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The Midwest's Premier Latino Research Center

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Latino Families and Households in Michigan

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Established in 1989 at Michigan State University, the Julian Samora Research Institute (JSRI) is committed to the generation, transmission, and application of knowledge to serve the needs of Latino Communities in Michigan and the Midwest. JSRI was established to honor the legacy of the Latino Research Pioneer Julian Samora, who was also a co-founder of the National Council of La Raza, the nation's largest Latino civil rights organization.

Commensurate with the land grant philosophy of Michigan State University, JSRI is committed to engaged scholarly activities that are responsive to the needs of Latinos, are collaborative with university and local communities, and ultimately enhance the capacity and well being of Latinos in Michigan and the Midwest.

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Executive Summary

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Latino family households¹ were larger than any other ethnic or racial group in the United States. About 35% of Latino families had five or more people residing in their household. Compared to other ethnic groups, a greater proportion of Latinos were married-couple families. Within Latinos, Cubans were the most likely to be married (53% v. 45% and 44%) compared to Mexicans and Puerto Ricans, respectively. Nearly one-third of all Mexican households in Michigan were non-family households², compared with the national average of 16.3%. This report examines Latino families and households. Data are drawn from the 2000 U.S. Census Summary Tape Files 4 (STF4).

Average Size and Latino Household Type by Size

The average Latino household had 3.62 people compared to 2.59 for non-Latinos. In Michigan, the average size was 3.29 and 2.56 for Latino and non-Latino households, respectively. Table 1 displays the distribution of Latino households in the United States and Michigan by household type and size. Latino household size was greater than that of all families in the United States.

Family size of Latino households in the United States is larger than that of all other family households. About 35% of all Latino families had a family size of five or more people in their households, compared with 16% of all families in the United States. Comparatively, family size of Latino families in Michigan was also greater than all other Michigan families. Almost 30% of Latino families in Michigan had a family size of five or more people in their households, compared with 16.2% of all family households in Michigan (see Table 1).

In the United States, 55.1% of Latino households were married-couple families, compared with 52.3% of all non-Latino households. About 17% of Latino households were headed by women (no husband present), compared to 11% for non-Latinos. About 8% of Latino households were headed by men (no wife present), compared to 4% of non-Latino households. About 19% of Latino households were non-family households, compared with 32.7% of non-Latino households (Fig. 1).

