



USDA Civil Rights

LA Civil Rights

NHQ Civil Rights

LA NRCS

September 2011

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Quarterly Quote-

**"Activism is my rent
for living on this
planet"**

-Alice Walker

Louisiana's Hispanic Population

*-Tania Nanna, Hispanic SEPM
Alexandria, LA*

Spanish culture has played an important role in the history and development of Louisiana. September 15 to October 15 is Hispanic Heritage Month and an appropriate time to observe, recognize, and welcome the presence of the Hispanic community within our state. From the earliest records of Spanish colonization in the Gulf to modern 21st Century and present day integration into the Mississippi River valley, the Hispanic presence in Louisiana is undergoing a constant and dynamic change. For example, the 2010 U.S. Census indicates that, while the overall Louisiana population has increased by only 1%, there was a 79% increase in our Hispanic population between 2000 and 2010. It is a significant growth even if compared with the Hispanic rate of increase for the entire country, which stands at 43%, or the 57% increase for the Southern states. As a result, Hispanic share of total Louisiana population has doubled

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from 2% to 4% between 2000 and 2010. Over half of this population is concentrated in the Southeast portion of our state (*Figure 1*) and in particular in Jefferson parish, where Hispanics represent 12% of the population.

Further analysis indicates that most of our Hispanic population growth has also been centered in Southeast Louisiana, mainly Jefferson, East Baton Rouge, St. Tammany, Orleans, Ascension, Terrebonne, Livingston, and Tangipahoa parishes, which account for 60% of the Hispanic population increase. Lafayette and Bossier parishes represent 11% of the increase. *Table 1* shows the 10 parishes that have had the most change in Hispanic population between 2000 and 2010. Approximately 69% of our Hispanic population is concentrated in those parishes as well. Over the past ten years, Jefferson parish has experienced a marked growth in Hispanic population and accounts for almost 28% of the Louisiana Hispanic population. The main precursor of such growth was the rebuilding of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina in 2005 which led to a significant expansion in the area's already established Hispanic community.

Figure 1:
Map of Louisiana's Hispanic population from 2010 Census data.

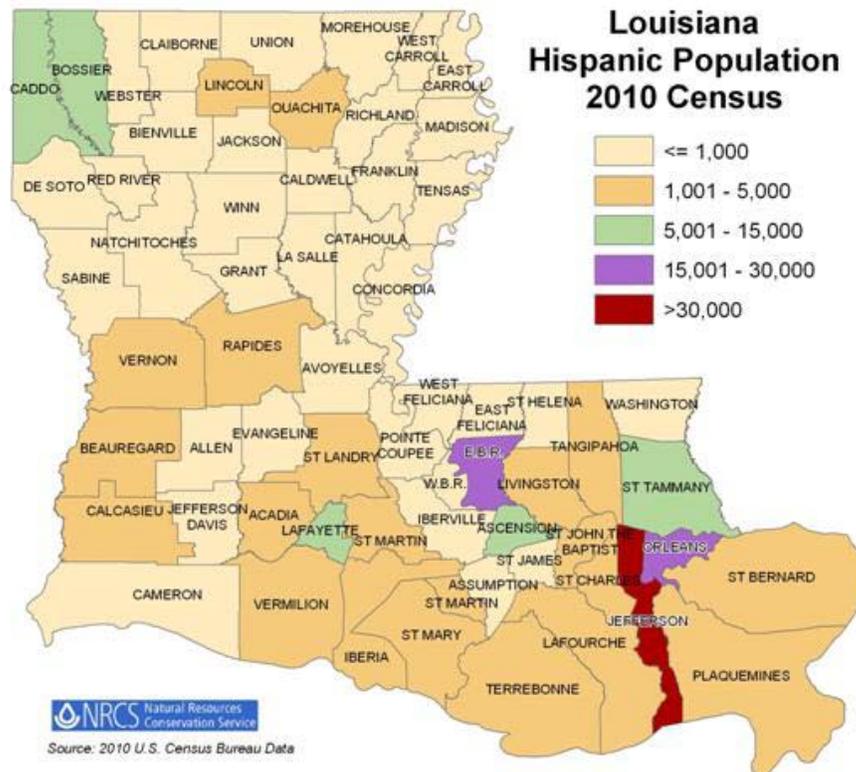


Table 1. Change in Louisiana's Hispanic population between 2000 and 2010 (U.S. Census Bureau)

Parish	Total	Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Total	Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Hispanic Change
	Population, 2010			Population, 2000			
Jefferson	432,552	378,850	53,702	455,466	423,048	32,418	21,284
East Baton Rouge	440,171	423,897	16,274	412,852	405,489	7,363	8,911
St. Tammany	233,740	222,770	10,970	191,268	186,531	4,737	6,233
Lafayette	221,578	212,981	8,597	190,503	187,183	3,320	5,277
Bossier	116,979	109,953	7,026	98,310	95,247	3,063	3,963
Orleans	343,829	325,778	18,051	484,674	469,848	14,826	3,225
Ascension	107,215	102,191	5,024	76,627	74,744	1,883	3,141
Terrebonne	111,860	107,439	4,421	104,503	102,872	1,631	2,790
Livingston	128,026	124,225	3,801	91,814	90,797	1,017	2,784
Tangipahoa	121,097	116,837	4,260	100,588	99,052	1,536	2,724
Total Louisiana	4,533,372	4,340,812	192,560	4,468,976	4,361,238	107,738	84,822

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What Diversity Really Means?

The information below was taken from an AgLearn Course titled "Civil Rights – Handling Diversity in the Workplace". It is an excellent course. If you would like additional information and/or training, please let me know. -Johanna Pate

Diversity simply means "differences". Diversity is much more than skin color, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or background. Skin color is the result of the level of pigment in our skin; it's a biological event. It does not determine how we think, feel, or believe. Gender is random gene selection; we had no choice. It does not decide our goals, ambitions, or careers. Each of us is diverse in many ways-chosen and random-and each of us brings many qualities to our job.

Diversity isn't a problem. The problems lie in our attitudes toward diversity. To work effectively with people from other cultures or upbringings, you need to understand them and where their ideas of right and wrong come from. That is what culture is: the way we were raised and the values, beliefs, and standards for behavior we internalized. These factors affect our relationships, the way we do business, and our reactions to events, circumstances, and other people.

Because cultures are so diverse, values, beliefs, and standards for behavior are not universal. What is right for you may not be right for me, and what is important to a member of one culture may not be important to a member of another culture.

For example, independence is emphasized in American culture, so people who were raised in the U.S. are ready to leave home at an early age and may continue to move throughout their lives. Because American society is so mobile, Americans tend to jump into jobs and friendships quickly. They need to make friends quickly because they may not be in the same city a year from now. More traditional cultures emphasize family and long-term relationships. People who grew up in "older" cultures (European, Asian, and others) don't move around as quickly or easily. They often are born and die in the same place and take time to get to know people before accepting them as friends. A typical American might appear pushy and overly familiar to someone from a more traditional culture, while the more traditional approach to friendship might seem formal and standoffish to a typical American.

Americans also tend to have different sets of friends-work friends, social friends, and neighborhood friends. Members of other cultures more often include friends in all aspects of their lives. So if you are friendly at work, they

may not understand why you don't invite them to socialize. These differences could lead to misunderstandings, creating an unpleasant working relationship.

We all need to realize that the way we do something may not be the way someone else would do it-or want it to be done. If you are uncertain about what to do or how to behave with coworkers from other cultures, wait and see what they do and then follow suit. Successful organizations realize that people's differences can be their strength.

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