

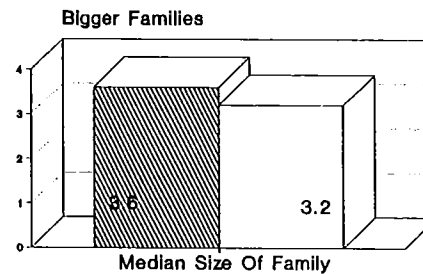
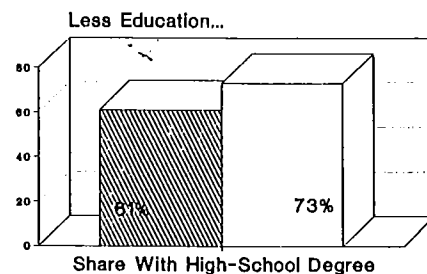
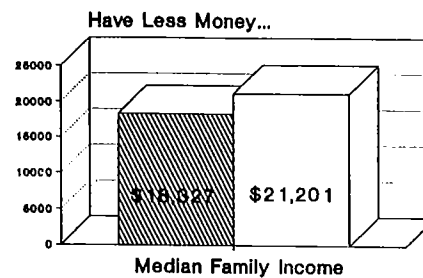
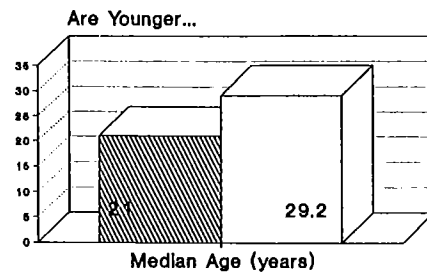


# MINNESOTA'S HISPANIC COMMUNITY: A PROFILE

*Second Printing*

## HISPANIC MINNESOTANS . . .

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■ Hispanic    □ Non-Hispanic

*Research Unit*

**Minnesota Spanish Speaking Affairs Council**  
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*May 1989*

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Many people helped on this project.

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March 1, 1989

The Honorable Rudy Perpich  
Office of the Governor

Dear Governor Perpich:

We are pleased to transmit to you this *second edition* of *Minnesota's Hispanic Community: A Profile*. As in the original (published in 1980), the current *Profile* describes key demographics of Hispanics in the state. Because dynamics of the Hispanic community nationwide are so intimately related, a brief survey of Hispanics at the national level is also included.

It is imperative to underscore that the gathering of data for this *Profile* was inordinately complicated by an egregious lack of demographic data on Hispanics in Minnesota. Data that could be uncovered was frequently contradictory and fragmented but, more often than not, the information sought simply wasn't there. Indeed, even the most *elementary* of vital statistics (*Hispanic births and deaths*, for example) were found non-existent.

As noted, the pages within this *Profile* sketch out socio-economic characteristics of Hispanic Minnesotans in the 1980's. But they also reveal weaknesses in the state's data collecting system and identify key research issues emerging in the Hispanic community in 1989. Some highlights:

#### DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the Bureau of the Census, the Hispanic population nationally has more than doubled in the last 18 years (from 9.2 to 19.4 million people), and this despite the Census Bureau's acknowledged serious undercounting of Hispanics in the last two censuses.

However, the Bureau's *Minnesota* Hispanic count inexplicably *decreased* from 37,000 to 32,000 between 1970 and 1980 – and this supposedly occurred during a time period when the SSAC estimated this population to have *increased* from 37,000 to 52,000, and the Bureau of the Census itself declared the *national* Hispanic population to have increased by fully 65 percent.

Minnesota Hispanics on the average are younger (21 vs 29.2 years of age). In addition, they have ...

- o less education at elementary, highschool, and college levels...
- o lower median family incomes (\$18,327 vs. \$21,201, with the income gap widening)...
- o a higher labor force participation rate, but also a higher unemployment rate...
- o bigger families (3.6 vs. 3.2 persons per households)...
- o a greater proportion of single-parent families, with a greater incidence of families headed by single females.

One in four Hispanic students enrolled in post-secondary institutions chose the University of Minnesota, but technical institutes enrolled Hispanic students at higher rates.



The largest percentage increase of Hispanic subgroups in the last ten years has been Central and South Americans.

Increasing numbers of Hispanic migrants are deciding to leave the "Migrant Stream" while in Minnesota; in some rural communities, such as in Willmar, the in-migration process has been difficult.

## ISSUES

The Commission on Civil Rights has charged the Census Bureau with "insensitivity" to the "Spanish Speaking population" and estimated that Hispanics "were probably undercounted by appreciably more than 7.7 percent --- the percent of the black population which the Bureau acknowledged missing in the census."

The 1970 and 1980 census undercounts of Hispanics in *Minnesota* has resulted in millions of federal dollars lost to the state.

Despite the undercounts, the Bureau's flawed statistics are nevertheless *routinely accepted without question as to accuracy* by all state agencies, thereby compounding the problem.

Most Minnesota governmental agencies have failed to implement *Executive Order 8610*, classifying their service clientele solely by "Race," thereby rendering Hispanics in Minnesota officially invisible. (The only exception appears to be the Department of Health which began keeping separate Hispanic statistics January 1, 1989.)

## COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the above, the Spanish Speaking Affairs Council respectfully recommends the following as the minimal, corrective steps. The Office of the Governor should:

- o Disseminate findings of this document to all state agencies.
- o Reconfirm *Executive Order 8610*, insist on its observance, and monitor state and regional agencies for faithful compliance.
- o Encourage more research on the Minnesota Hispanic community, particularly by Hispanic researchers.
- o Demand an equitable 1990 decennial census for Minnesota, particularly as this relates to minorities, and steadfastly monitor progress by the Bureau of the Census toward this goal.
- o Provide continued research funding for the Spanish Speaking Affairs Council's efforts to increase the data available on the Hispanic community.

Implementation of the above recommendations will insure that Hispanic Minnesotans will receive sufficient resource levels to help raise their socio-economic and educational status in the 1990's. We look forward to your continuing support of Minnesota's Hispanic community.

Most sincerely yours,

Rafael Ortega  
Council Chairman

José H. Trejo  
Executive Director





# Preface

In August 1980, it was clear that Minnesota's Hispanic community was a sizeable and growing segment of Minnesota's population. Not so clear was *how many* Hispanics there actually were in the state at the time. Unknown to the general public was widespread disagreement among several governmental agencies since the 1970 census as to the size of the Hispanic population in the state.

As Minnesota swiftly approaches the 1990 decennial census, the disagreement continues. The history of this protracted controversy has a number of players and is somewhat confusing, but is reduceable to a single, two-tier graphic (*Chart A*).

## THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S ESTIMATES

In 1975, a historically key monograph, *Minorities in Minnesota*, constituted an indictment of the Bureau of the Census's casual attitude toward the Hispanic community in Minnesota.

Officially commissioned by the Minnesota Department of Education, Vocational Education/Special Needs Unit, *Minorities in Minnesota* faulted the 1970 census' Hispanic-count methodology.

The study observed that the Census Bureau in conducting the 1970 decennial census estimated the total number of Hispanics in Minnesota to be *either* a) 37,256 persons of *Spanish origin* -- or b) 23,198 persons of *Spanish language*.

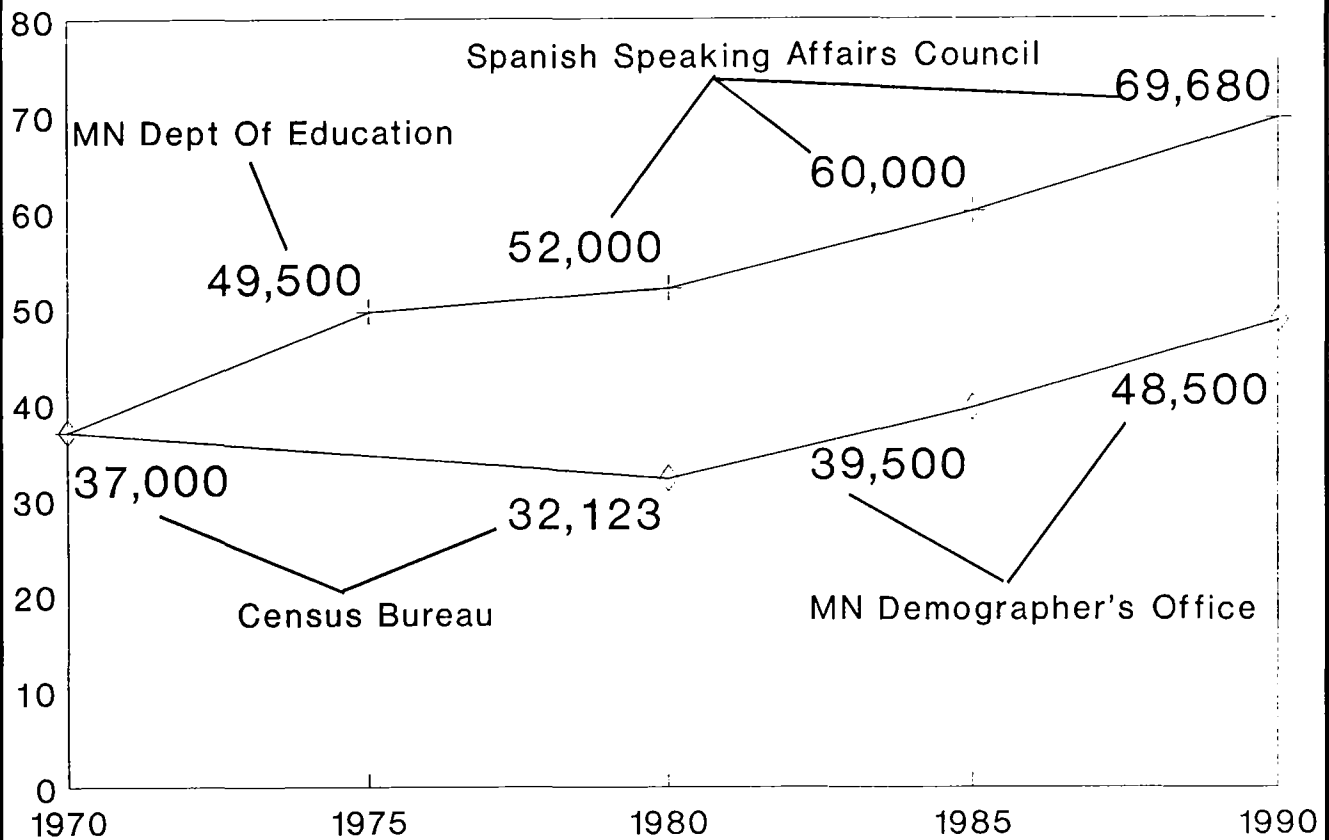
These unorthodox *dual* population findings resulted from the Bureau's using two separate census questionnaires -- but inexplicably failing to correlate them. In absence of correlation, the first questionnaire often generated data designating entire counties as having *no Spanish origin population*, while the second disclosed (in the same counties) many *Spanish language persons* "who by definition should [have been] included in the Spanish origin category." Similar "anomalies" were pervasive in the 1970 Bureau of the Census data collection procedures, according to the study.

*Minorities in Minnesota* attempted to "rectify" the Hispanic undercount in the 1970 Minnesota decennial census "by incorporating census population characteristics breakdowns, minority student enrollment figures..., and comparing them with the average family sizes, and ratios of unrelated individuals to families." The study's procedures were verified "through numerous telephone contacts with Census Bureau offices in Kansas City and Washington, D. C., and with Minnesota Analysts and Planning Systems (MAPS) personnel at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul."

And finally, with a sensitivity rare in such demographic studies, minority community authentication was solicited "by contacting both governmental and social service agencies working with, composed of and/or knowledgeable about Minnesota's minorities." The State Migrant Services Coordinators Office, Migrants in Action, and Minnesota Migrant Council were contacted directly. Other agencies were contacted through consultants in the Urban Affairs Office of St. Paul Public Schools.

Thus, the Department of Education spoke with considerable authority in 1975 when, according to its findings, Hispanics ranked as the *largest* of Minnesota's minority populations.

CHART A. MINNESOTA HISPANIC POPULATION ESTIMATES, 1970 - 1990



### Chronology

- 1970:** U. S. Bureau of the Census generates dual estimates on the number of Hispanics in Minnesota, the 37,000 noted above and a second estimate, 23,198, based on a second definition.
- 1975:** Minnesota Department of Education criticizes Census Bureau's 1970 methodology, and issues a "corrected" estimate of 49,500 Hispanics for the state.
- 1980:** Spanish Speaking Affairs Council estimates Hispanics in Minnesota at 52,000.
- 1981:** U. S. Bureau of the Census releases results of 1980 decennial census, Hispanics number 32,123.
- 1985:** Spanish Speaking Affairs Council estimates 60,000 Hispanics at mid-decade; Demographer's Office generates 39,500 count.
- 1990:** Spanish Speaking Affairs Council projects Hispanic count will rise to 69,680; Demographer's Office predicts 48,585.

## SSAC'S 1980 HISPANIC POPULATION ESTIMATES

As the 1980 decennial census was being collected -- Minnesota's Spanish Speaking Affairs Council (SSAC) published its first demographic report on Hispanics: *Minnesota's Hispanic Community: A Profile*. This seminal document estimated the state's Hispanic community at "52,000 permanent residents," plus "a yearly influx of 12,000 to 18,000 migratory workers of Hispanic-heritage". The breakdown of SSAC's Hispanic count in 1980 is noted below (*Chart B*).

SSAC's population estimates were premised on: a) the 1970 census; and b) *Minorities in Minnesota*; and its own research based on documented national Hispanic community growth rates, as well as direct contacts with Hispanic population pockets across the state.

CHART B. MINNESOTA'S HISPANIC POPULATION  
1980 ASSESSMENT BY SPANISH SPEAKING AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Saint Paul	16,000
Minneapolis	12,000
Other Metro Area	<u>8,000</u>
Total Metro Area	36,000
Rural Minnesota	<u>16,000</u>
TOTAL STATE	<u>52,000</u>

Source: Spanish Speaking Affairs Council, Minnesota's Hispanic Community: A Profile, 1980, p. 2.

Based on the 1970 decennial census' 37,256 *Spanish Origin* count, and the Department of Education's 49,500 estimate, SSAC's 1980 Hispanic count was conservative. In the first instance (37,256), SSAC's 52,000 figure meant that there had been an increase of only 15,000 Hispanics during the 1970's -- a 40 percent increase which was one third less than the Hispanic community's 60 percent growth rate nationally during the same period of time. In the second instance (49,500), SSAC's estimate was even more modest -- it exceeded the Department of Education's 1975 estimate by only 2,500 Hispanics. In effect, it assumed a growth rate during the 5 intervening years of only 5 percent.

SSAC had taken considerable pains to generate accurate data. Thus it came as a rude shock in 1982 -- when the Bureau released its 1980 decennial census tabulations -- to learn that Minnesota's Hispanic population had *declined* to only 32,123 in 1980 (*Chart A*), a most unlikely loss of over 5 thousand Hispanics in 10 years, representing a nearly 14 percent decrease across the state. The Hispanic Community was stunned and demoralized by the news.

Yet, with hindsight, the lower count in 1980 was predictable. Following the 1970 Census, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, as well as various Hispanic leaders nationally, had asserted that Hispanics were seriously undercounted in all census surveys, that the Hispanic number was considerably greater than reported.

Specifically, the Commission on Civil Rights charged the Census Bureau with "insensitivity" to the "Spanish speaking background population" and estimated that Hispanics "were probably undercounted by appreciably more than 7.7 percent" -- the percent of the black population which the Bureau acknowledged missing in the census. In response, the Census Bureau readily conceded undercount problems, and agreed to try to improve on future counts.

Notwithstanding -- the undercount continued into the 1980 Census. On release of these latest findings, the Bureau was again roundly critized for precisely the same reasons it had been taken to task before. The Bureau replied with a grudging admission of continuing errors in methodology, but steadfastly defended the system's basic soundness. Again, as in 1970, the Bureau reaffirmed its commitment to reducing future undercounts.

### SSAC'S POSITION -- THEN AND NOW

SSAC's position has been throughout, and still is, that the Bureau of the Census severely undercounts Hispanics in Minnesota. For purposes of this *Profile*, however, it is not necessary to belabor SSAC's position concerning the size of the state's Hispanic undercount. What is vital is that the Bureau of the Census do more than simply recite *mea culpas* and issue empty promises to do better on the heels of each decade's undercount of Hispanics.

What is necessary, in short, is reform. The Census Bureau after all is "the only game in town." There exists no other comprehensive substitute for its massive demographic product. When all is said and done, the Bureau's people-count edicts at the beginning of each decade, for better or worse, carry the weight of finality. Thus, it becomes increasingly frustrating for offended Hispanics to accept anew -- decade after decade -- that the only possibility for a redress of grievance lies in still *another* marred census ten years hence, which is to say no redress at all.

Nationally, the problem became so serious in the 1970's and 1980's that several major metropolitan areas with large Hispanic populations (notably New York and Los Angeles) initiated formal legal proceedings against the U.S. Department of Commerce, and its Bureau of the Census, in anticipation of the 1990 census.

Given the impasse, this demographic report on Hispanics in Minnesota incorporates within it much of the 1980 decennial census findings -- these are tempered with more recent SSAC findings, with studies from other Minnesota authorities, and with more recent estimates from the Bureau itself. The data advanced by the Bureau of the Census are here accepted with a mixture of *resignation* (for reasons noted), sincere *appreciation* (for the Bureau's otherwise formidable and factual contributions to society), and faint but lingering *hope* (for an eventual, unbiased enumeration of Minnesota's Hispanics).

The reader is simply reminded that the problem in the aggregate remains.

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# INTRODUCTION

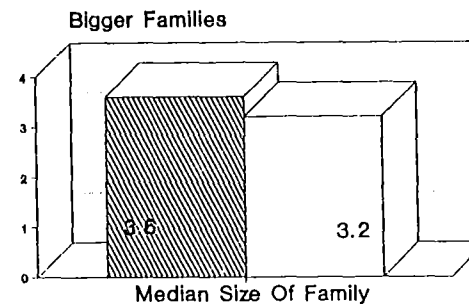
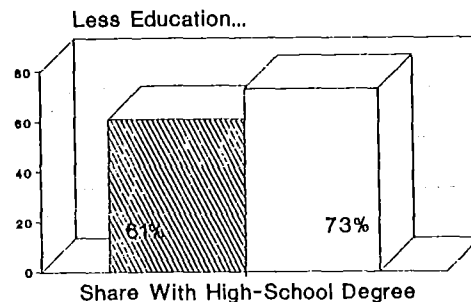
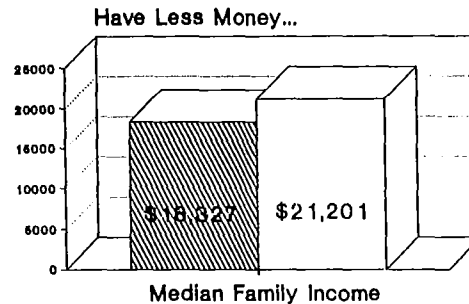
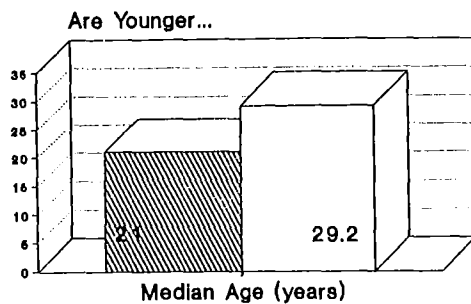
The following is a survey report on the status of Minnesota's Hispanic community in 1989. A variety of demographic subjects are covered.

For some, this document can serve simply as a generalized introduction to the Hispanic community in Minnesota. For others, particularly those in legislative and policy making arenas, the impact will hopefully be more functional.

The report's first part, **THE NATIONAL PICTURE**, provides the reader with a broad background against which to consider the local Hispanic community. The Hispanic experience in Minnesota cannot be fully appreciated or understood without benefit of such a backdrop.

The second part, **THE MINNESOTA PROFILE**, provides the local perspective and is of course the main thrust and concern of this document. Charts similar to the one below highlight and summarize throughout.

## HISPANIC MINNESOTANS . . .



■ Hispanic    □ Non-Hispanic

## A. *THE SHORTAGE OF DATA ON HISPANICS*

From the outset, the intent in this project was to describe with as much accuracy as possible the make up of Minnesota's Hispanic population in 1989. Unfortunately, as anyone with practical experience in searching out such data will testify -- current, reliable information on Hispanics is limited in Minnesota.

What data is available often turns out to be confusing or contradictory -- witness the U.S. Bureau of the Census' dual count of Hispanics in 1970 and its shocking undercount of this population in 1980 (see Preface and Part II).

Even the most basic of vital statistics are unknown for Minnesota Hispanics: the state, for example, has never documented separately the two key indicators of population change, births or deaths, for Hispanics. As a result, closely related data such as natural increase and net migration are unclear.

## B. *MONETARY LOSSES TO MINNESOTA*

This situation is depriving Minnesota of substantial income from the U. S. Treasury. According to the Census Bureau, for every 1 percent population undercount, the state loses at least \$1,000,000 in federal revenues annually. Therefore, it is critical that the state make every effort to insure accurate counts of its total population, including Hispanics. This *Hispanic Community Profile* could serve as a monitoring tool with which to gauge Minnesota's preparations for the 1990 decennial census.

## C. *THE WIDER PICTURE*

Finally, data that does exist on Minnesota Hispanics tends to be fragmented. No single source presents a panoramic view of the state's Hispanic community. The current *Profile* is seen as an initial effort in that direction. Not all subjects are covered as well as they could have been; indeed, not all the subjects that should have been included here were. Due to sparsity of data, important topics were regrettably omitted and will have to await additional research efforts. The reader's indulgence is solicited, as well as suggestions and criticisms for improving the next *Profile*.

*A DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY*



# I. THE NATIONAL PICTURE

To understand Minnesota's Hispanic community, it is essential to come to grips with *national* Hispanic population patterns. Avoiding this is tantamount to ignoring the future - for what is happening in the rest of America today anticipates Minnesota's Hispanic demographics into the 21st century.

## A. HISPANICS IN THE 1970'S

The U. S. Census in 1970 was the first to include a self-identification Spanish origin question. As a result, the vast outlines of the Hispanic community began to dawn on public awareness. In that watershed census, the total number of Hispanics stood at slightly over 9 million. By 1978, the Census Bureau estimated 12 million Americans of Spanish origin were living in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

By 1980, it was becoming clear that the Hispanic population was undergoing amazing growth. While the nation's population had increased only 11.5 percent during the 1970's, the Hispanic population had soared 61 percent in the same span, increasing its total numbers from 9.1 to 14.6 million during the decade. Likewise, the Hispanic share of the nation's total population had risen significantly - from 4.5 percent to 6.4 percent of the total (*Chart 1*). On an international scale, the United States had become the fifth largest among nations with persons of Spanish heritage.

CHART 1. TOTAL U.S. AND SPANISH ORIGIN POPULATIONS  
IN MILLIONS, 1980 AND 1970

United States	1980	1970	Percent	
			1980	1970
Total Persons	222.5	203.2	100.0	100.0
Persons: Of Spanish Origin	14.6	9.1	6.4	4.5
Not of Spanish Origin	211.9	194.1	93.6	95.5

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Supplementary Report, *Persons of Spanish Origin, By State: 1980*, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington D.C., p. 2.

## **B. HISPANICS IN THE 1980'S**

The eighties brought further growth, as well as changes in the makeup of the Hispanic community. (*Chart 2*). The growth rate for the Hispanic population through early 1988 - though not as high as in the seventies - was still dramatic enough to be startling (*Chart 3*).

### **CHART 2. BIRDSEYE VIEW OF NATION'S HISPANICS**

- o From 1980 through 1988, the national Hispanic population increased by 34 percent, or about 5 million persons. This phenomenal growth dwarfed the non-Hispanic population's 8 percent increase for the same period of time.
- o Fifty-five percent of all Hispanics live in two states: California and Texas.
- o There are more college educated Hispanics across the nation. By 1988, the proportion of Hispanics 25 years old and over completing 4 or more years of college had doubled to 10 percent, since the 1970 census.
- o The proportion of Hispanic families maintained by married couples decreased between 1982 and 1988, dropping from 74 percent to 70 percent. Conversely, the proportion of families maintained by women (or men) with no spouse present increased from 26 percent to 30 percent.
- o The unemployment rate for Hispanics across the nation in March 1988 dropped to 8.5 percent, the lowest since the relatively high unemployment rates observed in March 1983, shortly after the end of the last economic recession.
- o The poverty rate for Hispanic families in 1987 was 25.8 percent, roughly the same as in 1982 at the bottom of the last economic recession.

*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 431, The Hispanic Population in the United States: March 1988, (Advance Report), U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1988, p. 1.*

**CHART 3. CHANGE IN THE TOTAL AND HISPANIC POPULATIONS**  
APRIL 1980 TO 1988 (IN THOUSANDS)

	March 1988	1980 Census	Percent Increase 1980-88
Total U. S. Population	241,155	222,461	8.4
Hispanic Origin	19,431	14,458	34.4

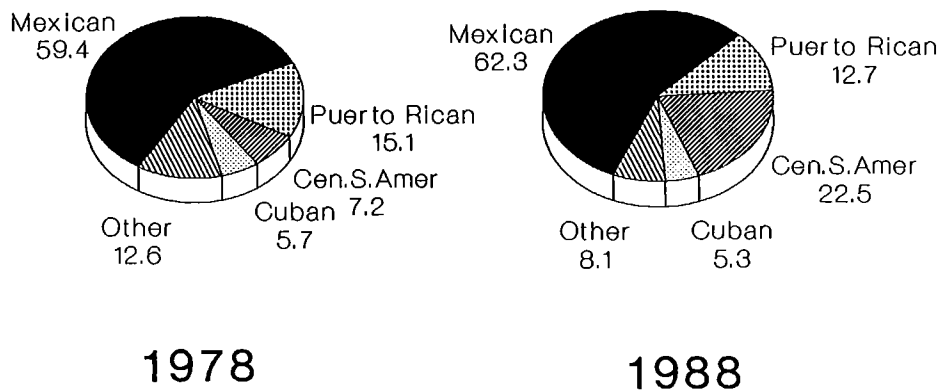
Source: *The Hispanic Population...1988*, p. 2

### 1. Hispanic Subgroups

The Nation's Hispanic community is not monolithic. It is made up of several national origins subgroups which have been identified by the Bureau of the Census: Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central and South American, and Other Hispanics.

The proportions of these subgroups are changing constantly. Two of the national origins subgroups acquired greater shares of the whole within the last decade: the Mexican (slight increase), and the Central/South American (tripled). Three other subgroups had slightly reduced shares: the Puerto Ricans, the Cubans, and other Hispanics (*Chart 4*).

**CHART 4. CHANGES IN PROPORTIONS OF HISPANIC SUBGROUPS**

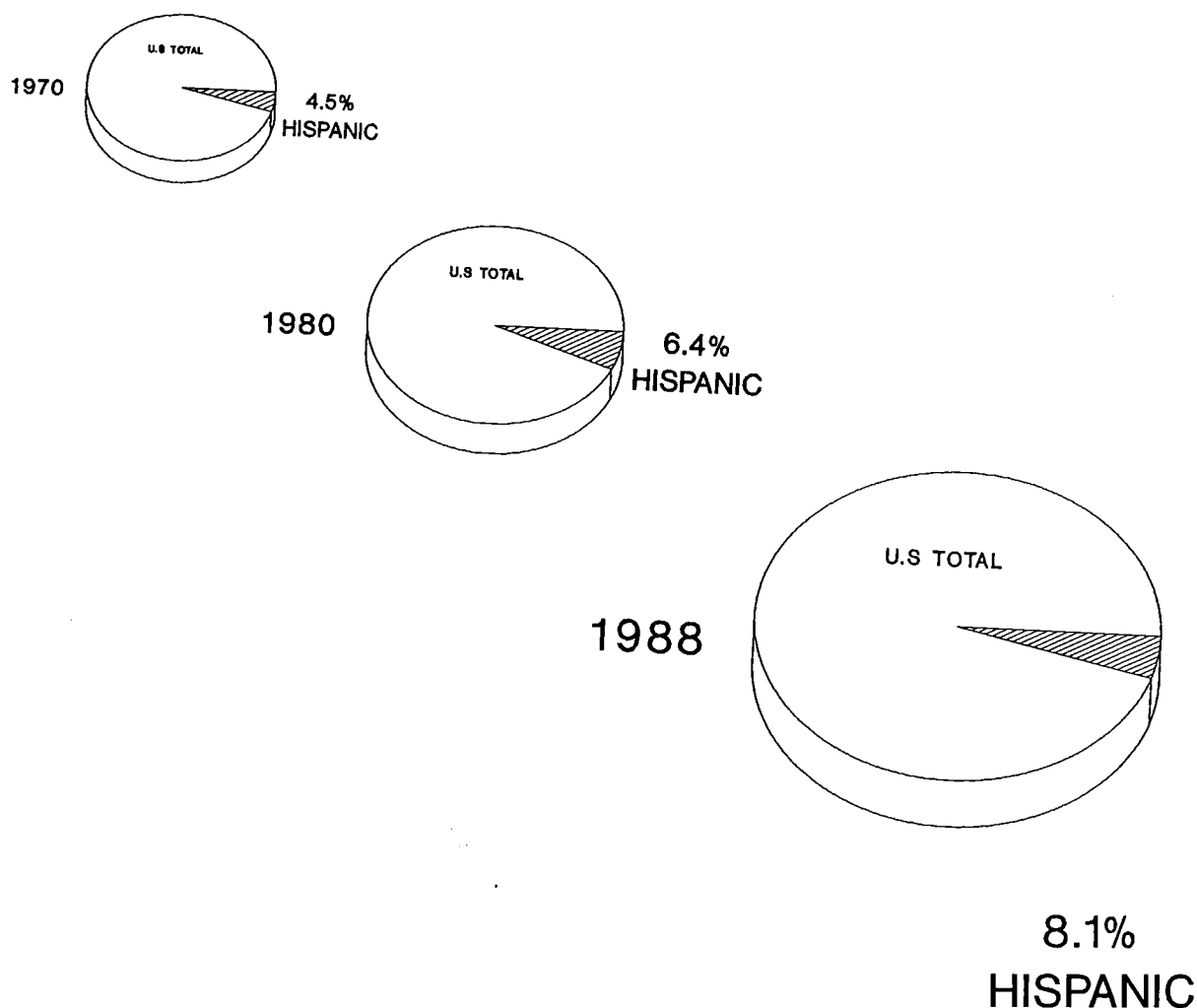


Source: *The Hispanic Population... 1988*, p.2. Also, Brown, George, et al, *The Condition of Education for Hispanic Americans*, National Education Statistics, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., July 1980, p. 6.

## 2. Decades of Growth

The Hispanic total population has shown a steady upward trend. Hispanics, who had represented only 4.5 percent of the total in 1970, rose to 6.4 percent in 1980, and still higher to 8.1 percent by early 1988 (*Chart 5*). About half the growth resulted from net migration and half from natural increase (the number of births minus the number of deaths).

**CHART 5. GROWING SLICE OF THE NATION**  
POPULATION 1970 - 1988



Source: Bureau of the Census, *The Hispanic Population ... (Advance Report)*, p. 1., and *Persons of Spanish Origin, By State, (Supplementary Report)*, p. 2



## ***C. GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION***

Almost ninety percent of all Hispanics live in just nine of the Continental United States.

In 1988 Hispanics resided primarily in five Southwestern states (*Chart 6*); 55 percent of all Hispanics lived in California and Texas. These two states, along with Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado, held 63 percent of the total Hispanic population.

Outside the Southwest, four states accounted for 26 percent of U.S. Hispanics: New York (11%), Florida (8%), Illinois (4%), and New Jersey (3%).

The whole of the rest of the country accounted for only 11 additional percent.

## ***D. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS***

Six key areas of recent social and economic change in the Hispanic community have been examined by the Bureau of the Census and these are discussed below:

- o educational attainment
- o type of family
- o labor force participation
- o unemployment
- o family income
- o poverty.

### **1. Educational Attainment**

The educational attainment level of Hispanics has improved, but remains below that of non-Hispanics\* (*Chart 7 & 8*). Indicators for secondary school and college levels, as well as for younger and older adults are noted.

### **2. Family Types**

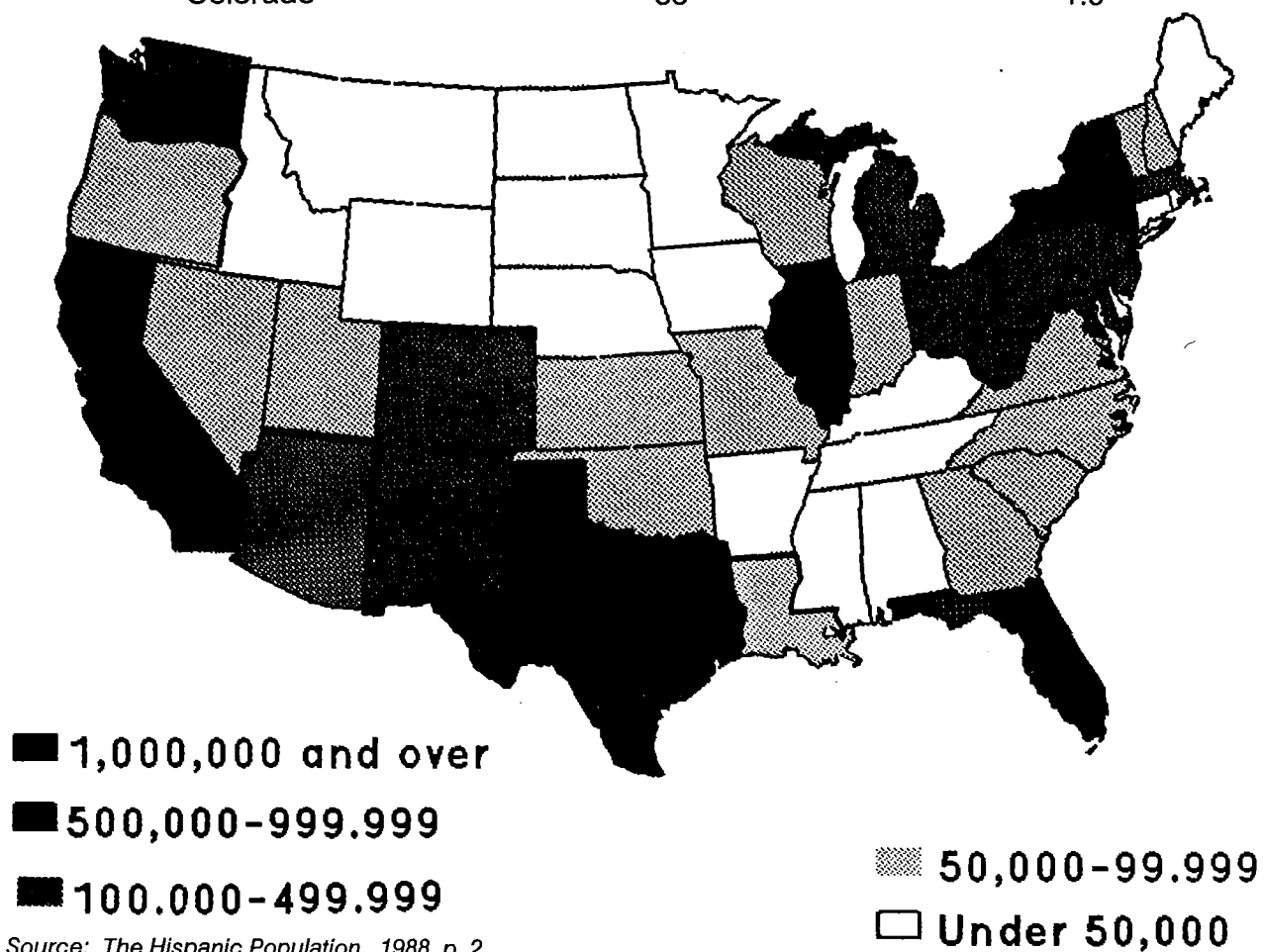
The composition of Hispanic families is changing. Mirroring a similar general pattern for American society, the traditional married-couple-maintained family is steadily declining in the Hispanic community. In the early to middle 1980's, the proportion of these families decreased from 74 to 70 percent. Similarly, the proportion of Hispanic families maintained by a single male or female, with no spouse, increased from 26 to 30 percent.

*\*Non-Hispanic, as used in this report, refers to the total population, including other minorities.*

CHART 6. GEOGRAPHY OF THE HISPANIC POPULATION  
MARCH 1988

Location	Hispanics	Percent of Total
----------	-----------	------------------

Total USA	19,431	100.0
California	6,589	33.9
Texas	4,134	21.3
New York	2,122	10.9
Florida	1,473	7.6
Illinois	801	4.1
Arizona	648	3.3
New Jersey	646	3.3
New Mexico	543	2.8
Colorado	38	1.9



Source: *The Hispanic Population...1988*, p. 2.

## CHART 7. RISING EXPECTATIONS IN EDUCATION

### o College Levels up

The proportion of Hispanics 25 years old and over who had completed 4 or more years of college **doubled** (from 5 to 10 percent) between 1970 and 1988. But the proportion of non-Hispanics (21 percent in 1988 and 11 percent in 1970) was twice as high both years.

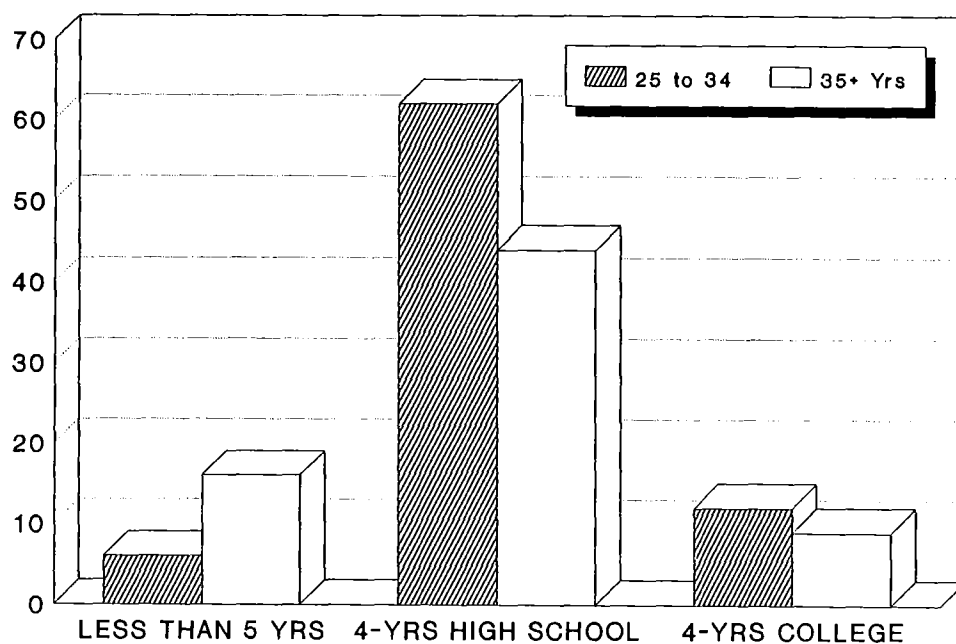
### o Secondary Levels up

Although the proportion of Hispanics with 4 years of high school or more to non-Hispanic (roughly two thirds) has not changed since 1970, the 51 percent of Hispanics completing 4 years of high school or more was the **highest level yet documented**.

