

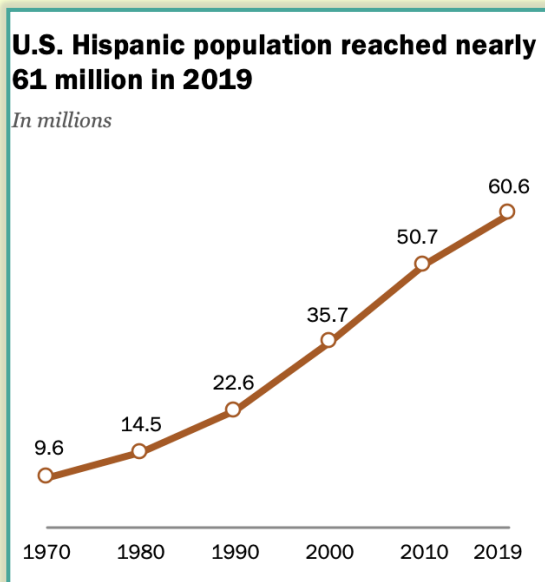


We are happy to be celebrating the Hispanic Heritage Month between September 15th and October 15th. Hispanics are the major minority group in the United States and many generations of Hispanics have contributed to making this country strong and prosperous.

The Hispanic Heritage Month began as a commemorative week in June 1968 by California Congressman George E. Brown. On September 17th, 1968, Congress passed a public law requesting Sept 15th to be the start of whole week of celebration to honor the Hispanics and Latinos. This law obtained approval by President Lyndon B. Johnson that same year. In 1988, the week of celebration was expanded to cover a whole month. These were the chosen dates to celebrate Hispanics and Latinx because they coincide with the national Independence Day of several Latin American Countries. We use this month to honor the culture and contribution of Hispanics and Latin Americans. Communities all around the United States are expected to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies and activities that foster education and inclusion.

Hispanics in USA

The Hispanic population in the USA is composed of around 61 million people. In recent years there has been a drastic increase in the population size and is composed of people from many regions of the world.



Hispanic origin groups in the U.S., 2018

Origin	U.S. population	% among all U.S. Hispanics
Mexican	36,964,000	61.9%
Puerto Rican	5,772,000	9.7
Cuban	2,362,000	4.0
Salvadoran	2,325,000	3.9
All other Latino	2,287,000	3.8
Dominican	2,075,000	3.5
Guatemalan	1,513,000	2.5
Colombian	1,241,000	2.1
Honduran	980,000	1.6
Spaniard	814,000	1.4
Ecuadorian	708,000	1.2
Peruvian	675,000	1.1
Venezuelan	492,000	0.8
Nicaraguan	438,000	0.7
Argentine	287,000	0.5
Panamanian	211,000	0.4
Chilean	174,000	0.3
Costa Rican	150,000	0.3
Bolivian	116,000	0.2
Uruguayan	61,000	0.1
Other Central American	48,000	0.1
Paraguayan	24,000	<0.05
Other South American	22,000	<0.05
Total	59,740,000	100.0

Hispanic Physicians and Pioneers.

The number of Hispanic doctors who have made history is remarkable and they have paved the way for others to follow in their footsteps. Here are some of the Hispanic physicians who have changed the face of medicine and effected international growth:



Dr. Santiago Ramon y Cajal

He was a Spanish neuroscientist, pathologist and histologist specialized in neuroanatomy and the central nervous system. He received his doctorate in medicine in Madrid in 1877. He was the first person of Hispanic origin to receive a scientific Nobel Prize in "Physiology or Medicine" in 1906.

Dr. Serena Auñón

She is a physician, engineer and NASA astronaut from Cuban descent. She obtained her medical degree from UT Health in 2001. She is the first Hispanic physician to travel to space and spend six months in the international space station, conducting research on Parkinson disease and cancer. She has also cared for COVID19 patients during the current pandemic.

