

PROFILE

Hispanic Population in Montgomery County

Prepared by
Montgomery Planning
Research and Strategic Projects Division

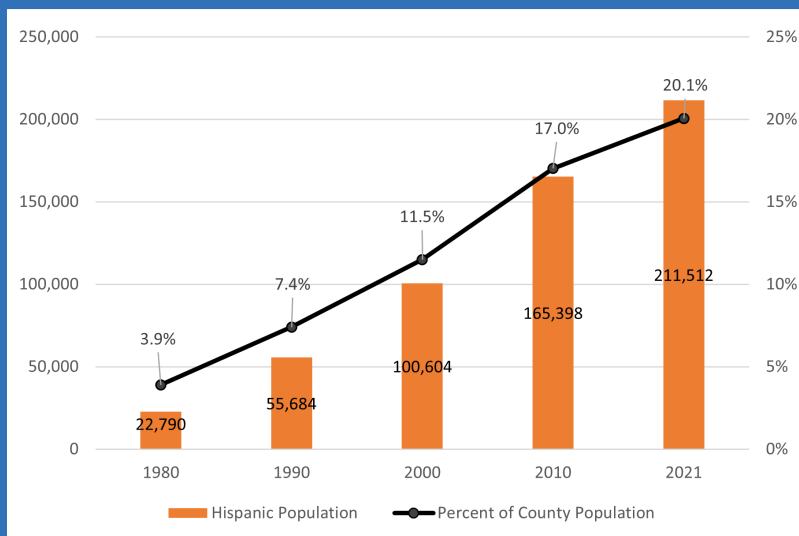
This publication highlights key demographic, household, and economic statistics for the Hispanic population in Montgomery County from U.S. Census data. The American Community Survey (ACS) helps local officials, community leaders, and businesses understand the changes taking place in their communities. It is the premier source for detailed population and housing information about our nation. The data in this profile are from the 2021 American Community Survey, 1-year sample, unless otherwise noted.



POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

The Hispanic¹ population reached **20.1%** of the County's population in 2021 with 211,512 people, up from just 3.9% and 22,790 people in 1980. This more than nine-fold increase was the fastest growth of any group in the county from 1980 to 2021. Hispanics are the largest group among people of color as of 2010.²

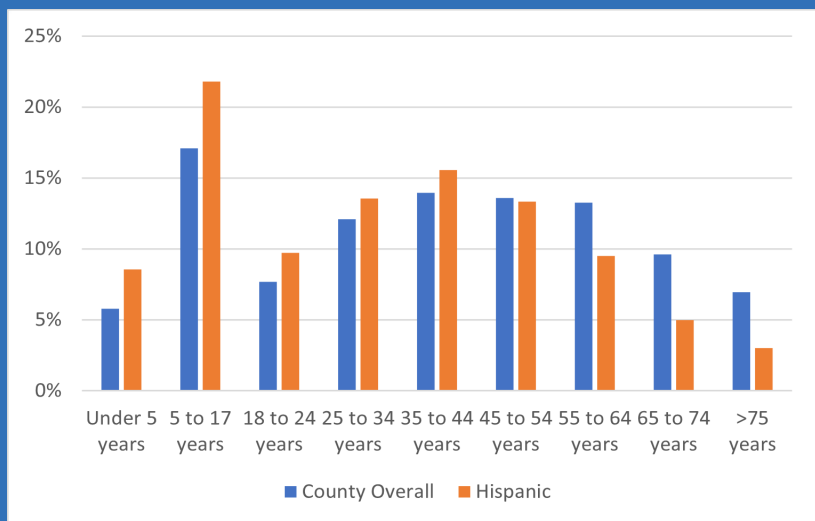
Figure 1: Hispanic Population Growth (1980 - 2021)



AGE

The Hispanic population skews young, with a greater percentage of children (31%) compared with the county overall (23%). Only 8% of Hispanics are over 65, compared with 17% of the county overall. The percentage of the Hispanic population between ages 18 and 44 also exceeds the percentage of the overall population in those age groups.

Figure 2: Age Distribution (2021)



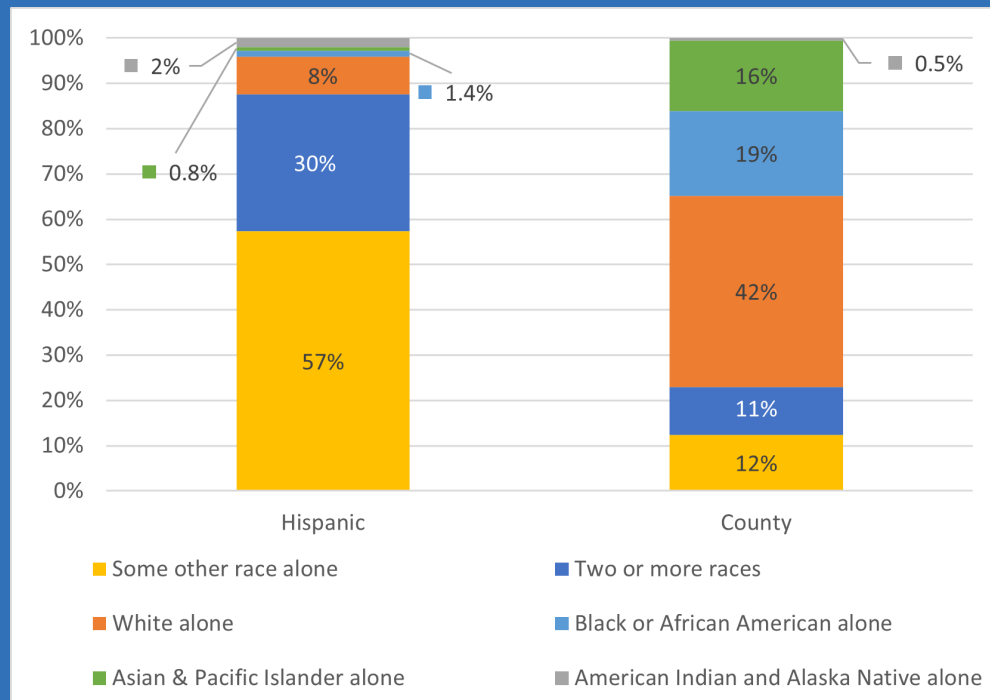
¹ The U.S. Office of Management and Budget defines "Hispanic or Latino" ethnicity as a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

