decreased from 2000 to 2007, so only 888 counties had increases in non-Hispanic population.

Though more counties have experienced Hispanic growth than non-Hispanic growth, Hispanic growth has been concentrated in fewer counties. Just 38 counties account for half of the nation’s Hispanic population increase. Non-Hispanics are less concentrated geographically, and their growth is less concentrated. Half of the nation’s non-Hispanic population increase occurred in 54 counties. This more widespread but concentrated growth continues the pattern that demographers observed in the 1990s (Kandel and Cromartie, 2004).

Most of the counties that experienced Hispanic population growth had an increase in their non-Hispanic population as well (Map 7). Some 867 counties had growing

Table 10
10 Counties with Largest Hispanic Population Decrease, 2000 to 2007
(Number of Hispanics)

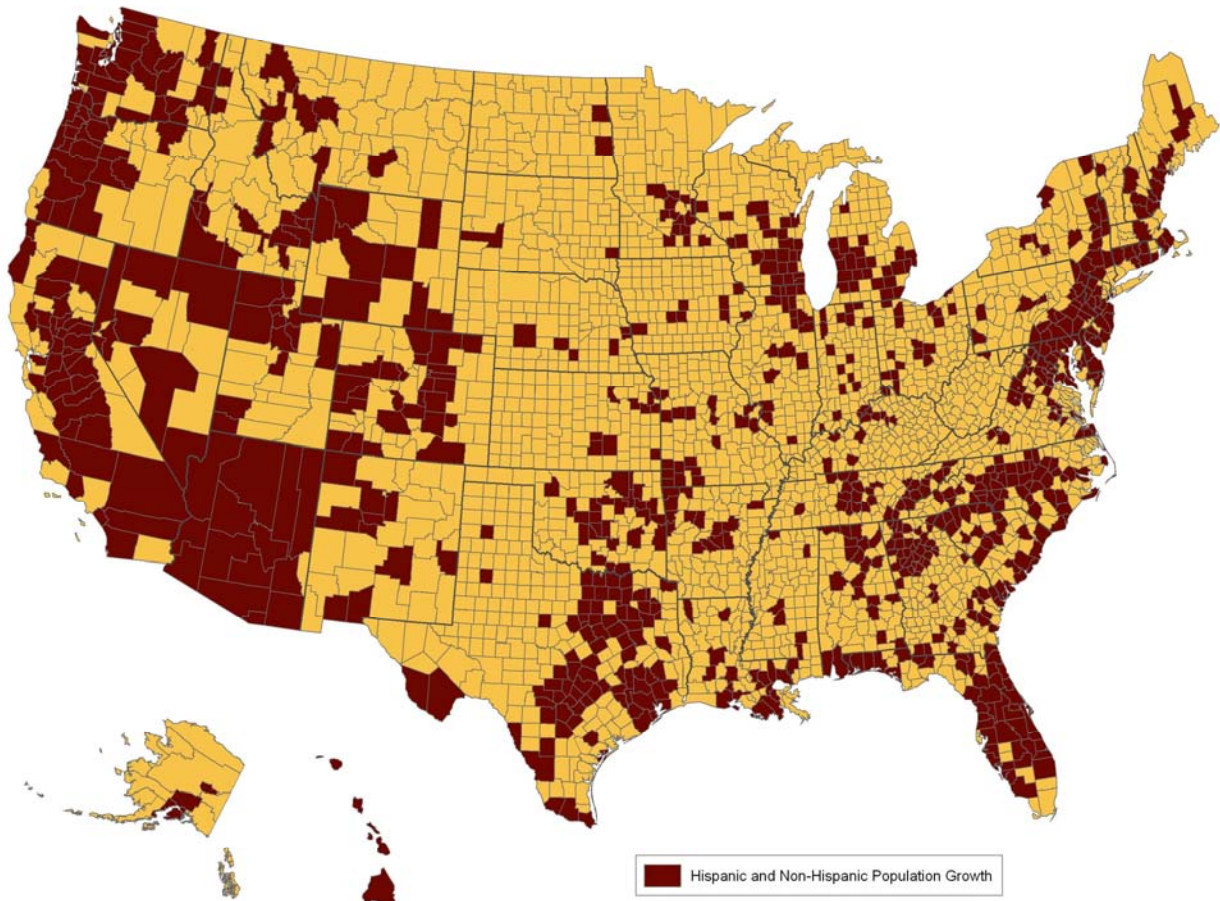
County	State	2000 to 2007 Hispanic Population Decrease
New York County	New York	-17,377
Orleans Parish	Louisiana	-4,070
Arlington County	Virginia	-2,857
San Francisco County	California	-2,590
Cumberland County	North Carolina	-2,178
St. Bernard Parish	Louisiana	-1,947
Reeves County	Texas	-1,610
San Miguel County	New Mexico	-1,411
Muscogee County	Georgia	-1,024
Alexandria city	Virginia	-906

