

## **Benchmarks by Ethnicity – Oregon’s Survey Data**

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This analysis explores two distinct sets of statistics regarding Oregon’s Hispanic population.<sup>1</sup> First, we explore the Hispanic and non-Hispanic differences in the Oregon Population Survey (OPS). Second, is an examination of the Hispanic population demographics from the three-year American Communities Survey (ACS) dataset (2005-2007).

Our analysis concludes significant socioeconomic differences exist between the Hispanic population and the overall population within Oregon. Additionally, demographic differences between Oregon’s Hispanic population and that of the U.S. Hispanic population may contribute to the lag seen in the 2008 Race and Ethnicity Report indicators.<sup>2</sup>

In Summary, Oregon’s Hispanic population is younger than both the national Hispanic population and Oregon’s overall population. This population has lower educational attainment than both the comparison populations and includes a higher proportion of new immigrants (those who have immigrated since 1990). Oregon’s Hispanic population includes a greater percentage who work in Agriculture and Forestry occupations than Hispanics nationally and Oregon’s overall population. Additionally, incomes are lower for Hispanic Oregonians than the reference populations. These economic and demographic statistics may underlie Oregon’s lower Hispanic homeownership rate when compared to the reference groups as well.

Regarding perceptions of Oregon, Oregon’s Hispanic population feels more positive towards Oregon than non-Hispanics when looking at eight perception questions. Additionally, rents paid are similar for Hispanic renters and non-Hispanic renters within the state.

### **Analysis of Oregon Population Survey Results by Ethnicity**

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#### **Household Analyses:**

- ✓ Overall, Hispanics have less access to the internet in their homes than non-Hispanics. 62.9% of Hispanics surveyed have internet access, while 78.7% of non-Hispanics do.

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<sup>1</sup> This analysis is neither a detailed exploration of causation nor an exhaustive analysis of all social indicators and therefore should be seen as a starting point in any detailed analysis into the Hispanic population in Oregon.

<sup>2</sup> The 2008 Race and Ethnicity Report documented that Hispanics in Oregon trailed the national Hispanic population in indicators of economic and social wellbeing. Indicators include: High School and College Completion, Poverty, and Household Ownership. [2008 Race and Ethnicity Report](#)

- ✓ More Hispanics than non-Hispanics used public libraries in the last 30 days (42.8% and 33.3%, respectively) and 12 months (65.2% and 57.1%, respectively).
- ✓ Fifty-five percent of non-Hispanics attended an art performance or exhibit within the last 12 months, while 42.3% of Hispanics did so.

*Analyst note: An inverse relationship exists between library use and that of having internet access in one's home. Such a relationship was identified in a recent Pew study where library use increases for those of limited income nationally<sup>3</sup>; we postulate this to the Hispanic population in Oregon. Additionally, age factors into the equation where generation y (those 18-30) are more likely to visit a library to access the internet than older individuals. As is pointed out in the next page, the Hispanic population in Oregon is remarkably younger, with roughly 50 percent under 25 years of age.*

### **Perception Analyses:**

- ✓ Both Hispanics and non-Hispanics feel virtually the same regarding a feeling a part of a community, with roughly 20% of Hispanics and non-Hispanics feeling very connected to their communities.
- ✓ Twenty-five percent of Hispanics surveyed feel that Oregon is doing a very good job providing government services, while only 14% of non-Hispanics agree.
- ✓ In regards to job creation, 52% of Hispanics feel that Oregon is doing a good job of creating jobs, while 47 % of non-Hispanics share these sentiments (good job includes both those that answered somewhat good and very good).
- ✓ Over 40% of those Hispanics surveyed believe that Oregon is doing a very good job controlling crime, while only 19% of non-Hispanics do.
- ✓ While both Hispanics and non-Hispanics appear to feel as though Oregon is not doing a good job providing affordable access to health care, Hispanics feel less so. Only 3% of Hispanics surveyed felt that Oregon was doing a very good job at providing affordable access to health care, while 12% of non-Hispanics do.
- ✓ As for controlling drug use, Hispanics feel Oregon is doing a better job controlling it than non-Hispanics (13% and 9%, respectively).
- ✓ Twenty-one percent of Hispanics feel that Oregon is doing a very good job helping individuals and families in need, while only 13% of non-Hispanics feel this way.

*Analyst note: Overall, Hispanic Oregonians generally have a greater affinity towards Oregon's services than non-Hispanics. Income constraints, employment status, and health care access seem to play a large role in Hispanics' perceptions of Oregon's overall wellbeing.*

### **Analysis of American Community Survey Results by Ethnicity**

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<sup>3</sup> A 2008 Pew Internet & American Life study explored library use and the connection to internet use across income and age. Fox, Vanessa. Information Today: Feb 2008, Vol.25 Issue 2, p19-20.