² 1980-2020 Decennial Census, U.S. Census Bureau

RACE

The American Community Survey asks questions about race and ethnicity separately. People who identify their ethnicity as Hispanic also have the option to identify their race. The largest group of Hispanics (57%) identify themselves as “Some other race,” and 30% reported two or more race categories.

Figure 3: Racial Composition (2021)



CITIZENSHIP STATUS

More than half of Hispanics (53%) were born in the United States (Native) and 47% were foreign-born, which includes persons who are naturalized U.S. citizens and persons who are not U.S. citizens. In Montgomery County, 67% of residents are born in the United States and 33% are foreign-born.

Figure 4: Nativity and Citizenship Status, Hispanics (2021)

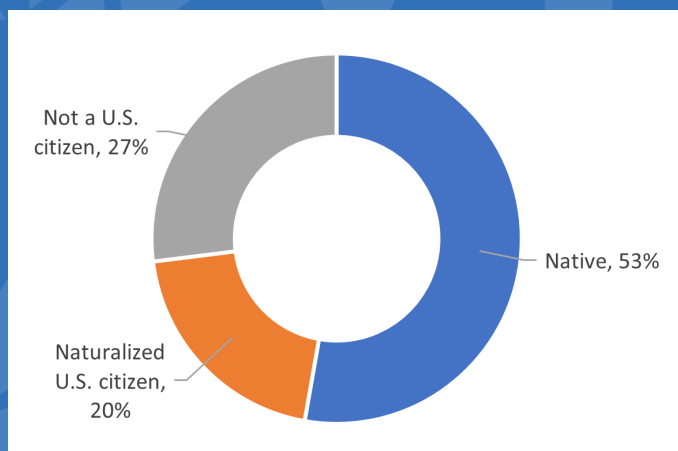
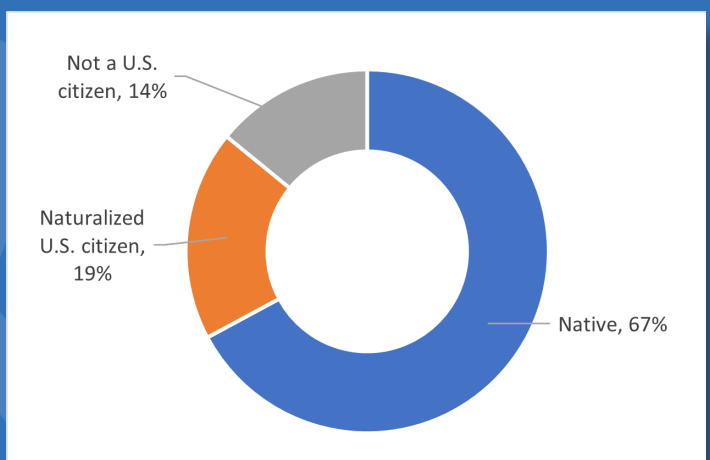