Source: Pew Hispanic Center analysis of US Census Bureau county population estimates

⁷ The 9.8 million increase among non-Hispanics refers to the 1,362 counties with at least 1,000 Hispanic residents in 2007. The non-Hispanic population increased by 10.0 million over all 3,141 counties. Thus the 1,362 counties that are analyzed account for 98% of the growth in the non-Hispanic population.

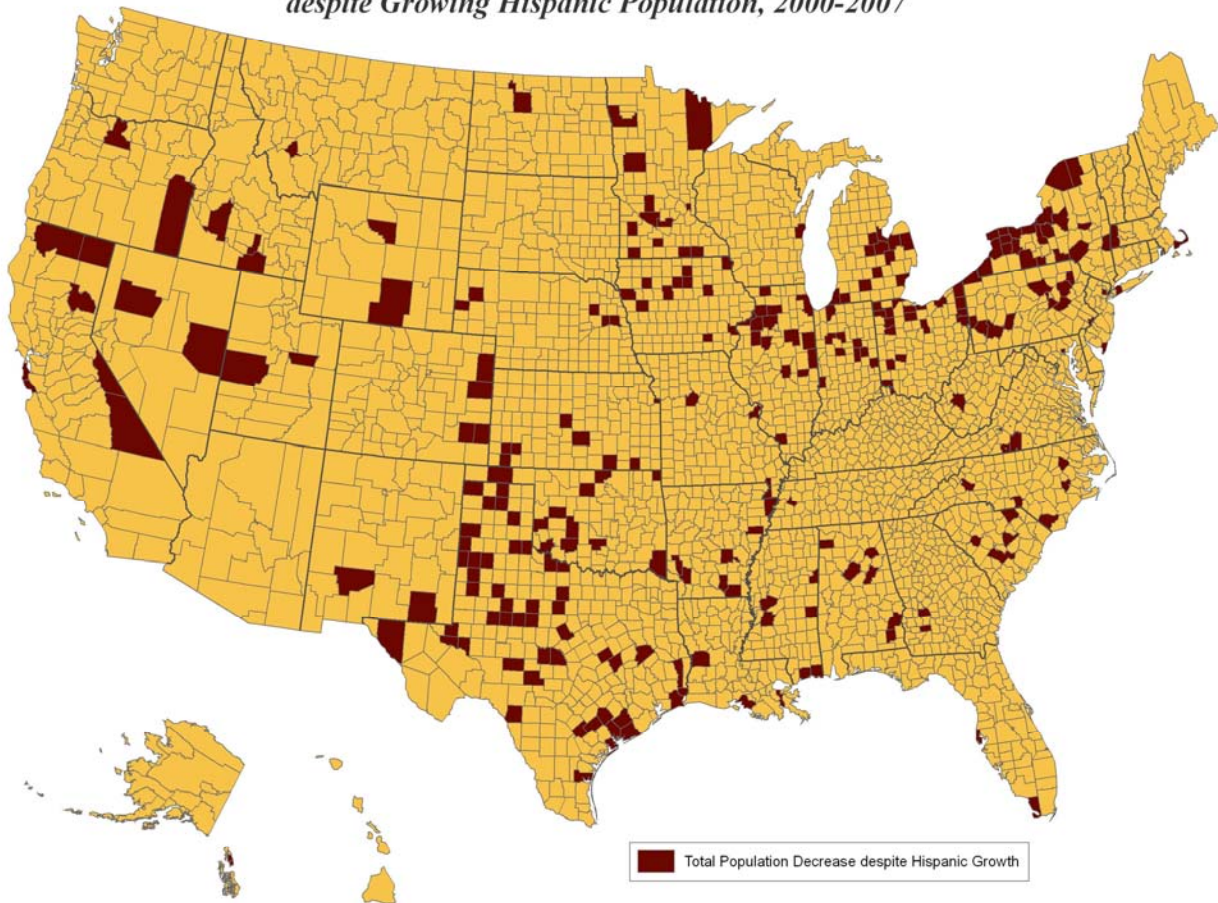
non-Hispanic populations as well as Hispanic populations. About two-thirds of these counties are metropolitan counties.

