

JUNE 2016



**Violence Policy Center**

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

2016 EDITION

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This study was funded with the support of The Herb Block Foundation and The Joyce Foundation.

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This study is also available in Spanish at <http://www.vpc.org/studies/hispanicesp16.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 2014 was 4.69 per 100,000. In comparison, the homicide victimization rate for whites was 2.41 per 100,000 (p. 4).
- **Homicide is the second leading cause of death for Hispanics ages 15 to 24** (p. 5).
- **In 2014, more than 3,000 Hispanics were killed by guns.** That year 1,732 Hispanics died in gun homicides, 1,114 died in gun suicides, 48 died in unintentional shootings, and 116 died in other circumstances (including legal intervention and undetermined intent) (p. 4).
- **More than 50,000 Hispanics were killed by guns between 1999 and 2014.** During this period, 33,532 Hispanics died in gun homicides, 14,431 died in gun suicides, and 944 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, 69 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 2013 shows that when the victim-to-offender relationship could be identified, 35 percent of Hispanic victims were killed by a stranger. Nationwide, 25 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 38 percent of Hispanic homicide victims in 2013 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 2014 of nearly 55.3 million, Hispanics represent 17.3 percent of the total population of the United States.<sup>2</sup>

As of 2014, 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 (14,990,679), accounts for 27.1 percent of the total U.S. Hispanic population.<sup>4</sup>

**Figure 1: Top 10 States by Hispanic Population, 2014<sup>5</sup>**

State	Hispanic Population	Total Population	Percent of Total State Population That is Hispanic	Percent of Total U.S. Hispanic Population
California	14,990,679	38,802,500	38.6	27.1
Texas	10,404,856	26,956,958	38.6	18.8
Florida	4,789,830	19,893,297	24.1	8.7
New York	3,668,399	19,746,227	18.6	6.6
Illinois	2,152,630	12,880,580	16.7	3.9
Arizona	2,056,370	6,731,484	30.5	3.7
New Jersey	1,729,745	8,938,175	19.4	3.1
Colorado	1,136,022	5,355,866	21.2	2.1
New Mexico	993,908	2,085,572	47.7	1.8
Georgia	923,184	10,097,343	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 Hispanics in the United States*, Renee Stepler and Anna Brown, Pew Research Center, Hispanic Trends, April 19, 2016 (<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2016/04/19/statistical-portrait-of-hispanics-in-the-united-states/>).

3 *Statistical Portrait of Hispanics in the United States*, Renee Stepler and Anna Brown, Pew Research Center, Hispanic Trends, April 19, 2016 (<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2016/04/19/statistical-portrait-of-hispanics-in-the-united-states/>), data obtained from Table 44, "Hispanic Population, by State: 2014."

4 *Statistical Portrait of Hispanics in the United States*, Renee Stepler and Anna Brown, Pew Research Center, Hispanic Trends, April 19, 2016 (<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2016/04/19/statistical-portrait-of-hispanics-in-the-united-states/>), data obtained from Table 45, "Distribution of Hispanics Across States: 2014."

5 *Statistical Portrait of Hispanics in the United States*, Renee Stepler and Anna Brown, Pew Research Center, Hispanic Trends, April 19, 2016 (<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2016/04/19/statistical-portrait-of-hispanics-in-the-united-states/>), data obtained from Table 44, "Hispanic Population, by State: 2014" and Table 45, "Distribution of Hispanics Across States: 2014."

**Figure 2: Growth in Hispanic Population Among 10 Fastest Growing Hispanic States, 2000 to 2014<sup>6</sup>**

State	Hispanic Population in 2000	Hispanic Population in 2014	Hispanic Population Change, 2000 to 2014	Percent Change 2000 to 2014
South Dakota	10,101	29,285	19,184	189.9
Tennessee	116,692	321,898	205,206	175.9
South Carolina	94,652	257,759	163,107	172.3
Alabama	72,152	190,249	118,097	163.7
Kentucky	56,922	144,671	87,749	154.2
Arkansas	85,303	205,487	120,184	140.9
North Dakota	7,429	17,878	10,449	140.7
Maryland	230,992	555,821	324,829	140.6
North Carolina	377,084	890,446	513,362	136.1
Virginia	333,482	732,435	398,953	119.6