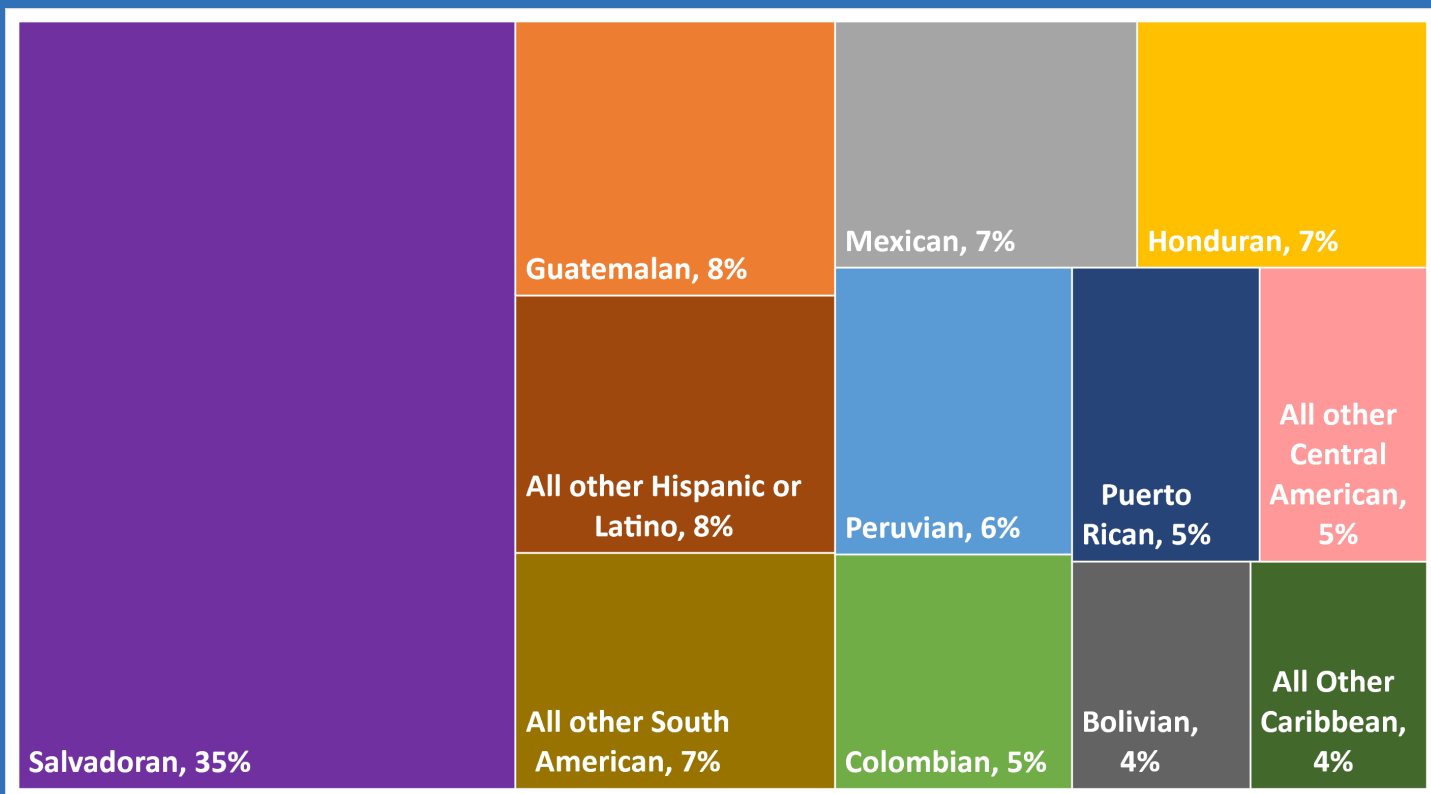
Figure 5: Nativity and Citizenship Status, County Overall (2021)



HERITAGE

Figure 6 displays the self-reported origin or heritage of all Hispanics in the County (211,512). Thirty-five percent of Hispanics report their heritage to be Salvadoran. The other leading origins of people with Hispanic heritage are Guatemalan (8%), Honduran and Mexican (7% each), and Peruvian (6%). Specific origins not listed in Figure 6 are categorized as below:

Figure 6: Hispanic and Latino Origin by Specific Origin (2021)



- All Other Central American includes: Costa Rican (0.5%), Nicaraguan (3.4%), Panamanian (0.7%), Other Central American (0.4%)
- All Other South American includes: Argentinian (1.1%), Chilean (0.7%), Ecuadorian (2.4%), Paraguayan (0.3%), Uruguayan (0.1%), Venezuelan (2%), Other South American (0.4%)
- All other Hispanic or Latino includes: Spaniard (2%), Spanish (1%)
- All Other Caribbean includes: Dominican (2.6%), Cuban (1.1%)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ABILITY

In 2021, 76% of the native-born Hispanic residents spoke a language other than English. Eighty-five percent of those who speak a second language reported speaking English “very well,” while the remaining recorded their English-speaking ability as less than “very well.” Unsurprisingly, 95% of the foreign-born Hispanic residents spoke a language besides English. Of these, only 40% report speaking English “very well,” with the majority (60%) ranking their English abilities as less than “very well.”

Figure 7: English Language Skill in Native-Born Hispanics (Population over 5 years old, 2021)

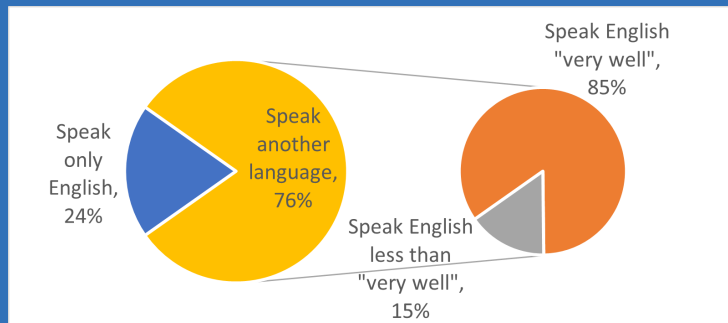
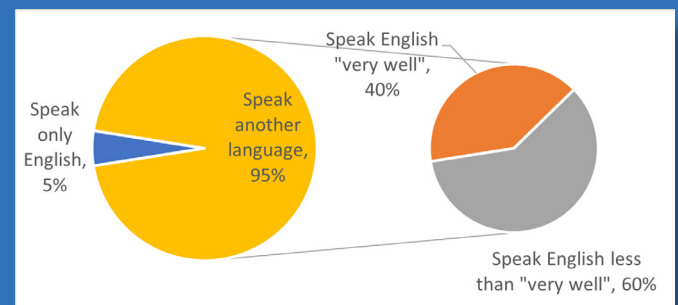


Figure 8: English Language Skill in Foreign-Born Hispanics (Population over 5 years old, 2021)

