

Hispanic Facts and Figures for New Mexico and the Nation

Celebrando Nuestra Herencia

Celebrating Our Hispanic Heritage 2022



Hispanics in the United States

Hispanics established the first seat of government in Espanola, New Mexico in 1598; then built the Palace of the Governors in Santa Fe, New Mexico in 1610. This is the first government building in the United States of America

Hispanics are the largest minority group in the United States, representing 18.3% of the U.S. population.

There are 60.48 million Hispanics living in the U.S. today.

Mexican Americans are the largest Hispanic sub-group, comprising 63% of the Hispanic population.

The fast-growing Hispanic population increased by 43 percent between 2000 and 2010—a much higher rate than the general population increase of 4.9 percent.

Twenty-one states in which Hispanics were the largest minority group are Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington and Wyoming.

Information above retrieved from U.S. CENSUS Bureau

The Hispanic population is very young. The modal age for Hispanics in the USA is age 9. The modal age for non-Hispanic Whites is 57.

The economic clout of Hispanics has risen from \$212 billion on 1990, to \$798 billion in 2006 and is expected to be almost \$1.7 trillion in 2020.

Hispanic buying power is increasing at a rate 3 times higher than non-Hispanics. (Humphreys, Selig Center).

Facts and Figures for New Mexico Hispanics

The highest proportion of Hispanic residents in the nation is in the state of New Mexico, whose population is approximately 48.5% Hispanic. (2016 Census estimate)

Hispanics also comprise approximately 48% of the City of Albuquerque. (ACS)

Hispanics in New Mexico are also relatively young, as the median age for Hispanics in New Mexico is 28 compared to 35 for non-Hispanics. (ACS)

New Mexico has the greatest Hispanic representation in state government with over 40 percent of New Mexico's state legislators are Hispanic.

Hispanics comprise over 40% of the student body at UNM, over 60% at CNM and over 70% of NM Public Schools.

Local & National Hispanic Advocacy Organizations

Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce (AHCC)	MANA
American GI Forum	MALDEF
Comadre a Comadre	ENLACE-NM
HACER	HACU
Hispano Roundtable of NM (HRTNM)	HELP-NM
Hispanic Statement of Cooperation (HSOC)	SER
Hispanic Women's Council	NALEO
Independent Producers (NM Chapter)	YDI
Brown Berets of New Mexico	SWOP
New Mexico Hispanic Heritage Committee	
Union Productiva de Santa Fe	
National Council de La Raza (NCLR)	

Notable Hispanic-American Scientists

Luis Walter Alvarez, Noble Prize-winning physicist
 Franklin Chang-Diaz, Astronaut
 Sid Gutierrez, Astronaut
 Mario Molina, Nobel Prize-winning Chemist
 Carlos Noriega, Astronaut
 Ellen Ochoa, Astronaut
 Severo Ochoa, Nobel Prize-winning Biochemist
 Ambassador Jim Sweeney, Scientist
 Jose M. Hernandez, Astronaut
 Edward Condon, Physicist

New World & New Mexican Explorers

In 1492, Explorer Christopher Columbus (1451 - 1506) discovered the Americas while leading an expedition under the crown of Spain. The ships were named the Niña, the Pinta and the Santa Maria. This was the beginning of over 500 years of Hispanic contributions to the Americas and is often regarded as the most significant event of the 2nd Millennium.

In 1518 Spanish Explorer Hernan Cortéz (1485 -1547) In 1518, discovered Mexico and led an expedition into Mexico in 1519. Cortéz fathered the first "Meztizo" or mixed blood son with Doña Marina or La Malinche, an Aztec Indian woman. A "Mestizo" is a mixture of Spanish and Native American descent and 95% of Hispanos today in the southwest are considered "Mestizos".

Francisco Vasquez de Coronado (1510-1544). He led the Expedition in 1539 across the eastern border of what is now Arizona, across New Mexico through what is now Albuquerque, Bernalillo (City of Coronado), Santa Fe and through Las Vegas all the way to modern day Kansas City. He was in search of a City made of Gold named Cibola. Although he never discovered the City of Gold, he led one of the greatest expeditions in New Spain.

Don Juan de Oñate (1552-1626) was a Spanish explorer, colonial Governor of the New Spain (present-day Mexico) province of New Mexico and founder of various settlements in the present day southwest of the United States. He is known as New Mexico's first Governor and "The Last Conquistador". His expedition introduced domestic animals, including horses, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, all farm animals and fruit trees to the Americas. His expedition brought the first guitars, violins, farming tools and much more.