During the period 2000 to 2014, the overall U.S. Hispanic population grew 56.9 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 Hispanics in the United States, Renee Stepler and Anna Brown, Pew Research Center, Hispanic Trends, April 19, 2016 (<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2016/04/19/statistical-portrait-of-hispanics-in-the-united-states/>), data obtained from Table 44a - Trend, "Hispanic Population, by State: 1980-2014 with additional calculations by the Violence Policy Center.

7 In 2014, there were 48 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, Vermont, Virginia, 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 20 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 2014 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 2013 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.

9 In 2013, 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, Connecticut, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Washington. Nearly three-quarters of all the victims for which Hispanic ethnicity is known live in California (51 percent) and Texas (23 percent).

## SECTION ONE: PUBLIC HEALTH DATA

In 2014, the most recent year for which complete data is available, more than 3,000 Hispanics were killed by firearms in the United States. Between 1999 and 2014, more than 50,000 Hispanics were killed by guns.

**Figure 3: Hispanic Firearm Deaths in the United States, 1999 to 2014**

Year	Firearm Homicide	Firearm Suicide	Firearm Unintentional	Other Firearm Deaths*	Total Firearm Deaths
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
2014	1,732	1,114	48	116	3,010
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,532</b>	<b>14,431</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>1,549</b>	<b>50,456</b>

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

For the general population in 2014, violent causes of death ranked 10th (suicide) and 17th (homicide) among all leading causes of death. These data for the general population, however, mask stark racial and ethnic differences.

### HOMICIDE

In 2014, there were 2,596 Hispanic victims of homicide by all means in the United States. The Hispanic homicide victimization rate for that year was 4.69 per 100,000. In comparison, the overall homicide victimization rate for that year was 4.96 per 100,000, the black homicide victimization rate was 18.74 per 100,000, and the white homicide victimization rate was 2.41 per 100,000.

While nationally homicide ranked 17th among all leading causes of death, for Hispanics it ranked 13th, 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, 2014**

Race or Ethnicity for Both Sexes, All Ages	Ranking of Homicide, Any Means, Leading Cause of Death
General Population	17
Hispanic	13
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.

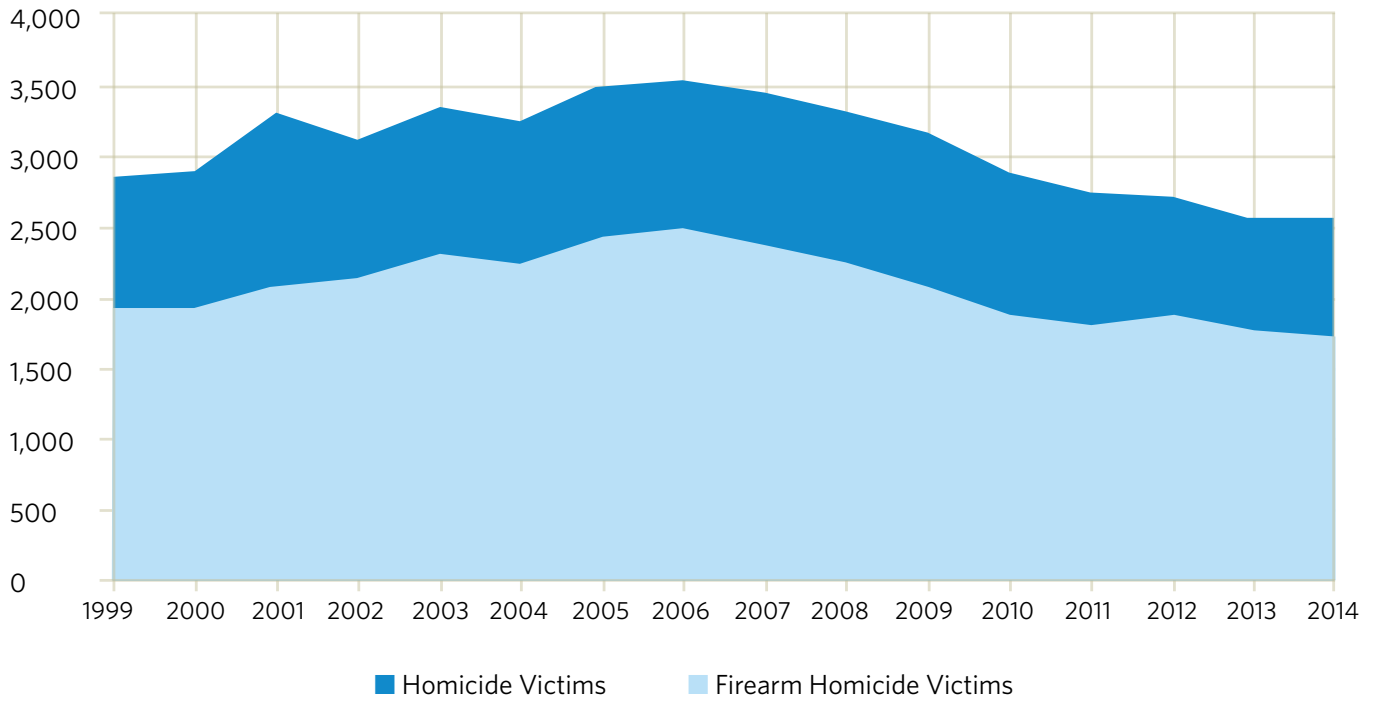
Looking at youth and young adults, however, in 2014, homicide ranked as the second leading cause of death for Hispanics ages 15 to 24. Homicide ranked as the leading cause of death for blacks in this age group, third for American Indian/Alaska Natives, and fourth for both Asian/Pacific Islanders and whites.

**Figure 5: Ranking of Homicide as the Leading Cause of Death, Ages 15 to 24, for General Population, All Races, and Hispanics, 2014**

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	87%
Hispanic	2	84%
American Indian/Alaska Native	3	59%
Asian/Pacific Islander	4	60%
Black	1	92%
White	4	69%

In 2014, 67 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 2013 data from the FBI’s *Supplementary Homicide Report*.) During the period 1999 to 2014, 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 2014**



**Figure 7: Number of Homicide Victims, Homicide Rate, and Percentage Killed With a Firearm, Hispanic Victims, 1999 to 2014**

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%
2014	2,596	4.69	67%

Hispanic victims of firearm homicide are overwhelmingly male. In 2014, 86 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 78 percent of American Indian/Alaska Native victims and 74 percent of Asian victims.

**Figure 8: Firearm Homicide Victims by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex, 2014**

Race	Male Victims	Percent	Female Victims	Percent	Total Victims
Hispanic	1,488	86%	244	14%	1,732
American Indian/Alaska Native	89	78%	24	21%	113
Asian/Pacific Islander	121	74%	43	26%	164
Black	5,607	90%	596	10%	6,203
White	1,885	70%	809	30%	2,694
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,223</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>1,722</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>10,945</b>

## SUICIDE

While nationally suicide ranked 10th among all leading causes of death in 2014, 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, 2014**

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

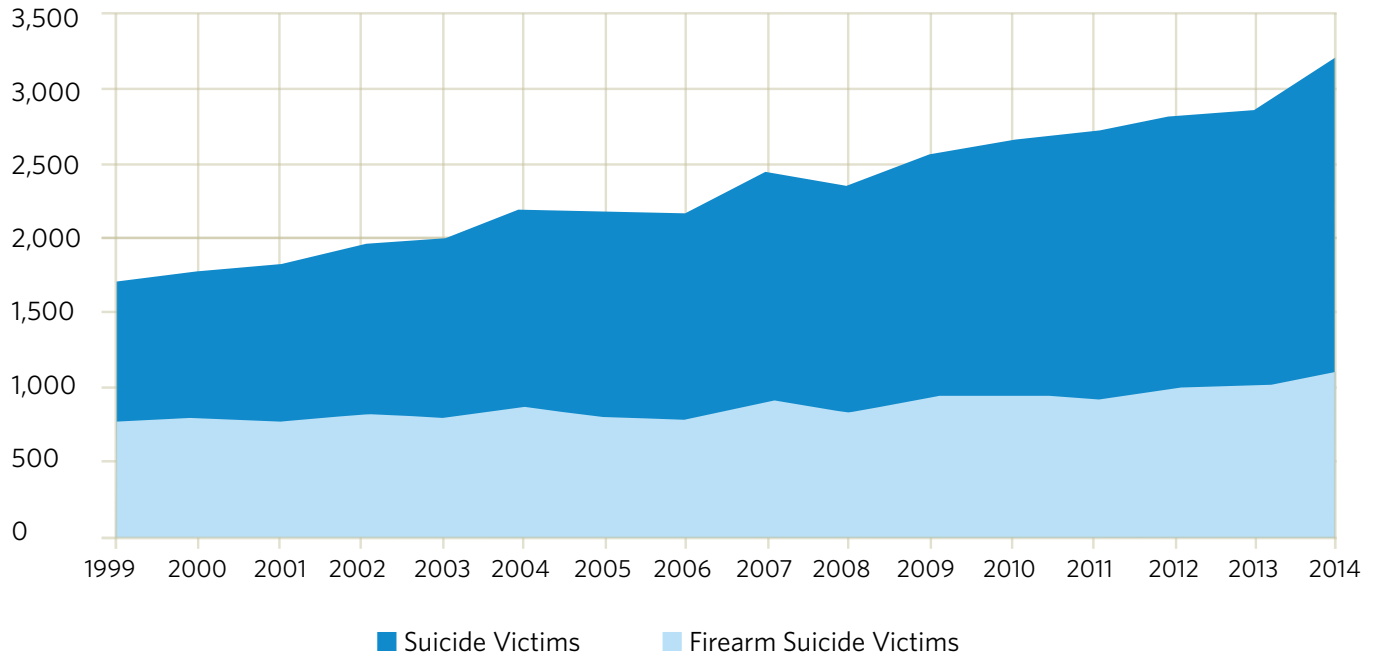
Looking at youth and young adults, however, in 2014 suicide ranked as the third leading cause of death for Hispanics ages 15 to 24. Suicide also ranked as the third leading cause of death for blacks in this age group, and it ranked second for Asian/Pacific Islanders, American Indian/Alaska Natives, and whites.

**Figure 10: Ranking of Suicide as the Leading Cause of Death, Ages 15 to 24, for General Population, All Races, and Hispanics, 2014**

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	32%
American Indian/Alaska Native	2	30%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2	23%
Black	3	46%
White	2	49%

During the period 1999 to 2014, 38 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 2014**



**Figure 12: Number of Suicide Victims, Suicide Rate, Percentage Killed With a Firearm, Hispanic Victims, 1999 to 2014**

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%
2014	3,244	5.86	34%

For all races, victims of firearm suicide are overwhelmingly male. In 2014, 89 percent of Hispanic victims of firearm suicide were male. Ninety percent of black firearm suicide victims were male, as were 87 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, 2014**

Race	Male Victims	Percent	Female Victims	Percent	Total Victims
Hispanic	994	89%	120	11%	1,114
American Indian/Alaska Native	154	87%	24	13%	178
Asian/Pacific Islander	203	86%	33	14%	236
Black	1,002	90%	117	10%	1,119
White	15,925	86%	2,694	14%	18,619
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,335</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>2,999</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>21,334</b>