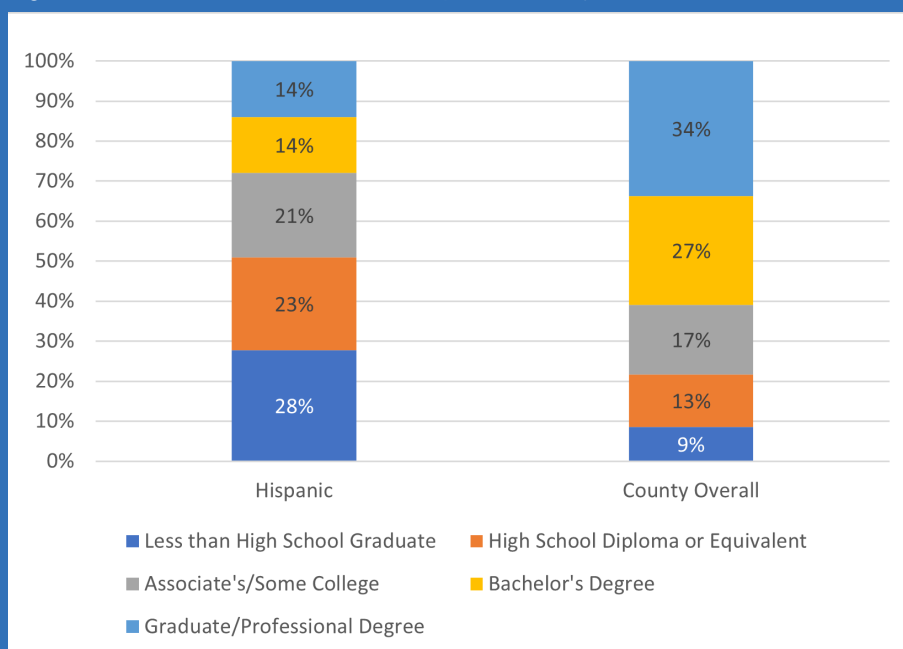


EDUCATION

Twenty-eight percent of Hispanic residents aged 25 or older held a bachelor’s degree or higher, compared with 61% for Montgomery County as a whole.

Notably, an equivalent share (28%) have less than a high school diploma. This value starkly differs from the County share of 9% for this education level.

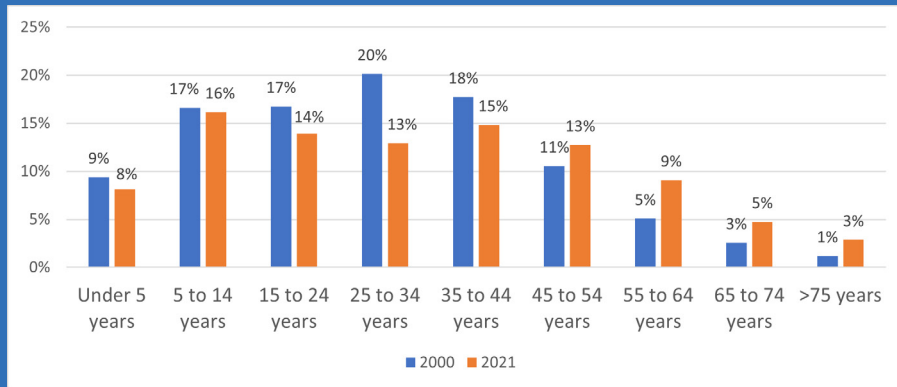
Figure 9: Educational Attainment (Population 25 years and older, 2021)



CHANGE SINCE 2000

The first major wave of international immigration to the Washington, D.C. region started in the 1980s and has kept a strong pace since.³ These new residents, fleeing civil war and economic conditions in their countries, came to Montgomery County where Hispanics became the fastest-growing racial or ethnic group.

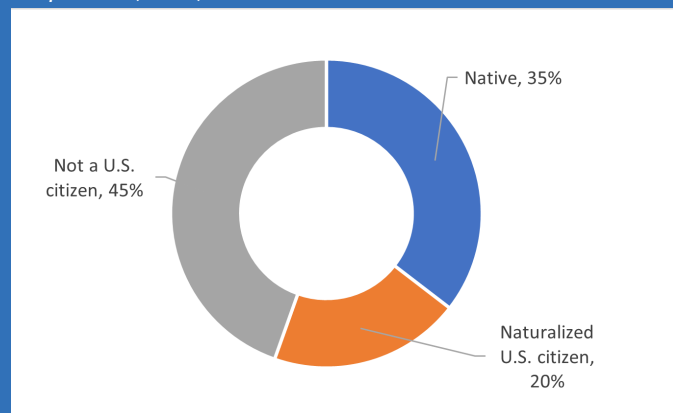
Figure 10: Hispanic Age Distribution in 2000 and 2021



Immigrants tend to leave their country of origin when they are younger,⁴ a factor that helped to make the 25–34 and 35–44 age ranges the most sizable in 2000.⁵ In 2021, the age distribution was more spread out, but was still concentrated among the younger population with 58% of Hispanics between 5 and 44 years old.

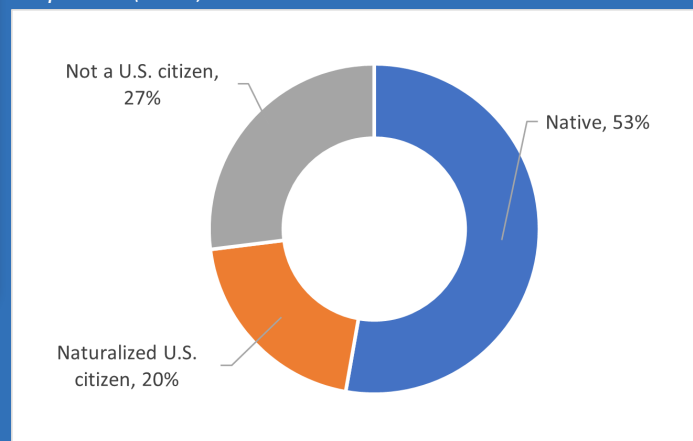
Immigrants who arrived during the 1980s wave are aging now, as shown by the fact that all the age categories older than 45 are larger than the same age groups in 2000. Many people started families after immigrating, which explains the growing number of native-born Hispanics today.