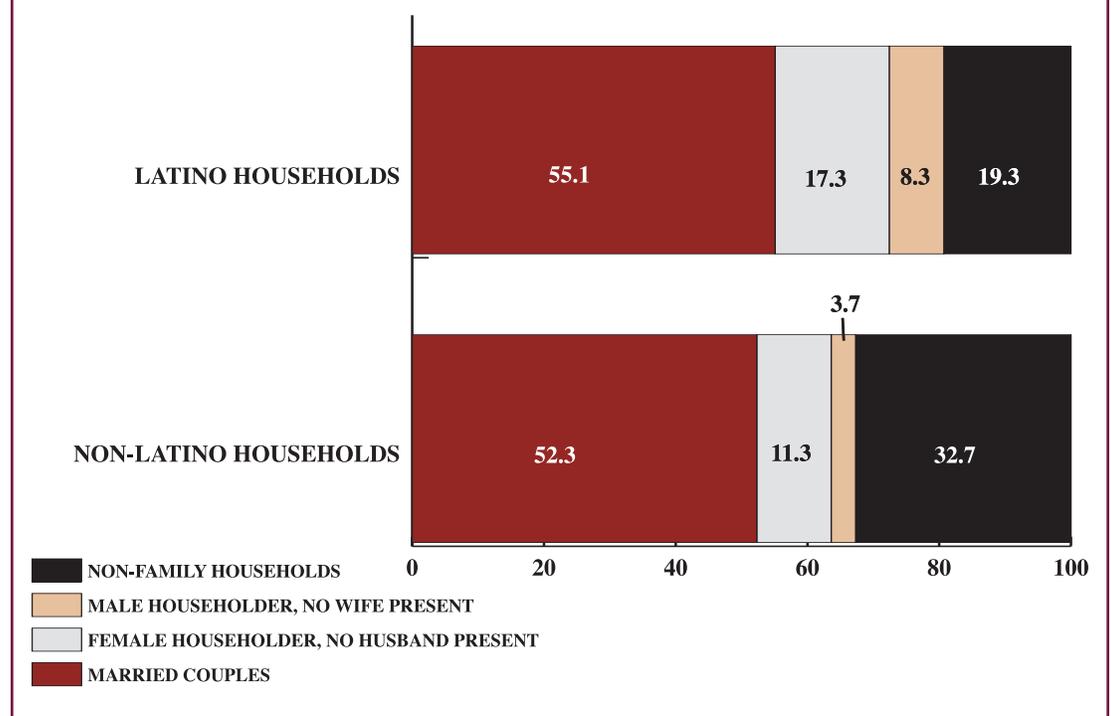


Table 1. Household Type By Size, 2000

Household Type and Size	UNITED STATES		MICHIGAN	
	NUMBER	%	NUMBER	%
All Households				
Family Households	72,261,780	100.0	2,591,312	100.0
2 people	29,295,526	40.5	1,076,830	41.6
3 people	16,658,604	23.1	586,385	22.6
4 people	14,776,948	20.4	535,283	20.7
5 people	6,993,101	9.7	251,105	9.7
6 people or more	4,537,601	6.3	141,709	5.5
Non-Family Households	33,277,342	100.0	1,197,468	100.0
1 person	27,203,724	81.7	992,762	82.9
2 people	4,966,318	14.9	167,083	14.0
3 people or more	1,107,300	3.3	37,623	3.1
Latino Households				
Family Households	7,381,950	100.0	62,812	100.0
2 people	1,471,981	19.9	15,175	24.2
3 people	1,594,806	21.6	14,423	23.0
4 people	1,721,413	23.3	14,656	23.3
5 people	1,215,397	16.5	9,500	15.1
6 people or more	1,378,353	18.7	9,058	14.4
Non-Family Households	1,840,452	100.0	20,732	100.0
1 person	1,283,466	69.7	14,447	69.7
2 people	374,265	20.3	4,286	20.7
3 people or more	182,721	9.9	1,999	9.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Figure 1. Household Type By Size, 2000



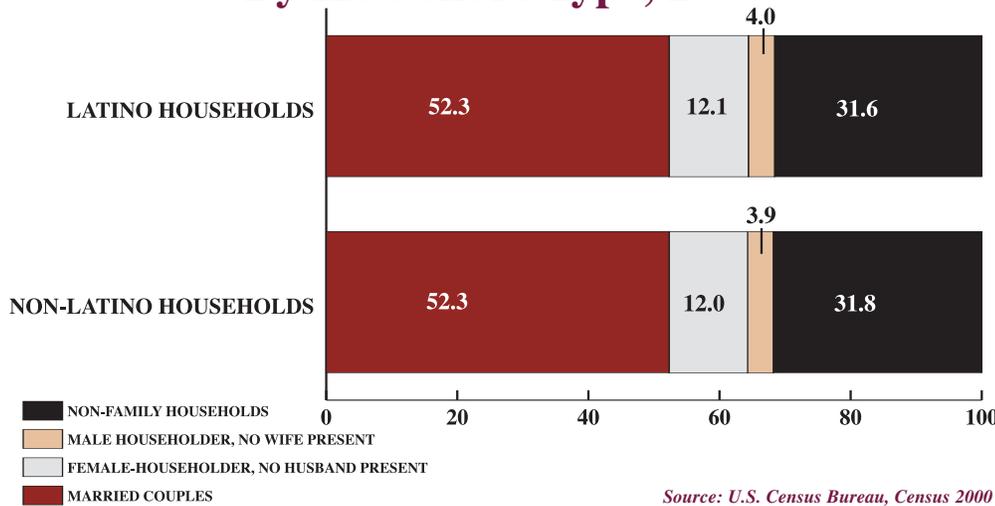
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 STF4

The family size of Latino households in both the U.S. and in Michigan is larger than that of all others.

