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**Violence Policy Center**

# **Hispanic Victims of Lethal Firearms Violence in the United States**

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This study is also available in Spanish at <http://www.vpc.org/studies/hispanicesp15.pdf>.

## KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### KEY FINDINGS

- **The homicide victimization rate for Hispanics in the United States is nearly twice as high as the homicide victimization rate for whites.** The Hispanic homicide victimization rate in 2013 was 4.75 per 100,000. In comparison, the homicide victimization rate for whites was 2.50 per 100,000 (p. 4).
- **Homicide is the second leading cause of death for Hispanics ages 15 to 24** (p. 5).
- **In 2013, nearly 3,000 Hispanics were killed by guns.** That year 1,750 Hispanics died in gun homicides, 1,034 died in gun suicides, 49 died in unintentional shootings, and 118 died in other circumstances (including legal intervention and undetermined intent) (p. 4).
- **More than 47,000 Hispanics were killed by guns between 1999 and 2013.** During this period, 31,800 Hispanics died in gun homicides, 13,317 died in gun suicides, and 896 died in unintentional shootings (p. 4).
- **Most Hispanic murder victims are killed with guns.** Guns are used in more than two-thirds of the homicides where the victims are Hispanic (p. 5). The latest data shows that for homicides where the victim was Hispanic and a gun was used, 72 percent of these shootings involved a handgun (p. 10).
- **Hispanic victims are more likely to be killed by a stranger than the national average.** The latest data from 2012 shows that when the victim-to-offender relationship could be identified, 36 percent of Hispanic victims were killed by a stranger. Nationwide, 26 percent of all homicide victims were killed by strangers (p. 11).
- **A large percentage of Hispanic homicide victims are young.** The most recent available data shows 37 percent of Hispanic homicide victims in 2012 were age 24 and younger. In comparison, 38 percent of black homicide victims and 21 percent of white homicide victims were age 24 and younger that year (p. 12).
- **As a result of the limitations in current data collection, the total number of Hispanic victims is almost certainly higher than the reported numbers suggest.** Government agencies often report data on race but not on ethnic origin. Recognizing the changing demographic landscape in the United States, it is clear that fully documenting such victimization is a crucial first step toward preventing it.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Governmental agencies that collect data on death and injury should obtain complete information on the ethnic origin of individuals in addition to their race. This will ensure complete and accurate data collection on Hispanic victims of lethal violence.

- Individual-level ethnic origin information should be captured by all governmental agencies, regardless of department, and at all levels — local, state, and national — for all pertinent users and subjects of agency services.
- Individual-level ethnic origin information should be self-reported and not based solely on a person’s surname or other measure.
- All public access data and published reports issued by governmental agencies should include information on ethnic origin in addition to race.
- The U.S. Department of Justice — specifically, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Justice Statistics — should issue periodic or special reports on Hispanic victimization.
- States with a substantial proportion of Hispanic residents should issue periodic or special reports on Hispanic victimization and deaths due to all causes, including violence.

## DEFINITIONS

The terms and definitions for race and ethnicity in this report are derived from U.S. Census Bureau definitions. Race and ethnicity are two separate designations. Federal data commonly uses the term “black” rather than African-American and “Hispanic” instead of Latino. For the purposes of this report the definitions below will be used.

### Race

#### American Indian or Alaska Native

A non-Hispanic person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.

#### Asian

A non-Hispanic person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East (e.g., China, Japan), Southeast Asia (e.g., Vietnam, Thailand) or the India subcontinent (e.g., India, Pakistan).

#### Black

A non-Hispanic person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.

#### Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

A non-Hispanic person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

#### White

A non-Hispanic person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

### Ethnicity

#### Hispanic

A person of *any race* having origins in Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Central or South America, or other Spanish cultures.

# INTRODUCTION

## FOCUS ON HISPANICS

In 2001, the United States experienced a historic demographic change. For the first time, Hispanics became the largest minority group in the nation, exceeding the number of black residents.<sup>1</sup> With a population in 2013 of nearly 54 million, Hispanics represent 17.1 percent of the total population of the United States.<sup>2</sup>

As of 2013, eight U.S. states have a Hispanic population totaling more than one million. In order of Hispanic population they are: California, Texas, Florida, New York, Illinois, Arizona, New Jersey, and Colorado.<sup>3</sup> California, which has the largest Hispanic population in the United States (14.7 million), accounts for 27.3 percent of the total U.S. Hispanic population.<sup>4</sup>

**Figure 1: Top 10 States by Hispanic Population, 2013<sup>5</sup>**

State	Hispanic Population	Total Population	Percent of Total State Population That is Hispanic	Percent of Total U.S. Hispanic Population
California	14,716,321	38,332,521	38.4	27.3
Texas	10,155,002	26,448,193	38.4	18.8
Florida	4,620,459	19,552,860	23.6	8.6
New York	3,608,581	19,651,127	18.4	6.7
Illinois	2,118,365	12,882,135	16.4	3.9
Arizona	2,004,279	6,626,624	30.2	3.7
New Jersey	1,684,587	8,899,339	18.9	3.1
Colorado	1,108,736	5,268,367	21.0	2.1
New Mexico	986,717	2,085,287	47.3	1.8
Georgia	906,788	9,992,167	9.1	1.7

The Pew Research Center finds that since 2000, some of the fastest growing Hispanic populations have been in the Southeastern United States, although each has a Hispanic population totaling less than a million.

1 "Hispanics Now Largest Minority, Census Shows," *New York Times*, January 22, 2003.

2 *Statistical Portrait of the Hispanic Population in the United States, 1980 - 2013*, Renee Stepler and Anna Brown, Pew Research Center, Hispanic Trends, May 12, 2015 (<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2015/05/12/statistical-portrait-of-hispanics-in-the-united-states-1980-2013/>).

3 *Statistical Portrait of the Hispanic Population in the United States, 1980 - 2013*, Renee Stepler and Anna Brown, Pew Research Center, Hispanic Trends, May 12, 2015 (<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2015/05/12/statistical-portrait-of-hispanics-in-the-united-states-1980-2013/>), data obtained from Table 43 of the study "Hispanic Population, by State: 2013" contained in "Current Data" under heading "Region and Top Five States of Residence."

4 *Statistical Portrait of the Hispanic Population in the United States, 1980 - 2013*, Renee Stepler and Anna Brown, Pew Research Center, Hispanic Trends, May 12, 2015 (<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2015/05/12/statistical-portrait-of-hispanics-in-the-united-states-1980-2013/>), data obtained from Table 43 of the study "Hispanic Population, by State: 2013" and Table 44 of the study "Distribution of Hispanics Across States: 2013" contained in "Current Data" under heading "Region and Top Five States of Residence."

5 *Statistical Portrait of the Hispanic Population in the United States, 1980 - 2013*, Renee Stepler and Anna Brown, Pew Research Center, Hispanic Trends, May 12, 2015 (<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2015/05/12/statistical-portrait-of-hispanics-in-the-united-states-1980-2013/>), data obtained from Table 43 of the study "Hispanic Population, by State: 2013" and Table 44 of the study "Distribution of Hispanics Across States: 2013" contained in "Current Data" under heading "Region and Top Five States of Residence."

**Figure 2: Growth in Hispanic Population Among 10 Fastest Growing Hispanic States, 2000 to 2013<sup>6</sup>**

State	Hispanic Population in 2000	Hispanic Population in 2013	Hispanic Population Change, 2000 to 2013	Percent Change 2000 to 2013
South Dakota	10,101	27,406	17,305	171.3%
South Carolina	94,652	252,726	158,074	167.0%
Tennessee	116,692	309,453	192,761	165.2%
Alabama	72,152	189,289	117,137	162.3%
Kentucky	56,922	141,084	84,162	147.9%
Arkansas	85,303	203,460	118,157	138.5%
Maryland	230,992	531,370	300,378	130.0%
North Carolina	377,084	866,936	489,852	129.9%
North Dakota	7,429	16,387	8,958	120.6%
Delaware	37,811	81,066	43,255	114.4%

During the period 2000 to 2013, the overall U.S. Hispanic population grew 53.3 percent.

This study is intended to report the latest national information available at the time of writing on Hispanic homicide victimization and suicide in the United States, the role of firearms in homicide and suicide, and overall gun death figures.<sup>7</sup> Recognizing this demographic landscape, the importance of documenting such victimization is clear.

## AVAILABLE NATIONAL DATA ON HISPANIC LETHAL VICTIMIZATION

The two major sources of national lethal victimization information — public health and criminal justice records — include Hispanic ethnicity as well as race, but unfortunately in a manner that is neither comprehensive nor consistent.

- The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services maintains national public health data as recorded by death certificates and compiled by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).<sup>8</sup> The CDC collects mortality data that includes homicides, suicides, and unintentional deaths. While the CDC data is the most comprehensive available to measure *total* fatal victimization in each category as well as age and race/ethnicity, it lacks the additional information categories contained in the FBI's *Supplementary Homicide Report* for homicides.

6 *Statistical Portrait of the Hispanic Population in the United States, 1980 - 2013*, Renee Stepler and Anna Brown, Pew Research Center, Hispanic Trends, May 12, 2015 (<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2015/05/12/statistical-portrait-of-hispanics-in-the-united-states-1980-2013/>), data obtained from Table 43a of the study "Hispanic Population, by State: 1980 - 2013" contained in "Trend Data" under heading "Region and Top Five States of Residence."

7 In 2013, there were 49 unintentional deaths of Hispanics involving firearms.

8 The CDC also maintains the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) (<http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nvdrs/>), a public health surveillance and reporting system that records more detailed data on violent deaths through the review of additional resources, such as death certificates, coroner/medical examiner reports, law enforcement reports, and information from crime laboratories to aid in the development of violence-reduction approaches. Currently NVDRS data is available from 32 states (Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin) and does not include California or Texas. Recognizing these geographic limitations it will not be used for this report. From 2005 through 2008, California participated in NVDRS, but according to the California Department of Public Health, "Unfortunately, due to its size, decentralized government, privacy concerns and lack of resources among law enforcement agencies, California was unable to obtain law enforcement records required by NVDRS and could not reapply for funding." Although not part of NVDRS, California's Electronic Violent Death Reporting System (CalEVDRS) reports that as of 2010 there were 14 counties contributing data to the system, "boosting our multi-source data on violent deaths to approximately 57% of the state's total and two-thirds of all homicides in California," (<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/Pages/CalEVDRS.aspx>).



- The U.S. Department of Justice is the repository of national criminal justice records. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) compiles data on reported crime, including homicide, through its *Uniform Crime Report (UCR)* and its *Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR)*. Homicide-related information that is unique to the *SHR* includes: the age of both the victim and offender; the circumstances surrounding the homicide; the relationship of the victim to the offender; and, more detailed information on the type of weapon used, including whether a gun used was a handgun, rifle, or shotgun.

While the FBI's *Supplementary Homicide Report* offers the most information available on homicide at the national level, the data — especially in the context of reporting ethnicity — is limited. For example, in the *SHR* data used for this report, information on the Hispanic ethnicity of homicide victims was available for only 15 of the 50 states.<sup>9</sup> The FBI *does not* collect data on suicides or unintentional deaths.

Recognizing the strengths and limitations of each of these two separate data sets, this study will utilize 2013 CDC data (the most recent available at time of writing) for information on Hispanic homicide, suicide, and overall gun death; leading causes of death; and, the use of firearms in Hispanic homicide and suicide. It will utilize 2012 FBI data (the most recent available at time of writing) for information on homicide not contained in the CDC data.

**Section One: Public Health Data.** Using this data for Hispanics we will: rank the leading causes of death, including homicide and suicide; detail the number of homicides and suicides, gender, and the victimization rates; and, present historical data on Hispanic homicide, suicide, and overall gun death.

**Section Two: Criminal Justice Data.** Using this information, we will detail for Hispanics: the types of firearms used in homicide; the relationship of homicide victims to their offenders; and, the circumstances of the homicides.

