

6. There Were 13,393,208 Mexicans In The U.S. In 2000 Who Were Counted In The Census, And Of Them, 6,830,536

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The year 2000 marked a significant milestone in the demographic landscape of the United States, especially regarding its Mexican-American population. According to the United States Census Bureau, over 13 million Mexicans were recorded as residing in the U.S., highlighting the profound influence of Mexican culture, labor, and community within the nation. Among these, approximately 6.8 million were counted as part of the Hispanic or Latino population, emphasizing the demographic diversity and the vital role Mexicans have played in shaping modern America.

This article delves into the historical context of Mexican migration, the demographic details captured in the 2000 Census, and the broader implications of these figures for U.S. society. Understanding these statistics provides valuable insights into migration patterns, cultural integration, economic contributions, and policy considerations relevant today.

Historical Context of Mexican Migration to the U.S.

Migration Waves and Patterns

Mexican migration to the United States has a long history, characterized by several distinct waves:

- Early 20th Century: Mexican laborers arrived primarily for agricultural work during the Mexican Revolution and early industrialization.
- Bracero Program (1942-1964): A bilateral agreement that allowed millions of Mexicans to work temporarily in U.S. agriculture and industry.
- Post-1965 Immigration and Refugee Act: Increased family reunification and economic migration, leading to sustained growth.
- Recent Trends: Continued migration driven by economic disparities, violence, and climate factors in Mexico.

This rich history has led to a significant and diverse Mexican community in the U.S., influencing social, cultural, and economic spheres.

The 2000 Census: Quantifying Mexican Americans

Overview of Census Data Collection

The 2000 U.S. Census was a comprehensive effort to count every resident, capturing detailed demographic, socioeconomic, and housing information. For the Mexican population, the census identified:

- Total number of Mexicans residing in the U.S.
- Hispanic and Latino ethnicity identification
- Nativity and citizenship status
- Language proficiency and usage

This data provides a snapshot of the Mexican community at the turn of the 21st century, illustrating its growth and distribution.

Key Statistics from the 2000 Census

- Total Mexicans counted: 13,393,208
- Mexican Americans (Hispanic/Latino): 6,830,536
- Percentage of Mexicans who identified as Hispanic/Latino: Approximately 51%
- Nativity:
 - U.S.-born Mexicans: a significant portion
 - Foreign-born Mexicans: a majority, reflecting ongoing migration

These figures reveal a community that is both deeply rooted and actively growing within the United States.

Demographic Breakdown of the Mexican Population in 2000

Geographic Distribution

Mexican populations in the U.S. are predominantly concentrated in certain states and metropolitan areas:

- California: The state with the largest Mexican community
- Texas: A close second, with significant urban centers like Houston and Dallas
- Illinois, Arizona, New Mexico: Notable populations
- Metropolitan Areas:
 - Los Angeles, CA
 - Houston, TX
 - Chicago, IL
 - Phoenix, AZ

Understanding geographic distribution helps in analyzing community needs, political influence, and

cultural presence.

Age and Gender Distribution

- The Mexican population in 2000 was relatively young, with a high proportion of children and working-age adults.
- Gender distribution was fairly balanced, though slight variations exist depending on nativity and migration patterns.

Educational Attainment and Employment

- Education levels varied, with many Mexican Americans having less than a high school diploma.
- Common industries for employment included construction, manufacturing, services, and agriculture.
- The community contributed significantly to the U.S. labor force, often filling essential roles in various sectors.

Economic Contributions of Mexicans in the U.S.

Labor Force Participation

Mexicans have historically been vital to the U.S. economy, especially in sectors requiring manual labor. Their participation includes:

- Agricultural work (farming, harvesting)
- Construction and infrastructure development
- Hospitality and service industries
- Manufacturing and warehouse jobs

This workforce has often been characterized by resilience and adaptability, facing economic challenges with determination.

Remittances and Economic Impact

- Mexican immigrants have sent significant remittances back home, supporting families and communities in Mexico.
- Their consumption and entrepreneurship contribute to local economies in the U.S., creating jobs and fostering community development.

Cultural and Social Influence

Community Development

The Mexican community has established vibrant neighborhoods, cultural festivals, and social organizations, enriching American multiculturalism.

Language and Education

- Spanish is widely spoken within Mexican communities, influencing local schools and media.
- Bilingual education and cultural programs have grown in response to demographic shifts.

Political and Civic Engagement

Mexican Americans have increasingly participated in electoral processes, advocacy, and policy discussions, shaping the political landscape.

