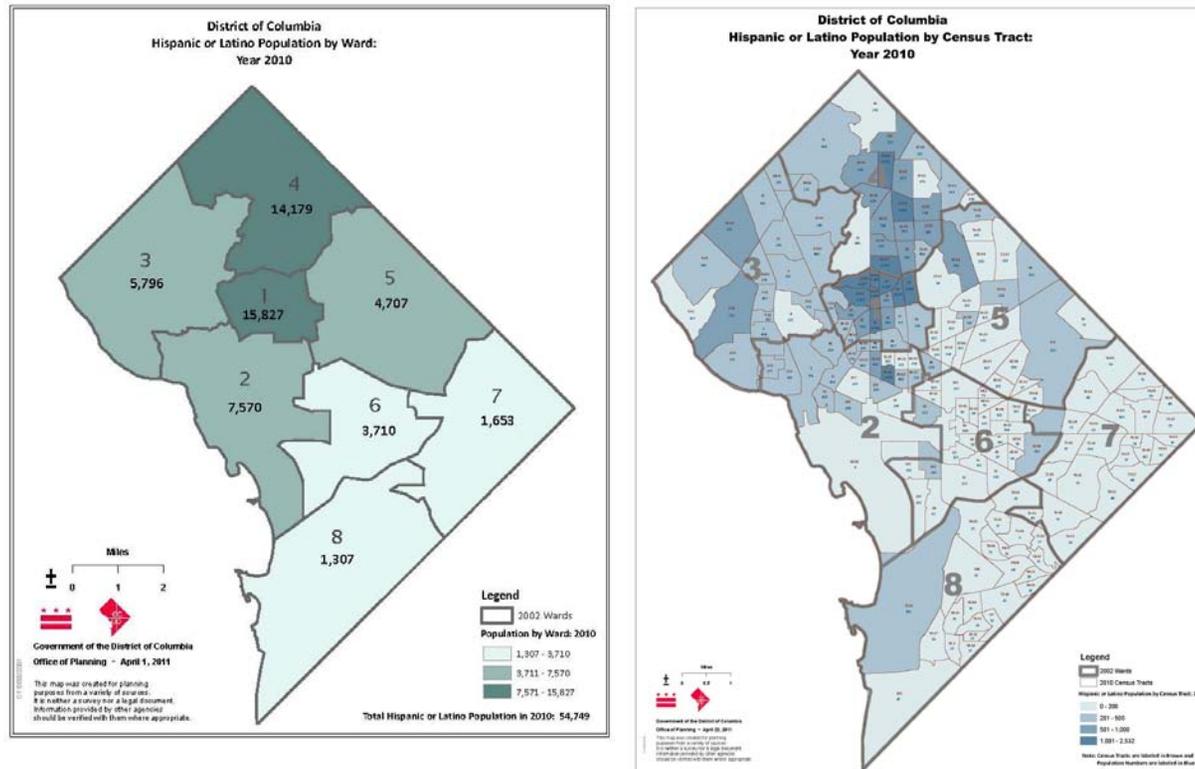


# Latinos in the District of Columbia<sup>1</sup>

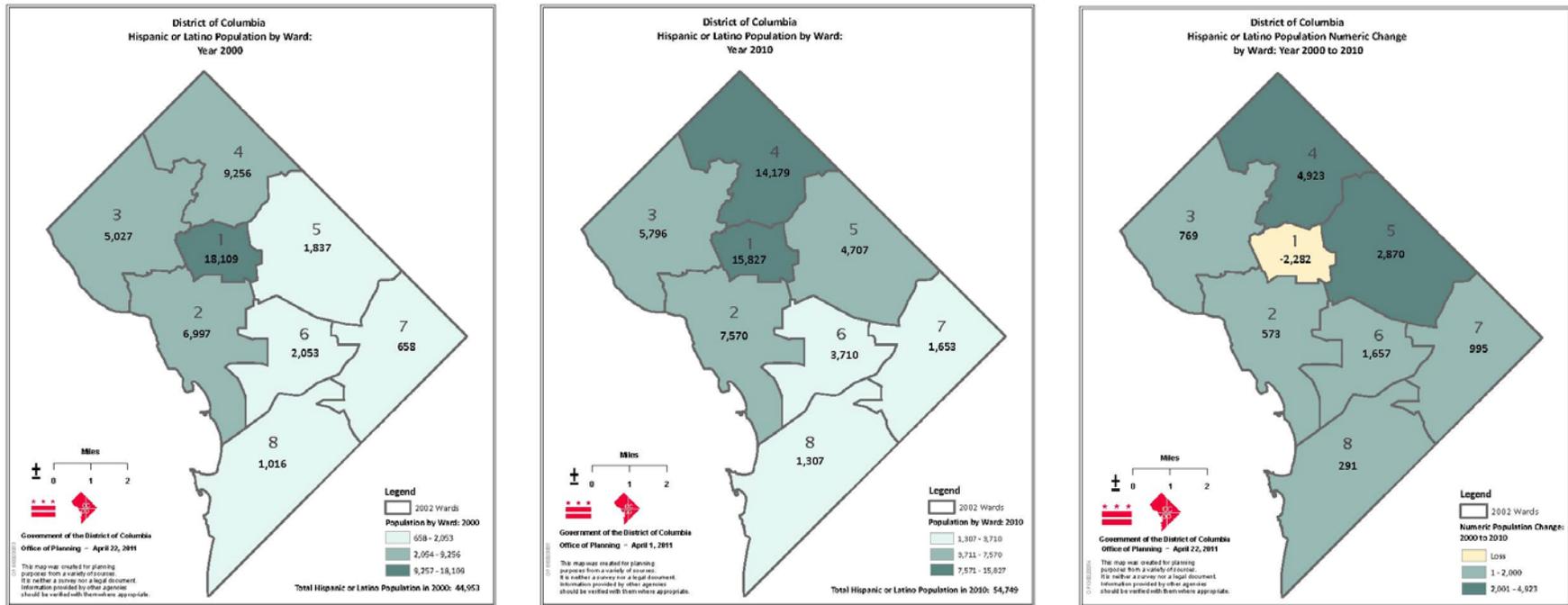
According to the U.S. Census Bureau data released February through March 2011 by the Population Division, 54,749 (9.1 percent) of District residents self-identify as “Hispanic or Latino.” It is widely assumed that Latinos actually make up a much larger share of the District’s population because the group is chronically undercounted in the Census. In terms of geographic distribution, the US Census Bureau data for 2010 shows that from a total Latino population of 54,749 in the District that year, the highest proportion of Latinos lived in Wards 1 (15,827, 28.9 percent), 4 (14,179, 25.9 percent), and 2 (7,570, 13.8 percent). There was also a significant proportion of Latinos living in the rest of the District, in order from highest to lowest proportions: Ward 3 (5,796, 10.6 percent), Ward 5 (4,707, 8.6 percent), Ward 6 (3,710, 6.8 percent), Ward 7 (1,653, 3.0 percent), and Ward 8 (1,307, 2.4 percent). Please see Figure 1 and 2 below for geographic distribution by Ward and Census Tract, respectively, for the year 2010:



Figures 1 and 2: Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Maps prepared by D.C. Office of Planning/State Data Center.

<sup>1</sup> These data were compiled for the *Indices*, a Statistical Index to the District of Columbia Services by the Office on Latino Affairs in coordination with the Office of Planning. These data have been drawn from the US Census 2010, U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey, and U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 American Community Survey. This document was created by Kelsey Chatlosh, Josué Salmerón and Cecilia Castillo Ayometzi. Please direct all inquiries to Josué Salmerón ([josue.salmeron@dc.gov](mailto:josue.salmeron@dc.gov)), and Cecilia Castillo Ayometzi ([cecilia.castillo@dc.gov](mailto:cecilia.castillo@dc.gov)).

The Latino population in the District has noticeably increased from 2000 to 2010 in all Wards across the District, except Ward 1. The greatest positive numeric changes in the Latino population from 2000-2010 were seen in: Ward 4 (increase of 4,923), Ward 5 (increase of 2,870), and Ward 6 (increase of 1,657). The only Ward in the District where there was a negative numeric change in the Latino population from 2000-2010 was Ward 1 (decrease of 2,282). Please note that although data have exhibited a decrease in the number of Latinos living in Ward 1, this decrease does not reflect the large population of Latinos still residing and working in this area. Please see Figures 3, 4, and 5 below for geographic distribution by Ward in 2000 and 2010, as well as the Latino population numeric change by Ward from 2000 to 2010, respectively:



Figures 3, 4 and 5: Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Maps prepared by D.C. Office of Planning/State Data Center.

The number of Latino residents living in the District has steadily continued to increase over the past decade, 2000-2010. Note that the population data below for the years 2000 and 2010 is from the U.S. Census Bureau decennial reports; and the population estimates for years 2001 through 2009 are from the 2009 American Community Survey. Please see Table 1 below for the yearly Hispanic/Latino Population Trend from 2000-2010 in the District:

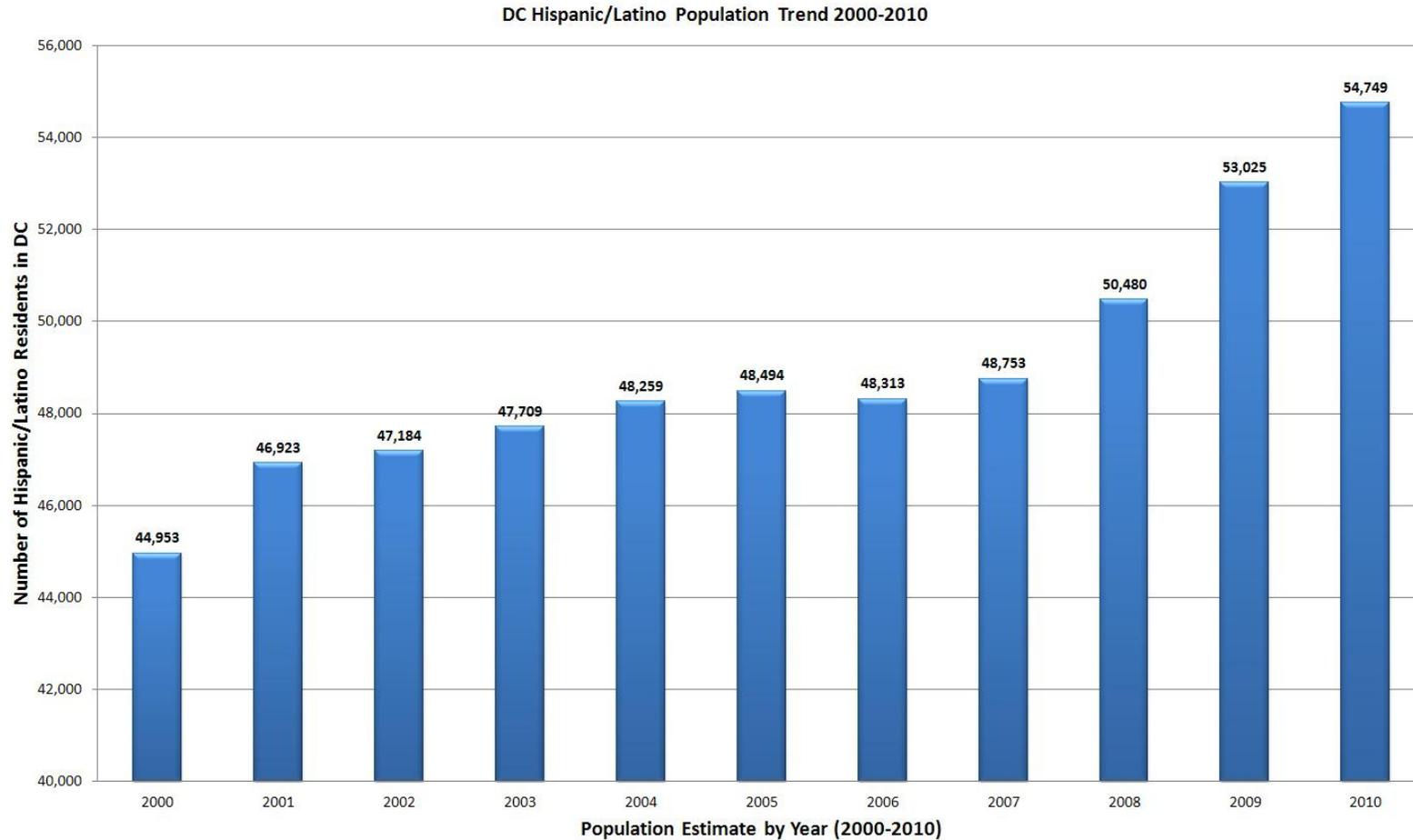
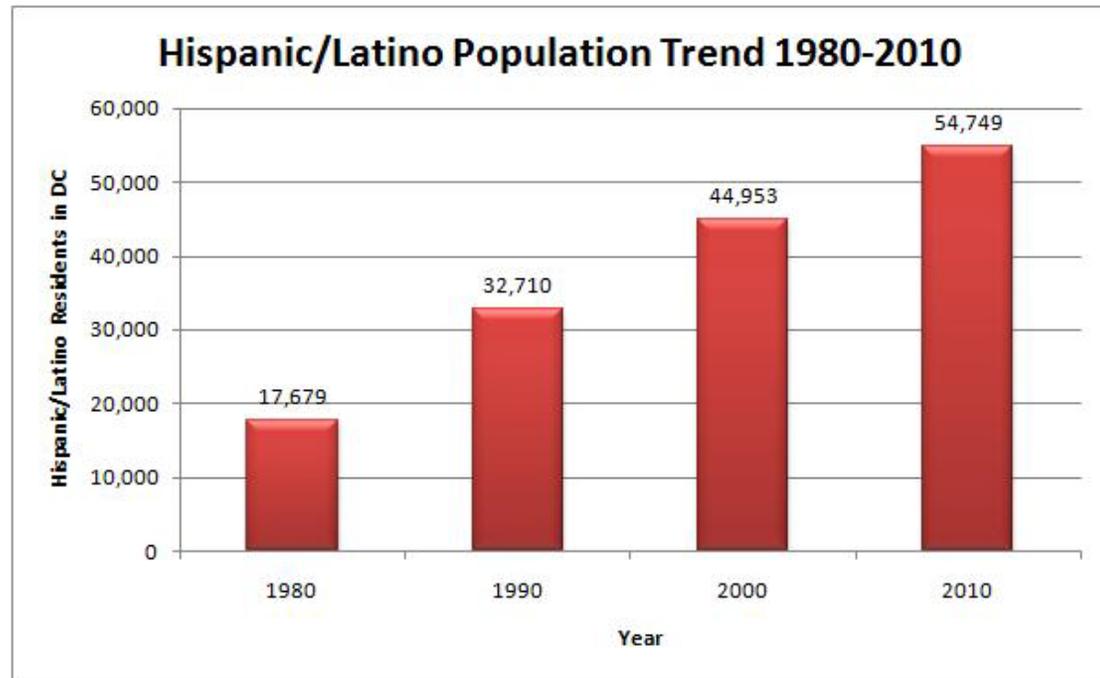


Table 1: Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey. Data prepared by D.C. Office on Planning/State Data Center. Table created by Office on Latino Affairs.

The steady increase of the Latino population living in the District can also be seen by decade, continuously increasing from 1980 to 2010. From a total District population of 638,333, there were 17,679 (2.8 percent) residents who self-identified as “Hispanic or Latino” in 1980. In 1990, the total District population decreased to 606,900, while the Latino population that same year increased to 32,710 (5.4 percent) residents. In 2000, the total District population continued decreasing to 572,059, while the Latino population this year increased to 44,953 (7.9 percent) residents. In 2010, the total District population then increased to 601,723, and the Latino population also increased to 54,749 (9.1 percent) residents. Please see Tables 2 and 3 below for the DC Latino Population Trend by decade, from 1980-2010:

**District of Columbia Hispanic or Latino Population Trends: Year 1980 to 2010**

| Census year | Total Population | Hispanic or Latino Population |         |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------------------|---------|
|             |                  | Number                        | Percent |
| 2010        | 601,723          | 54,749                        | 9.1     |
| 2000        | 572,059          | 44,953                        | 7.9     |
| 1990        | 606,900          | 32,710                        | 5.4     |
| 1980        | 638,333          | 17,679                        | 2.8     |



Tables 2 and 3: Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey. Data prepared by D.C. Office on Planning/State Data Center. Table created by Office on Latino Affairs.

The Latino residents in the District of Columbia are a very diverse population. Although often overlooked through the use of categorical terms, i.e. “Hispanic” or “Latino,” country of origin data helps represent the unique individual countries people are coming from, where often significant differences exist in terms of cultural practices and language. According to 2010 data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the largest Latino population residing in DC is from El Salvador (16,611, 30 percent), while other major countries of origin, in order of highest to lowest populations, include: Mexico (8,507, 16 percent), Puerto Rico (3,129, 6 percent), Guatemala (2,635, 5 percent), and the Dominican Republic (2,508, 5 percent). Please see Table 3 below for additional data on the DC Hispanic/Latino Population by Country of Origin, 2010:

**DC Hispanic/Latino Population by Country of Origin, Census 2010**

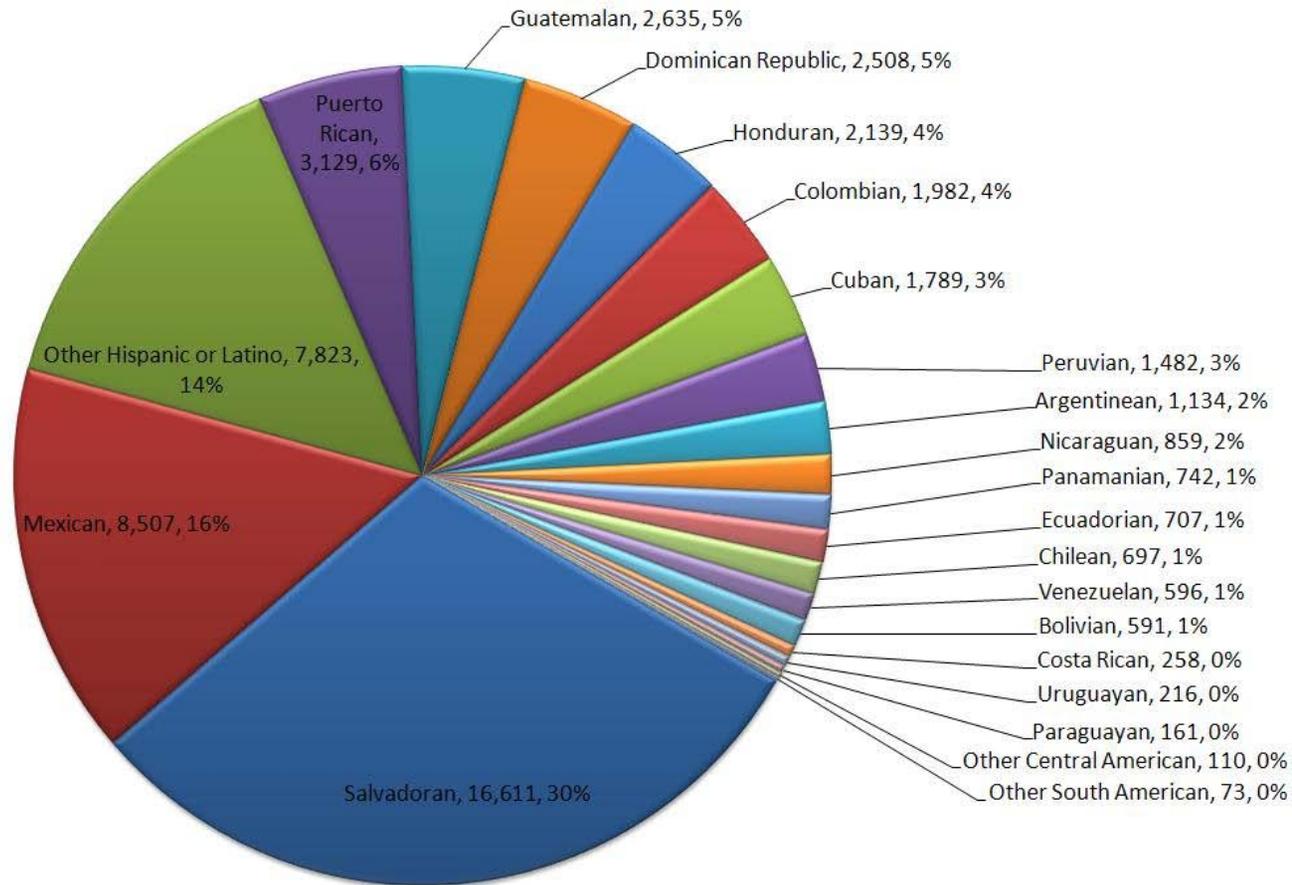


Figure 6: Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Data prepared by D.C. Office of Planning/State Data Center. Figure created by Office on Latino Affairs.

Nevertheless, this diversity in terms of country of origin does not seem to be significant in terms of age distribution and educational attainment. The 2010 Census has shown that the Latino population concentrates between the ages of 20 and 39 years old. The median age of the District’s Latino population is 30.1, about four years below the citywide median age of 33.8. About 36.7 percent of Latinos are under 25, compared with 31.2 percent for the entire city.

**DC Hispanic/Latino Population by Age, 2010**

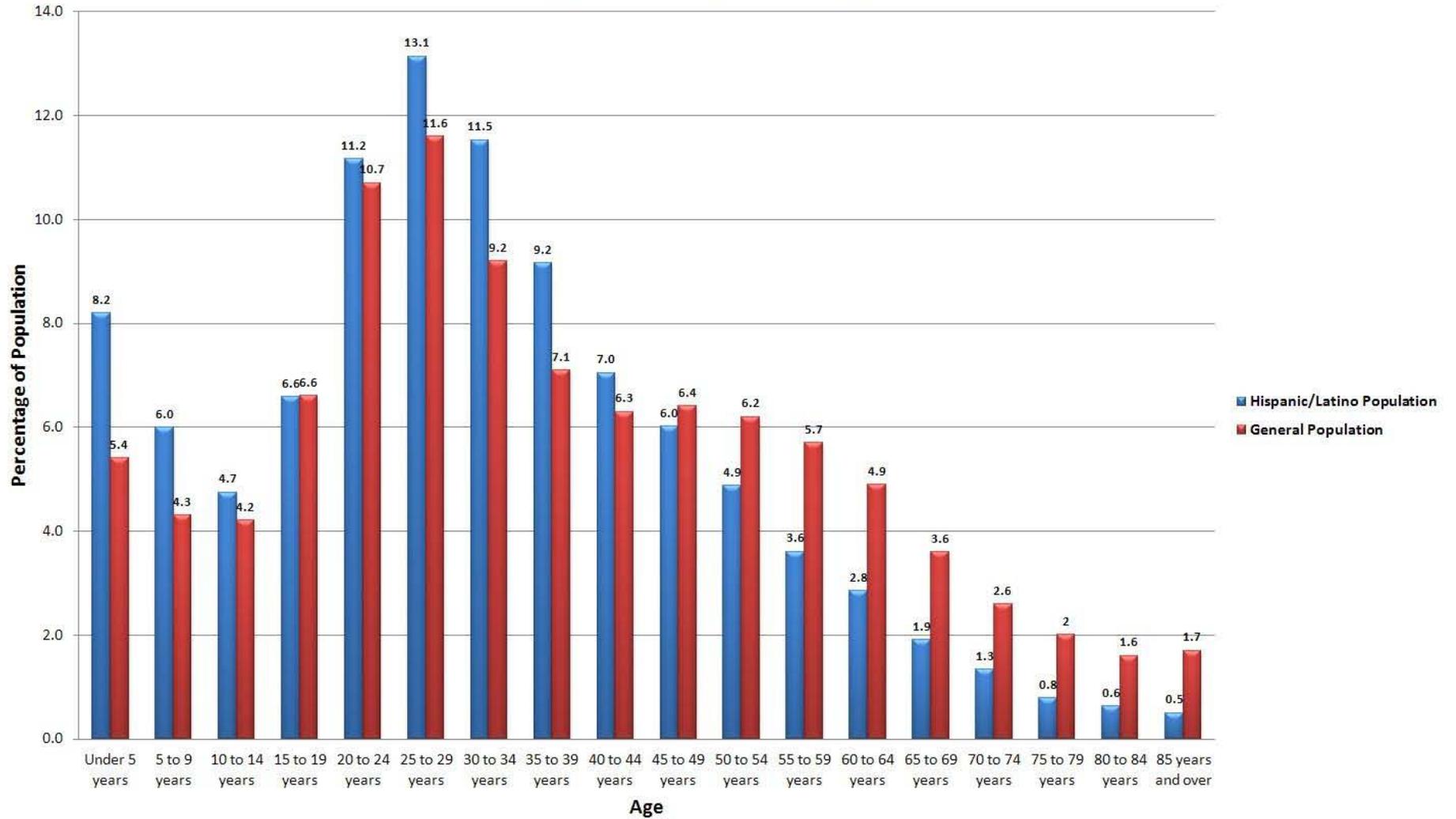


Table 4: Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Data prepared by D.C. Office of Planning/State Data Center. Table created by Office on Latino Affairs.

In terms of education, the Latino population shows a bimodal distribution in data from the 2009 American Community Survey. Latinos live worlds apart in that the highest population concentrations include, on one hand, those who have received less than a 9<sup>th</sup> grade education and on the other hand, those who have obtained a Bachelor's or a higher degree. In 2009, the highest proportion of the DC Latino population, 25 years and older, have attained less than a high school diploma (41.0 percent), which is followed closely behind by the second highest proportion of Latino residents who have attained a Bachelor's degree or higher (34.6 percent). Meanwhile, only 24.4 percent of Latinos in the District have obtained a high school diploma or GED, or some college or associate's degree. Note that the data show a significant disparity in the number of Latinos, 25 years and older, that have received less than a 9<sup>th</sup> grade education (41.0 percent), in comparison with the District's total population at this same education level (12.6 percent). At the same time, data from 2009 also challenge the common view that all members of the Latino population have a low level of education, as seen by the high proportion of Latinos who have achieved a Bachelor's degree or higher. As the bar chart below illustrates, the distribution of educational attainment in the District is bimodal with highest concentrations in both the lowest and highest attainment categories. There are a significant number of residents who are highly educated; this can be seen in both the general population (50.1 percent) and the Latino population (34.6 percent). Note that these data discussed above are from the 2009 American Community Survey; the U.S. Census Bureau has not yet released these data on educational attainment for the 2010 decennial report. Please view Table 4 below for data on the educational attainment of both the District's entire population and Latino population in 2009:

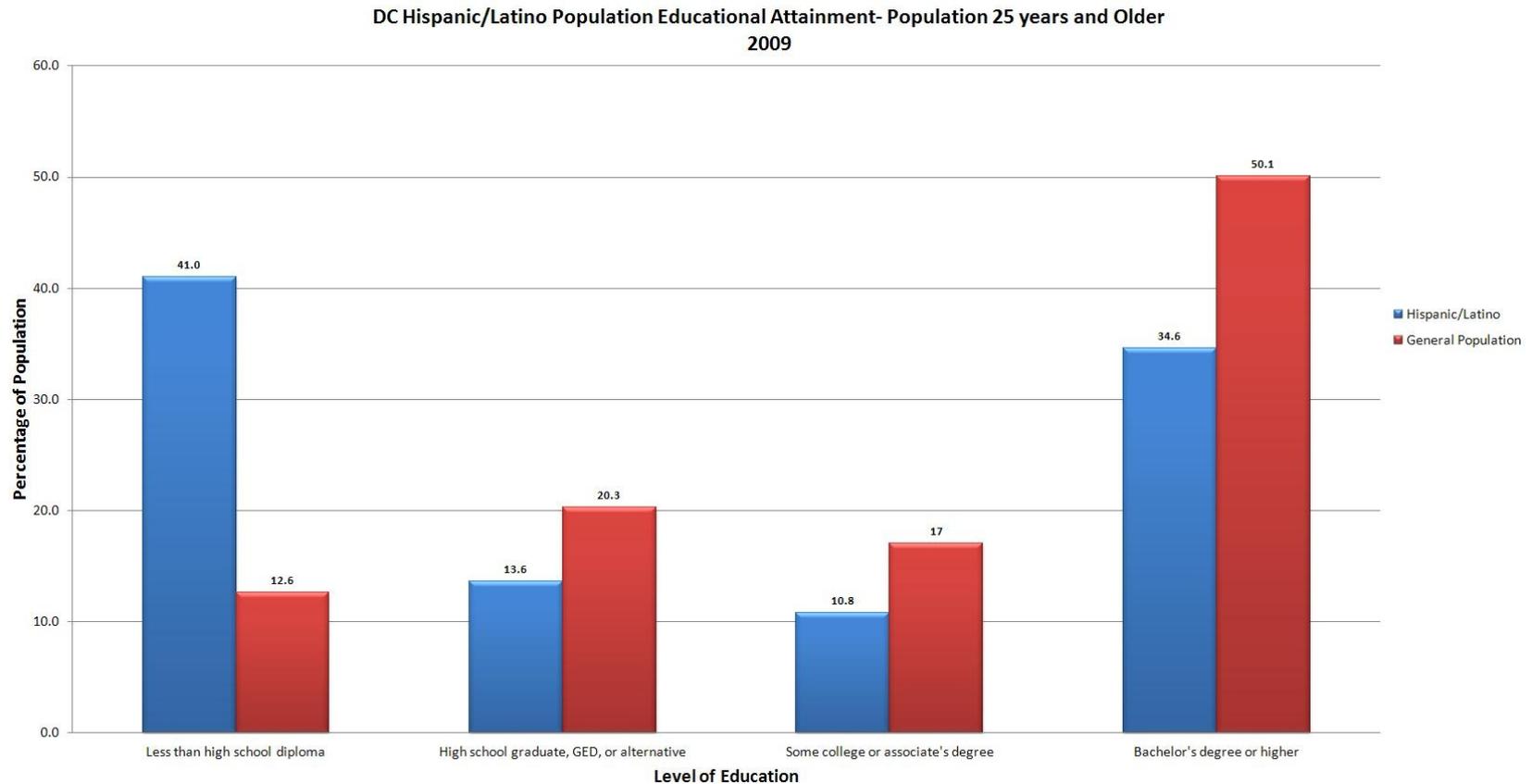
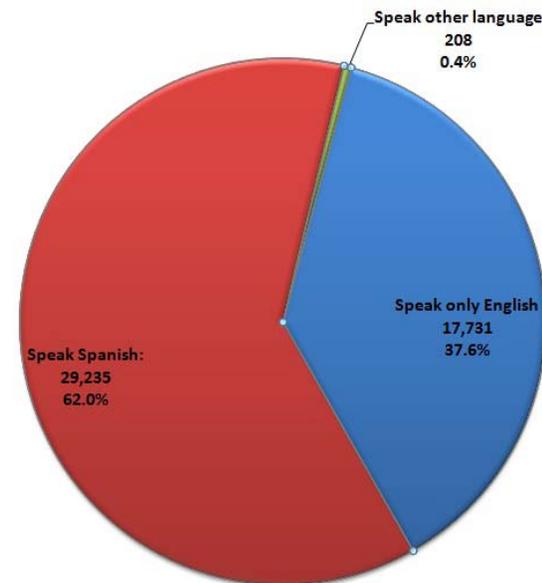


Table 5: Source: 2009 American Community Survey. Data prepared by D.C. Office of Planning/State Data Center. Table created by Office on Latino Affairs.

A close analysis of the 2009 American Community Survey data on language spoken at home shows that 37.6 percent of the DC Latino population speak only English (17,731 individuals), 0.4 percent speak an “other language” (208 individuals), while 62.0 percent speak Spanish (29,235 individuals). Of the 62.0 percent who speak Spanish at home, 54.8 percent self-identify as speaking English “very well” (16,016 individuals) and 45.2 percent speak English less than “very well” (13,219 individuals). Of the entire Latino population in DC, these data exemplify a significant proportion of Latinos with high English speaking abilities, given that 37.6 percent speak only English at home and 34 percent speak Spanish at home, but still speak English “very well.” However, Language Access is still incredibly vital to those 28 percent who speak Spanish at home and do not speak English “very well.” Please view Tables 6 and Figure 7 below for data on the language spoken at home by the DC Hispanic/Latino population in 2009:

| <b>Language Spoken at Home by Ability to Speak English for the 5 Years and Over Hispanic or Latino Population of District of Columbia: 2009</b> |               |                |
|---|---------------|----------------|
|   | <b>Number</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
| <b>Total:</b>   | 47,174        | 100.0          |
| Speak only English  | 17,731        | 37.6           |
| Speak Spanish:  | 29,235        | 62.0           |
| Speak English "very well"   | 16,016        | 34.0           |
| Speak English less than "very well"   | 13,219        | 28.0           |
| Speak other language  | 208           | 0.4            |

**DC Hispanic/Latino Population: Language Spoken at Home 2009**



Tables 6 and Figure 7: Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey. Data prepared by D.C. Office of Planning/State Data Center. Tables created by Office on Latino Affairs.

Inspection of the distribution given in Table 7 below for both male and female Latinos shows a skew towards the management/professional and service categories. The interpretation of that distribution is somewhat difficult due to the very broad “service” occupational category. The occupational distribution for Latino women closely followed that of men with the single exception of the “construction” category. An interesting trend which is not discernable from a one-year snapshot is the very large percentage increase for both Latino women and men in the both the “management” and “service” categories from the 2007 American Community Survey data (U.S. Census Bureau) to the 2009 data. For men, there was only a 1.9 percent increase in the Construction category during this period, but a 21.3 percent increase in the managerial category. For women there was a 30.8 percent increase in the managerial category from 2007 to 2009. Similar increases for both sexes appear in the “service” category as well:

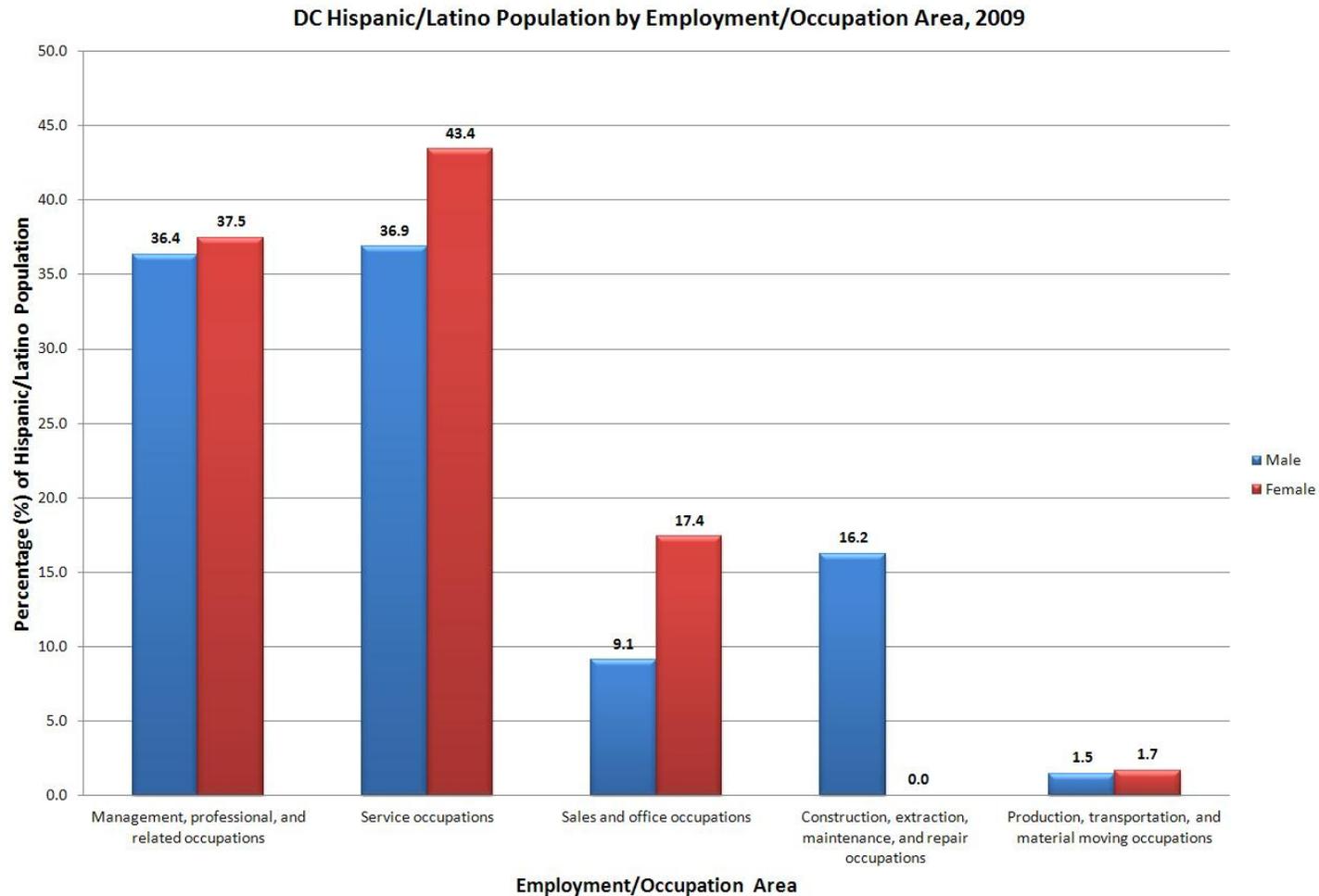


Table 7: Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey. Prepared by D.C. Office of Planning/State Data Center. Table created by Office on Latino Affairs.

The median Latino household income was \$46, 821 in 2009. Table 8 below shows that for the Latino population in the District the income distribution resembles a normal curve, with the greatest income concentration between \$25,000 and \$75, 000 dollars a year.

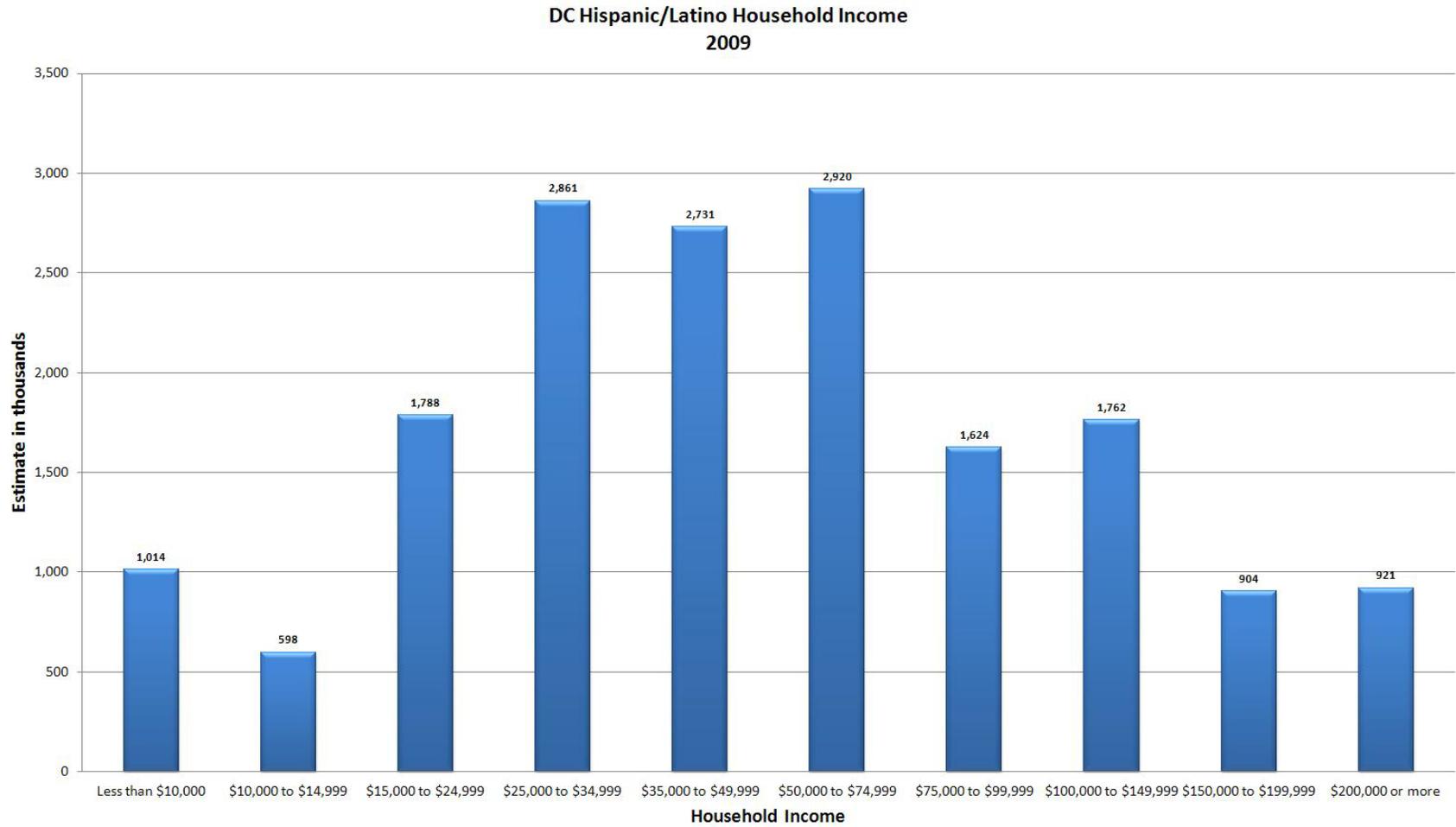


Table 8: Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey. Data prepared by D.C. Office of Planning/State Data Center. Table created by Office on Latino Affairs

The Office on Latino Affairs (OLA) was established in 1976 by the District Council when it passed the *Latino Community Development Act, DC Law 1-86*. It was the Council's intention for OLA, as part of the Executive Office of the Mayor, to work with the Mayor, the Council, District Government Agencies as well as private, community based organizations and businesses to ensure that *a full range of health, education, employment and social services* are available to all Latino residents living in the District of Columbia. The law also mandates OLA to strengthen the infrastructure of community based agencies serving the Latino population and to seek funding and provide grants for special programs and projects related to its mandate. OLA also assists District Government agencies in complying with the provisions of the Language Access Act of 2004. In terms of its organizational structure, OLA operates four different programs: Language Access and Policy Development, Compliance and Contracting within the Agency's administration, Outreach and Community Relations, and Community Development Funds in the form of Grants.

**Grants:** OLA manages a multimillion dollar grants budget applied toward funding Latino-serving community-based health, education, human services, and cultural programs. In addition, OLA provides technical assistance to grant applicants and grantees to ensure compliance with the rules and regulations of the District of Columbia and OLA's grants policies. The grant total for grants provided during the 2011 fiscal year was \$1,782,050.00. These grants covered eight broad fields including youth development with 31.48 percent of the total, health services with 28.06 percent of the total, economic and workforce development with 23.34 percent of the total, English language instruction with 8.42 percent of the total, civic engagement with 3.93 percent of the total, legal services with 3.65 percent of the total, support services to individuals with physical disabilities (not include in other categories) with 0.56 percent of the total, and language access advocacy with 0.56 percent of the total. Additionally, OLA, through a partnership with the DC Department of Human Services, provided \$200,000 for healthcare insurance enrollment and services for individuals with non-English proficiency and limited-English proficiency. Please see Figure 8 below for distribution of funds by field:

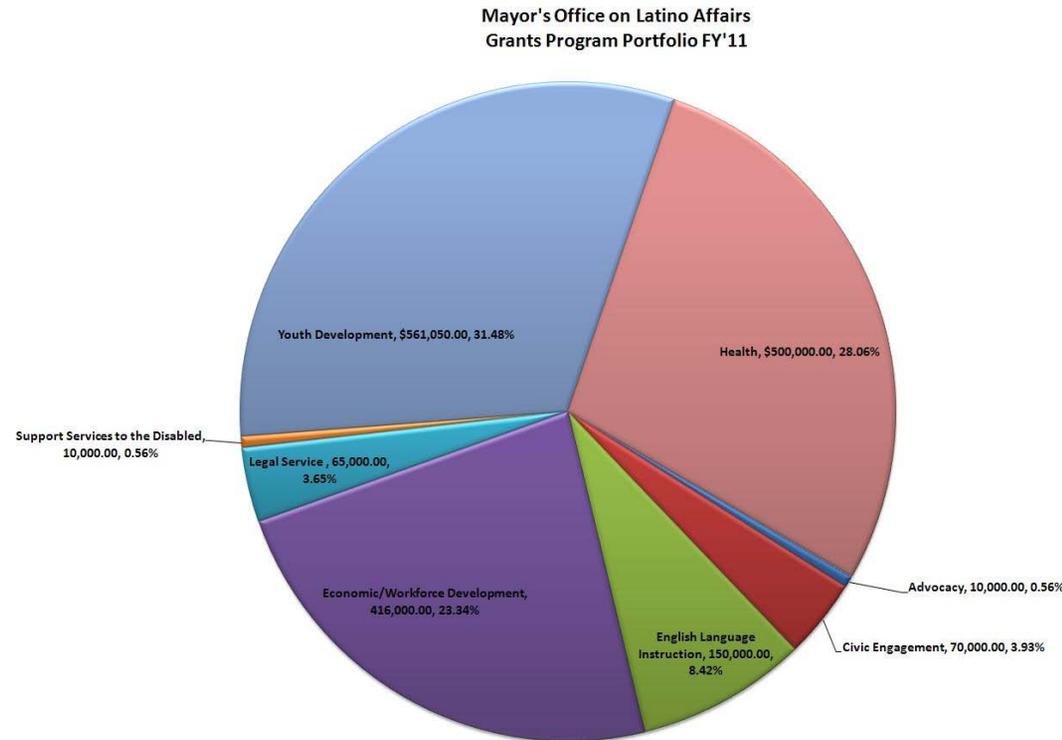


Figure 8: Source: Office on Latino Affairs' Grants Program. Table created by Office on Latino Affairs.

**Language Access and Advocacy Program (LAAP):** On April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2004, the Language Access Act (LAA) was signed into law. The central purpose of the LAA is to provide equal access and participation to public services, programs and activities for residents of the District of Columbia who are Limited or Non-English proficient. Since then, OLA's Language Access and Advocacy Program (LAAP) has provided technical support to the 34, and continuously increasing, DC government agencies covered by the law. By doing so, OLA has advocated to ensure that culturally and linguistically competent city services are delivered to the Spanish-speaking residents of the District. It also serves, in coordination with the Office on African Affairs and the Office on Asian Pacific Islander Affairs, as consultative and collaborative body to the Office on Human Rights to develop, update, and monitor the execution of each District agencies' respective policy plans. OLA has also collaborated with the Office of Human Rights (OHR), broadened its working relationship with the Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA), and developed a working relationship with the Office on African Affairs (OAA)—created in 2006, and staffed in 2007— to improve the level of coordination and sharing of knowledge among DC government offices charged with monitoring the implementation of the Act. The effective collaboration that exists among the Office on Asian Pacific Islander Affairs, the Office on African Affairs, and the Office on Latino Affairs allows the three consultative agencies to address issues from a multi-agency perspective to better serve our diverse mix of linguistic and ethnic communities in the District of Columbia.

Latinos represent a large population of individuals with Limited or non-English Proficiency living and working in the District, and are the largest group affected by how well DC government delivers on the promises of this law. These promises include the translation of vital documents, the availability of oral language services, the hiring of bilingual public contact personnel, the training of DC employees in multicultural awareness, and the outreach efforts that the agencies named under the law tailored to limited-English proficient members of our nation's capital. The Act requires District agencies or “covered entities with major public contact” to establish and implement a Biennial Language Access Plan and designate a Language Access Coordinator. Also, it mandates that the Office of Human Rights, in collaboration and consultation with the Office on Latino Affairs, the Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, and the Office on African Affairs assists and monitors DC government agencies, programs, and services in complying with the LAA.

**Outreach:** The purpose of the Community Relations and Outreach Program is to create partnerships and outreach to District Latino residents so that they may increase their knowledge of and access to vital programs and services available to them. The outreach program has three primary components: 1) Community information exchange, 2) Community partnerships, and 3) Awareness and promotion of the city's and office's activities addressing issues and concerns to the Latino population in the District of Columbia.

The community information exchange component is in charge of information dissemination and educational services for District Latino residents, so they can better access city and other vital services available to them. The Community Partnerships component is responsible for providing information gathering services from District Latino residents, so that OLA and DC government agencies can better design and support systems to serve the Latino population. OLA works with city agencies to coordinate events to inform Latinos about DC government services and programs aimed at improving the access of residents to such services and to directly inform them of mayoral initiatives and programs.