Figure 11: Nativity and Citizenship Status, Hispanics (2000)



The children of immigrants increased the share of Hispanics born in the United States (“native” in Figures 11 and 12), which grew 18 percentage points from 2000 to 2021.

Figure 12: Nativity and Citizenship Status, Hispanics (2021)



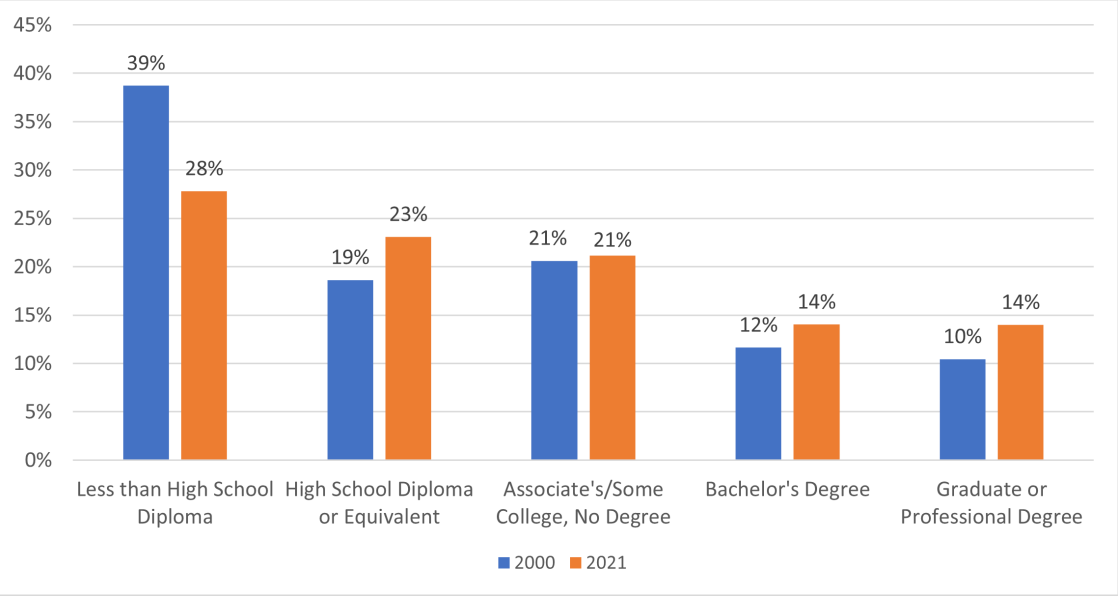
³ Singer, Audrey. “Metropolitan Washington: A new immigrant gateway.” *Research in Race and Ethnic Relations*, Volume 17 (2012).

⁴ Pew Research Center. “Facts on U.S. Immigrants, 2018.” *Immigrants in America: Key Charts and Facts* (2020)

⁵ All data for 2000 are from the 2000 Decennial Census, U.S. Census Bureau.

Hispanics have achieved higher levels of education in the past 20 years, too. In 2000, 39% of Hispanics did not have a high school diploma, a figure that dropped 11 percentage points by 2021. The percentage of Hispanics at all other levels of education also increased.

Figure 13: Hispanic Educational Attainment: Changes from 2000 to 2021 (Population 25 Years and Older)



Another effect of a larger native-born Hispanic population is a greater ability within the population to speak English. The group that speaks English less than “very well” shrank by 11 percentage points from 2000 to 2021.

Figure 14: English Language Skill in 2000 (Population 5 Years and Older)

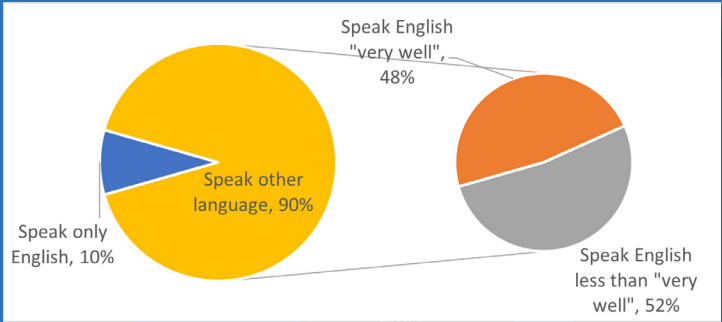
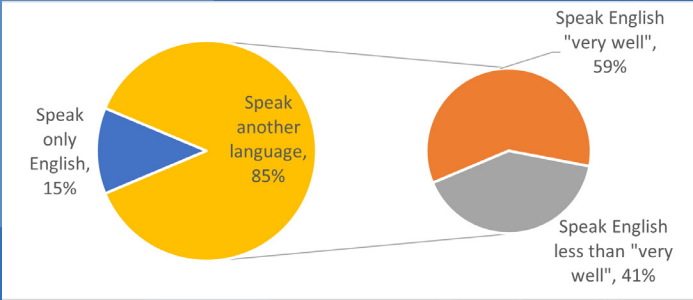


Figure 15: English Language Skill in 2021 (Population 5 Years and Older)



HOUSING AND HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

Hispanics are more likely than the general population in the County to live in families with children **44% to 32%**, whereas County residents overall are more likely to live in married-couple households without children (29% overall vs. 23% Hispanic) or alone (26% overall vs. 14% Hispanic). Hispanics also have markedly bigger families and household size; their families are 25% larger and their households are 32% bigger than those of the County overall.

Figure 16: Distribution of Household Types (2021)

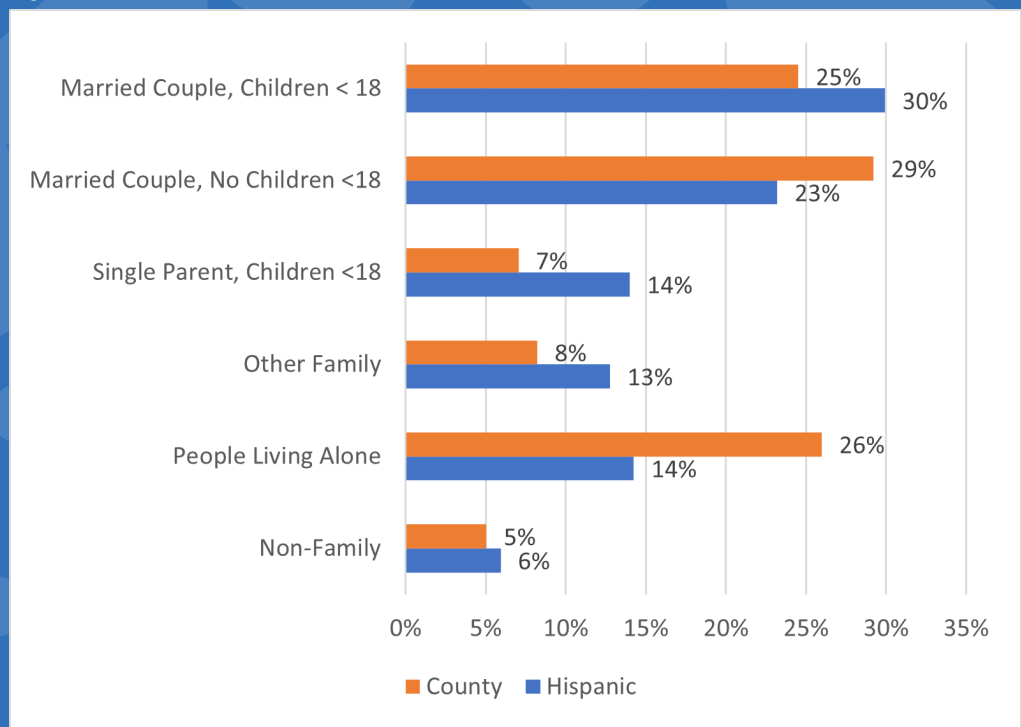


Table 1: Average Household and Family Size (2021)

	Hispanic	County Overall
Average Household Size	3.56	2.70
Average Family Size (Number of Family Members)	4.07	3.26

HOUSING TYPE

Hispanic households are less likely to be homeowners than the population of the County overall; only 54% of Hispanics reported owning their home compared with 66% of people in the County overall. As a result, more Hispanic households are renters (46%) compared with only 34% in the County overall.

Figure 17: Housing Tenure (2021)

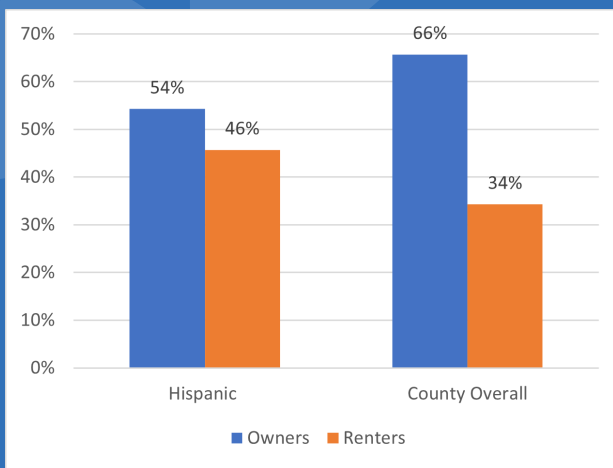
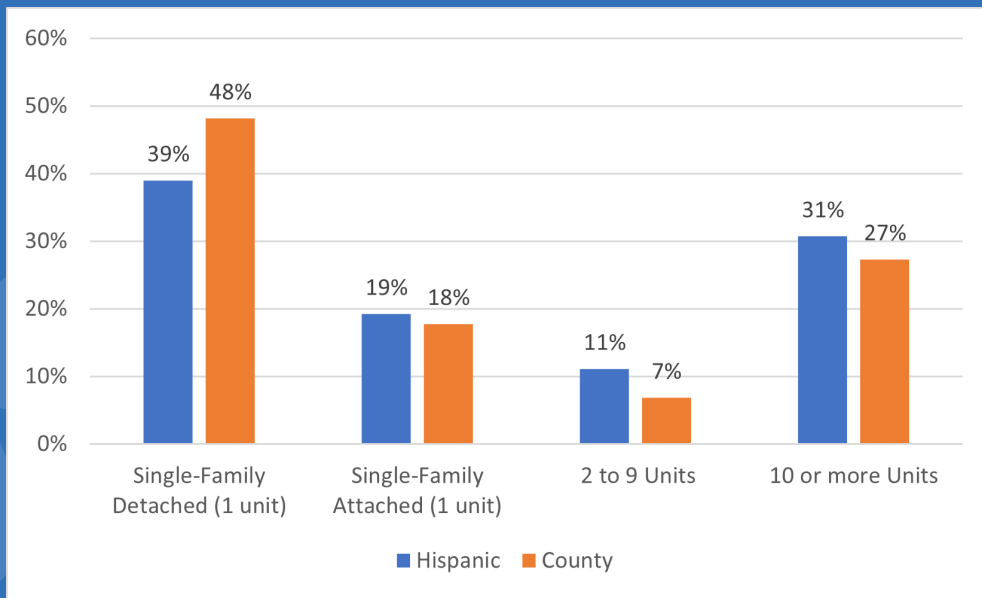


Figure 18: Units in Structure (2021)

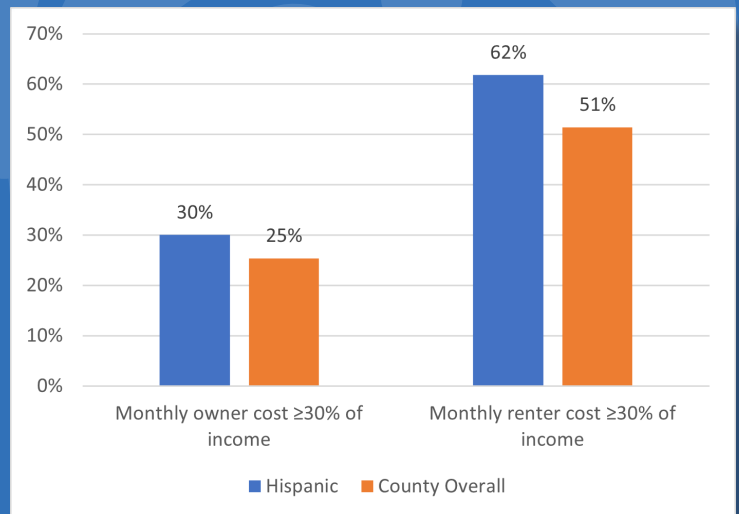


HOUSING COSTS

Median monthly housing costs for Hispanic homeowners with a mortgage was \$2,316, while median rent and associated costs for renters was \$1,778 in 2021. In the County overall, the median costs to homeowners were \$2,005, and median rent and associated costs were \$1,821.

Hispanics are more likely to pay greater than 30% of their income on housing than residents of the County overall. This is most pronounced for Hispanic renters, among whom 62% are burdened by housing cost.

Figure 19: Housing Cost Burden (2021)



Hispanic Median
Homeowner Cost
\$2,316

County Overall Median
Homeowner Cost
\$2,005



Hispanic Median
Renter Cost
\$1,778

County Overall Median
Renter Cost
\$1,821

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

INCOME AND POVERTY

In 2021, the median Hispanic household income was \$86,302, relative to \$112,854 for the County.

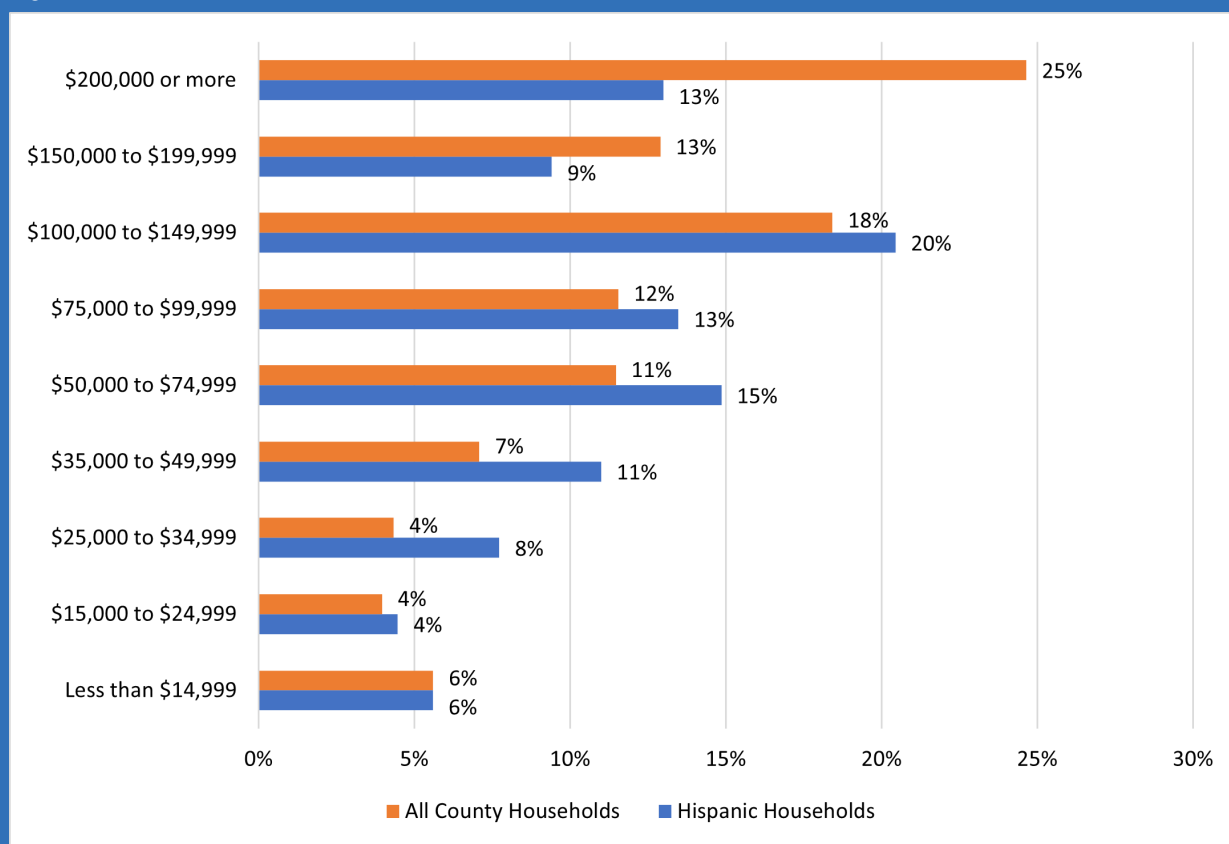
Unemployment among those aged 25 and older was 6% for the Hispanic population in 2021 and 5% for the County population as a whole.