In Michigan, 50.5% of Latino households were married-couple families, compared with 52.3% of non-Latino households. About 16.1% of Latino families were headed by women (no husband present), compared with 12% of non-Latino households. About 8.5% of Latino households were headed by men (no wife present), compared with 4.0% of non-Latino households. About 24.8% of Latino households were non-family households, compared with 31.8% of non-Latino households (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2. Percent Distribution of Michigan Households, By Household Type, 2000



Distribution of Households by Latino Origin

Mexicans

Figure 3 displays the distribution of Mexicans in the United States and Michigan by household type. Forty-five percent of Michigan households with persons of Mexican-origin are married couples, compared to the national rate of 60%. Nearly 14% of all Mexican households in Michigan were headed by women, with no husband present, compared to 15% of all Mexican households in the United States. About 8% of Mexican households in Michigan were headed by men, with no wife present. In the United States, 9% of all Mexican households were headed by men, with no wife present. Michigan has a greater proportion of Mexican non-family households among Mexicans than the United States. Nearly one-third of all Mexican households in Michigan were non-family households, compared to 16.3% in the United States (see Fig. 3).

Puerto Ricans

Figure 4 displays the distribution of Puerto Ricans in the United States and Michigan by household type. About 44% of all Puerto Rican households in Michigan are headed by married couples, compared to 41.7% in the United States. One-fifth of all Puerto Rican households in Michigan were headed by women, with no husband present, compared to more than one-fourth in the United States. About 8% of Puerto Rican households in Michigan were headed by men, with no wife present, compared to 6% of all Puerto Rican U.S. households. Nearly 28% of all Puerto Rican households in Michigan were non-family households, compared to 26.1% for the United States (see Fig. 4).

One-fifth of all Puerto Rican households in Michigan are headed by women; comparatively, about 8% are headed by men.