**Section Three: Conclusion** offers policy recommendations based on the study's findings.

<sup>9</sup> In 2012, the most recent year for which data was available at the time of writing, all states with the exception of Alabama and Florida participated in the *SHR*. In the *SHR* data used for this report, information on the Hispanic ethnicity of homicide victims was reported *only* for the following states: Arizona, California, Georgia, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Washington. Three-quarters of all the victims for which Hispanic ethnicity is known live in California (51 percent) and Texas (24 percent).

## SECTION ONE: PUBLIC HEALTH DATA

In 2013, the most recent year for which complete data is available, nearly 3,000 Hispanics were killed by firearms in the United States. Between 1999 and 2013, more than 47,000 Hispanics were killed by guns.

**Figure 3: Hispanic Firearm Deaths in the United States, 1999 to 2013**

Year	Homicide	Suicide	Unintentional	Other*	Total
1999	1,939	794	66	79	2,878
2000	1,958	813	59	61	2,891
2001	2,123	798	86	80	3,087
2002	2,168	834	60	81	3,143
2003	2,316	835	71	97	3,319
2004	2,241	888	56	93	3,278
2005	2,453	824	95	97	3,469
2006	2,472	817	66	109	3,464
2007	2,385	931	65	111	3,492
2008	2,260	863	39	94	3,256
2009	2,115	955	47	85	3,202
2010	1,919	962	37	90	3,008
2011	1,831	946	52	118	2,947
2012	1,870	1,023	48	120	3,061
2013	1,750	1,034	49	118	2,951
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,800</b>	<b>13,317</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>1,433</b>	<b>47,446</b>

\* "Other" includes legal intervention and undetermined intent.

For the general population in 2013, violent causes of death ranked 10th (suicide) and 16th (homicide) among all leading causes of death. These data for the general population, however, mask stark racial and ethnic differences.

### HOMICIDE

In 2013, there were 2,571 Hispanic victims of homicide in the United States. The Hispanic homicide victimization rate for that year was 4.75 per 100,000. In comparison, the overall homicide victimization rate for that year was 5.10 per 100,000, the black homicide victimization rate was 19.48 per 100,000, and the white homicide victimization rate was 2.50 per 100,000.

While nationally homicide ranked 16th among all leading causes of death, for Hispanics it ranked 12th, and for blacks it ranked eighth. For whites, homicide did not rank among the 20 leading causes of death (the cut-off point for reported data).

**Figure 4: Ranking of Homicide as the Leading Cause of Death for General Population, All Races, and Hispanics, 2013**

Race or Ethnicity for Both Sexes, All Ages	Ranking of Homicide, Any Means, Leading Cause of Death
General Population	16
Hispanic	12
American Indian/Alaska Native	13
Asian/Pacific Islander	20
Black	8
White	Unknown, lower than 20*

\* The ranking for whites is unknown because the ranking fell out of the reportable range (down to 20th leading cause) of the reported data.

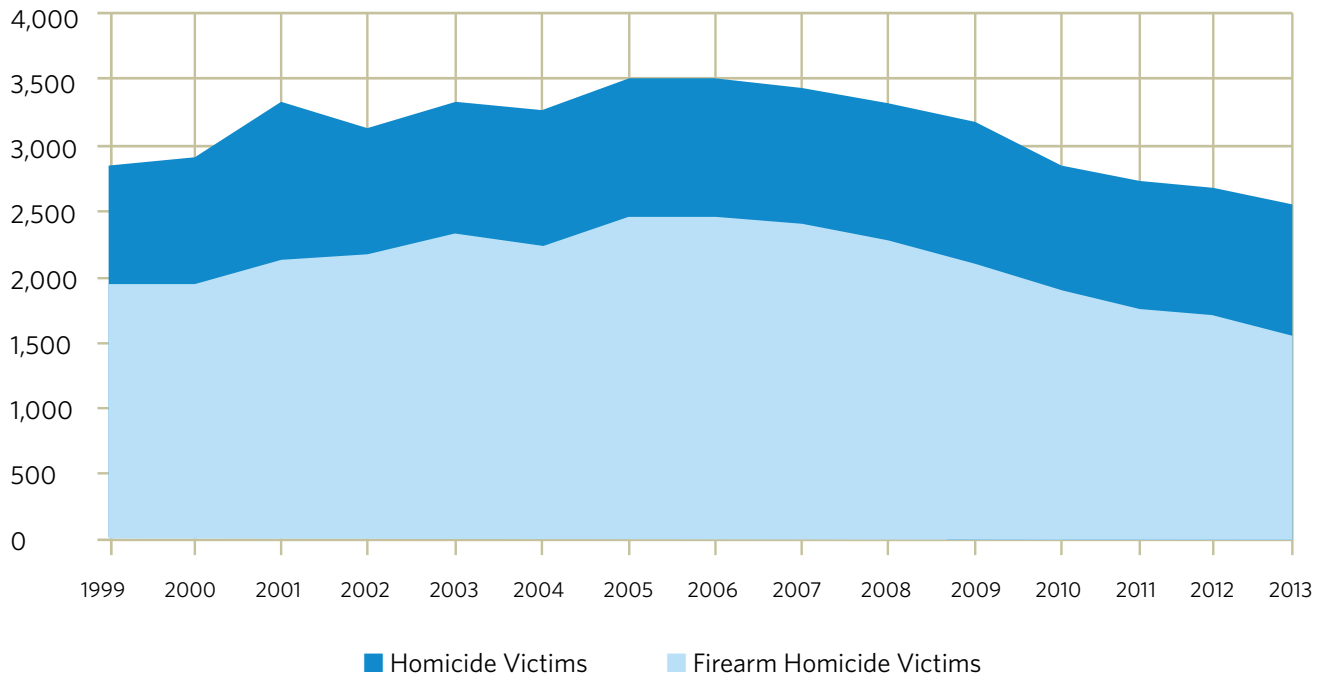
Looking at youth and young adults, however, in 2013, homicide ranked as the second leading cause of death for Hispanics ages 15 to 24. Homicide ranked as the leading cause of death for blacks in this age group, third for American Indian/Alaska Natives, and fourth for both Asian/Pacific Islanders and whites.