A smaller share of Hispanic households earns over \$150,000 (22%) compared with households in the entire County (38%), and a larger share of Hispanic households earns between \$35,000 and \$100,000 (39%) compared with the County (30%).

Hispanic Median Household Income is
76%
of the County figure



Figure 20: Household Income (2021)



This disparity in income is also reflected in the relatively larger share of Hispanics (14%) living below the poverty line, compared with the County's population overall (5%).

Table 2: Poverty Rate (2021)

	Hispanic	County Overall
Income in the past 12 months below poverty level	14%	5%

EMPLOYMENT

The largest category of occupations held by the Hispanic population are in “Management, business, and financial industries.” Service sector jobs follow, with “Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance” and “Food preparation and serving related.” “Construction and extraction” and “Education, legal, community service, arts, and media” are also top occupations.

Table 3: Occupations of Hispanic Residents, 2021

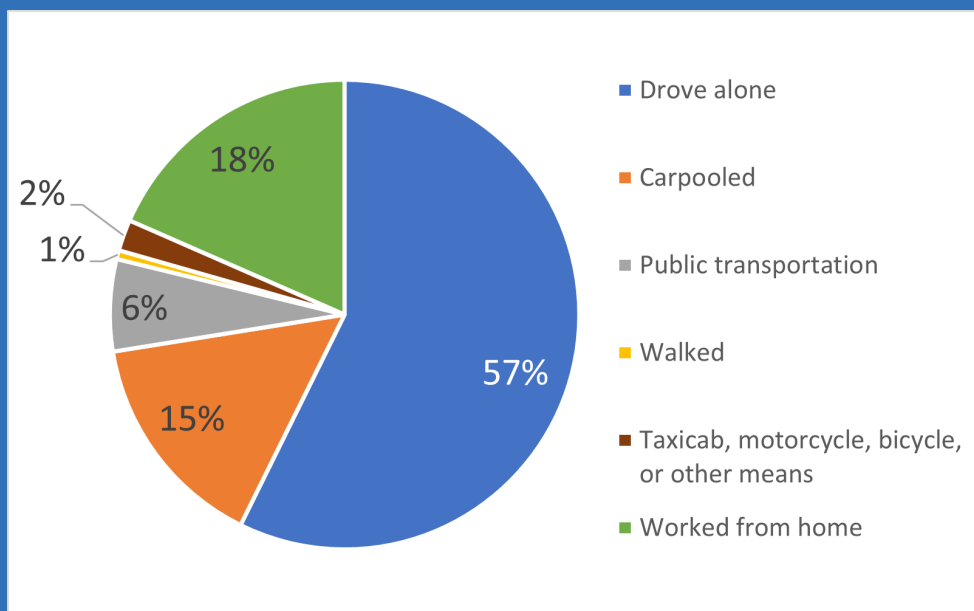
	Estimate	Percent
Management, business, and financial	13,833	13.0%
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	13,118	12.3%
Construction and extraction	12,170	11.4%
Education, legal, community service, arts, and media	10,338	9.7%
Food preparation and serving related	9,500	8.9%
Office and administrative support	8,925	8.4%
Sales and related	8,388	7.9%
Computer, engineering, and science	6,781	6.4%
Transportation	3,963	3.7%
Production	3,516	3.3%
Personal care and service	3,294	3.1%
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3,199	3.0%
Material moving	3,031	2.8%
Healthcare practitioners and technical	2,804	2.6%
Healthcare support	1,970	1.8%
Protective service	1,605	1.5%
Farming, fishing, and forestry	171	0.2%

COMMUTE TO WORK

In 2021, almost three-quarters (72%) of the working Hispanic population drove either alone or with someone else to work. Another 18% worked from home, a share that was influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic. In the County overall, the percentage of persons working from home was 37%.

Hispanic and County residents' commute times were nearly identical at 31 and 30 minutes, respectively.

Figure 21: Commuting Mode, Hispanic Residents (Workers 16 and Older, 2021)



CONCLUSION

During the more than **40 years** since Hispanic immigration to the D.C. region started in earnest, many early immigrants started families and, along with their children, became more educated and fluent in English. These are key reasons for the success that Hispanics have found in Montgomery County. However, this group continues to face challenges such as being less likely to own their homes, having a higher housing cost burden, earning lower incomes, and having a higher percentage of the population living below the poverty line.

Profile of **Hispanic Population** in Montgomery County

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