Capt. Gerónimo Márquez (1560-1631) – Brought the first Horses to America.

In 1690, Diego de Vargas (1643 - 1704) was appointed Governor of New Mexico; he is most famous for leading the mostly peaceful re-conquest of the territory in 1692 following the Pueblo Revolt of 1680.

Famous Hispanics of New Mexico

Rudolfo Anaya, Author	Ralph Arellanes & Arellanes Family
Manuel Armijo, NM Governor	Lt Col Manuel Chavez
Ruben Salaz Marquez, Author	Katherine Ortega, U.S. Treasurer
Juan Bautista de Anza, NM Governor	Carlos Condit, MMA Champion
Captain Rafael Chacon	Danny Romero, Boxing Champion
Fray Angelico Chavez, Poet, Artist, Historian	Albino Perez, NM Governor
Ed Lujan & Manuel Lujan	Roberto "Gonzalo" Gonzales, Musician
Louis Saavedra, Founder CNM	Alisa Valdez-Rodriguez, Author
Sidney Gutierrez, Astronaut	Edward L. Romero, Ambassador to Spain
Maria and Julian Martinez, Potter	Adan Dino Carriaga, Santero
Johnny Tapia, World Boxing Champion	Eva Encinias Sandoval, National Flamenco
US Ambassador Lucy Jaramillo	Lt General Leo Marquez
George Arellanes, Businessman	Rep. Samuel Vigil, Founder & Pres. of LCC
Miguel Marquez CNN News	Josefita Lopez Sambrano - Conquistadora

Hispanic Civil Rights Leaders from New Mexico

Ralph & Marcella Arellanes	Dr. George Sanchez
Dr. Lawrence Roybal	Governor & US Senator Larrazolo
Ray & Loretta Armenta	Ralph Arellanes Jr. & Andres Arellanes
Padre Antonio Jose Martinez	Rep. Delano Garcia
US Ambassador Jim & Betty Sweeney	Dr. Clement Jose & Valerie Arellanes Jose
Dr. Henry Casso	Chuck Montano
Sen. Dennis Chavez	Juan Jose Peña
Patricia L. Chavez	Lorenzo Flores
Ray John De Aragon	Millie Santillanes
Dolores Huerta	Louis and Isabelle Tellez
Rep. Antonio "Moe" Maestas	Jim & Lupe Arellanes
Lettie Galvez Trujillo	Dr. Miguel Encinias
Donaldo "Tiny" Martinez	Gene Hill
Felix Martinez	Manuel Garcia
Virgil Vigil	Joe Rudolph

Hispanic-American Medal of Honor Recipients

Lucian Adams	Baldomero Lopez	Elmelindo Rodriguez Smith
Bruce Anderson	Jose M. Lopez	Santiago J. Erevia
John P. Baca	Carlos James Lozada	Jose Rodela
David B. Berkeley	Benito Martinez	Candelario Garcia
Phillip Bazaar	Joe P. Martinez*	Lernard L. Alvarado
Roy P. Benavidez	Jose B. Nisperos	Felix M. Conde Falcon
Jose Calugas	Eugene Arnold Obregon	Ardie R. Copas
Mike Coladillo	John Ortega	Jesus S. Duran
Rudolph Davilia	Miguel Keith	Joe R. Baldonado
Josepj H. Decastro	Manuel Perez Jr.	Victor H. Espinoza
Reginald B. Desiderio	Leroy Petry *	Eduardo C. Gomez
Emilio A. De La Garza Jr	Alfred Rascon	Juan E. Negron
Ralph E. Diaz	Louis R. Rocco*	Mike C. Pena
Cleto Rodriguez	Joseph C. Rodriguez	Demesio Rivera
Daniel Fernandez*	Euripides Rubio	Miguel A. Vera
Fernando Luis Garcia	Alejandro Renteria Ruiz*	Pedro Cano
Macario Garcia	Hector Santiago-Colon	Joe Gandara
Edward Gomez	France Silva	Salvador J. Lara
Harold Gonzalves	Telesforo Trinidad	Manuel V. Mendoza
Alfredo Cantu Gonzalez	Jose F. Valdez*	Miguel Keith
David M. Gonzales	M. Sandro Vargas Jr.	Sgt. Leroy Petry
Ambrosio Guillen	Cleto Rodriguez	Jose Francisco Jimenez
Silvestre S. Herrera	Rouee Versace	Maximo Yabes
Rodolfo P. Hernandez	Ysmael R. Villegas	

New Mexican Hispanics in Politics

Padre Antoino Jose Martinez

• The first and only American to serve as a Legislator under Spanish, Mexican and American Governments. Padre Martinez was born in Taos, NM in 1793.