**Figure 5: Ranking of Homicide as the Leading Cause of Death, Ages 15 to 24, for General Population, All Races, and Hispanics, 2013**

Both Sexes, Ages 15 to 24	Ranking of Homicide, Any Means, Leading Cause of Death	Percentage of Victims Killed With a Firearm
General Population	3	86%
Hispanic	2	81%
American Indian/Alaska Native	3	66%
Asian/Pacific Islander	4	76%
Black	1	92%
White	4	69%

In 2013, 68 percent of Hispanic homicide victims were killed with firearms. (Because the CDC data does not report what type of firearm — handgun, rifle, or shotgun — was used in the homicide, this question is addressed in *Section Two* of this report using 2012 data from the FBI’s *Supplementary Homicide Report*.) During the period 1999 to 2013, more than two-thirds of all Hispanic homicide victims were killed with firearms (68 percent).

**Figure 6: Hispanic Homicide Victims and Hispanic Firearm Homicide Victims, 1999 to 2013**



**Figure 7: Number of Homicide Victims, Homicide Rate, and Percentage Killed With a Firearm, Hispanic Victims, 1999 to 2013**

Year	Homicide Victims	Homicide Rate per 100,000	Percentage Killed With a Firearm
1999	2,864	8.44	68%
2000	2,917	8.26	67%
2001	3,331	8.97	64%
2002	3,129	8.10	69%
2003	3,355	8.38	69%
2004	3,271	7.88	69%
2005	3,520	8.18	70%
2006	3,524	7.90	70%
2007	3,466	7.50	69%
2008	3,331	6.97	68%
2009	3,179	6.44	67%
2010	2,890	5.73	66%
2011	2,759	5.32	66%
2012	2,740	5.17	68%
2013	2,571	4.75	68%

Hispanic victims of firearm homicide are overwhelmingly male. In 2013, 87 percent of Hispanic victims of firearm homicide were male. In comparison, 70 percent of white firearm homicide victims were male. Ninety percent of black firearm homicide victims were male, as were 84 percent of American Indian/Alaska Native victims and 74 percent of Asian victims.

**Figure 8: Firearm Homicide Victims by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex, 2013**

Race	Male Victims	Percent	Female Victims	Percent	Total Victims
Hispanic	1,530	87%	220	13%	1,750
American Indian/Alaska Native	78	84%	15	16%	93
Asian/Pacific Islander	125	74%	45	26%	170
Black	5,732	90%	632	10%	6,364
White	1,950	70%	849	30%	2,799
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,445</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>1,763</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>11,208</b>

### SUICIDE

While nationally suicide ranked 10th among all leading causes of death in 2013, for Hispanics it ranked 11th. For American Indian/Alaska Natives it ranked 8th, for whites it ranked 9th, for Asian/Pacific Islanders it ranked 10th, and for blacks it ranked 16th.

**Figure 9: Ranking of Suicide as the Leading Cause of Death for General Population, for All Races and Hispanics, 2013**

Total (Both Sexes, All Ages)	Ranking of Suicide, Any Means, Leading Cause of Death
General Population	10
Hispanic	11
American Indian/Alaska Native	8
Asian/Pacific Islander	10
Black	16
White	9

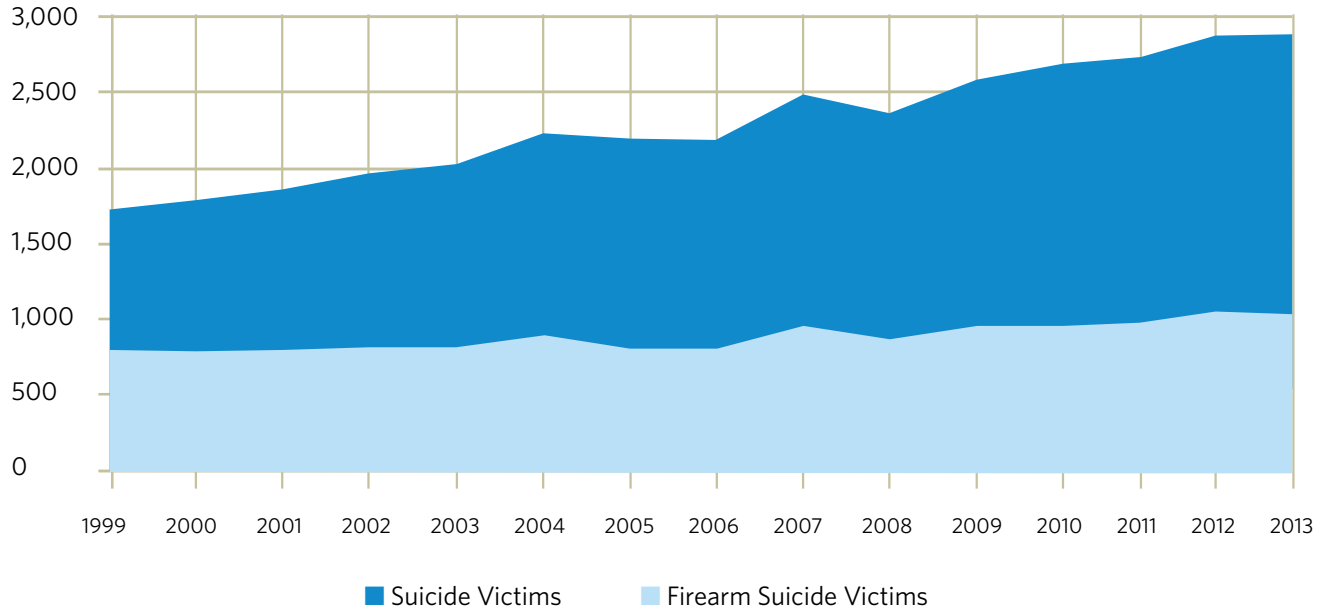
Looking at youth and young adults, however, in 2013 suicide ranked as the third leading cause of death for Hispanics ages 15 to 24. Suicide also ranked as the third leading cause of death for blacks in this age group, and it ranked second for Asian/Pacific Islanders, American Indian/Alaska Natives, and whites.