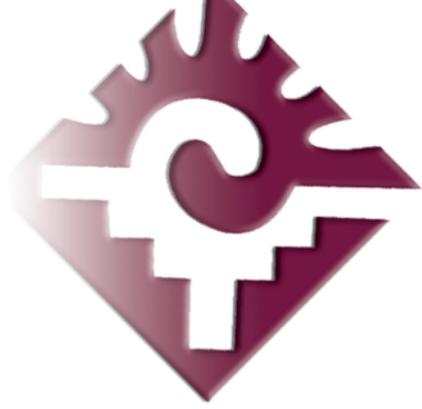


Figure 3. Household Type for Mexican Americans, 2000

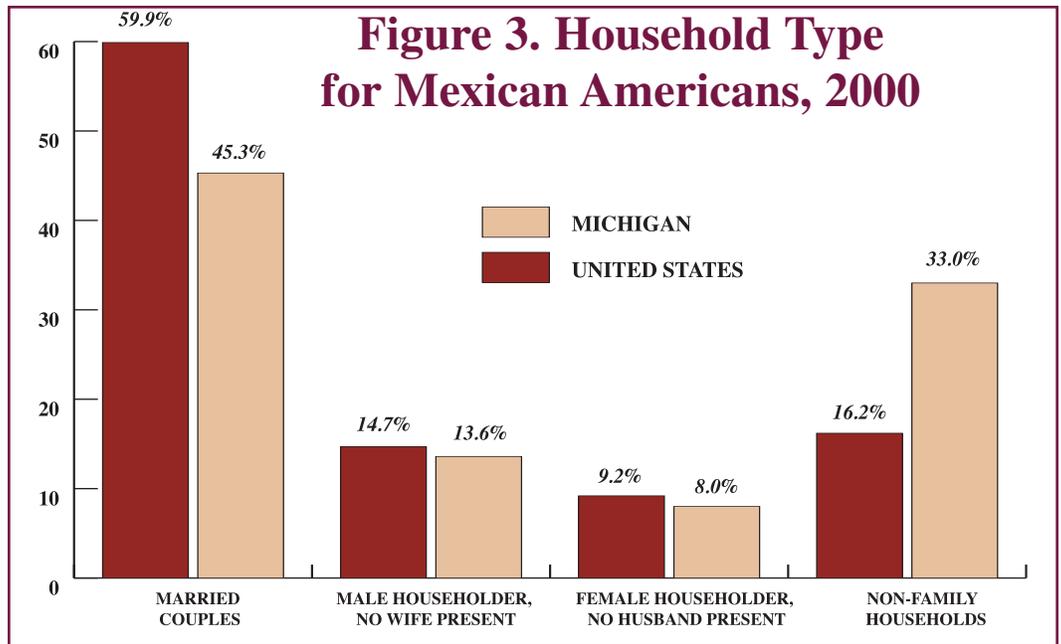


Figure 4. Household Type for Puerto Ricans, 2000

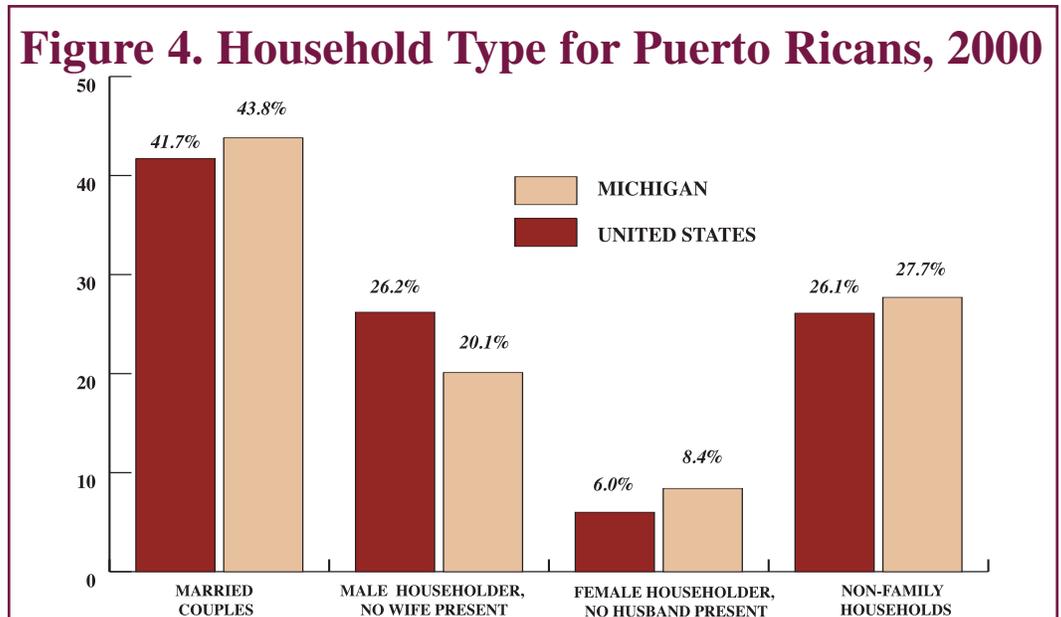
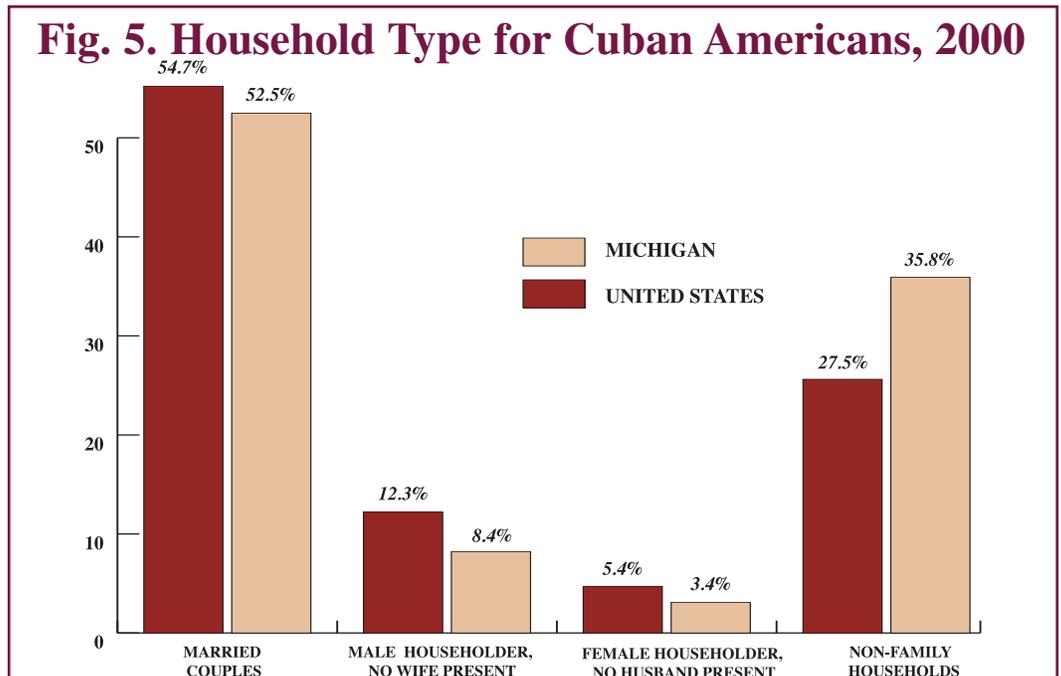