Map 7. Counties with both Growing Hispanic and Non-Hispanic Populations, 2000-2007



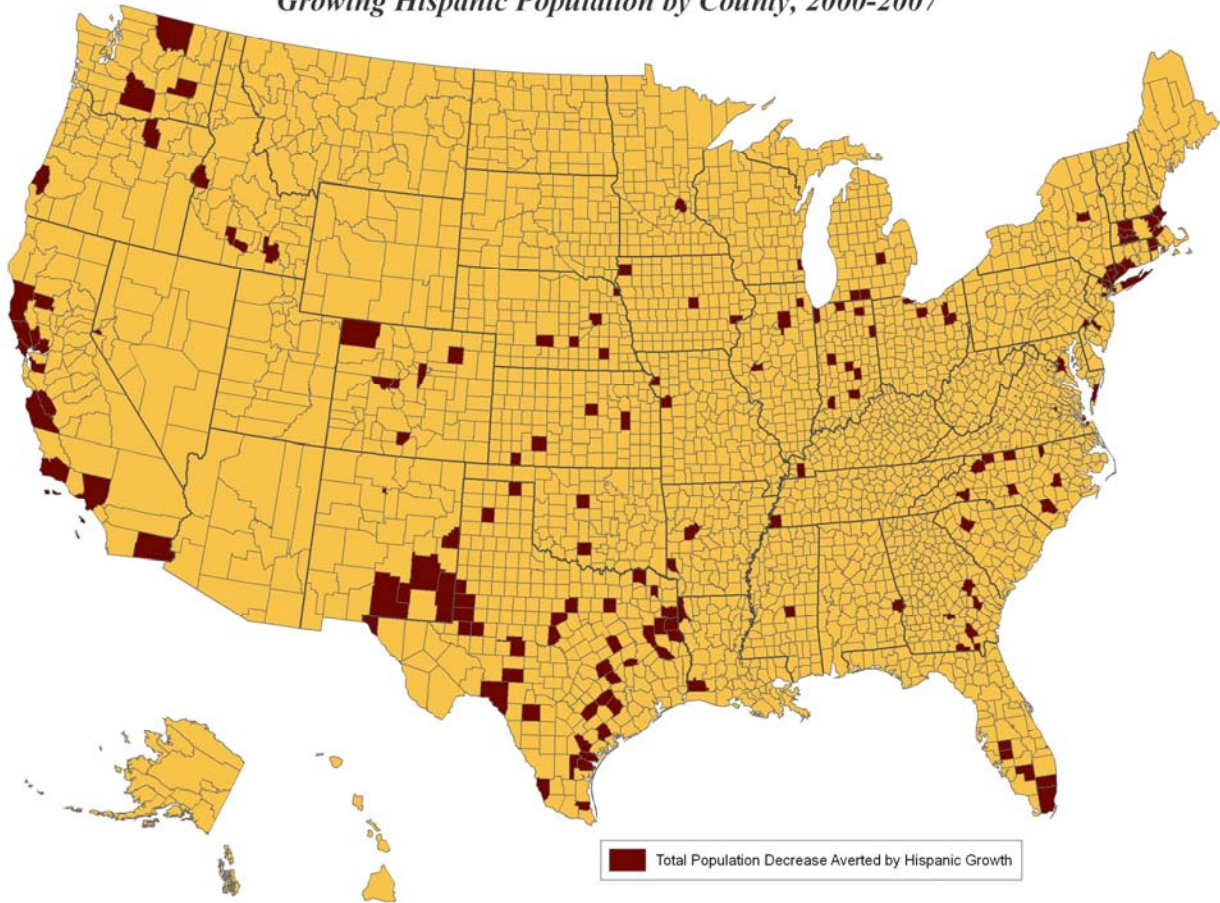
In about one-of-five counties, the total population declined despite an increase in Hispanic population (Map 8). About two-thirds of these 264 counties are non-metropolitan counties. Cook County, Illinois, the nation's second most populous county (5.3 million residents) and the county that includes Chicago, lost population since 2000 despite a growing Hispanic population.