### o Younger Adults (25 to 34 Years Old) vs. Older Adults (35+)

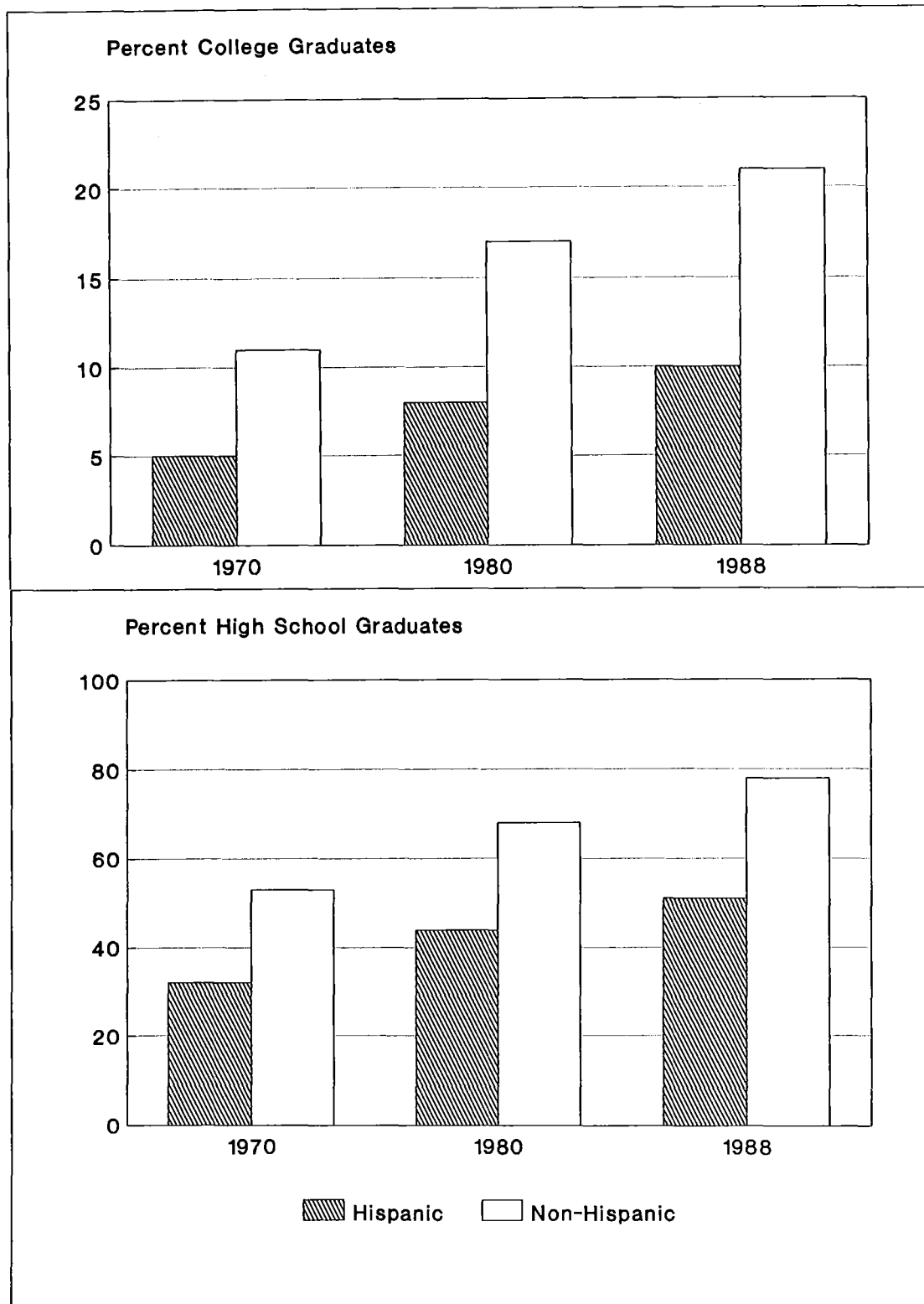
When these two generations of Hispanics are compared, the younger shows itself to be **better educated at all levels**:

## BETTER EDUCATED AT ALL LEVELS



Source: *The Hispanic Population...1988*, pp. 2-4

**CHART 8. HISPANICS ARE GRADUATING MORE OFTEN**



Source: *The Hispanic Population...1988*, p. 6.

### 3. Labor Force Participation

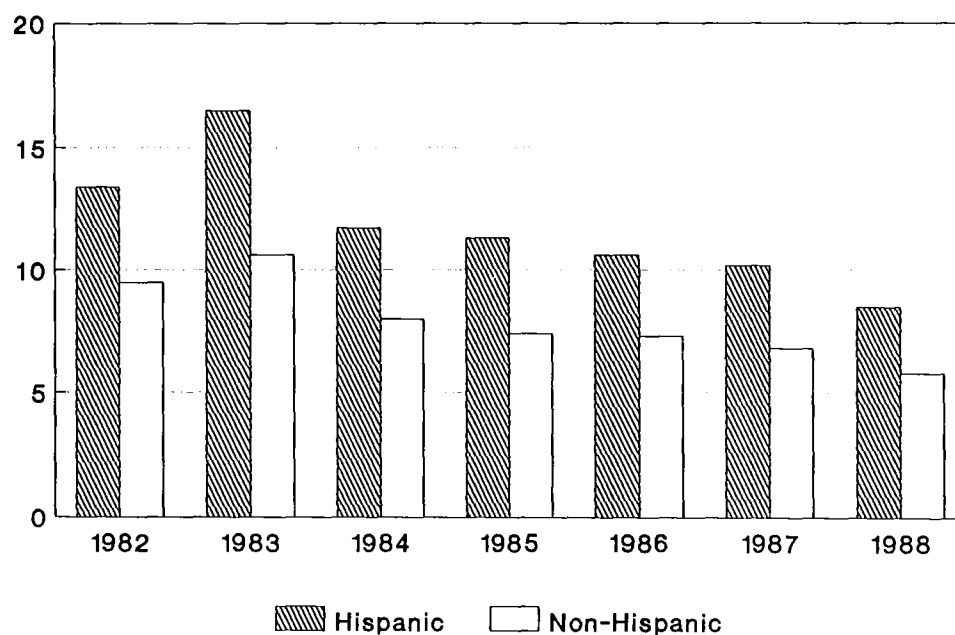
The proportion of Hispanic women participating in the nation's labor force grew from 48 to 52 percent between 1982 and 1988. In contrast, during the same period, the proportion of Hispanic men participating in the work force showed a 2 percentage-point decline, from 81 to 79 percent. Thus the gender gap in Hispanic labor force participation is narrowing.

The proportion of Hispanic men in the labor force in 1988 (79 percent) was greater than that for non-Hispanic males (74 percent); however, the proportion of Hispanic women was less (52 percent) than for non-Hispanic female workers (56 percent).

### 4. Unemployment

Unemployment figures between 1982 and 1988 for both Hispanics and non-Hispanics peaked in 1983, followed by a gradual, downward trend (*Chart 9*); for Hispanics, unemployment crested at 16.5 percent, and had declined by almost half to 8.5 percent by early 1988. Despite the steady improvement, unemployment rates for Hispanics remained higher than for non-Hispanics in each of the seven years examined.

CHART 9. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR 16 YEAR OLDS AND OVER  
MARCH 1982 - MARCH 1988

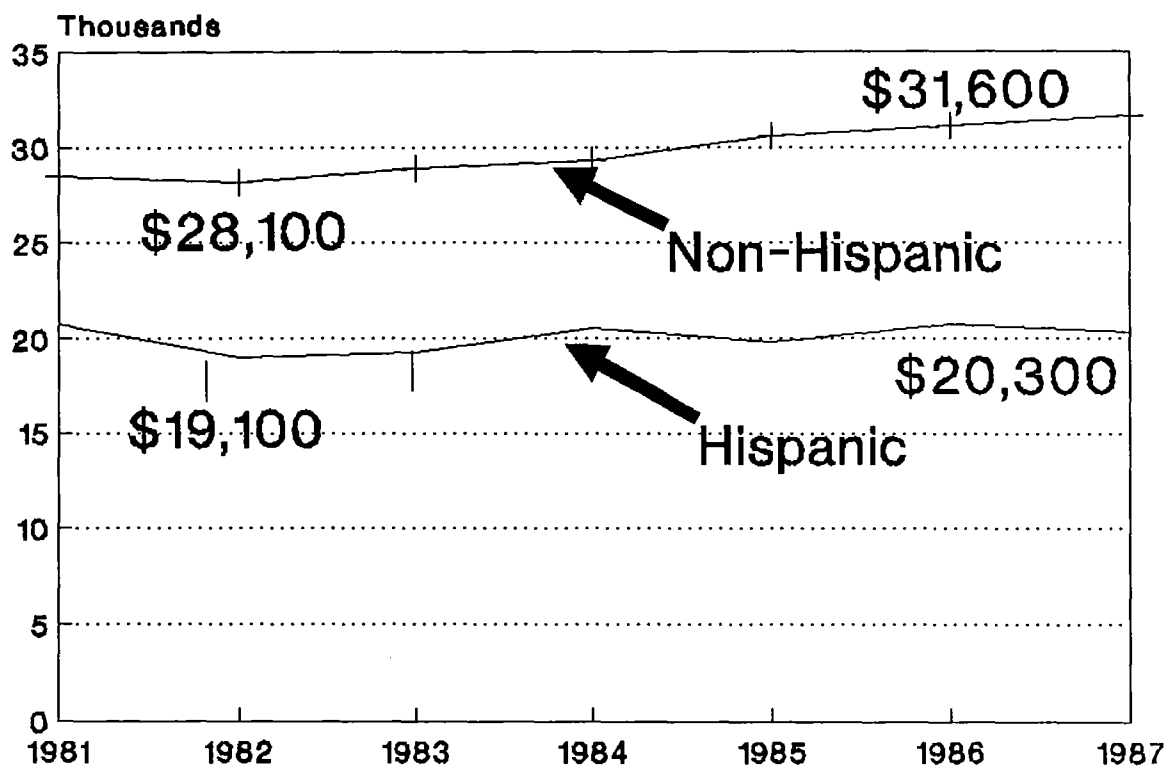


Source: *The Hispanic Population...1988*, p. 5.

## 5. Family Income

There is a steadily growing income gap between Hispanics and non-Hispanics at the national level. Since 1982, the bottom of the last economic recession, the real median family income of Hispanic families has risen by only 6.9 percent compared with 12.3 percent increase for non-Hispanic families (*Chart 10*).

CHART 10. MEDIAN FAMILY MONEY INCOME: 1981 TO 1987  
(IN 1987 DOLLARS)



Source: *The Hispanic Population...*, p. 5.

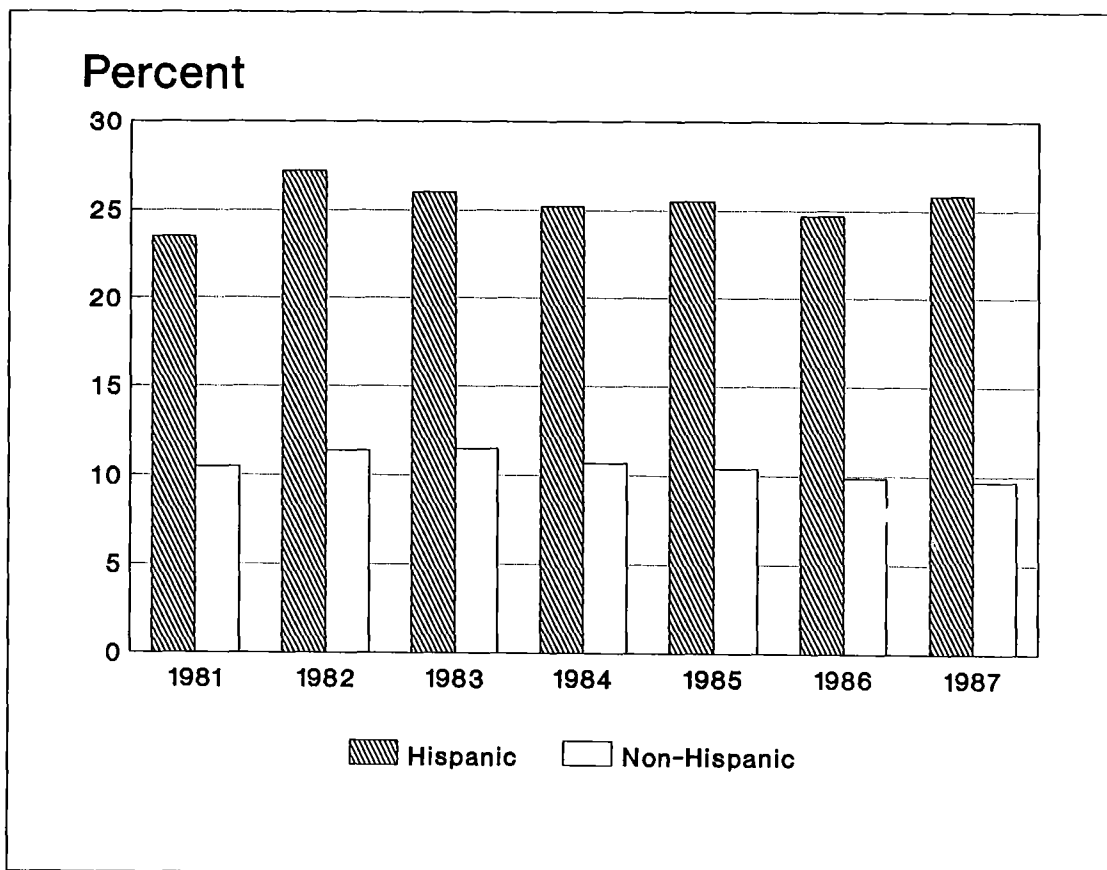
## 6. Poverty

For more than 1 out of every 4 Hispanic families, poverty is a constant. In 1987, 25.8 percent of all Hispanic families lived at below poverty level (*Chart 11*); these constituted 1.2 million of the total 4.6 million Hispanic families in the U.S.

Between 1981 and 1987, there was no significant change in the poverty rate for Hispanic families. During this period their proportion rose from a low of 23.5 percent in 1981 to a high of 27.2 percent the next year, and fluctuated in between thereafter. Additionally, the proportion of Hispanic families below the poverty level was consistently double and more the proportion of the non-Hispanic population during this period.

Among unrelated individuals, moreover, the same pattern held fast: a poverty rate higher for Hispanics than non-Hispanics. Data for 1987 indicates 30 percent of unrelated Hispanic individuals were living below the poverty level, compared with 20 percent for their non-Hispanic counterparts.

CHART 11. **FAMILIES IN POVERTY**  
PROPORTION WITH INCOME BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL, 1981 TO 1987



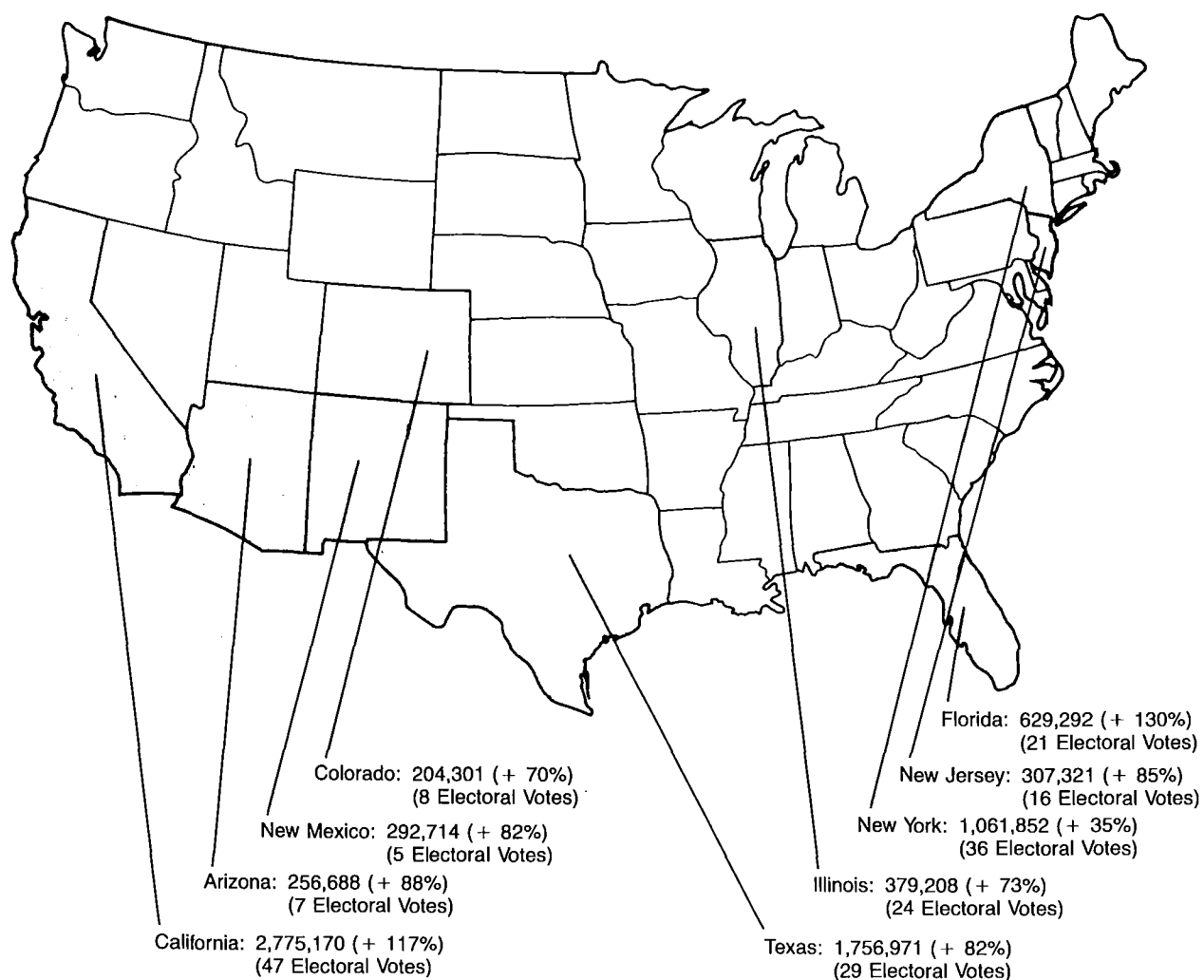
Source: *The Hispanic Population...1988*, p. 6

## E. POLITICAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Much has been written about the growing political strength of Hispanics in recent years. Some geopolitical facts characterize this community (*Chart 12*). As is evident in the map below, the Hispanic voting age population across the country is growing at phenomenal rates, from as little as 35 percent (New York) to as much as 130 percent (Florida).

### DISTRIBUTION AND GROWTH OF HISPANIC VOTING AGE

POPULATION 1970 - 1980



Source on next page.



## CHART 12. HISPANIC ELECTORATE - GEOPOLITICAL FACTS

### Many Electorates

There is not one but several Hispanic electorates in the United States, each with its unique historical experience rooted in its country of origin; these various cultural histories are manifested in differences in voting ideology.

### Differing Affiliations

Because of these differences, each of the major political parties considers one or more of the Hispanic national origin subgroups to be a natural constituency.

### Key States Residents

Hispanics are concentrated in a few states, states which are often viewed as key ones in a close national election; some 89 percent of all Hispanics are in nine states which control 193 (72 percent) of the 270 electoral votes needed to win presidency.

### Rising Voting Age Population

Voting age Hispanics increased 77 percent during the 1970's, vs. 11 percent for the rest of the nation. Despite their larger numbers, the proportion of voting age Hispanics in 1980 was 6 in 10, vs. 7 in 10 for the total population.

### Subgroup and Party Preference

There was a large difference between Cubans and other Hispanic subgroups in their vote for the president and in party preference; Cubans voted for President Reagan by a large margin and identified themselves as Republicans; a large majority of other Hispanic subgroups identified themselves as Democrats and voted accordingly.

### Democratic/Republican Balance

A slight shift toward identification with the Republican party was evident among Hispanic voters nationally from 1980 to 1984, but there was no evidence of realignment in party identification. Hispanic support for President Reagan nationwide was between one-third and slightly less than half; President Reagan gained support from 1980 to 1984 among Hispanics.

Source (for above and map on previous page): R. R. Brischetto, "Hispanic Voting Trends in National Politics," Hispanic Entrepreneur, Southwest Voter Research Institute, November 1987, pp. 12-17.

## ***F. POPULATION PROJECTIONS - TOWARDS THE YEAR 2080***

What will its Hispanic population be like as America approaches and enters the 21st century? Recently, the U. S. Bureau of the Census projected what the Hispanic population would be under various assumptions about fertility, mortality, and net immigration trends. According to the Bureau, its expectations (*Chart 13*) may turn out to be "somewhat conservative".

### **CHART 13. SOARING POPULATION GROWTH, THE COMING HISPANIC "BOOM"**

- o The Hispanic population may double within 30 years and triple in 60.
- o Most of the growth of the Spanish-origin population would occur among those aged 35 and older.
- o The Spanish-origin population aged 65 years and older may quadruple by 2015 and be seven times its present size in 2030.
- o Even without international migration, the Spanish-origin population may grow more quickly than would most other major population groups with immigration.
- o The White non-Hispanic population may peak in size by 2020, and then steadily decrease.
- o The White non-Hispanic porportion of the total population may decline in the future.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Gregory Spencer, *Current Population Reports, Series P.25, No. 995, Projections of the Hispanic Populations: 2983 to 2080*, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington D.C., 1986, page 1.

## II. THE MINNESOTA PROFILE

### A. STATE POPULATION AND NATIONAL RANKING

As noted in the Preface, there is considerable controversy over the size of the Hispanic population in Minnesota. Ironically, the Bureau of the Census itself set the stage in 1970 when it issued not one but two estimates of the size of the Hispanic population. The Bureau added fuel to the fire in 1980 by generating a Hispanic population estimate almost exactly halfway between its two 1970 counts.

If the Bureau's count (32,123) were correct, the Hispanic population represented .8 percent of the state's total population in 1980. According to this estimate, Minnesota ranked 33rd nationally among states with Hispanic populations (*Chart 14*). But SSAC has challenged the Bureau's 1980 findings and suggested a higher count: 52,000 Hispanics. This figure means that Hispanics represented 1.2 percent of Minnesota's total population at the beginning of the decade, and this would have ranked Minnesota the 28th Hispanic state in the chart below.

CHART 14. TOP HISPANIC STATES

1. California (4.5 MM)	12. Massachusetts (141 M)	23. Georgia (61 M)
2. Texas (3.0 MM)	13. Connecticut (125 M)	24. Utah (60 M)
3. New York (1.7 MM)	14. Washington (120 M)	25. Oklahoma (57 M)
4. Florida (858 M)	15. Ohio (120 M)	26. No. Carolina (57 M)
5. Illinois (635 M)	16. Louisiana (99 M)	27. Nevada (54 M)
6. New Jersey (491 M)	17. Indiana (87 M)	28. Missouri (52 M)
7. New Mexico (477 M)	18. Virginia (79 M)	29. Idaho (37 M)
8. Arizona (441 M)	19. Oregon (65 M)	30. Tennessee (34 M)
9. Colorado (340 M)	20. Maryland (65 M)	31. So. Carolina (33 M)
10. Michigan (162 M)	21. Kansas (63 M)	32. Alabama (33 M)
11. Pennsylvania (154 M)	22. Wisconsin (63 M)	33. Minnesota (32 M)

MM = Million M = Thousand

Source: Census Bureau, Supplementary Report, Persons of Spanish Origin by State, PC80-S1-7.

## B. GEOGRAPHIC CONCENTRATIONS

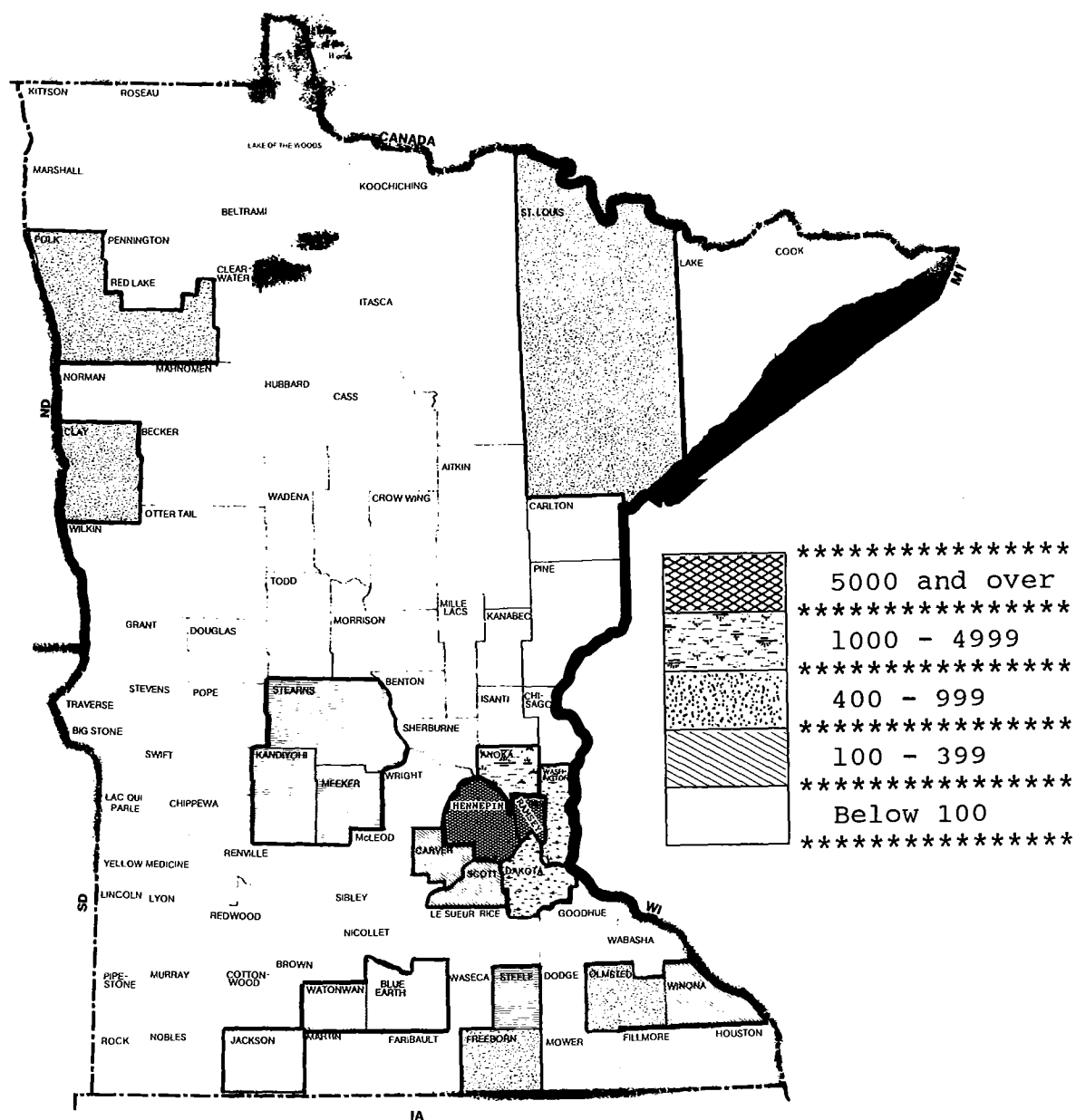
Hispanic population patterns in Minnesota in 1980 were very compact (*Map 2*). Twenty counties accounted for 84 percent of all Hispanics in 1980. *Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott* and *Washington* counties -- all 7 in the Twin Cities area (*Map 3*) -- contained 79 percent of the state's Hispanics in 1980 (Hennepin and Ramsey counties alone were home to more than half of Minnesota's Hispanics). Thirteen other counties -- *Blue Earth, Clay, Freeborn, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Nobles, Olmstead, Polk, St. Louis, Stearns, Steele, Watonwan, and Winona* -- contained 5 percent of the state's 32,123 Hispanics.

CHART 15. KEY HISPANIC COUNTIES IN 1980

County Name	Total Population	Hispanic Population	Percent Hispanic
<u>In Twin Cities Area:</u>			
1. Anoka	195,998	1,281	.7
2. Carver	37,046	123	.3
3. Dakota	194,279	1,870	1.0
4. Hennepin	941,411	8,027	.9
5. Ramsey	459,784	9,310	2.0
6. Scott	43,784	203	.5
7. Washington	<u>113,571</u>	<u>1,050</u>	.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,985,873</b>	<b>21,909</b>	<b>1.1</b>
<u>Outside Twin Cities Area:</u>			
1. Clay	49,327	484	1.0
2. Blue Earth	52,314	347	.7
3. Freeborn	36,329	951	2.6
4. Kandiyohi	36,763	206	.6
5. Meeker	20,594	173	.8
6. Nobles	21,840	150	.7
7. Olmstead	92,006	532	.6
8. Polk	34,844	560	1.6
9. St. Louis	222,229	775	.3
10. Stearns	108,161	357	.3
11. Steele	30,328	253	.8
12. Watonwan	12,361	239	.2
13. Winona	<u>46,256</u>	<u>196</u>	.4
<b>TOTAL NON-METRO:</b>	<b>765,722</b>	<b>5,222</b>	<b>.7</b>
<b>20 COUNTIES:</b>	<b>2,752,595</b>	<b>27,131</b>	<b>.9</b>

Source: Census Bureau, PC80-1-B25, Table 44, pp. 159-191

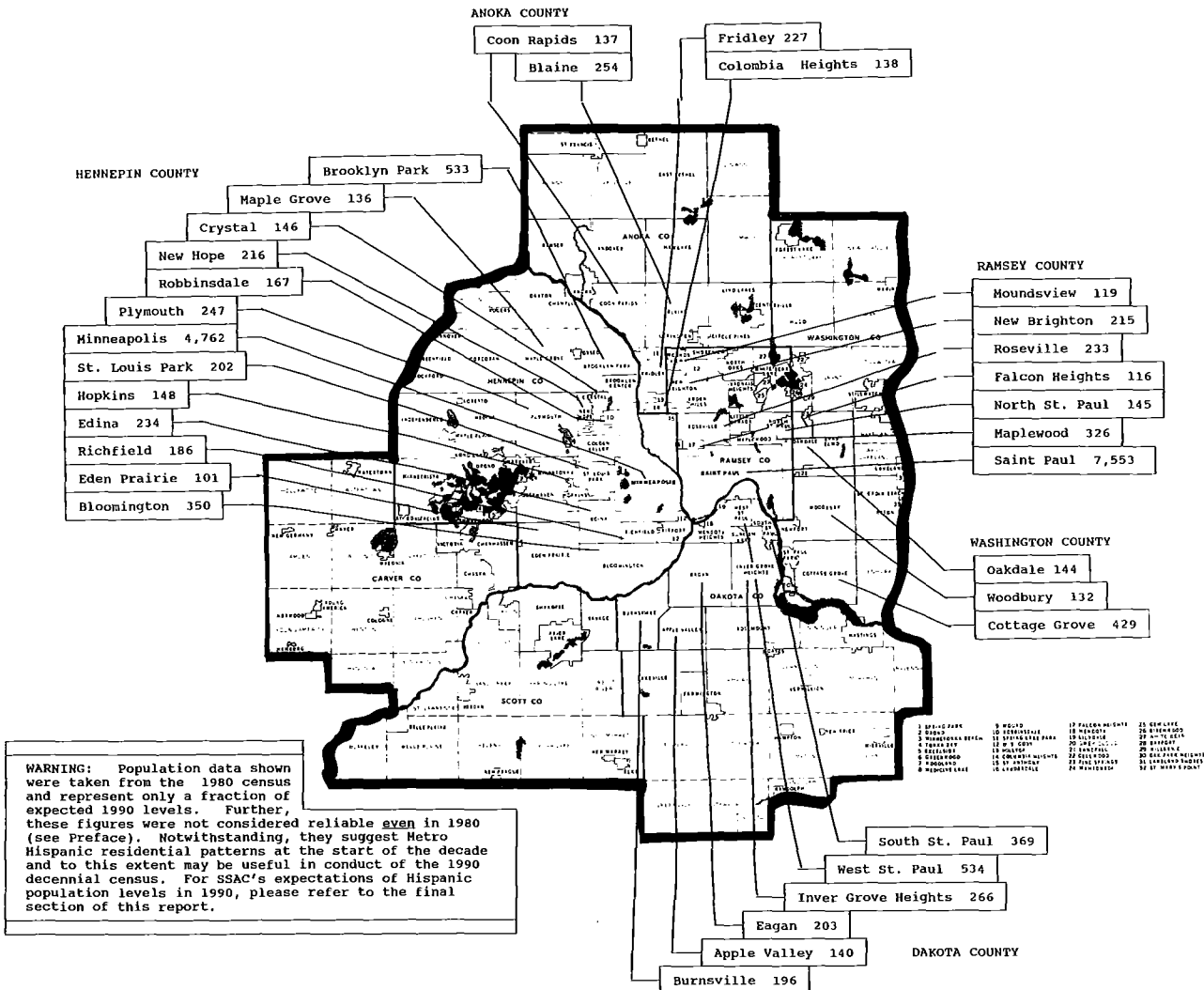
MAP 2. DISTRIBUTION OF HISPANICS, 1980



Source: Bureau of the Census, PC80-1-B25, Table 44, pp. 159

# MAP 3. METRO AREA HISPANICS

7 OF EVERY 10 HISPANIC MINNESOTANS LIVE IN THIS 7-COUNTY UNIT

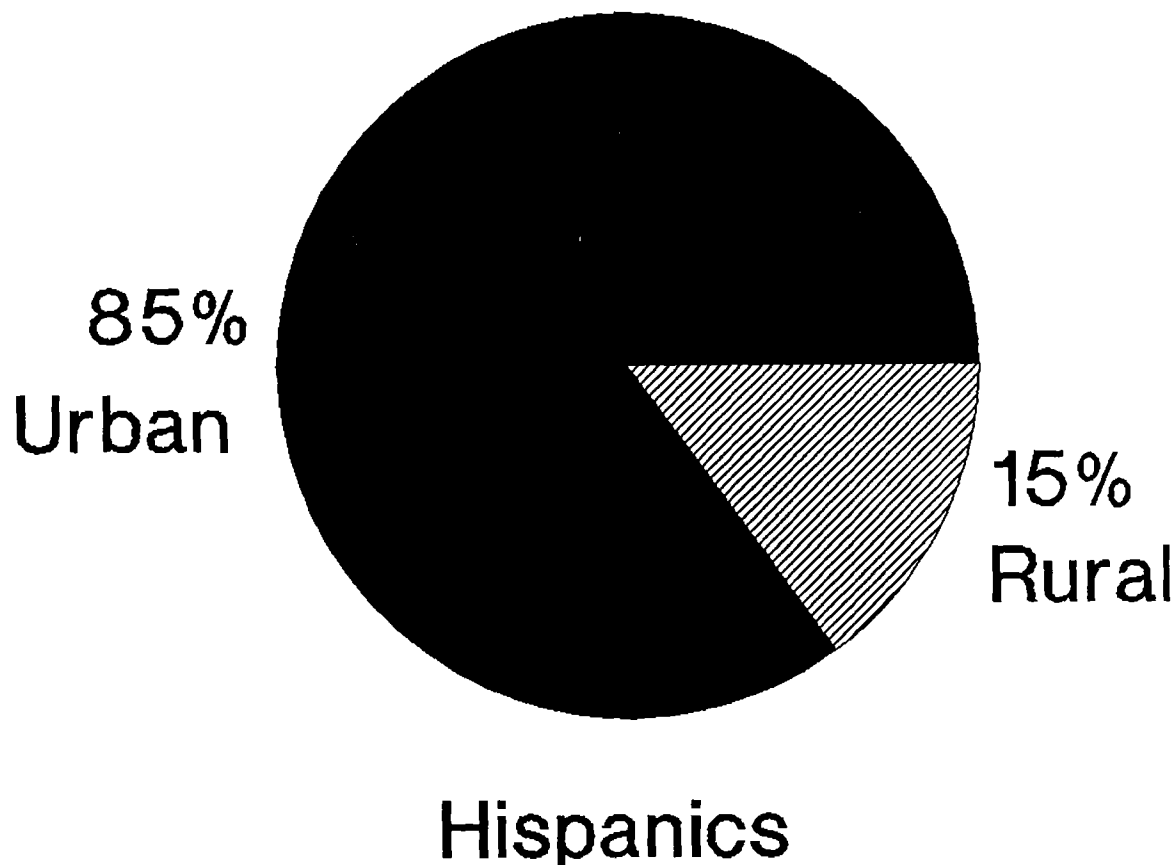


Source: 1980 Census, PC 80-1-C25, pp.35-41.

## 1. Urban Dwellers

Hispanic residential patterns in Minnesota were heavily metropolitan in 1980; and, in fact, 85 percent of all state Hispanics lived in urban areas at the beginning of the decade (*Chart 16*).

CHART 16. URBAN/RURAL RESIDENCE



Source: Bureau of the Census, PC80-1-C25, p. 90.

## 2. Key Hispanic Cities

Minneapolis and St. Paul were the largest Hispanic population centers in Minnesota, together accounting for 39 percent of the state's Hispanics in 1980.

Next heaviest concentrations were in Albert Lea, West St. Paul, Brooklyn Park, Rochester, Cottage Grove, Duluth, South St. Paul, and Bloomington.

Together these cities encompassed 50 percent of the state's Hispanic population. An additional forty cities together with the above comprised almost three fourths (74 percent) of all Minnesota Hispanics in 1980 (*Chart 17*).

**CHART 17. KEY HISPANIC CITIES**  
URBAN AREAS WITH 100 OR MORE HISPANICS IN 1980

- |                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. St. Paul (7553)            | 26. Crookston* (211)       |
| 2. Minneapolis (4762)         | 27. Eagan (203)            |
| 3. Albert Lea* (707)          | 28. St. Louis Park (202)   |
| 4. West St. Paul (534)        | 29. Burnsville (196)       |
| 5. Brooklyn Park (533)        | 30. Ritchfield (186)       |
| 6. Rochester* (463)           | 31. Owatonna* (172)        |
| 7. Cottage Grove (429)        | 32. Robinsdale (167)       |
| 8. Duluth* (387)              | 33. Hopkins (148)          |
| 9. South St. Paul (369)       | 34. Litchfield* (147)      |
| 10. Bloomington (350)         | 35. North St. Paul (145)   |
| 11. Maplewood (326)           | 36. Oakdale (144)          |
| 12. Moorhead* (288)           | 37. Applevalley (140)      |
| 13. Mankato* (287)            | 38. Crystal City (140)     |
| 14. East Grand Fork* (272)    | 39. Colombia Heights (138) |
| 15. Inver Grove Heights (266) | 40. Coon Rapids (137)      |
| 16. Blaine (254)              | 41. Maplegrove (136)       |
| 17. White Bear Lake (253)     | 42. Woodbury (132)         |
| 18. Plymouth (247)            | 43. Marshall* (119)        |
| 19. Winona* (240)             | 44. Moundsview (119)       |
| 20. Edina (234)               | 45. Falcon Heights (116)   |
| 21. St. Cloud* (234)          | 46. Worthington* (115)     |
| 22. Roseville (233)           | 47. Lakeville (104)        |
| 23. Fridley (227)             | 48. Willmar* (104)         |
| 24. New Hope (216)            | 49. St. James* (103)       |
| 25. New Brighton (215)        | 50. Eden Prairie (101)     |

\*Outside Twin Cities Metro

CITY TOTAL: 23,707 or Three Fourths of State's Hispanics

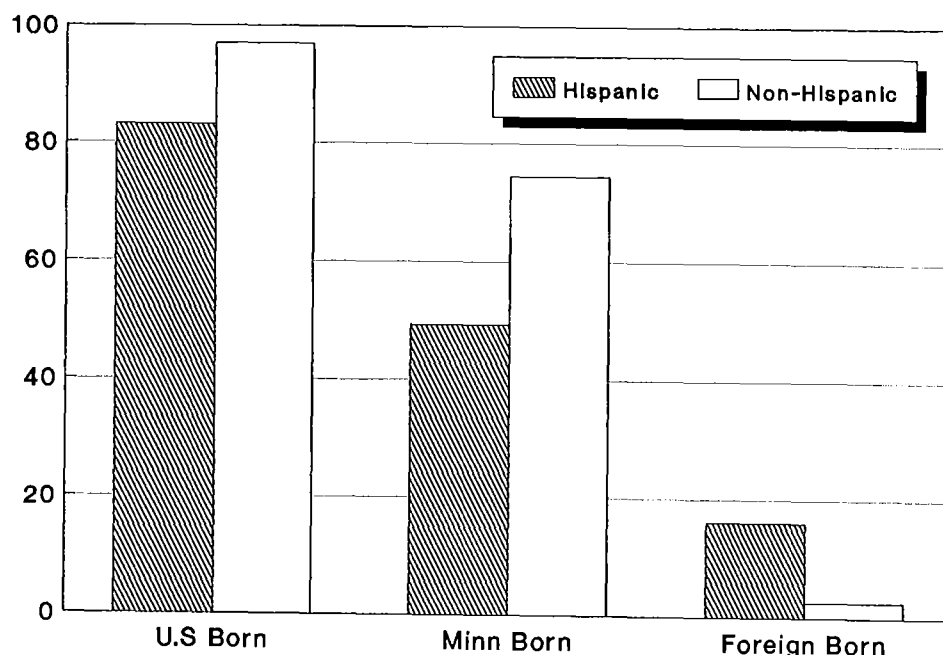
Source: PC80-1-C25, Table 59, p. 34.



### C. NATIVE/FOREIGN BORN

Most Minnesota Hispanics were native born in 1980. According to the 1980 census, fully 83 percent of the state's 32,123 Hispanics were born in this country, and practically half (49.3 percent) were born in Minnesota proper. A sizeable 16.1 percent, or 5,167, were foreign born (*Chart 18*).

CHART 18. NATIVE AND FOREIGN BORN PERCENTAGES  
HISPANICS AND NON-HISPANICS, 1980



Source: Bureau of the Census, PC8-1-C25, Table 63, p. 58, and Table 85, p. 91.

### D. NATIONAL ORIGINS AND RACIAL SUBGROUPS

Hispanics in the state, as in the nation at large, are divided into country-of-origin subgroups (*Chart 19*).

Mexicans were by far the largest subgroup. At 20,437, they made up almost 64 percent of the state's Hispanics.

Next largest were the Puerto Ricans who at 1,5550 made up almost 5 percent of the total.

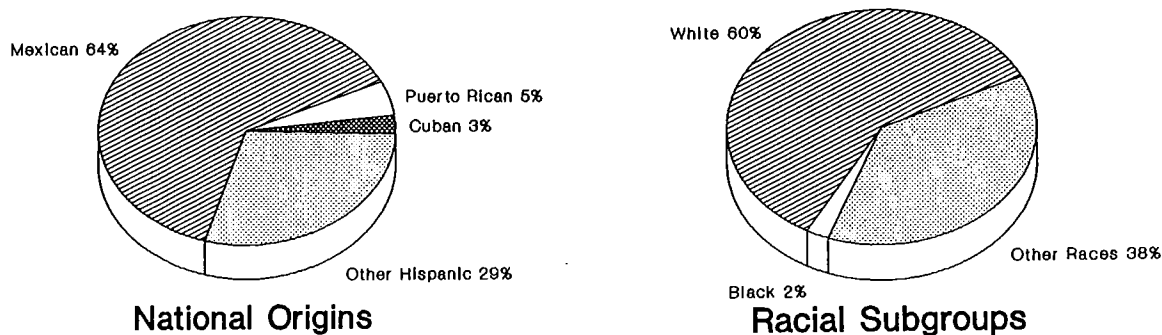
The smallest subgroup were the Cubans; at 795, they comprised 2.5 percent of the state's total Hispanic population.

One additional subgroup, "Other Hispanic" deserves special consideration. A miscellaneous category perhaps too broad, it contained "all those whose origins [were] from Spain, or the Spanish-speaking countries of Central or South America, or ... Spanish origin persons identifying themselves as Spanish, Spanish American, Hispano, Latino, etc." At 9,341, "Other Hispanics" accounted for nearly 30 percent of all Hispanics in the state. Half the size of the Mexican subgroup, and three and a half times the combined size of the Puerto Rican and Cuban, they were easily the second largest of all the subgroups in the state in 1980.

Hispanics, regardless of national origin, may be of any race (*Chart 19*). In 1980, 60 percent of Minnesota Hispanics classified themselves as white, 2.4 percent black, and 37.7 percent "Other Races".

The concept of race as used by the Census Bureau does not denote any clear-cut scientific definition of biological stock. The 1980 census questionnaire listed 15 "race" choices (White, Black or Negro, Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Vietnamese, Indian [Amer.], Asian Indian, Hawaiian, Guamanian, Samoan, Eskimo, Aleut, and Other). Information obtained, with some exceptions, was based on self-identification by respondents.

CHART 19. NATIONAL ORIGINS AND RACIAL SUBGROUPS

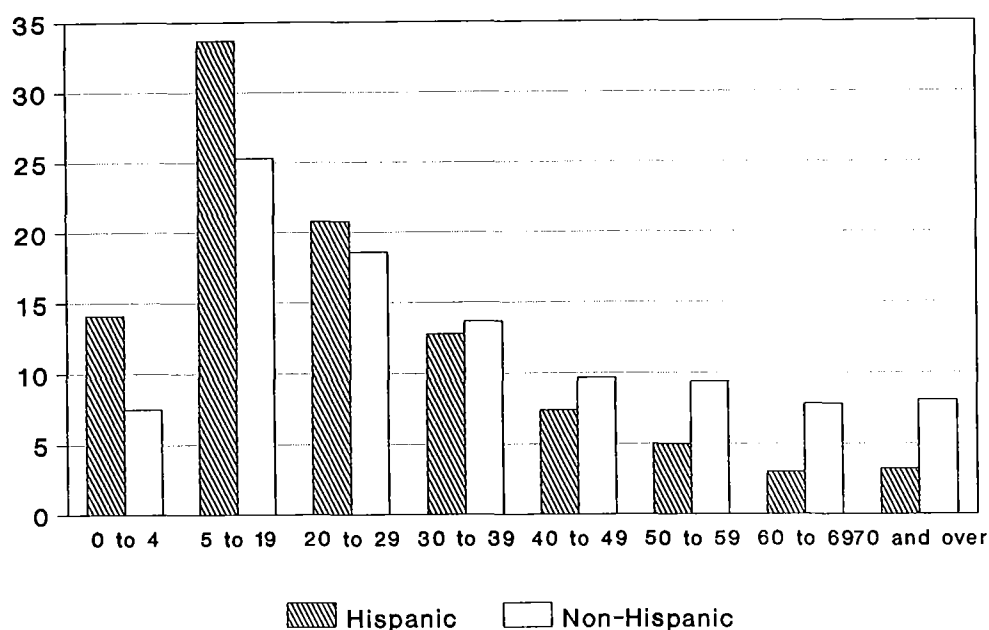


Source: Bureau of the Census, PC80-1-B25, Table 16, p. 19

## E. AGE DISTRIBUTION

Minnesota Hispanics were a very young population in 1980. This was evident in their low median age - 21 years -- compared with 29.2 years for non-Hispanics. And clear further evidence could be found in the much larger proportions of Hispanics found in the under-twenty age groups (*Chart 20*). While nearly half (47.8 percent) of Minnesota Hispanics were under 20 years of age in 1980, less than a third (32.8 percent) of the state's non-Hispanics fell in this category. Conversely, Hispanics had lower proportions in the older age groups. Only 6.3 percent of Hispanics were age 60 or older, in contrast with 16 percent of Minnesota's non-Hispanics.

CHART 20. AGE GROUPINGS  
HISPANICS/NON-HISPANICS, 1980



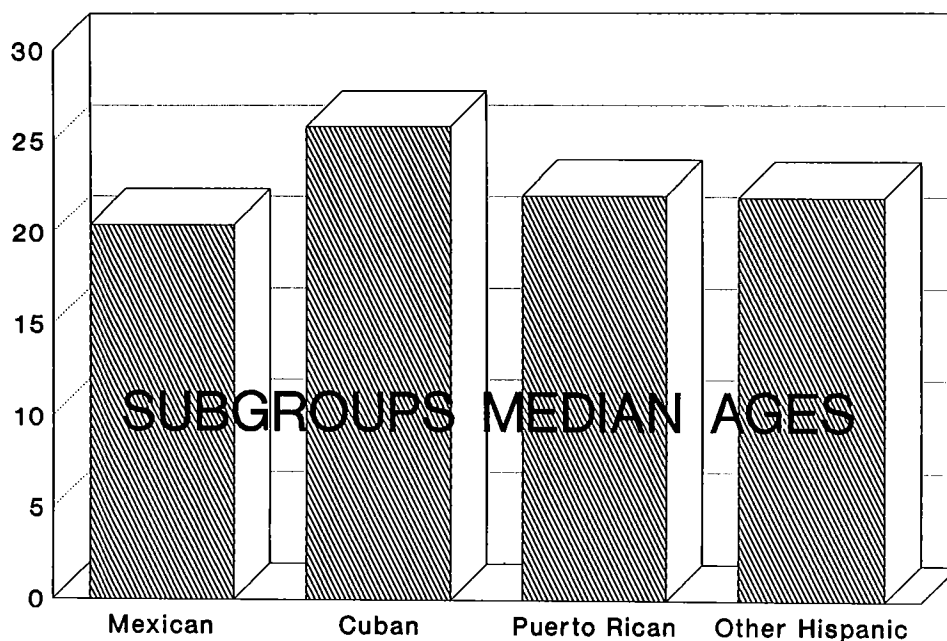
Source: Bureau of the Census, PC80-1-B25, Table 23, p. 40.

## Age Differences Among Hispanics

There were some interesting, as well as significant age differences among the Hispanics subgroups (*Chart 21*). The smaller population subgroups -- the Cuban, Puerto Rican -- were the oldest; whereas, the larger subgroups -- the Mexican, Other Hispanics -- were the youngest.

This is significant because if the Minnesota Hispanic population trend follows the national pattern -- and there is no reason to suspect otherwise -- the Mexican and Other Hispanics subgroups will continue to dominate numerically, and the overall Hispanic population will retain its youthful character.

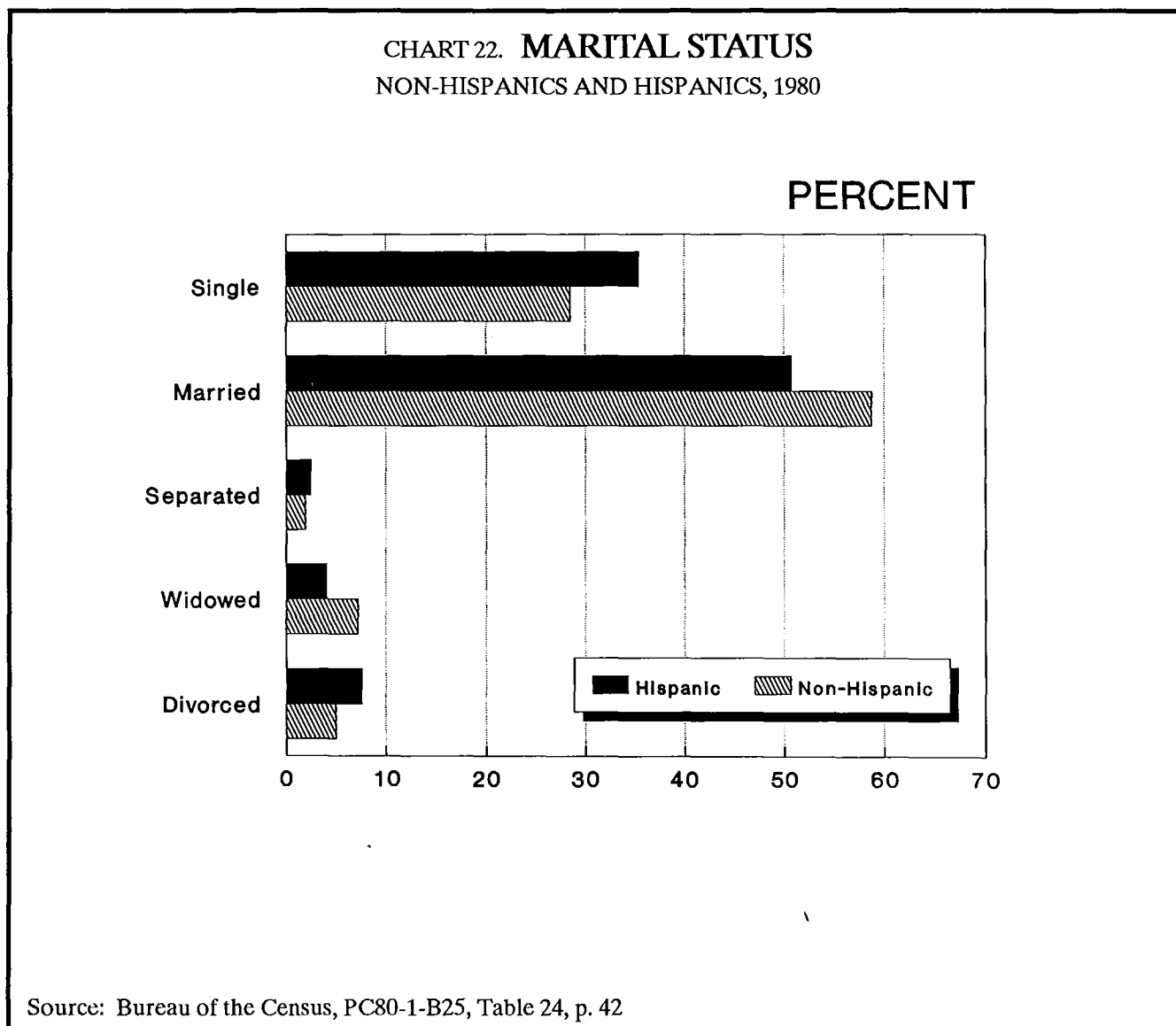
CHART 21. AGE DIFFERENCES AMONG HISPANICS



Source: Bureau of the Census, PC80-1-B25, Table 23, p. 40

## F. MARITAL STATUS

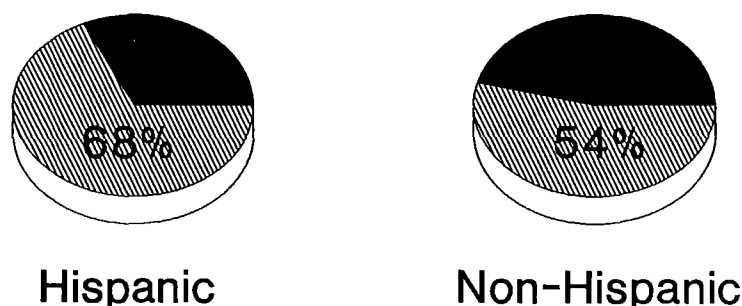
In part because Hispanics were so young in 1980, a greater percentage were single compared with non-Hispanics. The Hispanic population in Minnesota were also less likely to be married, more likely to be separated or divorced, and less likely to be widowed than non-Hispanics (*Chart 22*).



## G. FAMILY TYPES

Hispanic families were more likely than non-Hispanic families to have children. In 1980, 68 percent of Hispanic families in Minnesota contained children, compared to only 54% for non-Hispanics families (*Chart 23*).

CHART 23. FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN  
HISPANICS AND NON-HISPANICS, 1980



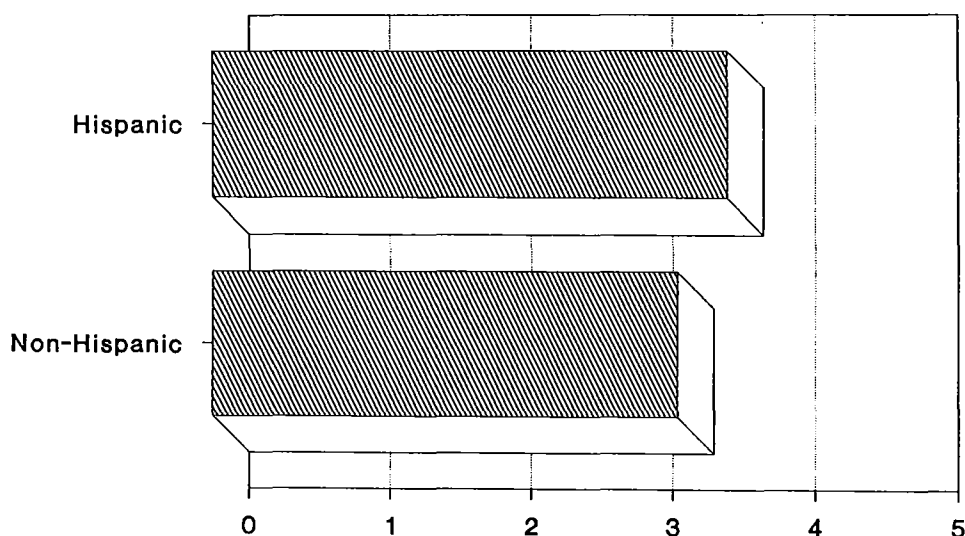
Source: Bureau of the Census, PC80-1-B25, Table 23, p. 41

Moreover, Hispanic families were larger: 3.64 persons per Hispanic family, for instance, compared with 3.29 per non-Hispanic family (*Chart 24*).

Families headed by married couples made up the majority (77 percent) of Hispanic households in Minnesota in 1980. However, 23.3 percent of Hispanic family households were not married couple families. Of the single parent families, those headed by females made up 18.2 percent of all families - over three times the proportion of male-headed families which accounted for only 5.1 percent of total households.

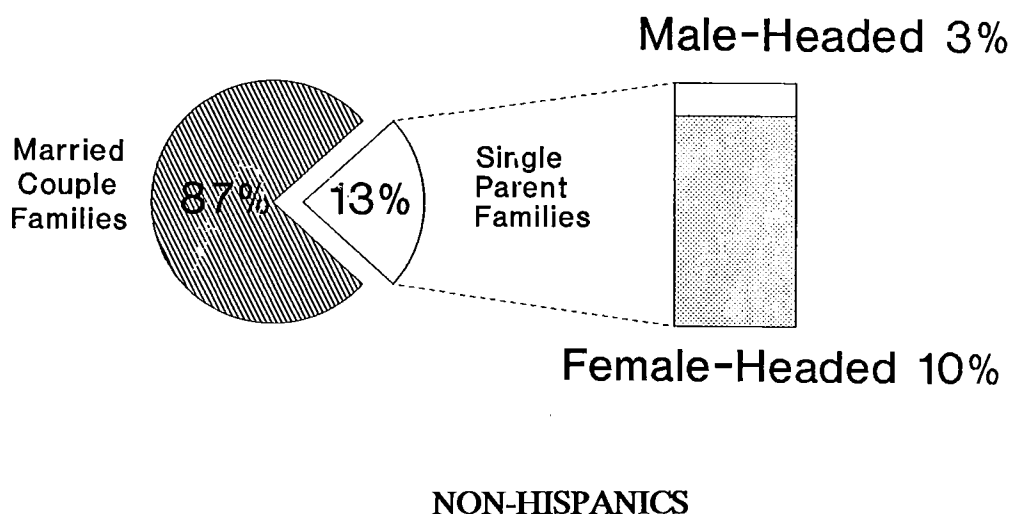
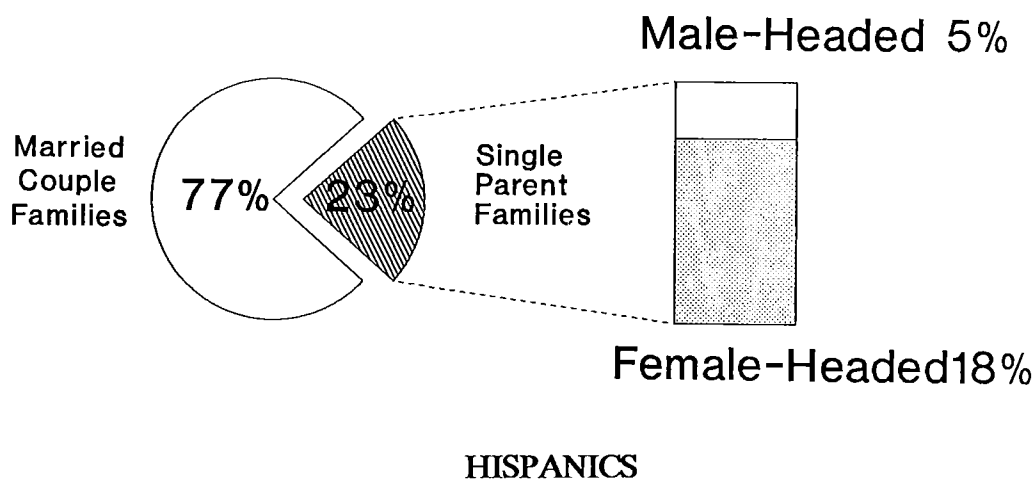
In both married couple and single parent families, Hispanics differed from the state's non-Hispanic population (*Chart 25*). Hispanics had less married couple families, more female- and male-headed families in 1980.

CHART 24. PERSONS PER HOUSEHOLD



Source: Bureau of the Census, PC80-1-B25, Table 23, p. 41.

CHART 25. **MARRIED-COUPLE, SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES**  
HISPANICS AND NON-HISPANICS, 1980



Source: Bureau of the Census, PC80-1-B25, Table 23, P. 41; and Commission on the Economic Status of Women Newsletter #132, November 1988.

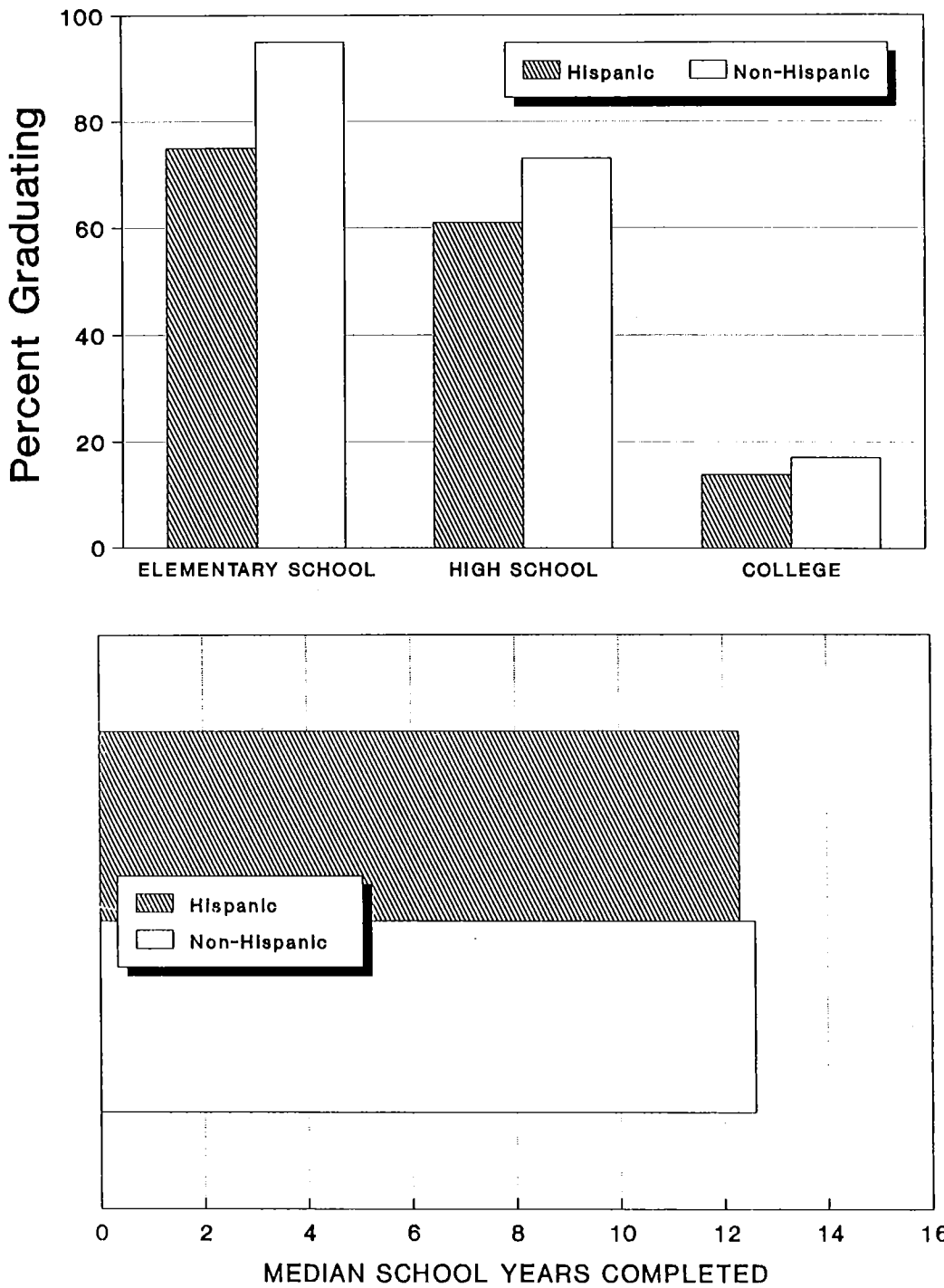
## H. EDUCATION

### 1. BENCHMARKS

How educated is the Hispanic community? In 1980 four benchmarks provided partial answers (Chart 26). The Hispanic proportions graduating from a) *elementary school*: (75%), b) *highschool*: (61%), c) *college*: (13.8%); and d) their *median number of school years completed*: 12.3, were all exceeded by Minnesota's non-Hispanics.

### CHART 26. EDUCATION BENCHMARKS

PERCENT OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL, AND COLLEGE GRADUATES,  
AND MEDIAN YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED, HISPANICS AND NON-HISPANICS, 1980



Source: Bureau of the Census, PC80-1-C25, Table 86, p. 91.



## 2. Hispanic Educational Attainment

As the above benchmarks underscore, not all Hispanics negotiate Minnesota educational systems with equal results. One way to measure “ability to negotiate educational systems” is to look at the entire Hispanic adult population to see how successful it has been in terms of years of school completed. Hispanic educational attainment ranged broadly in 1980 -- from less than 5 years of elementary school to 4 or more years of college, but at all levels Hispanics trailed (*Chart 27*). In the Elementary School category, 7.2 of adult Hispanics had completed less than 5 years of school (the traditional standard of illiteracy). Ten percent had completed only 5 to 7 years -- and only 8 percent had actually graduated from elementary school (before dropping out of school). Thus, fully one fourth had received a *maximum* of 8 years of formal education -- 25.2 percent simply disappeared from the Minnesota educational process. The comparable rate for non-Hispanics was significantly lower (16.5 percent).

The educational attainment gap narrowed in High School, but not much. Overall 45.4 percent of all Hispanics benefitted from at least some secondary school education (before dropping out), compared with non-Hispanics (48.8 percent). But this obscured the fact that Hispanics had a greater proportion (13.7 percent) who left high school after completing only 1 to 3 years (compared with non-Hispanics' 10.2 percent).

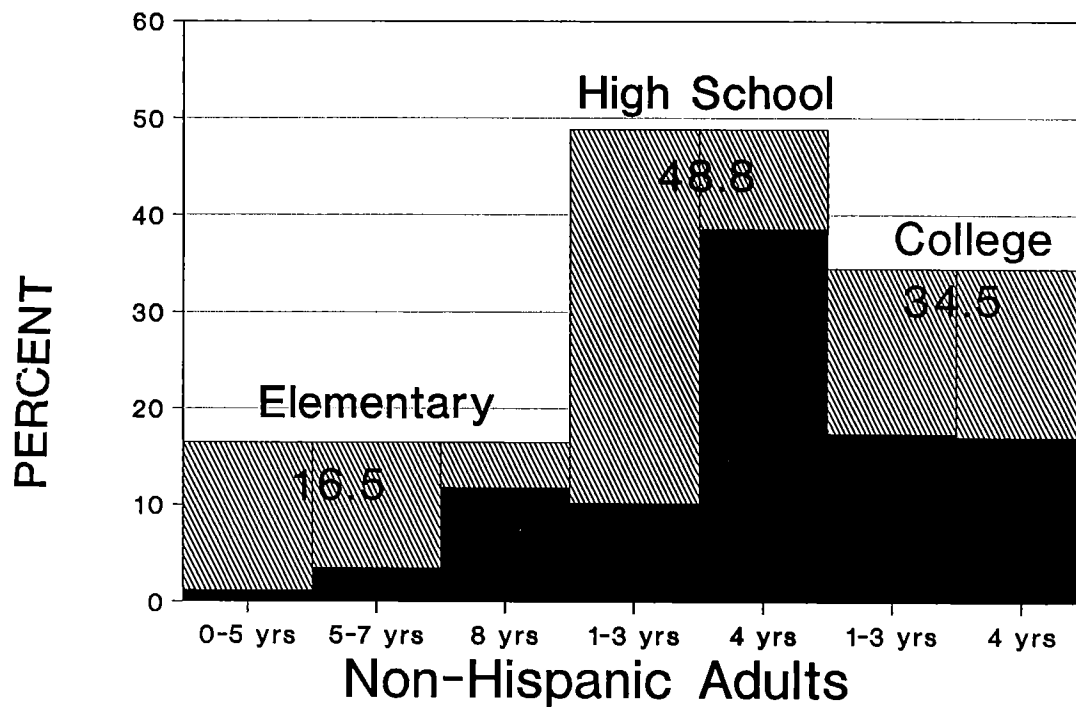
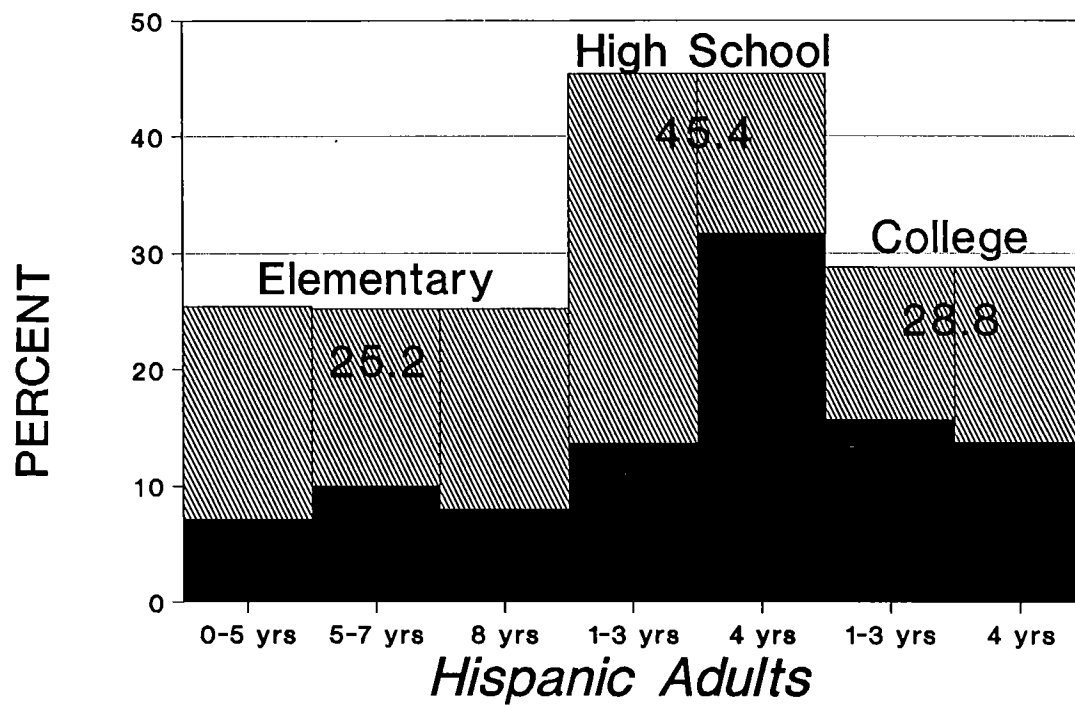
At the College level, differences between Hispanics and non-Hispanics widened, especially towards graduation. The overall college education proportion difference of 5.7 points -- 34.5 percent for non-Hispanics minus 28.8 percent for Hispanics -- substantially exceeded the High School 3.4 point difference.

## 3. Enrollment Data: A View to the Future

A second way to measure a population's education level is to look at its numbers actually participating in educational institutions in the present.

By definition, this means turning one's attention away from adults, and examining the younger generation as they work their way up through the educational process. In a sense, then, one is looking to the future, rather than the past. From this perspective, an overview of the state's population in 1980 disclosed three main characteristics (*chart 28*).

CHART 27. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT  
HISPANIC AND NON-HISPANIC ADULTS (25+ YEARS AND OLDER), 1980



Source: Bureau of the Census, Tables 66, p. 61; and 86, p. 91.

First, the Hispanic population had over half (60 percent) of its enrollees at the elementary school level or below, partly attributable to this population's youthful demographics.

Second, Hispanic enrollees proportions at all these levels were greater than those for non-Hispanic enrollees.

And finally, Hispanics had smaller proportions of its enrollees at the higher educational levels relative to the non-Hispanic population.

A slightly different view is gained by comparing the number of enrollees with the state's overall population (lower half of *Chart 28*). Considered in this manner, Hispanics actually held commanding leads in three crucial categories: elementary (18.7 vs. 12.4 percent), high school (9.0 vs. 7.3 percent), and overall (39 vs. 28 percent).

Seemingly, this would suggest that Hispanics may be gaining educational ground on Minnesota's non-Hispanics, and such in fact may be the case; but just as likely this reflects the population's lower median age. Moreover, actual graduation from high school still looms as a formidable hurdle for many Hispanics.

**CHART 28. EDUCATIONAL ENROLLMENT OVERVIEW**  
HISPANICS AND NON-HISPANICS, 3+ YRS OLD, BY SCHOOL LEVELS

	Hispanics		Non-Hispanics	
Total Enrolled in All Schools:	12,521	100%	1,142,230	100%
Nursery School	722	5.8	44,992	4.0
Kindergarten	759	6.1	54,433	4.8
Elementary	6,003	47.8	505,292	44.2
High School	2,897	23.1	297,234	26.3
College	2,140	17.1	230,008	20.1

Enrollees as Percent of **TOTAL** Populations:

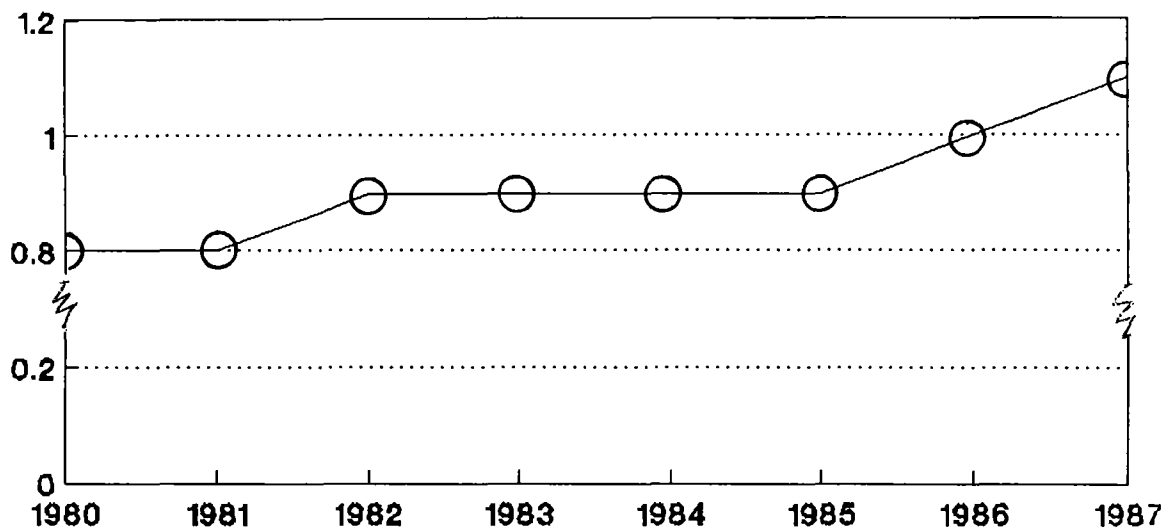
Nursery Schools	2.2	1.8
Kindergartens	2.3	1.5
Elementary Schools	18.7	14.1
High Schools	9.0	7.8
Colleges	6.7	5.6
Total Enrollees	39 %	30.8
MINNESOTA POPULATIONS:	32,123 100 %	4,075,970 100%

Source: Bureau of the Census, PC80-1-C25, Table 99, 104.

#### 4. Hispanics in Minnesota Elementary Schools

Hispanic children are well represented at this level. As noted earlier, Hispanic enrollment in elementary schools was proportionately greater than that of non-Hispanics. Indeed, from 1980 to 1987 Hispanic elementary school enrollment exceeded the Hispanic share (.8 percent) of the state's total population (*Chart 29*).

CHART 29. **FULL PARITY\*, AND MORE, IN GRADES K-8**  
HISPANIC PROPORTION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT, 1980-1987



\*Parity = .8 %

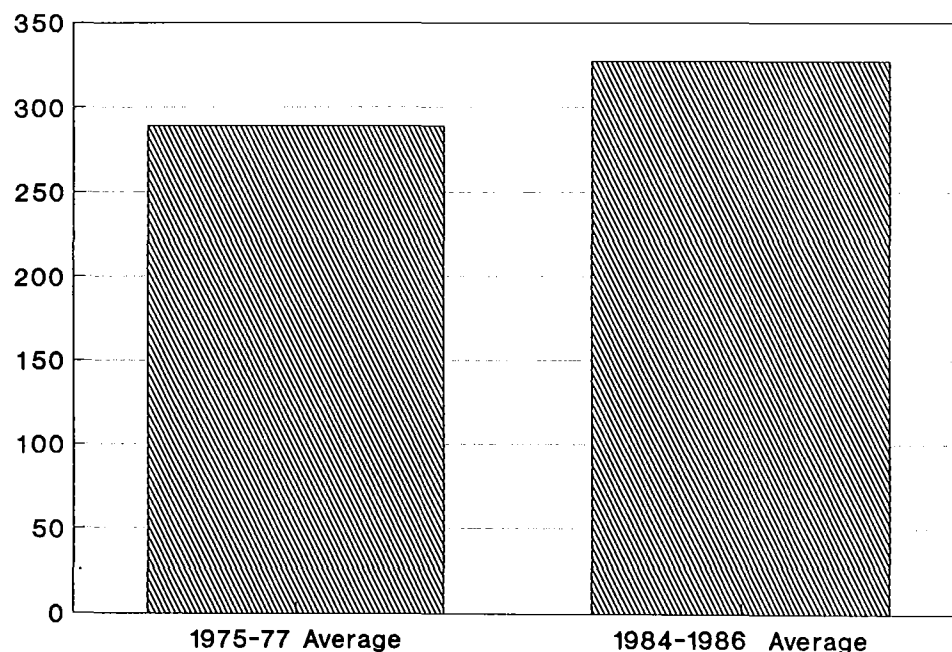
Source: Minnesota Department of Education, MINCRIS Resident Students by Grade, 1980-81 through 1987-88 School Year Reports.

#### 5. Hispanics in High School

Data cited earlier would seem to indicate that Hispanics do not suffer a disadvantage relative to non-Hispanics at the high school level. In both their *Levels of Educational Attainment* (45.4 percent of Hispanics adults had attended at least some high school vs. 48.8 percent of similar aged non-Hispanics), and *Levels of Enrollment* (9 percent of all Minnesota Hispanics were enrolled in high school vs. only 7.3 percent of the state's non-Hispanics) Hispanics would seem to be "holding their own." The suggestion of impending parity is further enhanced by optimistic reports, such as one that Minnesota high schools now graduate 13 percent more Hispanics than was the case twelve years ago (*Chart 30*).

CHART 30. INCREASE IN HISPANIC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES  
YEARLY AVERAGES FOR 1975-77 AND 1984-86

## GRADUATES



Source: P. Rode, "Minority Faculty and Students at the University of Minnesota," Data Release #19, Urban Coalition of Minneapolis, June 1987, p 4.

## High School Graduation Rates

The 61 percent of Hispanics who graduated from Minnesota's high schools in 1980 substantially exceeded the national Hispanic high school graduation rate of 44 percent (*Chart 8*). More recent data shows the graduation rate for Hispanic Minnesotans rose even higher (to 73.4 percent) in 1987, and this, too, was substantially above the Hispanic rate (51 percent in 1988) nationally. And finally, recent studies showed that the Hispanic graduation rate has in fact been even higher in recent years, as much as 87 percent in 1984, for example (*Chart 31*).

CHART 31. **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES**  
HISPANICS AND NON-HISPANICS, 1983-1987

Year of Graduation	Percent Hispanics Graduating	Percent Non-Hispanics Graduating
1983-1984	86.8	89.9
1984-1985	87.7	89.4
1985-1986	87.9	89.1
1986-1987	73.4	91.0

Source: Minnesota Department of Education, "Minnesota High School Graduation Rates By Racial/Ethnic Group".

## 6. Hispanics in Post-Secondary Institutions, 1983-87

Hispanics were underrepresented in post-secondary education as recently as 1987, accounting for only .7 percent of the total post-secondary enrollment in the state (*Chart 32*). Of those who were enrolled in post-secondary educational systems, 70 percent were enrolled in Minnesota universities or colleges, 30 percent in technical or vocational schools.

CHART 32. **HISPANICS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL**  
DISTRIBUTION OF POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT, 1987

	Hispanic Enrollment	Percent
Post Secondary Hispanic Students	1,713	100%
University of Minnesota System	479	28.0
Technical Institute System	446	26.0
Private, 4-Yr and Graduate Colleges	314	18.3
Community College System	194	11.3
State University System	157	9.1
Private Vocational Institutions	84	4.9
Private 2-Yr Colleges	7	.7
Total Minnesota Post Secondary Enrollment	245,173	
Hispanic Percent of Total	.7%	

Source: Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board, Headcount Enrollment by Racial/Ethnic Group, Basic Data Report, 1987, September 1988, p. v. and ix.

Of the latter institutions, a handful enjoyed disproportionately high enrollments of Hispanics. Some technical schools, for example, had Hispanic enrollments 4 to 11 times larger than their overall proportion of Minnesota's total population (*Chart 33*).

Overall, 32.2 percent of all Hispanic students were enrolled in two institutions -- 24.5 percent of the 1,713 Hispanic students, or 419, were enrolled at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities; and 6.7 percent, or 115 students, were enrolled at St. Paul Technical Institute.

**CHART 33. TECHNICAL SCHOOLS  
WITH GREATER THAN 3.6 PERCENT HISPANIC ENROLLMENT, 1987**

Institution	Hispanic Enrollment	Percent
Albert Lea Technical Institute	21	3.7%
East Grand Forks Technical Institute	26	4.7
St. Paul Technical Institute	115	4.9
Brooks Beauty School	6	11.3
Cosmetology Training Center - St. Paul	2	4.8
Rasmussen Business College - St. Paul	18	4.6

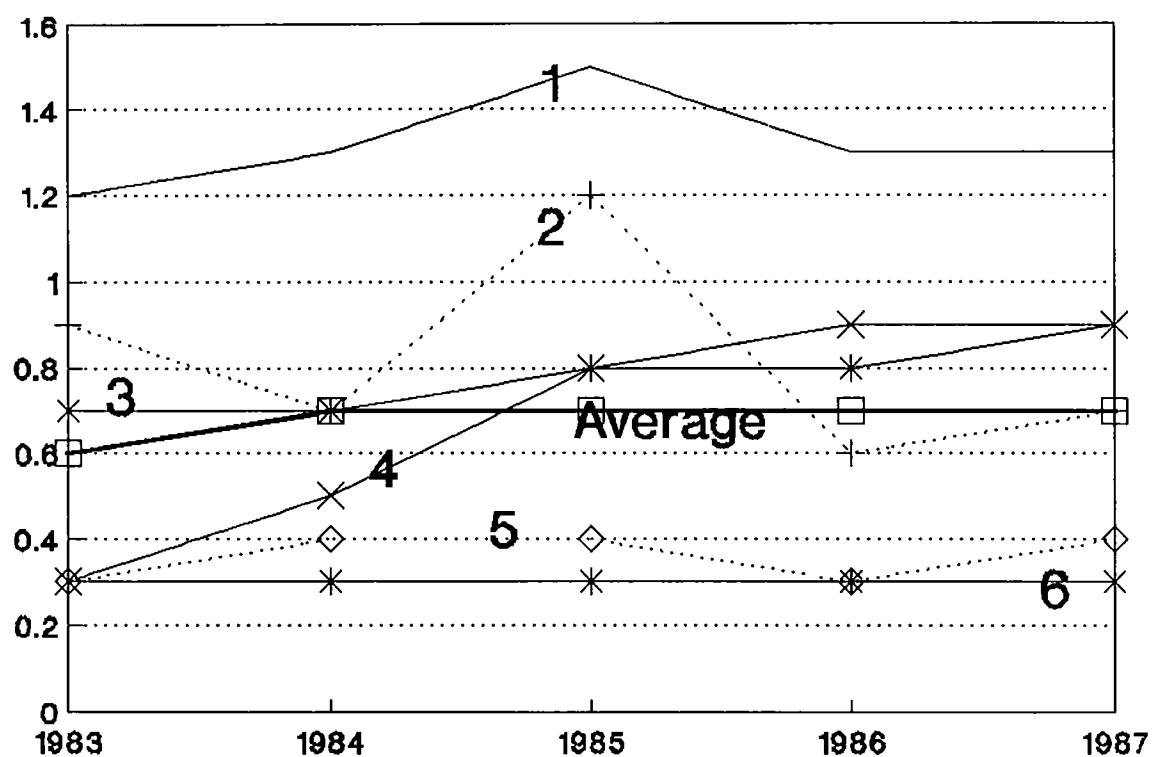
Source: Headcount Enrollment by Racial/Ethnic Group, Fall 1987, p.vii.

## 7. Historical Trends in Post Secondary Systems

A comparison of post-secondary enrollment data from fall 1983 through fall 1987 puts the above into historical perspective (*Chart 34*). Over this 5 year period, the percent of Hispanic post-secondary enrollment stayed consistently below the Hispanic proportion of Minnesota's overall population. The overall trend line rose from .6 percent in 1983, to .7 percent in 1984, then froze at that same level for the next 3 years. During the study period The Technical Institutes had the highest Hispanic enrollment among all post-secondary institutions. At the other end of the scale, the second lowest Hispanic enrollment was found in the community colleges, while the State University System enrolled by far the lowest proportion of Hispanics during each of the 5 years noted.

CHART 34. PERCENTAGE OF HISPANIC ENROLLMENT  
IN MINNESOTA POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS  
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS, 1983-1987

PERCENT



1. Technical Institutes
2. Private 4 Year Colleges
3. University of Minnesota
4. Private Professional Schools
5. Community Colleges
6. State University System

Source, Headcount..., pp. 6-7.



## 8. Recent Trends at the University of Minnesota

Noted earlier was the fact that Hispanics who enrolled in post-secondary educational systems chose the University of Minnesota 25 percent of the time as recently as 1986. Thus, Hispanic enrollment at this institution is naturally of major import to Minnesota's Hispanic community.

But how well has this institution succeeded in attracting Hispanic students over the years? The answer depends on the level, whether undergraduate, graduate, or professional (*Chart 35*). In the undergraduate case, there was a gain of 97 students, or a 51 percent increase since the mid-seventies.

At the graduate level, there was a loss of 6 students or an 11 percent decline.

At the professional level (which includes law, medicine and dentistry), a gain of 14 students occurred, representing a 30 percent gain for Hispanics over the decade.

Thus overall, the undergraduate and professional school figures represent slight gains, and are especially heartening in light of the fact that the number of minority faculty has declined by 33 percent at the University since 1980.

However the erosion noted at the graduate level is disturbing, for two reasons. First, it constitutes part of an overall pattern of decline for minorities in graduate schools at the University. Overall losses for minorities in the graduate schools during this same decade were fully 25 percent. Second, these losses appeared gratuitous, occurring as they did during a time in which the University's total graduate student population was actually *increasing* (by 6 percent).

CHART 35. HISPANIC ENROLLMENT AT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

3 ACADEMIC LEVELS, TWIN CITIES CAMPUS, 1975-77 THRU 1984-86

Academic Years	Undergraduate School		Graduate School		Professional School	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1975 - 1977	192	.6	56	.7	46	1.8
1978 - 1980	248	.7	77	.9	66	2.4
1981 - 1983	278	.8	70	.9	65	2.4
1974 - 1986	289	.9	59	.6	60	2.3

Source: P. Rode, "Minority Faculty and Students at the University of Minnesota: Recent Trends," Clearinghouse, Data Release #19, (Urban Coalition of Minneapolis), June, 1987.

## I. INCOME

Generally speaking, Hispanics in Minnesota earned less than the non-Hispanic general population in 1979, the last year for which such data is available.

### 1. Median Family Income

Median family income is one of the basic measures of income, and in 1979 (*Chart 36*) the median Hispanic family income (\$18,327) was 86 percent of the median income for all non-Hispanic Minnesota families (\$21,201). Taking into account that Hispanic family income must stretch further than that of other families because of larger family sizes, the economic lag was actually wider. The relative youthfulness of Hispanics also depressed family income statistics. Younger householders, in general, earned less than older ones.

CHART 36. **ANNUAL MEDIAN FAMILY INCOMES**  
HISPANIC AND NON-HISPANIC FAMILIES, 1979

Geography	Hispanic Families	Non-Hispanic Families
<b>URBAN TOTAL</b>	<b>\$18,762</b>	<b>\$23,197</b>
Central Cities	15,750	20,480
Urban Fringes	22,721	26,716
<b>RURAL TOTAL</b>	<b>15,677</b>	<b>17,521</b>
Farm	12,250	16,195
<b>THE STATE</b>	<b>\$18,327</b>	<b>\$21,201</b>

Source: Bureau of the Census, PC80-1C25, Table 91, p. 96.

Evident in the above are wide disparities between Urban and Rural median family incomes, as well as between "Central Cities" and "Urban Fringes" within the Urban areas.

A key question in thinking about the above data, is whether these conditions have grown better or worse over time. A recent study found that, at least in the Metro Area, conditions have worsened. Compared to the Metro's non-Hispanic White population, Hispanics have lost economic ground. The study looked at income data from 1969 and compared it with similar data from 1979 to reveal a growing disparity between the two groups. During the 10 year period studied, the White median family income had increased by 115 percent, while Hispanic family income had grown by only 89 percent (*Chart 37*).

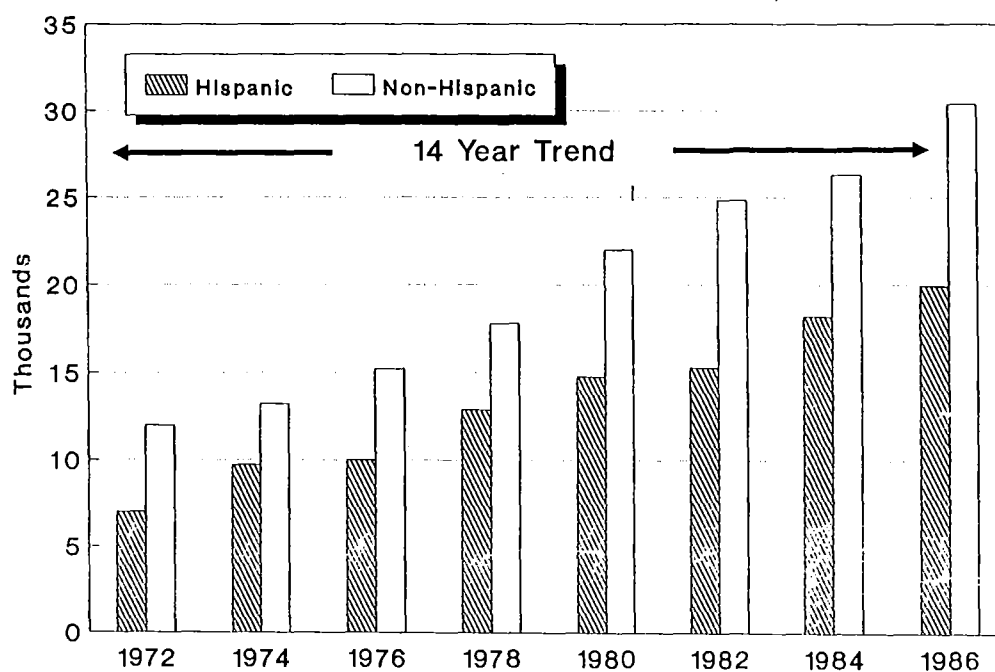
CHART 37. **WIDENING FAMILY MEDIAN INCOME GAP IN MINNESOTA**  
HISPANIC AND NON-HISPANIC WHITE FAMILIES, 1969-1979

	Median Incomes		Percent Increase
	1969	1979	
White Families	\$11,700	\$25,200	115 %
Hispanic Families	10,400	19,700	89 %

Source: Michael Munson, Metropolitan Council Census Log, "Characteristics of Minorities in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, 1980," March 1984.

The same study suggests the gap widened during the eighties, due to the economic downturn in the early part of the decade (economic depressions generally hit the poor the hardest) and due to the Reagan administration's cuts in government programs aimed at the poor. The widening family median income gap suspicion was borne out nationally by the Bureau of the Census recently (*Charts 10 & 38*).

CHART 38. **THE GROWING INCOME GAP NATIONALLY**  
HISPANIC AND WHITE MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME, 1972-1986



Source: Emily Gantz McKay, "Changing Hispanic Demographics Affect All Americans," National Council of La Raza Agenda, Special Conference Issue, Summer 1988, p. 4

## 2. Per Capita Income

At the individual level, Hispanics in Minnesota were also more likely to earn less income than did the general population (*Chart 39*).

**CHART 39. PER CAPITA DOLLAR INCOME**  
EARNINGS OF PERSONS, 15+ YEARS OLD WITH INCOME, 1979

Geography	Individuals Hispanic	Individuals Non-Hispanic
URBAN Total	\$5,063	\$8,240
Central Cities	4,838	7,735
Urban Fringes	5,848	9,394
RURAL Total	2,869	5,468
THE STATE	\$4,879	\$7,472

Source: Bureau of the Census, PC80-1-C25, Table 91, p. 96.

## 3. Same Education, Lower Pay

Hispanics generally earned a lower median income than their counterparts in the total population -- even when amount of years in school was the same (*Chart 40*).

**CHART 40. MEDIAN INCOME BY YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED**  
PERSONS 18 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER, 1979

	Hispanics		Non-Hispanics	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Elementary School				
0 - 7 Years	\$8,417	\$3,902	\$5,529	\$3,047
8 Years	7,650	3,835	8,234	3,446
High School				
1 - 3 Years	8,286	4,409	9,546	3,880
4 Years	1,200	85,747	14,147	5,770
College				
1 - 3 Years	11,555	5,817	13,480	5,599
4 Years	13,745	6,167	18,997	8,540
5 & 6 Years	17,805	8,450	20,881	1,566

Source: Bureau of the Census, PC80-1-D25, Table 237. pp. 554-6 and 574-6.

The only exceptions were those Hispanics with less than a full elementary school education (i.e. 0-7 years) and thus relegated to the lowest end of the pay scale. For Hispanic males completing and moving beyond elementary school -- the role reverses and continues with male Hispanics in clear subordinate status throughout.

Hispanic females continued to earn more into the lower levels of high school, but upon graduation the same role reversal pattern evident for male Hispanics sets in and continues throughout.

#### 4. Same Industry, Lower Pay

There was a substantial income difference between Hispanics and the general population by occupational category as well. Statistics from 1979 show earnings of Hispanics lagging behind non-Hispanics in virtually every industry (*Chart 41*).

**CHART 41. MEDIAN EARNINGS BY MAJOR INDUSTRY**

HISPANICS AND NON-HISPANICS, MALES AND FEMALES, 1979

Industry Category	Hispanics		Non-Hispanics	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Agriculture	\$ 7,167	\$ 1,500	\$ 8,138	\$ 3,594
Forestry and Fisheries	15,439**	9,750*	12,066	6,899
Mining	23,433**	15,341	20,952	15,346
Construction	15,322**	2,667	14,689	7,643
Manufacturing	13,551	8,725	16,308	9,001
Transportation, Communications, & Other Public Utilities	16,882	11,792*	18,310	11,004
Wholesale Trade	12,680	6,349	16,454	8,440
Retail Trade	6,781	3,442	9,237	3,887
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	12,434	7,358	18,444	8,327
Business and Repair Services	7,971	5,556	12,610	6,435
Personal Services	4,920	4,786*	8,153	3,592
Entertainment & Recreation	8,429**	2,796	6,743	3,586
Professional & Related Services	10,200	5,155	15,246	6,856
Public Administration	14,504	5,592	17,399	9,377
<b>ALL INDUSTRIES</b>	<b>12,487</b>	<b>6,854*</b>	<b>15,014</b>	<b>6,662</b>

\*\* Amount exceeds earnings of same industry non-Hispanic males

\* Exceeds earnings of same industry non-Hispanic females

Source: Bureau of the Census, PC80-1-D25, Table 231, pp. 493-6 and 513-6.

With the exception of 4 of Minnesota's 15 major industries (Forestry/ Fisheries, Mining, Construction, Entertainment/ Recreation) in which the median earnings of male Hispanics exceeded that of males in the general population; and 3 industries (Forestry/Fishing, Transportation/Communications & Other Public Utilities, Personal Services) in which the earnings of female Hispanics exceeded their counterparts -- with these seven exceptions, Hispanics earned less than non-Hispanics in all categories in 1979.

Further, since much less than 1 percent of Hispanics, males or females, worked in six of the seven high paying industries noted, the resulting positive economic impact of those who did on the Minnesota's total Hispanic community was marginal at best. The one bright spot was the Utilities industry, which employed over 6 percent of the Hispanic females civilian labor force.

For all industries, Hispanic males earned a median income equal to only 83 percent of that earned by non-Hispanic males. On the other hand, the median earnings of Hispanic females slightly exceeded the earnings of non-Hispanic females (median income equaled 97 percent that of Hispanic females) in 1979.

## 5. Representation by Profession

In addition to receiving lesser pay in virtually all industries in Minnesota, Hispanics faced the double bind of overrepresentation in the lower paying occupations (Service, Repair, Operators, Laborers, etc.), as well as underrepresentation in the more lucrative ones (Managerial, Professional, Administrative, etc.). The reverse was true of the of the state's non-Hispanic general population.

**CHART 42. MAJOR OCCUPATIONS OF EMPLOYED PERSONS  
16 AND OVER**

PROFESSION	Hispanic Population		Non-Hispanic Population	
	Persons	Percent	Persons	Percent
Managerial, Professional	2,021	17.8	432,484	23.1
Technical, Sales,				
Administrative	3,018	26.5	564,890	30.1
Service	2,095	18.4	262,538	14.0
Precision Production				
Craft and Repair	1,132	9.9	212,759	11.3
Operators, Fabricators,				
and Laborers	2,868	25.2	295,832	15.8
Farming (non-migrant),				
Forestry and Fishing	<u>254</u>	<u>2.2</u>	<u>106,648</u>	<u>5.7</u>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>11,388</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>1,875,141</b>	<b>100 %</b>

Source: Bureau of the Census, PC80-1-C25, Table 102, p. 107

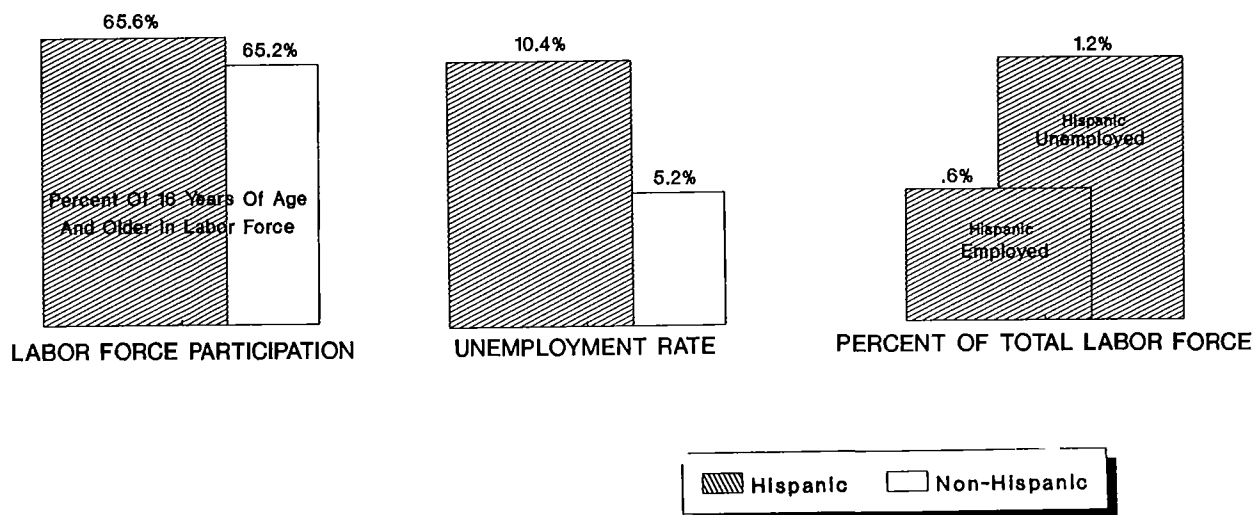
## 6. Labor Force Characteristics

Affirmative Action data based on the 1980 census recently outlined the labor force characteristics of Hispanics in Minnesota (*Chart 43*). With a 65.6 percent participation rating, Hispanics had a higher **labor force participation rate** (the proportion of persons, 16 years of age and older, who are in the labor force) than that for any of the state's other major minorities, and higher than that for the White population, as well. Their **unemployment rate** was 10.4 percent which was double the non-Hispanic white rate of 5.2 percent.

The Hispanic labor force equaled .6 percent of the state's total labor force. Hispanics in the labor force who were employed equaled .6 percent of all employed in Minnesota's overall labor force, but unemployed Hispanics equaled 1.2 percent of the state's total unemployed. Thus, Hispanics were unemployed at twice the rate than should have been expected. This can be contrasted with the state's non-Hispanic White population who represented 97.4 percent of the labor force, but suffered only 94.5 percent of the unemployed in the state.

For female Hispanics separately, the disproportionate pattern was the same. Their share of the labor force was .3 percent; they represented .3 percent of the state's employed. And they constituted .4 percent of its unemployed. White non-Hispanic females, on the other hand, had a 41.8 percent labor force participation. They encompassed 42.4 percent of the employed, and a disproportionately low 31 percent of the unemployed.

CHART 43. MINNESOTA LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS  
HISPANIC AND NON-HISPANIC WHITE POPULATIONS, 1980



Source: Research and Statistics Office, Minnesota Department of Jobs and Training, "Affirmative Action Information, State of Minnesota," July 1987, Table 2.

The same study, considered the occupations of Minnesota residents and listed the percentages of the state's Hispanics. Hispanic participation in the state's 10 key occupation groups is contrasted with the non-Hispanic white participation in the same occupation groups below (*Chart 44*).

The usual pattern obtained: Hispanics were underrepresented in the more lucrative occupations such as top and middle management positions, and specific professions such as architecture, engineering, law, library science, etc.; and overrepresented in lesser paying, subordinate organizational positions, and in occupations with decreased demand for higher education credentials.

**CHART 44. LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION IN KEY OCCUPATIONS**  
HISPANICS AND NON-HISPANIC WHITES, 1980

OCCUPATION CATEGORY	Percent Share Of Occupation		Proportionate* Participation?	
1. Executive, Administrative Managerial	White:	97.7	No,	high.
	Hispanic:	.4	No,	low.
2. Professional	White:	96.9	No,	low.
	Hispanic:	.6	Yes.	
3. Technical	White:	96.6	No,	low.
	Hispanic:	.4	No,	low.
4. Sales	White:	98.4	No,	high.
	Hispanic:	.4	No,	low.
5. Administrative Support	White:	96.8	No,	low.
	Hispanic:	.7	No,	high.
6. Services	White:	96.0	No,	low.
	Hispanic:	.8	No,	high.
7. Farming, Forestry, Fishing	White:	99.2	No,	high
	Hispanic:	.3	No,	low.
8. Precision Production Craft, Repair	White:	97.9	No,	high.
	Hispanic:	.5	No,	low.
9. Transportation and Material Moving	White:	97.7	No,	high.
	Hispanic:	.5	No,	low.
10. Handler, Helper, Laborer	White:	96.1	No,	low.
	Hispanic:	1.0	No,	high.

\*1980 Hispanic Labor Force = .6% Non-Hispanic White = 97.4%

Source: "Affirmative Action Information" (same as in Chart 43), Table 3.



Lack of sufficient education was undeniably a factor in the resulting disproportionate patterns, but this clearly was not the only dynamic. In many cases, even when education levels were equal, the same inequities could be found.

## J. POVERTY

Given the background, it is not surprising to find large proportions of Hispanics in poverty in Minnesota.

### 1. Drawing the Poverty Line

Families and persons were classified as below the poverty line by comparing their total 1979 income to the federal government's definition of poverty determined by family size, number of children, as well as age of family householder or individual. For example, the poverty level in 1979 for a family of three -- a mother and her 2 children -- was \$5,844.

### 2. Geography of Poverty

In 1980, 18.2 percent of all this state's Hispanics were classified as "poor" by the Census Bureau. This was almost twice the rate of the non-Hispanic population (*Charts 45 and 46*). Geographically, worst off were Rural Farm Hispanics, whose poverty rate approached 1 in 3, followed closely by Central Cities Hispanics of whom almost 1 in 4 fell below the poverty level, easily double the non-Hispanic poverty rate.

CHART 45. THE GEOGRAPHY OF POVERTY  
PERCENT OF FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS BELOW POVERTY LINE  
HISPANICS AND NON-HISPANICS, 1979

	Hispanic		Non-Hispanic	
	Families	Individuals	Families	Individuals
The STATE	16.2	18.2	7.0	9.4
URBAN TOTAL	15.9	17.9	5.1	7.7
Central Cities	19.9	23.3	7.6	11.8
Urban Fringes	8.9	9.7	3.1	3.9
RURAL TOTAL	17.9	19.1	10.5	12.7
Farm	20.7	28.1	17.2	19.8

Source: Bureau of the Census, PC80-1-C25, Table 92, p. 97.

### 3. Other Indicators

If geography was one predictor of the likelihood of poverty in Minnesota in 1979, others such as one's sex, age, and type of household were also not inconsequential (*Chart 46*). By far the most economically deprived segment of the state's entire population in 1979 were those persons in families headed by females with no husbands present. Minnesotans in general were most likely to be poor if they were a children, female or old. But being Hispanic also "helped." In every at-risk categories listed, Hispanic families and individuals suffered greater poverty rates than their non-Hispanic counterparts.

CHART 46. **POVERTY BY SEX, AGE AND HOUSEHOLD TYPE**  
HISPANICS AND NON-HISPANICS, 1980

<u>POVERTY PREDICTORS</u>	Hispanic Percent	Non-Hispanic Percent
<b>SEX</b>		
Males	17.7	8.3
Females	18.8	10.6
Both Sexes	18.2	9.5
<b>AGE</b>		
Persons 16 and Under	19.9	10.8
Persons 65 and Over	23.4	17.7
<b>HOUSEHOLD TYPE</b>		
Married Couple Families	15.8	7.4
Related Children		
Under 18 Years	19.1	10.2
Under 3 Years	20.0	12.2
3 and 4 Years	23.4	12.5
Persons in Families Female-Headed	47.1	24.9
Related Children		
Under 18 Years	52.4	36.2
Under 3 Years	66.9	57.6
3 and 4 Years	67.1	50.5

Source: Bureau of the Census, PC80-1-D25, Table 245, pp. 661 and 671.

## ***K. THE MIGRANT STREAM***

The Minnesota Migrant Council, a non-profit group that helps migrants get schooling and permanent jobs across the state, estimates that Minnesota annually is temporary home to 15 to 18 thousand migrant farmworkers, 90 percent of them Hispanic. These seasonal workers return to Minnesota each year, 95 percent of them with their families, seeking agricultural employment during the spring and summer months.

They form part of a vast seasonal stream of laborers that constitute a central element of a stable agricultural industry in the United States. The U.S. Department of Agriculture indicates that migrants travel northward with the growing season, fanning out in three main strands through the West, the East, and the broad central sweep of the United States. Usually they come on their own, paying their own expenses and providing their own transportation but, more and more in recent years, some are being recruited in the Southwest by larger Minnesota farms and food processing corporations to supplement their local supply of labor.

### **1. Migrants “Invisible” -- To Census Takers**

Relatively little is known about migrant workers in Minnesota, and one main reason is the timing of the decennial census. Traditionally conducted in April, the census occurs at a time when migrant workers are usually intransit to the state, or are just beginning to settle in, preparing for the first crops of the spring. As a result, most Hispanic farmworkers are overlooked in the decennial census, both in Minnesota and in their States of origin.

Even less is known about this segment of the Hispanic population than is known about Hispanics in general. Consequently, information that is known about migrants is usually generated indirectly. For example, the Minnesota’s Migrant Education Program (which is charged with responsibility for providing public education for migrant students) regularly tracks the “Home Base States” of its enrollees. According to the Program’s data, 89 percent of their migrant students in 1986 came from Texas, and so too, presumably, did their families.

### **2. “Settling Out” In Minnesota**

Much in the news recently is the fact that Hispanic farmworkers in increasing numbers are choosing not to return to their home bases, opting instead to “settle out” in rural farming communities across Minnesota. Once there, they begin the difficult process of finding year-round jobs, setting up permanent homes, and raising and educating their children.

### **3. The Underlying Motivation**

Behind this are the starkly contrasting economies of two regions: Minnesota’s economy is booming, the Southwest’s failing. Also, Minnesota -- with its attractive educational opportunities, more humane social services, and perceptibly lower incidence of discrimination against Hispanics -represents a slightly higher rung on the socio-economic ladder.

#### 4. The Experience in Willmar

Willmar, Minnesota, a farming center of 18,000 people in west-central Minnesota, is a recent example of a rural setting where Hispanics have chosen to settle permanently, but with unfortunate side effects. Ironically, Willmar -- which was itself originally founded by an earlier set of struggling immigrants 103 years prior -- has had a most difficult time assimilating the newest wave. In the last three years, the number of Hispanic residents of this small prairie town has tripled to nearly 1,500 -- virtually 10 percent of the town's total occupants. And dramatically, over the same period of time, the number of Hispanic children enrolled in Willmar's schools has exploded from fewer than 30 to almost 300 students.

This sudden influx of Hispanics, of all ages, has tightly stretched the entire social fabric of Willmar: its schools, social service agencies, public assistance programs have all been affected. City-wide tension -- exacerbated by the public expense of providing unanticipated community services -- has engendered resentment among many of the town's original settlers.

Unfairly ignored is the compensating fact that incoming Hispanics bring with them the capacity to rejuvenate a local economy. Although poor almost without exception, Hispanic settlers accept many of the unwanted agricultural jobs in Willmar, thereby lending much needed stability to the overall community structure. They also help by purchasing their food and many everyday goods and services from the Willmar's merchants. And in the midst of a state-wide tendency for rural towns to de-populate -- Hispanics help shore up the local economy by buying local homes that might otherwise remain empty, and paying real estate taxes that help fill Willmar's treasury.

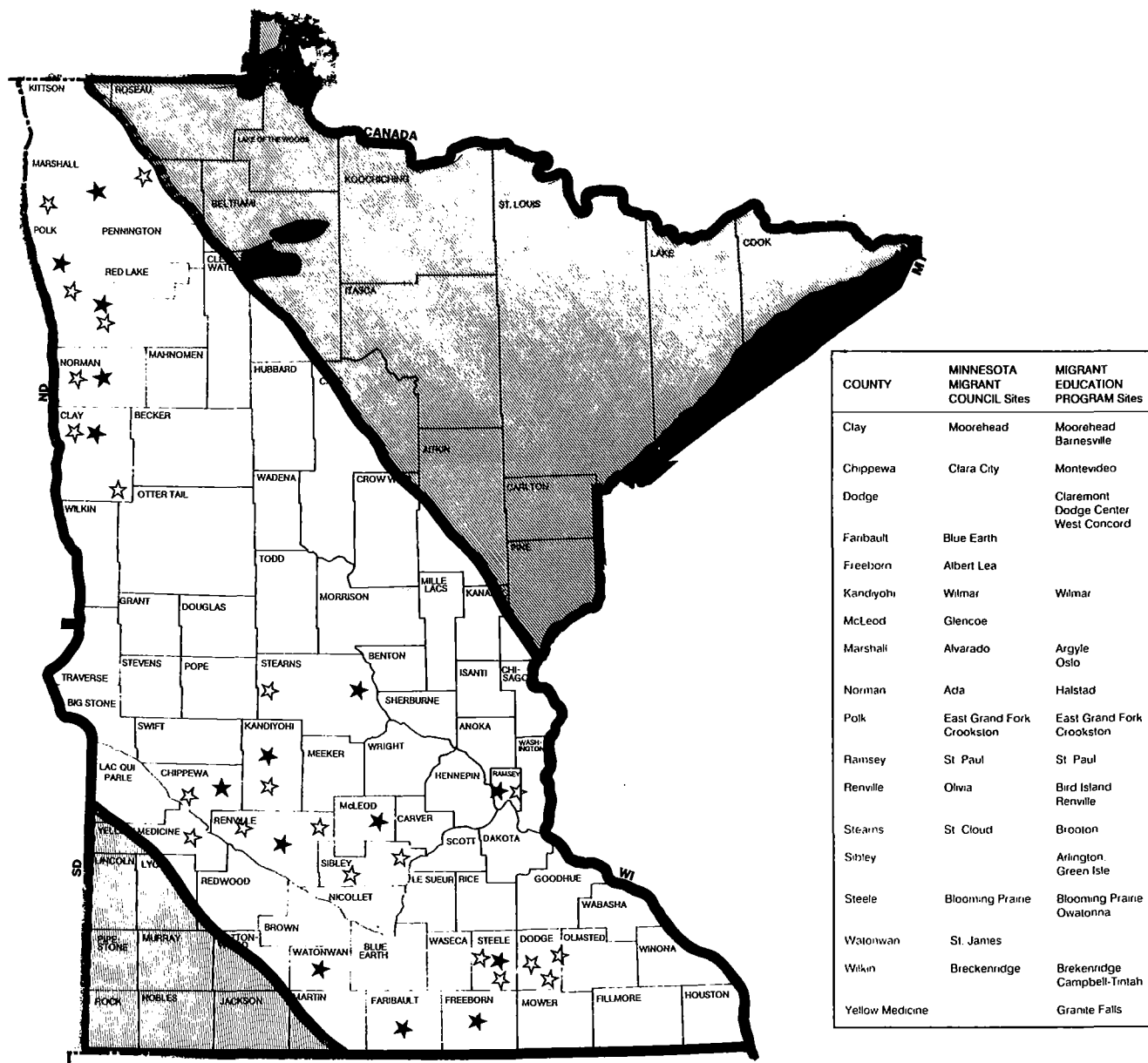
#### 5. The Time Factor

Fortunately, Willmar's experience is not typical of all Minnesota communities. Other factors can and do affect a town's reaction to Hispanic immigrants seeking permanent roots. The length of time, for example, that elapses between Hispanics first entering a town and that when their numbers become significant in the overall population, significantly alters the quality of the reception extended by the town's people. Crookston and Moorhead (in northern Minnesota), and St. James, Albert Lea, Glencoe and Blooming Prairie (in the state's southern half) are rural municipalities where in-migration has extended over long periods of time (20 to 40 years) and consequently, where hispanics have been received and have assimilated peacefully

These and many other Minnesota farming communities -- with sufficient field work to attract migrant workers in the summer, and the factory jobs to keep them year round -- are scattered throughout the state. But, because the census fails to count migrants, such communities are largely not identified. However these can be located indirectly by plotting the locations of the two primary state agencies responsible for service delivery to migrants (*Map 4*). Migrant families and individuals live and work in and about and around these agency sites and, when they decide to settle permanently, they tend to remain in the same areas because of the relatively lower living costs of rural communities.

# MAP 4. COMMUNITIES WHERE HISPANIC MIGRANTS TEND TO SETTLE

BASED ON FIELD OFFICE LOCATIONS OF TWO KEY AGENCIES



## Field Office Locations:

★	MINNESOTA MIGRANT COUNCIL Sites	★	MIGRANT EDUCATION PROGRAM Sites
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Source: Minnesota Migrant Education Program 1986 Evaluation Report, March 1, 1988 and Minnesota Migrant Council.

## ***L. HEALTH STATUS***

As with most other topics covered in this *Profile*, virtually the entire field of the health status of Hispanics remains undocumented in Minnesota. Health status information about the Hispanic population -- in the words of the Minnesota's own Department of Health (MDH) -- "is almost nonexistent."

### **1. The Dearth of Hispanic Health Statistics**

Recently, in *Minority Populations in Minnesota, A Health Status Report*, the Minnesota Center for Health Statistics reported on the health of the State's minority populations between 1978 and 1982. The Center observed:

"...the social, economic, and health status advances experienced by Minnesota's White population have eluded significant numbers of our Black and Indian populations. This must not continue. The analyses contained within this volume are offered in an attempt to contribute to intensified effort focused on improving the health status of Minnesota's special population...its minority peoples."

The Center was unable to extend the same analyses to the Hispanics in the state because the Minnesota Vital Registration System (MVRS) maintained no information pertaining to people of "Spanish origin." The MVRS used only race to categorize the overall population, and under this system, Hispanics were simply classified as "White people."

Thus, MVRS was able to provide health status data on all the state's minorities *except* Hispanics, perhaps the state's largest such group. Invaluable health related birth and death statistics (*Chart 47*), were recorded and analyzed for Minnesota's four "races" ("1) White, 2) Black, 3) Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut, and 4) Asian and Pacific Islander"), but no such detailed data was available for Hispanics.

According to the same report, the Hispanic health status void was to continue until 1988 when the Minnesota Department of Health was to initiate new data collection instruments within its Vital Statistics Registration System. Other surveillance systems operated by the MDH were expected to adopt similar changes relative to collection of Hispanic health status data.

CHART 47. **PARTIAL LISTING OF BIRTH/DEATH STATISTICS**  
MAINTAINED FOR ALL MINORITIES, EXCEPT HISPANICS,

Average Fertility and Birth Rates

Number of Births

Age Characteristics of Mother for All Births

Median Age of Mother (for First Births)

Percent of Legitimate Births By Age

Proportion and Number of Resident Births Out-of-Wedlock

Selected Birth-Related Characteristics

Median Weight of Newborns

Selected Newborn Characteristics

Birth Weight Characteristics of Infants Born to Mothers Who Are Teenaged

Infant Mortality Rates

Leading Causes of Neonatal Death

Leading Causes of Post-Neonatal Death

Average Mortality Rates

Leading Causes of Death Among 1-4 Year Olds, 5-14 Year Olds, 15-24 Year Olds; Males 25-44, Females 25-44, Males 46-64, Females 46-64; Males 65 Years or Older, Females 65 Years or Older; Asian and Pacific Islanders, 25-44, 45-64, and 65 Years Old or Older.

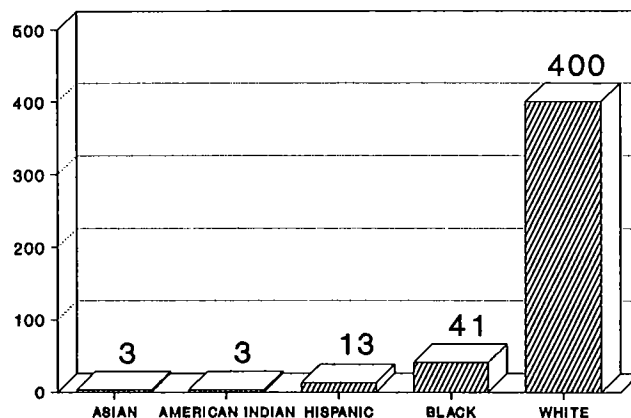
Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Center for Health Statistics, Minority Populations in Minnesota, A Health Status Report, April 1987.

## 2. Data on AIDS in the Hispanic Community

Judging from recent health information releases, MDH's new data collection instruments have seemingly begun to work. A recent newspaper article, based on MDH data, provided information on the racial/ethnic groups distribution of the Minnesota's 460 Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) cases since 1982, but unlike previous health-related reports, this one did provide data on the Hispanic portion (*Chart 48*).

#### CHART 48. BREAKDOWN OF MINNESOTA'S 460 AIDS CASES

TOTAL CASES 1982-88, BY RACE



Both in Minnesota and nationally, there have been more cases among blacks and Hispanics than would be expected based on their share of the overall population. Nine percent of the Minnesota cases have been among blacks, who represent less than 2 percent of the state's population; 3 percent have been among Hispanics, who represent about 1 percent of the state's population. Health officials emphasize that it's not race that makes the difference. More minority people live in some inner-city area where drug abuse and having multiple sex partners may be more common. Special AIDS education efforts are being targeted for these areas.

Source: Lewis Cope, *Minnesota Star Tribune*, "AIDS '89, Questions and Challenges," Monday, January 26, 1989.

### 3. Outreach Leadership by the Department of Health

The Department of Health extended its commitment to Minnesota's Hispanic community recently by funding a Spanish Speaking Affairs Council proposal for an AIDS Prevention Program in the Hispanic community.

Acting as prime contractor, the Council will subcontract with six Hispanic community agencies to conduct a comprehensive statewide AIDS prevention education program. It will serve as coordinator for each agency acting in consortium with one another. As such, the SSAC will serve as administrator and project manager for this important effort.

The six agencies -- members of the Minnesota Hispanic Director's Association and covering all facets of the State's Hispanic community are: 1) Chicanos Latinos Unidos en Servicio, 2) Hispanos en Minnesota, 3) Casa de Esperanza, 4) Centro Cultural Chicano, 5) West Side Health Clinic, and 6) the Minnesota Migrant Council.

The Department of Health's efforts are seen as a welcome sign, and it is hoped that other Minnesota governmental agencies will follow this example in reaching out to the state's Hispanic community.



## **M. MINNESOTA'S HISPANIC POPULATION IN 1990**

Preparations for the 1990 decennial census have been underway for some time by the Bureau of the Census. SSAC intends to play a central supportive role in these preparations.

No other single undertaking could be more important. The results of the census will affect the Hispanic community for 10 years. Federal, state, and municipal bureaucracies will make decisions concerning the Hispanic community based on the results of this enumeration. Legislators and community leaders will make policy choices based on these data. Foundations, corporations, and other private funding sources will decide to extend to or withhold funds from the Hispanic community based on the outcome. Another undercount of Hispanics in Minnesota cannot, must not, be allowed to happen.

For its part, SSAC has been in contact with local and regional representatives of the Bureau of the Census to express its concerns, as well as its willingness to play an active part. This *Profile* itself is a concrete manifestation of SSAC's involvement in the preparation process. The data presented have been intended to serve it as a kind of "roadmap" with which to find and accurately count Hispanics in Minnesota. SSAC has also been in contact with Hispanic organizations and community leaders across the state to communicate the importance of the decennial census and to encourage participation to the fullest. SSAC plans local, regional, and statewide conferences to publicize the census, and will cooperate with the Bureau of the Census in its parallel efforts.

When the counting is through, the processing completed, and the 1990 data findings released, SSAC expects dramatically higher figures for the Hispanic community over the 1980 census count. SSAC fully anticipates the Minnesota decennial census to reflect at least the 34 percent growth evident in the Hispanic community nationally. These expectations and the challenge they present to local representatives of the Bureau of the Census are summarized below (*Chart 49*).

**CHART 49. MINNESOTA'S HISPANIC POPULATION IN 1990**  
SSAC'S PROJECTIONS COMPARED WITH ITS 1980 ESTIMATES

	1980 Estimates	1990 Projections
<b>Metro Area:</b>		
Saint Paul	16,000	21,440
Minneapolis	12,000	16,080
Other Metro	8,000	10,720
<b>Rural Minnesota:</b>	<u>16,000</u>	<u>21,440</u>
<b>TOTAL Metro and Rural Minnesota:</b>	<b>52,000</b>	<b>69,680</b>



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- Assesses the high monetary cost to Minnesota caused by the undercount . . .
- Projects the size of the Hispanic community in 1990 . . .
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