Governor Don Ezequiel C de Baca (1864-1917)

• New Mexico's First Hispano Governor since statehood in 1912.

Governor Octaviano Ambrosio Larrazolo (1859-1930)

• Fourth NM Governor (1919-1920) who was responsible for writing the NM Constitution in 1912 naming NM as an official bilingual state where both English and Spanish will be treated with "Perfect Equality". The only Hispano in the history of the United States to serve both Governor of a State (1919-1920) and U.S. Senator (Elected 1928).

Senator Dennis Chavez (1888-1962)

• The first American-born Hispanic Senator and represented NM for 27 years in the U.S. Senate. Sen. Chavez represented NM in the U.S. Senate from 1935-1962. Chavez was the only minority in the chamber at the time. The civil rights legislation of the 1960's grew directly out of Chavez's efforts in the 1940's as he became an advocate for minorities nationwide. Senator Chavez wrote the Fair Labor Standards Act in the 1940's which did not pass but became the language and the basis for the Civil Rights Act of 1964 & 1965.

Rep. Benigno Cardenas Hernandez (1862-1954)

• First Hispanic from N.M. to serve as a full member of Congress. He served in the 64th and 66th Congresses beginning in 1917.

Rep. Antonio Manuel Fernandez (1902-1956)

• Democrat elected to the 78th Congress and who served to the 85th Congress until his death. Under the direction of Joint Committee on Printing, he supported the Hispanic Division of the Library of Congress.

Governor Jerry Apodaca

• Elected Governor in 1975, becoming the first Hispanic governor in the U.S. since 1918. Apodaca was appointed to a national level position by President Jimmy Carter, who named him Chair of the President's Council on Physical Fitness in 1978.

Governor Toney Anaya

• Elected Governor in 1983 after serving as Attorney General. Declared NM a sanctuary for political refugees as a response to the turmoil in Central America in the mid 1980's.

Speaker of the House Walter K. Martinez 1971-1979

Speaker of the House Raymond G. Sanchez

• First elected Speaker in 1983, then again from 1987 - 2001. Raymond Sanchez has been the longest serving Speaker of the House in New Mexico's history and that is also the longest term for a Hispano in the country.

Speaker of the House Ben Lujan 2001 – 2012

Speaker of the House Ken Martinez 2012 - 2015

Patricia Madrid

• In 1978 she became the first woman elected to sit as a district court judge in New Mexico. In 1998, she became the first woman elected Attorney General of the State of New Mexico. She was re-elected in 2002.

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham

• Former Congresswoman, Secretary of Health and Human Services and Bernalillo County Commissioner was elected to office of Governor in 2018.

Xochitl Torres Small – US House of Representative New Mexico's 2nd District (2019 – 2021)

Hispanic New Mexico Secretary of State:

Antonio Lucero – 1912 – 1918

Manual Martinez - 1912 – 1918

Soledad C. Chacon – 1923 – 1926

Marguerite P. Baca – 1931 - 1934

Elizabeth F. Gonzales – 1935 – 1938

Jessie M. Gonzales – 1939 - 1942

Alicia Valdez Romero – 1947 – 1950

Ernestine Duran Evans – 1967–1970/1978

Clara Padilla Andrews 1983 – 1986

Rebecca Vigil-Giron – 1987 – 1990/2006

Mary Herrera – 2007- 2010

Stephanie Gonzales – 1991-1998

Dianna Duran – 2011 - 2015

New Mexican Hispanics in Politics Cont.

Lt Governor Howie Morales

Hector Balderas, NM Attorney General

Brian Colon', NM State Auditor

US Senator Ben Ray Lujan

Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez, 3rd Congressional District

NM Senator Linda Lopez, 1997 – Present

NM State Senator Michael Padilla

NM State Representative Antonio Moe Maestas

U.S. Ambassador to Spain Mr. Ed Romero

US Ambassador Jim Sweeney, Chief Science Advisor to President Clinton

Angela Arellanes, First Hispanic Woman from NM to defend a case before the US Supreme Court in Washington DC

Rep. Conchita Ortiz Y Pino, First Woman Elected to NM House

Rep. Idalia Lechuga Tena, First Woman Immigrant, Member of NM House

Hispanics in the U.S. Military have fought in every war for the United States since the American Revolutionary War.

American Revolutionary War (1775-1783)

Spain and her superior naval fleet and ground soldiers were instrumental and fundamental in defeating the British. They fought the British in North America, the Caribbean, Central America and Europe.