Challenges Faced by the Mexican Community in 2000

Despite their contributions, Mexican Americans faced several challenges:

- Immigration status and legal barriers
- Socioeconomic disparities
- Access to quality education and healthcare
- Discrimination and social integration issues

Addressing these challenges remains crucial for fostering inclusive growth.

Broader Implications and Future Trends

Demographic Growth and Its Impact

The 2000 Census figures underscore the rapid growth of the Mexican population, which has implications for:

- Urban development
- Public policy
- Cultural diversity

- Economic strategies

Shifts in Migration Patterns

Post-2000, migration continued to evolve, influenced by policies, economic conditions, and global trends.

Looking Ahead: The Mexican-American Community in the 21st Century

The community's resilience, cultural richness, and economic contributions suggest a continued vital presence in U.S. society.

Conclusion

The statistics from the 2000 Census revealing that over 13 million Mexicans resided in the United States, with more than half identifying as Hispanic or Latino, highlight the profound demographic influence of Mexican migration. This community has played an integral role in shaping the social fabric, economic development, and cultural landscape of the nation. Understanding these figures not only offers a snapshot of America's diversity at the turn of the century but also informs ongoing discussions about immigration, integration, and multiculturalism in the United States.

As the Mexican community continues to grow and evolve, its contributions remain vital to America's future. Recognizing the historical context, demographic details, and societal impacts of these statistics fosters a deeper appreciation of the rich diversity that defines the United States today.

Frequently Asked Questions

How many Mexicans were counted in the U.S. Census in 2000?

A total of 13,393,208 Mexicans were counted in the U.S. Census in 2000.

What was the Mexican population in the U.S. according to the 2000 Census?

The Mexican population in the U.S. was 13,393,208 people in 2000.

How many Mexicans living in the U.S. in 2000 were of Mexican origin?

Out of the total, 6,830,536 Mexicans were specifically counted as of Mexican origin.

What percentage of the Mexican population in the U.S. in 2000 was counted as of Mexican origin?

Approximately 50.99% of the Mexican population in the U.S. in 2000 were of Mexican origin (6,830,536 out of 13,393,208).

What does the data from the 2000 Census tell us about Mexican immigration at that time?

It indicates a significant Mexican presence in the U.S., with over 13 million individuals counted, reflecting ongoing migration and community establishment.

Why is the distinction between total Mexicans counted and those of Mexican origin important?

It helps differentiate between all individuals with Mexican heritage and those specifically born in Mexico or identifying as Mexican, providing insights into immigration and demographic trends.

How might this data influence U.S. immigration policy discussions?

The large Mexican population highlighted by the 2000 Census can inform policymakers about the scale of Mexican immigration and the need for tailored immigration and integration policies.

What are the implications of these Census figures for Mexican-American communities in the U.S.?

The numbers underscore the sizable and growing Mexican-American population, emphasizing the importance of community services, cultural preservation, and representation in policy decisions.

Additional Resources

There Were 13,393,208 Mexicans In The U.S. In 2000 Who Were Counted In The Census, And Of Them, 6,830,536.

The year 2000 marked a significant milestone in the demographic landscape of the United States, particularly concerning the Mexican population. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, over 13 million individuals of Mexican origin or descent were counted, representing a substantial portion of the nation's diverse immigrant tapestry. Of these, approximately 6.83 million were Mexican-born residents, highlighting the deep-rooted presence of Mexican immigrants in American society. This demographic snapshot offers a window into patterns of migration, community development, and the socio-economic impact of Mexicans in the United States. In this comprehensive review, we explore the historical context, demographic details, socio-economic contributions, challenges, and implications of this population segment based on the 2000 census data.

Understanding the Demographics: The Mexican Population in the U.S. in 2000

Population Size and Distribution

The 2000 Census revealed that approximately 13,393,208 individuals identified as Mexican or of Mexican descent living in the United States. This figure included both U.S.-born citizens of Mexican ancestry and Mexican immigrants residing in the country. The distribution of this population was heavily concentrated in certain states and metropolitan areas, with California, Texas, Illinois, Arizona, and Nevada hosting the largest Mexican communities.

- California: Led with over 4 million residents of Mexican origin, forming a significant part of the state's cultural and economic landscape.
- Texas: Close behind, with over 3 million Mexican residents, especially in cities like Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio.
- Illinois: Notably Chicago, with a large and established Mexican community.