## SECTION TWO: CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA

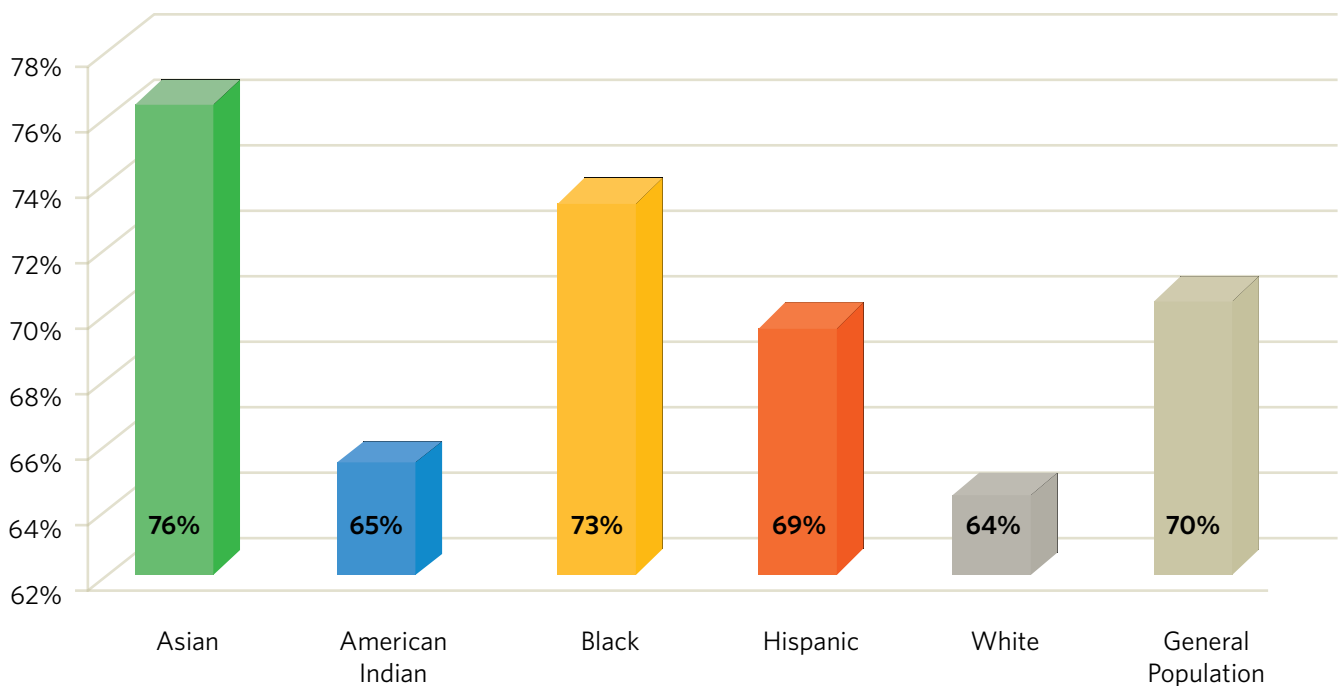
As noted in the prior section, while data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers the most comprehensive tally of Hispanic lethal victimization, it offers very limited data on the type of firearms used in homicides and no information on the factors surrounding the homicide (e.g., victim 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 2013, the *Supplementary Homicide Report* contained data for 1,477 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 2013, where the type of weapon<sup>13</sup> used in the homicide could be determined, for Hispanic victims, 69 percent of all gun homicides involved a handgun. In comparison, handguns were used in 73 percent of black homicides involving a gun and 64 percent of white homicides involving a gun. Overall, handguns were the most prevalent firearm used in homicides in 2013 (70 percent).

**Figure 14: Percentage of Firearm Homicides Involving Handguns, by Race and Ethnicity, 2013**



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 2014, the most recent year available, the CDC reported 2,596 Hispanic homicide deaths, of which 1,732 involved a firearm. The FBI's *SHR* reported that in 2013 (the most recent year available) there were 1,477 Hispanic homicide victims of which 1,020 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 (35 percent). In comparison, 28 percent of black victims were killed by a stranger and 19 percent of white victims were killed by a stranger. Overall, 25 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 17 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, 69 percent were not related to the commission of another felony.<sup>15</sup> For Hispanics, 69 percent of the homicides were not related to the commission of another felony. Seventy percent of white homicides and 68 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 three percent involved brawls due to alcohol or drugs.

