

U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute Forum VI: Extracting Power From the 2020 Census

Director's remarks as prepared for delivery

February 18, 2023

- Good afternoon. I'm Robert Santos, director of the U.S. Census Bureau.
- It's a pleasure to be with you this afternoon to discuss the 2020 Census.
- The Census Bureau is charged with measuring the nation's people, places, and economy.
- We most famously enumerate the U.S. population once a decade as prescribed by our U.S. Constitution. Decennial census data are used for congressional seat apportionment as well as legislative redistricting, as you well know.
- But census data are also valuable assets that can be used by policymakers and the public to understand our nation, and to advance equity.
- The redistricting data from the 2020 Census provided a new snapshot of the racial and ethnic composition of the country. It gave us a lot of important information about the people that live in the United States—including the Latino and Hispanic population.
- For example, as you may already know, the Hispanic population grew from 50.5 million in 2010 to 62.1 million in 2020. This accounted for 18.7 percent of the U.S. population.
- And the Hispanic or Latino population grew by 23 percent since 2010—which is five times faster than the non-Hispanic population. This makes Hispanics the second-largest racial or ethnic group in our nation.
- The percentages also increased for Hispanic or Latino children from 2010 to 2020—from 23.1 percent to 25.7 percent. So in 2020, 1 in every 4 children in the United States were of Hispanic origin.
- Indeed, slightly more than half (51.1 percent) of the total U.S. population growth between 2010 and 2020 came from growth in the Hispanic or Latino population.
- And if we look back even farther, the growth is even more remarkable. In 1970, the total Hispanic population in the United States was estimated at 9.3 million (using Spanish Heritage numbers). This means the Hispanic population grew 568 percent in that 50-year interval.
- The Census Bureau is committed to producing data that reflects an accurate portrait of America. That's important for many reasons.
- One of those reasons is as communities and populations change, so do their needs. The information we provide helps us understand our changing communities' needs, and better target our policymaking.
- The bottom line is that census data helps our nation, and our communities, to function, grow, and prosper. And, yes, it helps preserve our democracy.
- Thank you. I look forward to today's discussion.