Fig. 5. Household Type for Cuban Americans, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 STF4

Cubans

Figure 5 displays the distribution of Cubans in the United States and Michigan by household type. About 53% of all Cuban households in Michigan are married couples, compared to 54.7% for the United States. Eight percent of Cuban households in Michigan were headed by women, with no husband present, compared to more than 12.3% of all U.S. Cuban households. About 3% of all Cuban households in Michigan were headed by men, with no wife present, compared to 5.4% of U.S. Cuban households. Nearly 36% of Cuban households in Michigan were non-family households, compared to 27.5% in the United States (see Fig. 5).

Endnotes

- 1 According to the U.S. Census, a family is a group of two or more people who reside together and who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption. All people in a household who are related to the householder are regarded as members of his or her family. A family household may contain people not related to the householder, but those people are not included as part of the householder's family in census tabulations. Thus, the number of family households is equal to the number of families, but family households may include more members than do families. A household can contain only one family for purposes of census tabulations. Not all households contain families since a household may comprise a group of unrelated people or one person living alone.
- 2 Non-family households comprise a group of unrelated people or one person living alone.

About the Authors

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Dr. Jean Kayitsinga is a sociologist demographer for JSRI and Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Counseling Educational Psychology and Special Education, Measurement and Quantitative Methods (MQM) program at MSU, where he received his Ph.D. in sociology in 1999. His areas of specialization include rural sociology, sociology of families, demography, research methods and statistical methodologies.

Lori Post

Dr. Lori Post is Assistant Dean for Research in the College of Communication Arts and Sciences. She is a trained as a demographer and her research focus is violence prevention.

Francisco Villarruel

Dr. Francisco A. Villarruel, a University Outreach Fellow and a Professor of Family and Child Ecology at MSU, is the Acting Director of MSU's Latino research center—the Julian Samora Research Institute. His research focus is generalized into three areas: Latino youth and families, positive youth development, and developmental contextualism. He is also the chair of the National Hispanic Education Alliance (NAHE).



**In Michigan,
8% of Cuban
households were
headed by women
while about 3%
were headed
by men.**