Forty-four percent of Hispanics killed in homicides not related to the commission of another felony were killed during arguments (compared to 50 percent of black victims and 52 percent of white victims). One 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 two percent of black victims).

For all races, gang-related killings<sup>16</sup> accounted for 12 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, 30 percent were gang-related, compared to 15 percent for black victims and four percent for white victims.

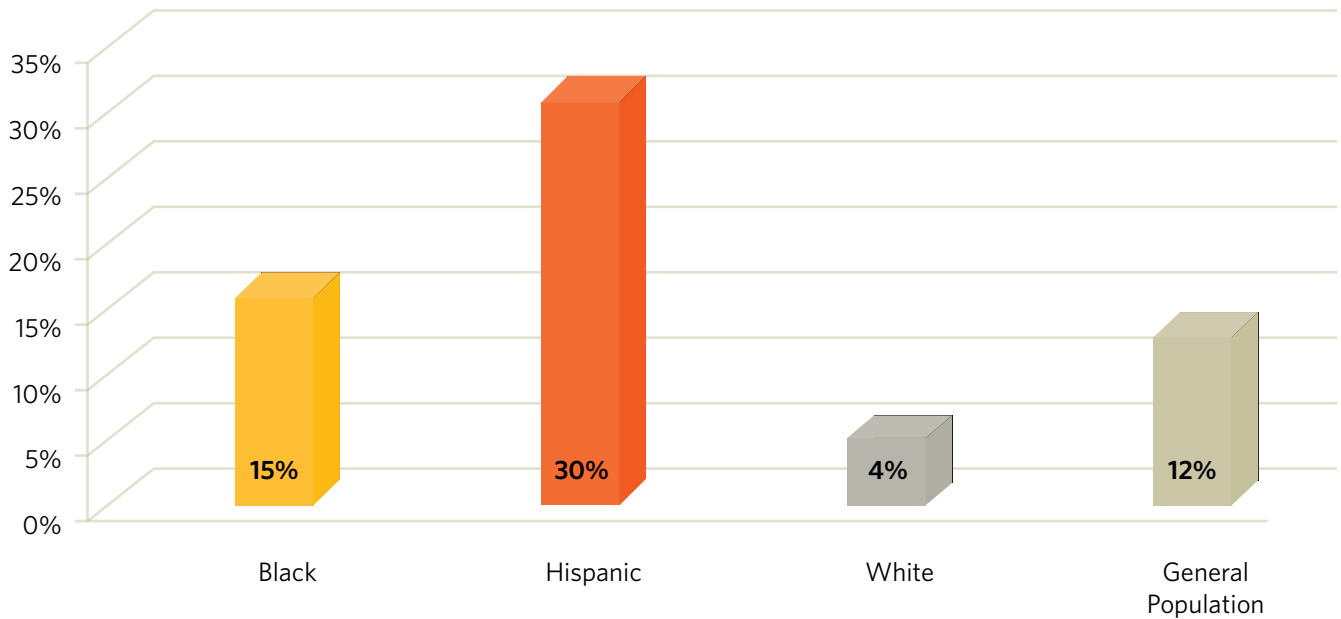
14 An intimate acquaintance is defined as a boyfriend/girlfriend, common-law husband/common-law wife, homosexual relationship, husband/wife, or ex-husband/ex-wife. There is no designation for ex-boyfriend/ex-girlfriend in the *SHR*.

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 More than half (51 percent) of the recorded gang-related homicides in the 2013 *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, 2013**



**AGE OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS AND GANG INVOLVEMENT**

For all victims, 32 percent of homicide victims were age 24 or younger. For Hispanic victims, 38 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, 60 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, 56 percent of black gang-related victims were age 24 and younger and 70 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	38%	63%
Black	38%	56%
White	21%	70%
All Races	32%	60%

## SECTION THREE: CONCLUSION

Hispanics in the United States are disproportionately affected by lethal 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, 2014<sup>18</sup>