**Figure 10: Ranking of Suicide as the Leading Cause of Death, Ages 15 to 24, for General Population, All Races, and Hispanics, 2013**

Both Sexes, Ages 15 to 24	Ranking of Suicide, Any Means, Leading Cause of Death	Percentage of Victims Killed With a Firearm
General Population	2	45%
Hispanic	3	33%
American Indian/Alaska Native	2	35%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2	23%
Black	3	43%
White	2	50%

During the period 1999 to 2013, 39 percent of all Hispanics who took their own lives did so with a firearm.

**Figure 11: Hispanic Suicide Victims and Hispanic Firearm Suicide Victims, 1999 to 2013**



**Figure 12: Number of Suicide Victims, Suicide Rate, Percentage Killed With a Firearm, Hispanic Victims, 1999 to 2013**

Year	Suicide Victims	Suicide Rate	Percentage Killed With a Firearm
1999	1,695	4.99	47%
2000	1,787	5.06	45%
2001	1,850	4.98	43%
2002	1,954	5.06	43%
2003	2,007	5.01	42%
2004	2,207	5.32	40%
2005	2,188	5.09	38%
2006	2,177	4.88	38%
2007	2,465	5.34	38%
2008	2,345	4.91	37%
2009	2,573	5.22	37%
2010	2,661	5.27	36%
2011	2,720	5.24	35%
2012	2,837	5.36	36%
2013	2,865	5.30	36%

**GENDER**

For all races, victims of firearm suicide are overwhelmingly male. In 2013, 88 percent of Hispanic victims of firearm suicide were male. Ninety percent of black firearm suicide victims were male, as were 89 percent of American Indian/Alaska Native victims, and 86 percent of both white victims and Asian/Pacific Islander victims.

**Figure 13: Firearm Suicide Victims by Race and Sex, 2013**

Race	Male Victims	Percent	Female Victims	Percent	Total Victims
Hispanic	910	88%	124	12%	1,034
American Indian/Alaska Native	166	89%	21	11%	187
Asian/Pacific Islander	230	86%	37	14%	267
Black	965	90%	107	10%	1,072
White	15,921	86%	2,640	14%	18,561
Total	18,241	86%	2,934	14%	21,175

## SECTION TWO: CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA

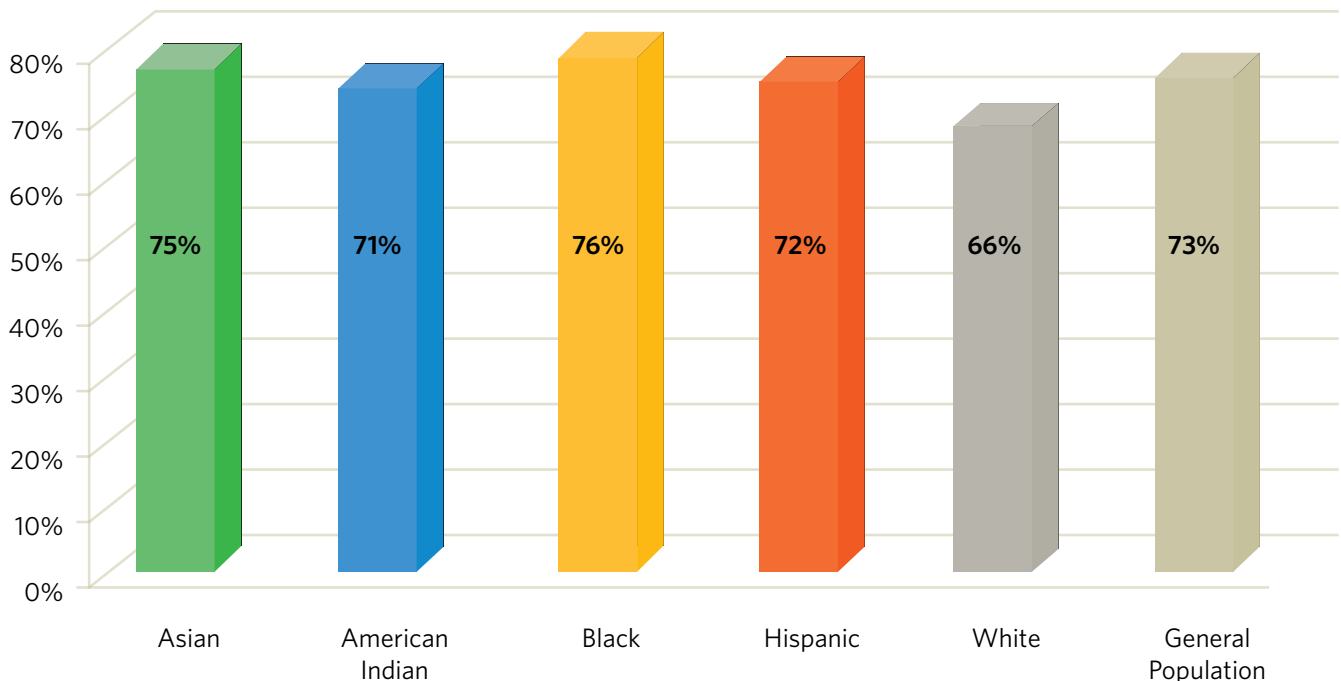
As noted in the prior section, while data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers the most comprehensive tally of Hispanic lethal victimization, it offers very limited data on the type of firearms used in homicides and no information on the factors surrounding the homicide (e.g., victim to offender relationship, circumstances, gang involvement). The FBI's annual *Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR)* does report such information, albeit on a smaller number of incidents.<sup>10 11</sup>

In 2012, the *Supplementary Homicide Report* contained data for 1,558 Hispanic homicide victims. This section details data unique to the *SHR* data set for these deaths.<sup>12</sup>

### TYPES OF FIREARMS USED IN HOMICIDES

In 2012, where the type of weapon<sup>13</sup> used in the homicide could be determined, for Hispanic victims, 72 percent of all gun homicides involved a handgun. In comparison, handguns were used in 76 percent of black homicides involving a gun and 66 percent of white homicides involving a gun. Overall, handguns were the most prevalent firearm used in homicides in 2012 (73 percent).