War of 1812

Spanish speaking soldiers served the U.S. in America's second war for Independence against the British.

Mexican-American War (1846-1848)

Hispanos fought on both sides of this war. The Treaty of Guadalupe, Hidalgo was produced as a result of this war. Many Hispanos still wait for all aspects of this Treaty, especially with regard to Land Grants, to be fully realized and honored.

American Civil War (1861-1865)

Spanish speaking soldiers fought on both sides of the Civil War and were vital players in the defeat of the Confederate forces at the Battle of Apache Pass (Glorieta), often known as the "Gettysburg of the West". U.S. Admiral David Farragut was the son of an officer of the Spanish Navy and the First US Navy Admiral.

Spanish American War (1898)

The first NM Calvary was headquartered in Las Vegas, NM. The first NM Calvary charged up Kettle Hill led by Lieutenant Colonel "Teddy" Roosevelt.

World War I (1914-1918)

Over 200,000 Hispanics served in WWI, the majority of them were Mexican – Americans. David Barkley Cantu, a Mexican-American from TX, was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions near Pouilly, France on November 9, 1918.

World War II (1939-1945)

Over 750,000 Hispanic men and women served during WW II. Dr. Miguel Encinias born and raised in Las Vegas, NM, is the only Hispano in the U.S. and one of only 5 American pilots to have flown combat missions in 3 different Wars: WW II, the Korean War and Vietnam War. He successfully flew 248 Combat missions.

Korean War (1950-1953)

Over 150,000 Hispanics served in the Korean War. Colonel Manuel Fernandez became a 14 victory ace in the first jet-age air war.

Vietnam War (1959-1973)

Over 80,000 Hispanics served with distinction in Viet Nam. Hispanics made up 25% of the casualties in Vietnam, at a time when Hispanics made up less than 5% of the entire U.S. population. Everett Alvarez Jr. was the first U.S. Pilot shot down over North Vietnam and was a POW from 1964-1973. Lieutenant Commander Alvarez was Present front and center when the treaty to end the Viet Nam war was signed.

Hispanics in the U.S. Military have fought in every war for the United States since the American Revolutionary War Cont.

Persian Gulf War (1990-1991)

More than 20,000 Hispanic men and women participated in operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm during the Persian Gulf War.

Iraq and Afghanistan

In today's military, Hispanos continue to answer our nation's call to service and duty. Hispanos make up approximately 25% of our troops involved in combat and hazardous duty operations. An estimated 20% of the casualties during these wars have been Hispanic.

Hispano Roundtable of New Mexico Accomplishments. The leading Voice of the New Mexico Hispano Community: Ralph Arellanes, CEO

1995-1996 Led to save Kirtland AFB from Closure and securing over \$7.8 Billion Dollars in Annual Economic Impact for New Mexico

1995-2005 Built the World War II National Monument in Washington DC

1995-2000 Led the successful lawsuit against Los Alamos National Labs for Northern NM.

1995 Founded Hispanic Heritage Committee that is now the NMHHC. The current Chairman is Orlando J. Marquez; Elisa Castillo Perea, Vice Chair

1998 Lead community organization to build the National Hispanic Cultural Center

2000 Started New Mexico ENLACE Program in our Public Schools across New Mexico

2000 Established the NM ENLACE/Hispano Round Table of NM \$1.1 Million Dollar Scholarships

2000 Kirtland AFB & Sandia Labs Employment & Business Contract Agreements

2001 Founding members of Explora Science Museum

2007 – Present Led US Department of Justice Reform effort of the Albuquerque Police Department

2007 Created the Hispano Roundtable of New Mexico Fact Sheet

2010 White's Peak Land Victory to Keep it Public Lands for the people.

2010 Created New Mexico Hispanic Education Act

2011 White House recognition of the Hispano Roundtable of New Mexico by President Obama

2013 Created the Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument in Taos with President Obama – 242,455 Acres

2014 Led to elevate Chicana/Chicano Studies at UNM to Fully Funded Department

2014 Passed Legislation to build NM Civil War Soldiers & Battlefields Monument

2014 Created the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument near Las Cruces with President Obama – Over 600,000 acres

2017 Established Ethnic Studies at the Albuquerque Public Schools

2018 Saved Chaco Canyon National Monument from Oil & Gas Exploitation

2018 Led Community effort for the Martinez/Yazzie Landmark Lawsuit Victory



Hispanic Facts and Figures for New Mexico and the Nation Celebrando Nuestra Herencia

Celebrating Our
Hispanic Heritage 2022