State	Hispanic Population	Total Population	Hispanic Share of State Population
Alabama	190,249	4,849,377	3.9
Alaska	49,326	736,732	6.7
Arizona	2,056,370	6,731,484	30.5
Arkansas	205,487	2,966,369	6.9
California	14,990,679	38,802,500	38.6
Colorado	1,136,022	5,355,866	21.2
Connecticut	540,224	3,596,677	15.0
Delaware	82,970	935,614	8.9
District of Columbia	68,232	658,893	10.4
Florida	4,789,830	19,893,297	24.1
Georgia	923,184	10,097,343	9.1
Hawaii	142,454	1,419,561	10.0
Idaho	197,864	1,634,464	12.1
Illinois	2,152,630	12,880,580	16.7
Indiana	425,981	6,596,855	6.5
Iowa	170,887	3,107,126	5.5
Kansas	328,505	2,904,021	11.3
Kentucky	144,671	4,413,457	3.3
Louisiana	222,183	4,649,676	4.8
Maine	16,637	1,330,089	1.3
Maryland	555,821	5,976,407	9.3
Massachusetts	729,196	6,745,408	10.8
Michigan	476,539	9,909,877	4.8
Minnesota	275,639	5,457,173	5.1
Mississippi	79,682	2,994,079	2.7
Missouri	231,619	6,063,589	3.8
Montana	34,027	1,023,579	3.3
Nebraska	190,154	1,881,503	10.1
Nevada	789,498	2,839,099	27.8
New Hampshire	41,464	1,326,813	3.1
New Jersey	1,729,745	8,938,175	19.4
New Mexico	993,908	2,085,572	47.7
New York	3,668,399	19,746,227	18.6
North Carolina	890,446	9,943,964	9.0

18 *Statistical Portrait of Hispanics in the United States*, Renee Stepler and Anna Brown, Pew Research Center, Hispanic Trends, April 19, 2016 (<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2016/04/19/statistical-portrait-of-hispanics-in-the-united-states/>), data obtained from Table 44, "Hispanic Population, by State: 2014."

State	Hispanic Population	Total Population	Hispanic Share of State Population
North Dakota	17,878	739,482	2.4
Ohio	394,568	11,594,163	3.4
Oklahoma	378,221	3,878,051	9.8
Oregon	496,179	3,970,239	12.5
Pennsylvania	833,619	12,787,209	6.5
Rhode Island	148,206	1,055,173	14.0
South Carolina	257,759	4,832,482	5.3
South Dakota	29,285	853,175	3.4
Tennessee	321,898	6,549,352	4.9
Texas	10,404,856	26,956,958	38.6
Utah	396,840	2,942,902	13.5
Vermont	9,872	626,562	1.6
Virginia	732,435	8,326,289	8.8
Washington	858,440	7,061,530	12.2
West Virginia	23,024	1,850,326	1.2
Wisconsin	369,688	5,757,564	6.4
Wyoming	57,227	584,153	9.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,250,517</b>	<b>318,857,056</b>	<b>17.3</b>

## Appendix Two: The 50 States and the District of Columbia Hispanic Firearm Death Data, 2014<sup>19</sup>

State	Hispanic Firearm Deaths	Death Rate per 100,000
Alabama	*	*
Alaska	*	*
Arizona	171	8.32
Arkansas	11	5.27
California	760	5.07
Colorado	89	7.84
Connecticut	23	4.25
Delaware	*	*
District of Columbia	*	*
Florida	284	5.93
Georgia	32	3.42
Hawaii	*	*
Idaho	*	*
Illinois	104	4.83
Indiana	23	5.32
Iowa	*	*
Kansas	29	8.80
Kentucky	*	*
Louisiana	19	8.45
Maine	*	*
Maryland	14	2.51
Massachusetts	37	5.06
Michigan	25	5.25
Minnesota	10	3.61
Mississippi	*	*
Missouri	15	6.24
Montana	*	*
Nebraska	*	*
Nevada	55	6.96
New Hampshire	*	*
New Jersey	56	3.24
New Mexico	123	12.37
New York	89	2.42
North Carolina	45	5.03
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	23	5.70
Oklahoma	34	8.91
Oregon	24	4.83
Pennsylvania	70	8.35
Rhode Island	*	*
South Carolina	14	5.35
South Dakota	*	*
Tennessee	27	8.21
Texas	616	5.92
Utah	19	4.76
Vermont	*	*
Virginia	24	3.26
Washington	52	6.06
West Virginia	*	*
Wisconsin	17	4.57
Wyoming	*	*
<b>United States</b>	<b>3,010</b>	<b>5.43</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 2014<sup>20</sup>