Map 8. Decreasing Total Population Counties despite Growing Hispanic Population, 2000-2007



Finally, in 164 counties the total population would have declined since 2000 if the Hispanic population had not increased—in other words, the Hispanic population increase was greater in absolute value than the non-Hispanic population decline (Map 9). Counties in which Hispanic population gains averted total population decreases include some of the largest in the nation: Los Angeles; Miami-Dade; Dallas; Queens, Suffolk, Bronx and Westchester in the New York metropolitan area; Milwaukee; and DuPage in suburban Chicago.

Map 9. Counties with Decrease in Total Population Averted by Growing Hispanic Population by County, 2000-2007



A. Total Population Growth in the Fast-Growing Hispanic Counties

The 676 fast-growing Hispanic counties in the new century are largely metropolitan counties, and they tend to be counties with growing non-Latino populations as well. “More than ever, the new destinations for Hispanic populations overlap with growth centers for overall U.S. population” (Frey, 2006). In 567 of the 676 counties, the non-Hispanic population also increased since 2000. As Table 11 shows, the Hispanic population increased by 5.1 million in these counties in the new century. The Hispanic growth was accompanied by an increase of 9.9 million non-Latinos. Non-Hispanics as well as Hispanics are increasing in the nation’s fast-growing Hispanic counties.

Table 11
Total Population in Fast-Growing and Slow-Growing Hispanic Counties
(number of persons)

	2007	2000	Increase 2000 to 2007	
			Population	Share (%)
Total population in fast-growing Hispanic counties	127,632,290	112,633,626	14,998,664	100
Hispanic	13,282,280	8,164,801	5,117,479	34
Non-Hispanic	114,350,010	104,468,825	9,881,185	66
Total population in slow-growing Hispanic counties	140,320,160	135,444,568	4,875,592	100
Hispanic	31,641,728	26,724,034	4,917,694	101
Non-Hispanic	108,678,432	108,720,534	-42,102	-1

Note: Based on the 1,362 counties with at least 1,000 Hispanic residents in 2007.
Source: Pew Hispanic Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau county population estimates

By contrast, in the nation’s 686 slow-growing Hispanic counties, Hispanic growth has not been matched by accompanying non-Latino growth. In only 321 of these counties has the non-Hispanic population increased since 2000. Furthermore, in the aggregate, Hispanic population growth in these counties accounts for the entire population increase in these areas. Hispanic growth of 4.9 million Latinos in these counties was accompanied by a small decline in the non-Hispanic population.

5. The Characteristics of Hispanics in the Fast-Growing Hispanic Counties

This last section of the report focuses on the characteristics of Hispanics in the fast-growing Hispanic counties. On the basis of the 2007 demographic profile, Hispanic populations in the fast-growing counties are markedly different than Hispanics in the established, slow-growing counties in some key ways but also resemble the wider Hispanic population in many others (Table 12).⁸

The fast-growing Hispanic county/county groups have many more adult male Hispanics relative to adult female Hispanics in comparison to the slow-growing areas. In the slow-growing Hispanic county/county groups, there were 104 adult male Hispanics for every 100 adult female Hispanics. In the fast-growing Hispanic counties, there were 120 adult male Latinos for every 100 adult female Latinos.

Mainly because of immigration from Mexico, Latinos in the new settlement areas are more likely to be foreign born than their

counterparts in slow-growing county/county groups. Hispanics in the new settlement areas are also less likely to be U.S. citizens.

Table 12
Select Characteristics of Hispanics in Fast-Growing and Slow-Growing Hispanic Counties, 2007
(%)

Characteristic	Fast-Growing Hispanic Counties	Slow-Growing Hispanic Counties
Children younger than 18	36	33
Foreign born	42	39
Non-citizen	32	27
Mexican born	29	25
In household with foreign-born head	60	58
Unmarried ¹ male older than 14	18	18
Adult males per 100 adult females	120	104
Limited English speaking	35	34
Adults who did not finish high school	38	38
Poor ²	18	20

Note: These statistics are effectively a weighted average of county/county group characteristics. The weights are the size of the county/county group Hispanic population. In other words, each county/county group does not receive equal weight in the tabulation. County/county groups with larger Hispanic populations receive more weight.

¹“Unmarried” refers to those divorced, widowed or never-married. Males who are married, spouse absent are included as married.

²The IPUMS determines a person’s poverty status in a slightly different manner than the original Census Bureau released version of the PUMS. For further details see <http://usa.ipums.org/usa-action/variableDescription.do?mnemonic=POVERTY>

Source: Pew Hispanic Center analysis of the 2007 American Community Survey IPUMS

⁸ The Census Bureau county population counts provide little detail on the characteristics of the population. Using Census Bureau microdata files, however, detailed population characteristics are available for 608 single counties or county groups (see Appendix A for details). These county/county groups can be partitioned into fast-growing Hispanic county/county groups versus slow-growing Hispanic areas in very close fashion to the analysis of the population counts.

The age structure and social profile of Hispanics in the new settlement areas resembles that of slower-growing areas. In both areas, about one-third of the Hispanic population are children. About one-third of Latinos in both areas report speaking English with difficulty. Nearly four-out-of-ten Hispanic adults in both areas have not completed high school. About one-fifth of Hispanics in each area live in poverty.

Hispanics in the fast-growing county/county groups, on average, have very different characteristics than non-Hispanics residing in those same areas (Table 13). One-in-three Latinos in the new settlement areas are children, compared with one-in-four non-Hispanics. The non-Hispanic population is overwhelmingly native born and has citizenship. Fewer than one-in-ten non-Hispanics in the fast-growing areas reside in an immigrant-headed household, compared with six-in-ten Latinos.

The gender balance between Hispanics and non-Hispanics diverges considerably in the new settlement areas. Among the non-Hispanic population are 93 adult males for every 100 adult females. Among Hispanics, adult males outnumber adult females.

Non-Hispanics in the new settlement areas overwhelmingly report that they speak only English at home or speak English at least “very well.” A sizable minority of Latinos (35%) in these areas do not report these levels of English proficiency. Latino adults in the new settlement areas also trail their non-Hispanic counterparts in educational attainment. Nine-in-ten non-Hispanics have at least completed high school, compared with six-in-ten Hispanics. Likely reflecting in part their youth, lower English proficiency and formal education, Hispanics in the new settlement areas are nearly twice as likely as their non-Hispanic neighbors to live in poverty.