**Demographics:**

- ✓ Hispanics in Oregon have a much younger population than Oregonians overall. This is seen in the national Hispanic age statistics as well.
- ✓ Hispanic Oregonians age 45 and over make up only 14.6% of the Hispanic state population. Nationally, 21.3% of Hispanics are 45 and over.
- ✓ A gender gap also exists: the national Hispanic population consists of 51.7% males. Oregon’s Hispanic population is 54.4% male.
- ✓ As for education, 24.4% of Hispanics in Oregon have a high school diploma or equivalent, while 27.8% do nationally.

**Table 1**

	<b>Oregon</b>		<b>United States</b>	
<b>Age</b>	<b>Total Pop</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>Total Pop</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>
Under 5 years	6.30%	12.20%	6.90%	10.80%
5 to 17 years	17.00%	26.10%	17.80%	23.20%
18 to 24 years	9.10%	11.20%	9.90%	11.60%
25 to 34 years	13.90%	21.40%	13.40%	18.00%
35 to 44 years	13.90%	14.50%	14.60%	15.10%
45 to 54 years	15.10%	<b>8.00%</b>	14.50%	<b>10.20%</b>
55 to 64 years	11.80%	<b>3.90%</b>	10.60%	<b>5.70%</b>
65 to 74 years	6.50%	<b>1.70%</b>	6.40%	<b>3.10%</b>
75 years +	6.40%	<b>1.00%</b>	6.10%	<b>2.30%</b>

*Analyst note: Oregon’s Hispanic population is considerably younger than the U.S. Hispanic population (table 1). We believe this partially explains why Hispanics in Oregon are trailing Hispanics nationally in the 2008 Race and Ethnicity report indicators. This youth trend is seen in the all the Northwest states (OR, WA, ID)<sup>4</sup>.*

**Housing:**

- ✓ 50% of Hispanic Oregonians and 47% of all-Oregonians reported paying 30% or more of their household incomes on rent. These rates are very similar to the national rates.
- ✓ Nearly 42% of Hispanics in Oregon own their home, while nearly 65% of all-Oregonians do. The ownership rate for Hispanics nationally is nearly 50%.
- ✓ 45% of Hispanic Oregonians and 32% of all-Oregonians reported paying 30% or more of their household income on housing ownership costs.

*Analyst note: Oregon’s Hispanic population appears to pay similar rates for rental housing as all Oregonians, however their ownership rates a clearly lower and account for a great proportion of their house hold income.*

<sup>4</sup> [Data from the 2005-2007 ACS dataset for Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and the U.S.](#)

### **Economic results:**

- ✓ In Oregon, an estimated 67% of Hispanics reported being currently employed, while 60% of all-Oregonians did. Hispanics nationally were employed at 62%. A larger number of Hispanics were not in the labor force nationally (32%) than in Oregon (26%). All-Oregonians not in the labor force made up 35% of the population.<sup>5</sup>
- ✓ The reference period unemployment rate for Oregon Hispanics is 6.4% (nationally, 5.3%), while for all-Oregonians the rate is 4.4% (nationally, 4.2%).<sup>6</sup>
- ✓ Hispanics in Oregon have a lower median family income than Hispanics nationally (\$34,638 and \$41,165 respectively), and a much lower median income than the average Oregon family (\$57,716).
- ✓ Hispanic Oregonians are employed in the Agricultural and Forestry<sup>7</sup> industries at a rate roughly 4 times that of Hispanics nationally (13% to 3% respectively). The difference between Hispanic Oregonians and Oregonians overall is slightly less than 4 times (13% to 3.5% respectively).

*Analyst note: Hispanics overwhelmingly do more service and labor jobs than the overall population in Oregon. This is similarly seen, but to a lesser degree, in the national statistics. These jobs primarily pay less and experience greater turnover than other industries, such as office and management related occupations.*

### **Citizenship and Language:**

- ✓ The survey found that over 60% of Hispanic Oregonians speak a language other than English at home, while 7% of all-Oregonians do.
- ✓ In Oregon, 44% of the Hispanics who speak a language other than English speak English less than “very well,” while nationally 39% of Hispanics who speak a language other than English speak English less than “very well.”
- ✓ An estimated 39% of Hispanics in Oregon are not U.S. citizens. Nationally, 29% are estimated to not be citizens.
- ✓ Of Hispanics immigrants (both U.S. citizens and non-citizens) in Oregon, roughly 71% entered the U.S. in 1990 or later. For the US, 59% entered the U.S. 1990 or later.

*Analyst note: Hispanic Oregonians tend to be more recent immigrants to the US, younger, and less proficient with the English language than the national Hispanic population. This illustrates a disadvantage experienced by Hispanics in Oregon.*

<sup>5</sup> Employment status and labor force statistics are for those aged 16 and over.

<sup>6</sup> The unemployment statistics in the ACS are not the official statistics for the nation or Oregon. Statistics are used to show the relative rates for each reference group.

<sup>7</sup> Complete industries list: Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining