

# Births to Hispanic Women Living in Minnesota: Overview of Expanded Hispanic Subgroups, 2016

## Introduction

This issue of VitalSigns provides an overview of an expanded set of Hispanic subgroups representing the five largest Hispanic origin groups in Minnesota (i.e., Mexican, Guatemalan, Salvadoran, Puerto Rican, and Honduran). Each of these five subgroups had more than 100 births in 2016. Historically, data for Hispanics have been collected, aggregated, and presented as if they were one monolithic group, when in fact, there are over 20 different Hispanic Origin countries. With migration patterns changing over time, more and different subgroups constitute larger groups in the United States (US) overall, and in Minnesota.

Self-identified Hispanic ethnicity of the parents is collected on the birth worksheet at the time of the birth. Specific checkboxes for Mexican, Puerto Rican, and Cuban are part of the Federal standard reporting and, and as such, are included in the Minnesota birth worksheet. However, Minnesota has a very different Hispanic population mix than the US overall. In addition to the checkboxes, Hispanic identity information can also be provided in an “Other Hispanic, please specify” field on the birth worksheet. An expanded set of Hispanic subgroups can be examined by extracting these literal text data. The data reported here represent women who self-identified as Hispanic regardless of what, if any, race they identified.

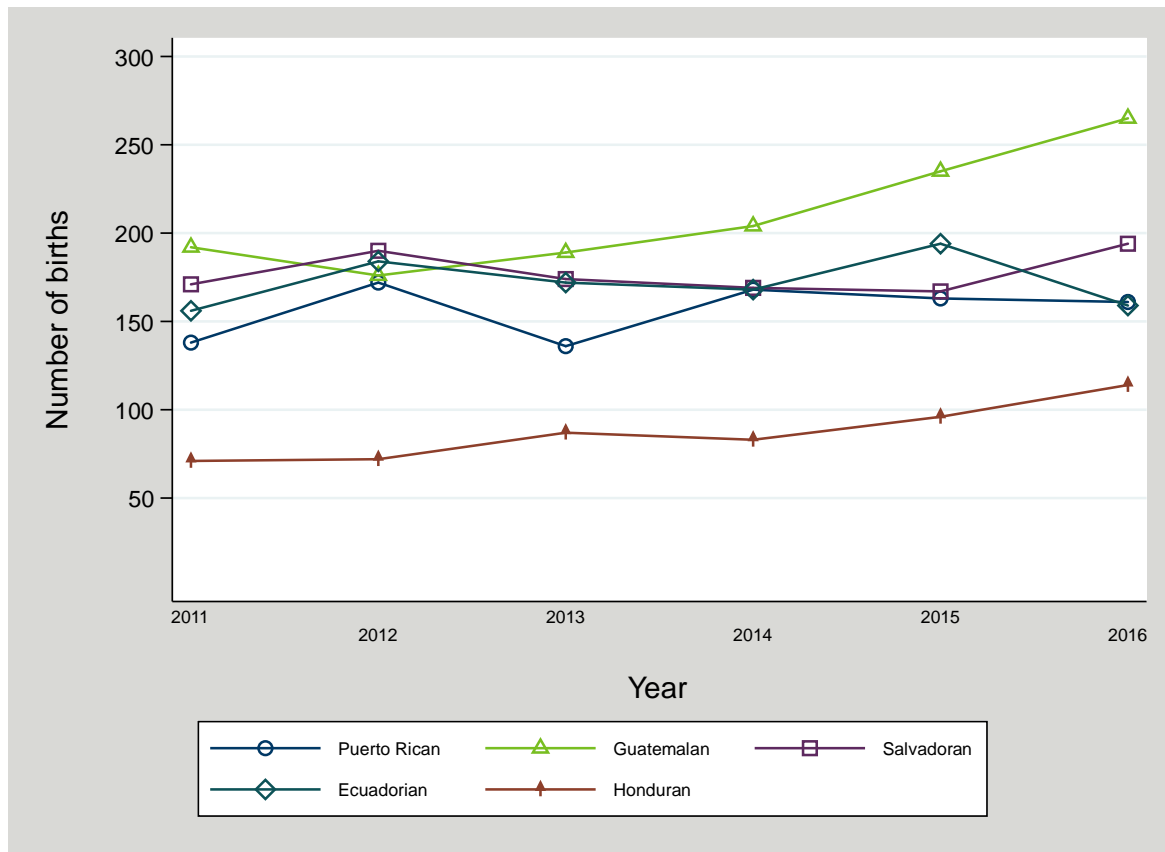
**Table 1. Key Hispanic natality (birth) statistics, 2016**

	Minnesota Hispanics	Minnesota Total	United States Hispanics	United States Total
<b>Number of live births</b>	4,833	69,736	915,917 <sup>1</sup>	3,941,109
<b>Crude birth rate:</b> births per 1,000 total group-specific population	16.7	12.6	16.3* <sup>2</sup>	12.4* <sup>2</sup>
<b>General fertility rate:</b> births per 1,000 group- specific females ages 15- 44 years	73.2	66.2	62.0* <sup>2</sup>	62.5* <sup>2</sup>
<b>Percent low birthweight:</b> < 2500 grams	7.0%	6.6%	7.3% <sup>1</sup>	8.2% <sup>1</sup>
<b>Percent preterm:</b> < 37 weeks gestation	9.3%	8.8%	9.4% <sup>1</sup>	9.8% <sup>1</sup>

*\*Most current data are from 2015.*

The table above presents some key natality statistics for births to all Hispanic women in Minnesota, as well as comparison statistics to the state of Minnesota overall, Hispanic births in the US, and all births in the US. Notably, births to Hispanic mothers make up only 8% of births in Minnesota, while births to Hispanic women make up nearly a quarter (23%) of all births in the US. Hispanic women have a slightly higher birthrate than the population as a whole in both Minnesota and the US. Figure 1 shows the number of births in Minnesota to selected Hispanic subgroups from 2011 to 2016. Mexican women are the largest group of Hispanic women in Minnesota, and they give birth to over 3,000 infants each year (not shown). Guatemalan, Salvadoran, Ecuadorian, and Puerto Rican are the next largest identifiable groups contributing 150-200 births in each group, on average, each year. Of particular note, the number of births to Guatemalan women has increased each year over the last five years. The number of births to Honduran women has also increased, reaching more than 100 in 2016.

**Figure 1. Number of births to Hispanic women by subgroup over time, 2011-2016.**



## Sociodemographic characteristics of the mother

### Hispanic ethnicity group

Mothers self-identify their Hispanic ethnic group at the time of birth. Of the nearly 70,000 births to Minnesota residents in 2016, nearly 7% (n=4,833) were to women who self-identified as Hispanic. Of these self-identified Hispanic women, 92% (n=4,380) reported a single Hispanic ethnic identity (75% identified as Mexican, 6% as Guatemalan, 4.3% as Salvadoran, and 3.6% each of Puerto Rican and Ecuadorian). Other smaller groups combined resulted in 3.8% other South American, 3.4% other Central

American, and 1.6% Greater Antilles (not highlighted in this report). Another 8% reported multiple Hispanic ethnicities, other Hispanic, or unknown Hispanic group.

### Age of mother

Overall, 9% of women in the five largest Hispanic subgroups were teen mothers (15-19 years), 52% were between 20 and 29 years, 36% were between the ages of 30 and 39, and 2.8% were between the ages of 40 and 49. Teen mothers ranged from 5% of Ecuadorian women to nearly 10% each of Guatemalan (9.6%), Puerto Rican (9.6%), and Mexican (9.3%) women. Additionally, while 38% of Mexican and of Guatemalan women were over the age of 30, 44% of Puerto Rican and over half (54.1%) of Ecuadorian women were age 30 or older at the time of the birth.

### Educational status

When examining educational attainment, it is standard practice to limit the population to those who are 25 years and older so that there is sufficient time to have graduated high school or earned a GED. Of the Hispanic mothers, ages 25 and older, in the five highlighted subgroups, 44.5% have less than a high school education, 22.7% have a high school education, 20.6% have had some college or earned a 2-year Associates Degree, and 12.3% have a 4-year college degree or more (Bachelor, Masters, or Doctorate). Among Puerto Rican mothers, 10.4% have less than a high school education, while 34.9% have a college degree. Conversely, 71.7% of Guatemalan women have less than a high school education and 8.7% have a college degree. Salvadoran women are the least likely to have earned a college degree (1.5%).

### Marital status

Overall, 45% of Hispanic mothers were married at the time of birth. This varied substantially, with 61% of Ecuadorian mothers married at the time of birth in contrast to 40% of Guatemalan mothers. Puerto Rican, Mexican, and Salvadoran had 47%, 44%, and 43%, respectively.

### County of residence

County of residence refers to the county where the woman lived at the time she gave birth. Table 2 shows the distribution of women by county of residence for the top 10 most often reported counties ordered by the total percentage of Hispanic women from highest to lowest. The bars in each cell correspond to the subgroup-specific values making an easy visual cue to where the largest and smallest groups are. Hispanic women tend to be concentrated in specific geographic areas.

**Table 2. Top 10 counties where Hispanic women live, who gave birth in 2016.**

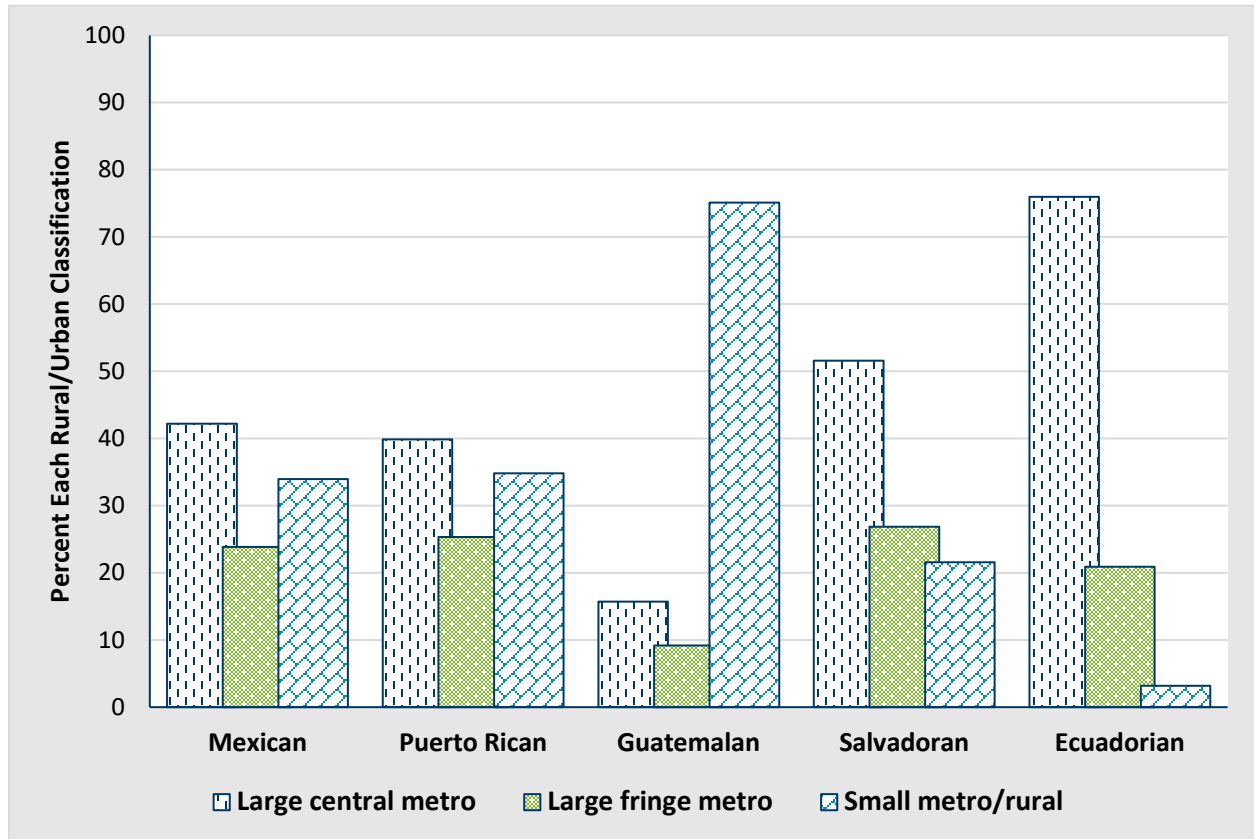
County	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Guatemalan	Salvadoran	Ecuadorian	Total
Hennepin	31%	28%	11%	17%	73%	31%
Ramsey	11%	12%	5%	34%	3%	12%
Dakota	10%	12%	3%	17%	10%	10%
Anoka	5%	5%	0%	2%	11%	5%
Nobles	2%	0%	40%	12%	0%	4%
Scott	3%	2%	1%	2%	0%	2%
Rice	2%	0%	3%	2%	0%	2%
Olmsted	2%	5%	0%	1%	3%	2%
Kandiyohi	2%	3%	3%	1%	1%	2%
Washington	2%	1%	1%	1%	0%	2%
Other MN counties	30%	32%	32%	11%	0%	28%

Notably, six counties are in the 7-county metropolitan area (Hennepin, Ramsey, Dakota, Anoka, Scott, and Washington) and one is in the Rochester Metropolitan Statistical Area (Olmsted). The other two counties are in the southwestern part of the state and are relatively rural. Nearly one-third of Hispanic women live in Hennepin County (the largest county in the state), although the percentage of each subgroup in Hennepin County varies. While only 11% of Guatemalan women live in Hennepin County, 73% of Ecuadorian women live there.

### Urban/Rural

It is often meaningful to examine health differences across the urban/rural continuum. For many health indicators, residents of large suburban metro areas tend to fare better compared to residents of either inner city metro areas or rural areas. Among Hispanic women who gave birth in 2016, 42% lived in inner city metro areas, while 23% lived in suburban metro areas, 35% lived outside of large metropolitan areas. Urban/rural residence differs significantly across Hispanic subgroups with 76% of Ecuadorian mothers residing in large metro areas and 75% of Guatemalan women residing in more rural areas (see Figure 2).

**Figure 2. Percent of each Hispanic subgroup by urban/rural residence, 2016.**



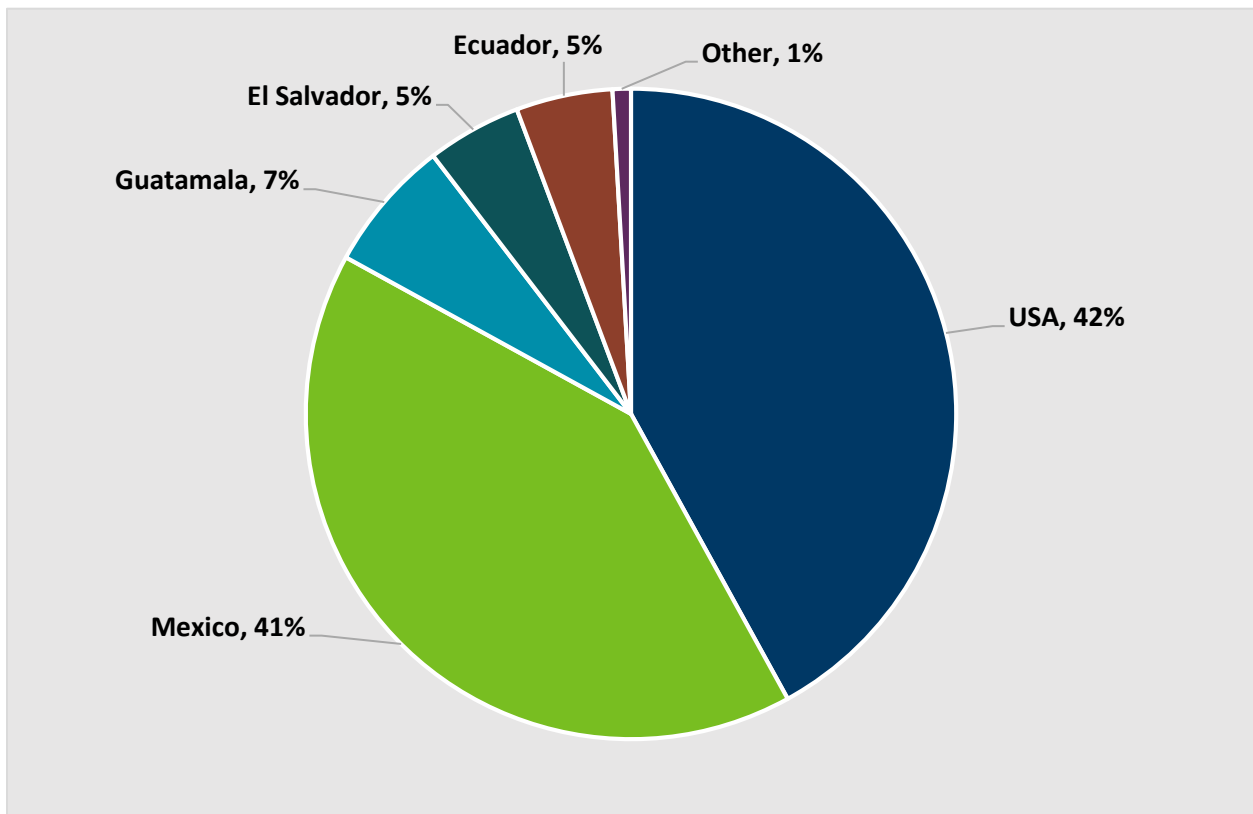
### Nativity status

Nativity status refers to whether a person is US-born or foreign born. Nearly 58% of births to Hispanic women were to mothers who were foreign-born. Over 90% of Guatemalan (93%) and Salvadoran (92%) women were foreign-born. Nearly 90% of Ecuadorian women were foreign-born, while just over half (54.1%) of Mexican women were foreign-born. Over one third of Puerto Rican women were born in Puerto Rico, which is a US territory, while only 4% were foreign-born (outside the US or Puerto Rico).

### Country of origin

Finally, country of origin refers to the country where a mother reports that she was born regardless of her Hispanic ethnicity. The percentages reported here do not match those reported on page two because these are specific to the mother’s country of birth. For example, women of Mexican ancestry contribute 75% of the Hispanic births in Minnesota, but 46% of these Mexican birth mothers were born in the US, so they would not be represented in the “Born in Mexico” group of mothers. The percent born in the US varies by subgroup, with 10% or fewer of Guatemalan, Salvadoran, and Ecuadorian women having been born in the US, while 46% of Mexican women were born in the US. Women born in Puerto Rico are classified as having been born in the US.

**Figure 3. Country where Hispanic women in the five subgroups were born, 2016.**



## References

1. Hamilton BE, Martin JA, Osterman MJK, et al. Births: Provisional data for 2016. Vital statistics rapid release; no 2. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. June 2017. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/vsrr/report002.pdf> .
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**Suggested citation:** Johnson PJ, Fernandez-Baca D. Births to Hispanic Women Living in Minnesota: Overview of expanded subgroups, 2016. Minnesota VitalSigns; Vol. 13, No. 2. St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Center for Health Statistics, Minnesota Department of Health, 2018.

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*Published online 04/24/18*