**Figure 14: Percentage of Firearm Homicides Involving Handguns, by Race and Ethnicity, 2012**



10 The *SHR* provides incident-based information on criminal homicides. The data, provided monthly by reporting agencies, contain information describing the victim(s) of the homicide, the offender(s), the relationship between victim and offender, the weapon used, and the circumstance of the incident.

11 In 2013, the most recent year available, the CDC reported 2,571 Hispanic homicide deaths, of which 1,750 involved a firearm. The FBI's *SHR* reported that in 2012 (the most recent year available) there were 1,558 Hispanic homicide victims of which 1,074 involved a firearm.

12 Abbreviated titles are used for two racial categories: American Indian also includes Alaska Natives and Asian also includes Pacific Islanders.

13 The definition of weapons includes the following categories: firearms (i.e., types unknown, handguns, rifles, shotguns, and other firearms); knives and other cutting instruments; blunt object; using the body as a weapon (i.e., fists, feet, teeth, etc.); poison; narcotics or drugs; explosives; strangulation/hanging; asphyxiation; drowning; fire; and defenestration, as well as other types.



## RELATIONSHIP OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS TO OFFENDERS

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, Hispanic victims were more likely to be killed by a stranger (36 percent). In comparison, 30 percent of black victims were killed by a stranger and 21 percent of white victims were killed by a stranger. Overall, 26 percent of homicide victims were killed by a stranger.

Of victims who knew their offenders, 20 percent of Hispanic victims were intimate acquaintances of the offender.<sup>14</sup> In comparison, 28 percent of white victims and 18 percent of black victims were intimate acquaintances of the offender. For the overall population, 24 percent of homicide victims were intimate acquaintances of the offender.

## CIRCUMSTANCES OF HOMICIDES

For all races, for homicides in which the circumstances could be determined, 71 percent were not related to the commission of another felony.<sup>15</sup> For Hispanics, 74 percent of the homicides were not related to the commission of another felony. Seventy-one percent of white homicides and 69 percent of black homicides were not related to the commission of another felony.

For all races, of the homicides not related to the commission of another felony, 51 percent involved arguments between the victim and the offender and two percent involved brawls due to alcohol or drugs.

Forty-one percent of Hispanics killed in homicides not related to the commission of another felony were killed during arguments (compared to 52 percent of black victims and 53 percent of white victims). Two percent of Hispanics killed in homicides not related to the commission of another felony were killed in brawls due to alcohol or drugs (compared to four percent of white victims and one percent of black victims).

For all races, gang-related killings<sup>16</sup> accounted for 13 percent of the homicides not related to the commission of another felony.<sup>17</sup> For Hispanics, of the homicides not related to the commission of another felony, 32 percent were gang-related, compared to 15 percent for black victims and five percent for white victims.

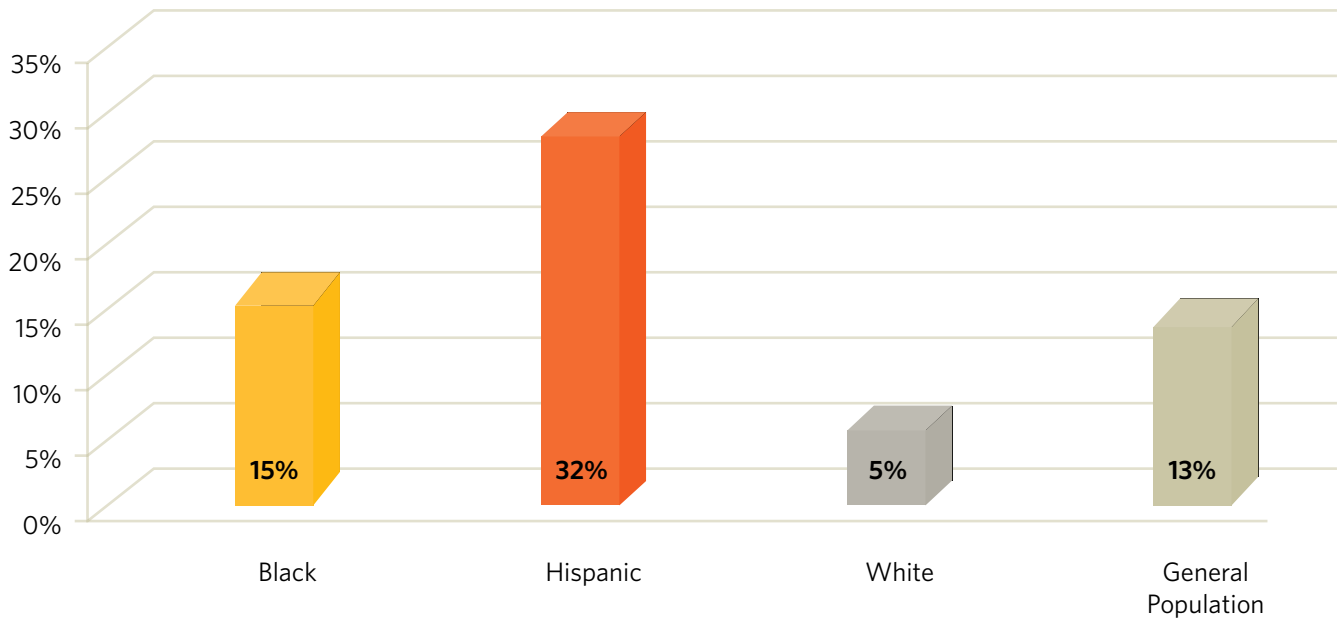
14 An intimate acquaintance is defined as a boyfriend/girlfriend, common-law husband/common-law wife, homosexual relationship, husband/wife, or ex-husband/ex-wife. There is no designation for ex-boyfriend/ex-girlfriend in the *SHR*.

15 The felony murder category refers to killings that occur in conjunction with the commission of another crime such as rape, robbery, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, prostitution and commercialized vice, other sex offenses, narcotic drug laws, gambling, and other types of unspecified crimes.

16 The category "Gangland-related/gang killings" involves both gangland-related homicides involving adult offenders and victims, representing a type of organized crime killing, as well as juvenile gang killings, which involve youth gangs.