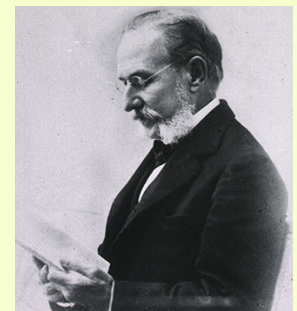


Dr. Severo Ochoa

He was a Spanish physician and biochemist. He received his medical degree from the University of Madrid Medical School in 1929. He worked studying creatinine metabolism. Eventually he was awarded the Nobel Prize in "Physiology or Medicine" in 1959 for synthesizing RNA.

Dr. Carlos Juan Finlay

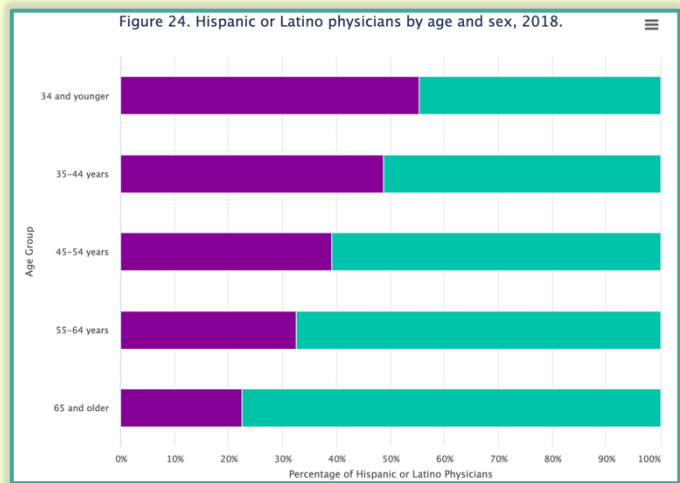
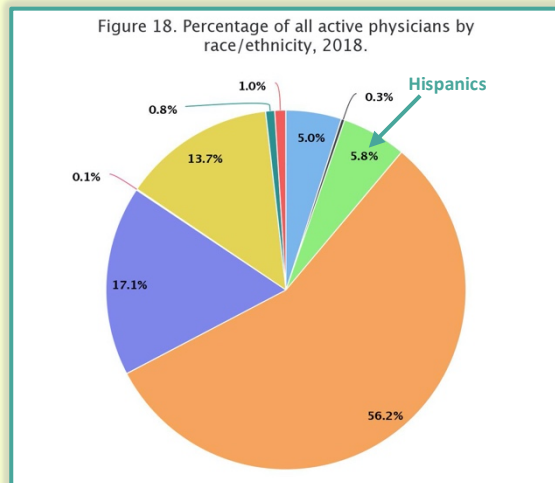
He was a Cuban epidemiologist. He graduated from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia in 1855. He found the correlation between mosquitos and yellow fever and presented his idea that the mosquitos were disease vectors. He applied his ideas in mosquito control, reducing yellow fever outbreaks and saving many lives.



Dr. Helena Rodriguez Trias

She was a Puerto Rican pediatrician, educator and woman's rights activist. She graduated from the University of Puerto Rico with her medical degree in 1960. She co-founded a campaign to end the abuse of female sterilization and established standard of care for mothers and children with HIV. She was the first Latina to be president of the American Public Health Association.

Active Hispanics in Medicine



- There are around 53,526 active Hispanic physicians in USA.
- From the 53,526 active Hispanic doctors:
 - 55.3% are female and younger than 34yrs old
 - 67.5% are males between ages 55 and 64yrs old.
 - 77.5% are males over 65yrs old.

Hispanic Health Facts

The two main barriers for Hispanic health are:

1. Language and cultural barriers
2. Lower rates of health insurance compared to other ethnic groups.

The lack of insurance and language barriers stops many Hispanics from seeking care, leading to worse outcomes in the following conditions, compared to non-Hispanic population:

- Diabetes mellitus is the greatest burden of mortality disparities for Latinos in USA.
- Higher rate of obesity compared to non-Hispanics.
- Higher death rate in Latinos with HIV.

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