Table 13
Select Characteristics of Hispanics and Non-Hispanics in
Fast-Growing Hispanic Counties, 2007
(%)

Characteristic	Hispanics	Non-Hispanics
Children younger than 18	36	23
Foreign born	42	6
Non-citizen	32	3
Mexican born	29	0
In household with foreign-born head	60	8
Unmarried ¹ male older than 14	18	17
Adult males per 100 adult females	120	93
Limited English speaking	35	2
Adults who did not finish high school	38	12
Poor ²	18	10

Note: These statistics are effectively a weighted average of county/county group characteristics. The weights are the size of the county/county group Hispanic (or non-Hispanic) population. In other words, each county/county group does not receive equal weight in the tabulation. County/county groups with larger Hispanic (or non-Hispanic) populations receive more weight.

¹“Unmarried” refers to those divorced, widowed or never-married. Males who are married, spouse absent are included as married.

²The IPUMS determines a person’s poverty status in a slightly different manner than the original Census Bureau released version of the PUMS. For further details see <http://usa.ipums.org/usa-action/variableDescription.do?mnemonic=POVERTY>

Source: Pew Hispanic Center analysis of the 2007 American Community Survey IPUMS

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Appendix A: Data Sources

Sections 1 through 4 of the report analyze county Hispanic and total population counts from the U.S. Census Bureau. The 2007 counts refer to July 1, 2007, and are from the bureau's county population estimates program (<http://www.census.gov/popest/datasets.html>). Population estimates are available for all 3,141 counties. The 1990 and 2000 county population counts derive from the decennial Census and refer to April 1 of the Census year. These are published in the decennial Census SF1 files and are obtained from the responses to the Census short form questionnaire. The short form responses are solicited from 100% of the resident population and not a sample of the population. For 2000 we used the April 1, 2000, counts in the base of the county population estimates program. These include small post-enumeration corrections from the SF1 figures.

Section 5 examines characteristics of the Hispanic and non-Hispanic population. The bureau's county population estimates program cannot serve as the source for this analysis because it does not possess detailed population characteristics (only population aggregates). Detailed population characteristics at the county level can be obtained from the public use micro samples of the Decennial Census and the American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is a sample of the resident population. Hispanic population information is not available for all 3,141 counties in the ACS.

Unfortunately, counties are not identified in the Census public use micro samples. The smallest level of geographic detail is the public use microdata area. PUMAs can be aggregated to form single counties or county groups. A further complication is that the PUMA definitions for the 1990 Census do not match the PUMA codes for the 2000 Census and 2007 ACS. See <http://usa.ipums.org/usa-action/variableDescription.do?mnemonic=PUMA> for further details. Using a PUMA-to-county crosswalk developed by Pew Hispanic Center senior demographer Jeffrey S. Passel, we are able to identify 608 county/county groups on a consistent basis in the 1990 5% IPUMS, 2000 5% IPUMS and the 2007 ACS Integrated Public Use Micro Sample.

The 608 county/county groups cover the entire United States. For the 585 county/county groups that have at least 1,000 Hispanics in 2007, the distribution of Hispanic growth in the new century mirrors the distribution of growth for the 1,362 counties using the Census Bureau population estimates. Again using the distinction between county/county groups in which the Hispanic population grew faster than the median county, we identify county/county groups as either fast-growing or slow-growing Hispanic county/county groups. The aggregate Hispanic population in the fast-growing and slow-growing county/county groups is nearly identical to the analysis using the 1,362 county population estimates.

Appendix B: Additional Table

	2007	2000	Increase 2000 to 2007	
			Population	Share (%)
Total Hispanics	44,924,008	34,888,835	10,035,173	100
Northeastern region	6,170,519	5,227,450	943,069	9
Midwestern region	3,902,523	2,978,020	924,503	9
Southern region	15,648,058	11,381,638	4,266,420	43
Western region	19,202,908	15,301,727	3,901,181	39

Note: Based on the 1,362 counties with at least 1,000 Hispanic residents in 2007.
Source: Pew Hispanic Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau county population estimates