State	2014 Hispanic Population	2000 Hispanic Population	Change in Hispanic Population, 2000 to 2014	Percent Change, 2000 to 2014
South Dakota	29,285	10,101	19,184	189.9
Tennessee	321,898	116,692	205,206	175.9
South Carolina	257,759	94,652	163,107	172.3
Alabama	190,249	72,152	118,097	163.7
Kentucky	144,671	56,922	87,749	154.2
Arkansas	205,487	85,303	120,184	140.9
North Dakota	17,878	7,429	10,449	140.7
Maryland	555,821	230,992	324,829	140.6
North Carolina	890,446	377,084	513,362	136.1
Virginia	732,435	333,482	398,953	119.6
Delaware	82,970	37,811	45,159	119.4
Oklahoma	378,221	173,746	204,475	117.7
Mississippi	79,682	37,301	42,381	113.6
Iowa	170,887	80,204	90,683	113.1
Georgia	923,184	434,375	488,809	112.5
Pennsylvania	833,619	399,736	433,883	108.5
Nebraska	190,154	92,836	97,318	104.8
Nevada	789,498	393,397	396,101	100.7
Louisiana	222,183	111,634	110,549	99.0
Indiana	425,981	214,750	211,231	98.4
Idaho	197,864	100,271	97,593	97.3
Utah	396,840	201,203	195,637	97.2
Missouri	231,619	118,235	113,384	95.9
Wisconsin	369,688	191,097	178,591	93.5
Minnesota	275,639	142,732	132,907	93.1
Washington	858,440	444,718	413,722	93.0
New Hampshire	41,464	21,536	19,928	92.5
Wyoming	57,227	29,751	27,476	92.4
Alaska	49,326	25,742	23,584	91.6
Vermont	9,872	5,260	4,612	87.7
Montana	34,027	18,568	15,459	83.3
Oregon	496,179	273,209	222,970	81.6
Ohio	394,568	218,350	176,218	80.7

<sup>20</sup> *Statistical Portrait of Hispanics in the United States*, Renee Stepler and Anna Brown, Pew Research Center, Hispanic Trends, April 19, 2016 (<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2016/04/19/statistical-portrait-of-hispanics-in-the-united-states/>), data obtained from Table 44a - Trend, "Hispanic Population, by State, 1980-2014, with additional calculations by the Violence Policy Center.



State	2014 Hispanic Population	2000 Hispanic Population	Change in Hispanic Population, 2000 to 2014	Percent Change, 2000 to 2014
Florida	4,789,830	2,673,654	2,116,176	79.1
West Virginia	23,024	12,925	10,099	78.1
Kansas	328,505	186,340	142,165	76.3
Massachusetts	729,196	428,530	300,666	70.2
Connecticut	540,224	319,463	220,761	69.1
Rhode Island	148,206	89,870	58,336	64.9
Hawaii	142,454	87,853	54,601	62.2
Arizona	2,056,370	1,292,152	764,218	59.1
Texas	10,404,856	6,653,338	3,751,518	56.4
Maine	16,637	10,718	5,919	55.2
New Jersey	1,729,745	1,117,604	612,141	54.8
District of Columbia	68,232	44,092	24,140	54.7
Colorado	1,136,022	735,769	400,253	54.4
Michigan	476,539	330,952	145,587	44.0
Illinois	2,152,630	1,527,145	625,485	41.0
California	14,990,679	10,928,470	4,062,209	37.2
New Mexico	993,908	759,343	234,565	30.9
New York	3,668,399	2,854,991	813,408	28.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,250,517</b>	<b>35,204,480</b>	<b>20,046,037</b>	<b>56.9</b>



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