The concentration in border states and urban centers underscores the historical and economic ties between Mexico and the U.S., as well as migratory patterns favoring urban areas with employment opportunities.

Breakdown of Mexican-born vs. U.S.-born Residents

Of the total Mexican population in 2000, about 6.83 million were Mexican-born, emphasizing the significant immigrant component. The remaining population comprised U.S.-born individuals of Mexican descent, reflecting ongoing generations of Mexican Americans.

Features:

- High proportion of first-generation immigrants, which influences language, cultural practices, and integration challenges.
- Growing U.S.-born Mexican-American population, contributing to cultural continuity and societal influence.

The Socio-Economic Profile of Mexicans in 2000

Employment and Economic Contributions

Mexican Americans in 2000 played vital roles across various sectors, often filling roles in industries

such as agriculture, construction, manufacturing, and service industries.

Key points:

- Many employed in low-skilled, labor-intensive jobs but increasingly entering skilled trades and professions.
- Contributions to the U.S. economy through entrepreneurship, small businesses, and labor force participation.
- Remittances sent back to Mexico, fostering economic ties between the two countries.

Pros:

- Essential workforce in several key sectors.
- Entrepreneurial spirit leading to small business growth within Mexican-American communities.

Cons:

- Often faced wage disparities and limited access to higher education and professional opportunities.
- Segmentation into lower-income brackets, leading to socio-economic challenges.

Educational Attainment

At the turn of the century, educational attainment among Mexican Americans lagged behind national averages, which affected socio-economic mobility.

- Approximately 55% of Mexican Americans aged 25 and older had completed high school.
- Only around 10-12% held a bachelor's degree or higher.
- Language barriers and access issues contributed to educational disparities.

Implications:

- A need for targeted educational programs and community support.
- Potential for upward mobility through increased educational attainment.

Cultural Impact and Community Development

Preservation of Mexican Culture

Mexican communities in the U.S. serve as vibrant hubs of cultural expression, including festivals, cuisine, music, and traditions.

Features:

- Celebrations like Cinco de Mayo and Día de los Muertos are widely observed and celebrated.
- Mexican cuisine, music, and art have become integral parts of American cultural fabric.
- Community organizations provide support, advocacy, and cultural preservation.

Challenges Faced by Mexican Communities

Despite their contributions, Mexican populations faced various hurdles in 2000:

- Immigration Status: Many were undocumented, leading to fears of deportation, limited access to services, and social marginalization.
- Language Barriers: Limited English proficiency affected education, employment, and civic participation.
- Discrimination: Experiences of prejudice and stereotyping impacted social integration.

Pros of Community Development:

- Strong familial and communal ties foster resilience.
- Growing political influence as communities organize and mobilize.

Cons:

- Vulnerability to exploitation and marginalization.
- Limited access to healthcare, education, and economic opportunities for undocumented or low-income individuals.

Implications of the 2000 Census Data on Policy and Society

Policy Considerations

The demographic insights from the 2000 Census prompted policymakers to consider:

- Immigration reform and border policies.
- Language assistance programs and bilingual education initiatives.
- Community development programs targeted at immigrant populations.

Societal Impacts

The Mexican demographic's growth influenced societal dynamics:

- Increased cultural diversity in urban centers.
- Greater political engagement among Mexican Americans.
- Challenges and opportunities in integrating a large immigrant population into American society.

Long-Term Trends and Future Outlook

The 2000 census set the stage for significant demographic shifts observed in subsequent decades. The Mexican population in the U.S. continued to grow due to sustained migration, natural increase, and higher birth rates.

Features:

- Growth of the U.S.-born Mexican-American population, leading to a strengthening of cultural identity.
- Evolving immigration policies influencing migration patterns.
- Increasing educational attainment and economic participation over time.

Prospective Considerations:

- Continued integration into American society with a dual identity.
- Potential for greater political influence and societal representation.
- Ongoing challenges related to immigration status and socio-economic disparities.

Conclusion

The statistics from the 2000 Census—over 13 million Mexicans residing in the United States, with more than half being immigrants—highlight a pivotal demographic segment that has significantly shaped and continues to influence American society. From their vital contributions to the economy and culture to the challenges they face, Mexican Americans embody resilience, diversity, and dynamism. While they have enriched the cultural tapestry of the nation, addressing ongoing issues such as immigration reform, educational access, and social integration remains essential for fostering a more inclusive and equitable society. As the demographic landscape continues to evolve, understanding the roots and realities of the Mexican population in 2000 provides valuable insights into the past, present, and future of the United States.

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