17 Nearly half (47 percent) of the recorded gang-related homicides in the 2012 *SHR* were committed in California, which may be in part due to more comprehensive reporting.

**Figure 15: Percentage of Homicides Not Related to Another Felony That Were Gang-Related, by Race and Ethnicity, 2012**



**AGE OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS AND GANG INVOLVEMENT**

For all victims, 32 percent of homicide victims were age 24 or younger. For Hispanic victims, 37 percent of homicide victims were age 24 and younger. In comparison, 38 percent of black homicide victims were age 24 and younger and 21 percent of white victims were age 24 and younger.

But for gang-related homicides, 57 percent of the victims were age 24 and younger. For Hispanic homicides that were gang-related, 63 percent were age 24 and younger. In comparison, 53 percent of black gang-related victims were age 24 and younger and 58 percent of white gang-related victims were age 24 or younger.

**Figure 16: Victims Age 24 and Younger as a Percentage of All Homicides and Gang-Related Homicides**

Race	Percentage of All Homicides, Victims Age 24 and Younger	Percentage of Gang-Related Homicides, Victims Age 24 and Younger
Hispanic	37%	63%
Black	38%	53%
White	21%	58%
All Races	32%	57%

## SECTION THREE: CONCLUSION

Hispanics in the United States are disproportionately affected by firearms violence. Because of limited data collection, the true scale of gun violence's effect on Hispanic men, women, and children is not fully known. What cannot be denied is that due to these limits in data collection, the total number of Hispanic victims of gun violence is almost certainly higher than the reported numbers suggest.

Comprehensive, reliable, and continuing public health and criminal justice data is necessary for effective violence prevention policies to save lives, protect families, and ensure healthy communities. This is true not only for the Hispanic population, but for all Americans.

Recognizing this, governmental agencies that collect data on death and injury should obtain complete information on the ethnic origin of individuals in addition to their race. This will ensure complete and accurate data collection on Hispanic victims of lethal violence, aid in violence prevention policies, and save lives. Specific recommendations toward this goal include the following.

- Individual-level ethnic origin information should be captured by all governmental agencies, regardless of department, and at all levels — local, state, and national — for all pertinent users and subjects of agency services.
- Individual-level ethnic origin information should be self-reported and not based solely on a person's surname or other measure.
- All public access data and published reports issued by governmental agencies should include information on ethnic origin in addition to race.
- The U.S. Department of Justice — specifically, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Justice Statistics — should issue periodic or special reports on Hispanic victimization.
- States with a substantial proportion of Hispanic residents should issue periodic or special reports on Hispanic victimization and deaths due to all causes, including violence.

## Appendix One: The 50 States and the District of Columbia Hispanic Population Data, 2013<sup>18</sup>

State	Hispanic Population	Total Population	Hispanic Share of State Population	Share of all U.S. Hispanics
Alabama	189,289	4,833,722	3.9	0.4
Alaska	48,844	735,132	6.6	0.1
Arizona	2,004,279	6,626,624	30.2	3.7
Arkansas	203,460	2,959,373	6.9	0.4
California	14,716,321	38,332,521	38.4	27.3
Colorado	1,108,736	5,268,367	21.0	2.1
Connecticut	527,225	3,596,080	14.7	1.0
Delaware	81,066	925,749	8.8	0.2
District of Columbia	65,921	646,449	10.2	0.1
Florida	4,620,459	19,552,860	23.6	8.6
Georgia	906,788	9,992,167	9.1	1.7
Hawaii	138,367	1,404,054	9.9	0.3
Idaho	190,164	1,612,136	11.8	0.4
Illinois	2,118,365	12,882,135	16.4	3.9
Indiana	419,467	6,570,902	6.4	0.8
Iowa	166,495	3,090,416	5.4	0.3
Kansas	321,871	2,893,957	11.1	0.6
Kentucky	141,084	4,395,295	3.2	0.3
Louisiana	218,686	4,625,470	4.7	0.4
Maine	17,115	1,328,302	1.3	Less than 0.1
Maryland	531,370	5,928,814	9.0	1.0
Massachusetts	703,527	6,692,824	10.5	1.3
Michigan	466,106	9,895,622	4.7	0.9
Minnesota	263,974	5,420,380	4.9	0.5
Mississippi	79,501	2,991,207	2.7	0.1
Missouri	226,975	6,044,171	3.8	0.4
Montana	32,595	1,015,165	3.2	0.1
Nebraska	183,474	1,868,516	9.8	0.3
Nevada	767,687	2,790,136	27.5	1.4
New Hampshire	41,085	1,323,459	3.1	0.1
New Jersey	1,684,587	8,899,339	18.9	3.1
New Mexico	986,717	2,085,287	47.3	1.8
New York	3,608,581	19,651,127	18.4	6.7

18 *Statistical Portrait of the Hispanic Population in the United States, 1980 - 2013*, Renee Stepler and Anna Brown, Pew Research Center, Hispanic Trends, May 12, 2015 (<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2015/05/12/statistical-portrait-of-hispanics-in-the-united-states-1980-2013/>), data obtained from Table 43 of the study "Hispanic Population, by State: 2013" contained in "Current Data" under heading "Region and Top Five States of Residence" with additional calculations conducted by the Violence Policy Center.

State	Hispanic Population	Total Population	Hispanic Share of State Population	Share of all U.S. Hispanics
North Carolina	866,936	9,848,060	8.8	1.6
North Dakota	16,387	723,393	2.3	Less than 0.1
Ohio	380,444	11,570,808	3.3	0.7
Oklahoma	370,083	3,850,568	9.6	0.7
Oregon	482,661	3,930,065	12.3	0.9
Pennsylvania	803,174	12,773,801	6.3	1.5
Rhode Island	142,861	1,051,511	13.6	0.3
South Carolina	252,726	4,774,839	5.3	0.5
South Dakota	27,406	844,877	3.2	0.1
Tennessee	309,453	6,495,978	4.8	0.6
Texas	10,155,002	26,448,193	38.4	18.8
Utah	388,211	2,900,872	13.4	0.7
Vermont	9,245	626,630	1.5	Less than 0.1
Virginia	706,965	8,260,405	8.6	1.3
Washington	832,729	6,971,406	11.9	1.5
West Virginia	25,634	1,854,304	1.4	Less than 0.1
Wisconsin	362,244	5,742,713	6.3	0.7
Wyoming	51,893	582,658	8.9	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,964,235</b>	<b>316,128,839</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## Appendix Two: The 50 States and the District of Columbia Hispanic Firearm Death Data, 2013<sup>19</sup>

State	Hispanic Firearm Deaths	Death Rate per 100,000
Alabama	16	8.08
Alaska	*	*
Arizona	182	9.08
Arkansas	*	*
California	852	5.79
Colorado	91	8.21
Connecticut	15	2.85
Delaware	*	*
District of Columbia	*	*
Florida	274	5.93
Georgia	44	4.80
Hawaii	*	*
Idaho	*	*
Illinois	99	4.67
Indiana	30	7.10
Iowa	*	*
Kansas	19	5.87
Kentucky	*	*
Louisiana	17	7.84
Maine	*	*
Maryland	11	2.07
Massachusetts	37	5.26
Michigan	27	5.79
Minnesota	12	4.44
Mississippi	*	*
Missouri	15	6.44
Montana	*	*
Nebraska	*	*
Nevada	42	5.48
New Hampshire	*	*
New Jersey	61	3.62
New Mexico	129	13.08
New York	70	1.94
North Carolina	31	3.55
North Dakota	*	*

19 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's WISQARS (Web-Based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System) database (<http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>).

State	Hispanic Firearm Deaths	Death Rate per 100,000
Ohio	12	3.08
Oklahoma	25	6.76
Oregon	19	3.93
Pennsylvania	66	8.17
Rhode Island	12	8.40
South Carolina	13	5.10
South Dakota	*	*
Tennessee	10	3.13
Texas	551	5.43
Utah	30	7.74
Vermont	*	*
Virginia	20	2.81
Washington	43	5.17
West Virginia	*	*
Wisconsin	11	3.02
Wyoming	*	*
<b>United States</b>	<b>2,951</b>	<b>5.46</b>

\* State level counts and rates based on fewer than 10 deaths have been suppressed by the National Center for Health Statistics.

### Appendix Three: Change in the Hispanic Population by State, 2000 to 2013<sup>20</sup>

State	2013 Hispanic Population	2000 Hispanic Population	Change in Hispanic Population, 2000 to 2013	Percent change, 2000 to 2013
South Dakota	27,406	10,101	17,305	171.3
South Carolina	252,726	94,652	158,074	167.0
Tennessee	309,453	116,692	192,761	165.2
Alabama	189,289	72,152	117,137	162.3
Kentucky	141,084	56,922	84,162	147.9
Arkansas	203,460	85,303	118,157	138.5
Maryland	531,370	230,992	300,378	130.0
North Carolina	866,936	377,084	489,852	129.9
North Dakota	16,387	7,429	8,958	120.6
Delaware	81,066	37,811	43,255	114.4
Mississippi	79,501	37,301	42,200	113.1
Oklahoma	370,083	173,746	196,337	113.0
Virginia	706,965	333,482	373,483	112.0
Georgia	906,788	434,375	472,413	108.8
Iowa	166,495	80,204	86,291	107.6
Pennsylvania	803,174	399,736	403,438	100.9
West Virginia	25,634	12,925	12,709	98.3
Nebraska	183,474	92,836	90,638	97.6
Louisiana	218,686	111,634	107,052	95.9
Indiana	419,467	214,750	204,717	95.3
Nevada	767,687	393,397	374,290	95.1
Utah	388,211	201,203	187,008	92.9
Missouri	226,975	118,235	108,740	92.0
New Hampshire	41,085	21,536	19,549	90.8
Alaska	48,844	25,742	23,102	89.7
Idaho	190,164	100,271	89,893	89.7
Wisconsin	362,244	191,097	171,147	89.6
Washington	832,729	444,718	388,011	87.2
Minnesota	263,974	142,732	121,242	84.9
Oregon	482,661	273,209	209,452	76.7
Vermont	9,245	5,260	3,985	75.8
Montana	32,595	18,568	14,027	75.5
Wyoming	51,893	29,751	22,142	74.4

<sup>20</sup> *Statistical Portrait of the Hispanic Population in the United States, 1980 - 2013*, Renee Stepler and Anna Brown, Pew Research Center, Hispanic Trends, May 12, 2015 (<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2015/05/12/statistical-portrait-of-hispanics-in-the-united-states-1980-2013/>), data obtained from Table 43a of the study "Hispanic Population, by State: 1980 - 2013" contained in "Trend Data" under heading "Region and Top Five States of Residence" with additional calculations conducted by the Violence Policy Center.



State	2013 Hispanic Population	2000 Hispanic Population	Change in Hispanic Population, 2000 to 2013	Percent change, 2000 to 2013
Ohio	380,444	218,350	162,094	74.2
Florida	4,620,459	2,673,654	1,946,805	72.8
Kansas	321,871	186,340	135,531	72.7
Connecticut	527,225	319,463	207,762	65.0
Massachusetts	703,527	428,530	274,997	64.2
Maine	17,115	10,718	6,397	59.7
Rhode Island	142,861	89,870	52,991	59.0
Hawaii	138,367	87,853	50,514	57.5
Arizona	2,004,279	1,292,152	712,127	55.1
Texas	10,155,002	6,653,338	3,501,664	52.6
New Jersey	1,684,587	1,117,604	566,983	50.7
Colorado	1,108,736	735,769	372,967	50.7
District of Columbia	65,921	44,092	21,829	49.5
Michigan	466,106	330,952	135,154	40.8
Illinois	2,118,365	1,527,145	591,220	38.7
California	14,716,321	10,928,470	3,787,851	34.7
New Mexico	986,717	759,343	227,374	29.9
New York	3,608,581	2,854,991	753,590	26.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,964,235</b>	<b>35,204,480</b>	<b>18,759,755</b>	<b>53.3</b>



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