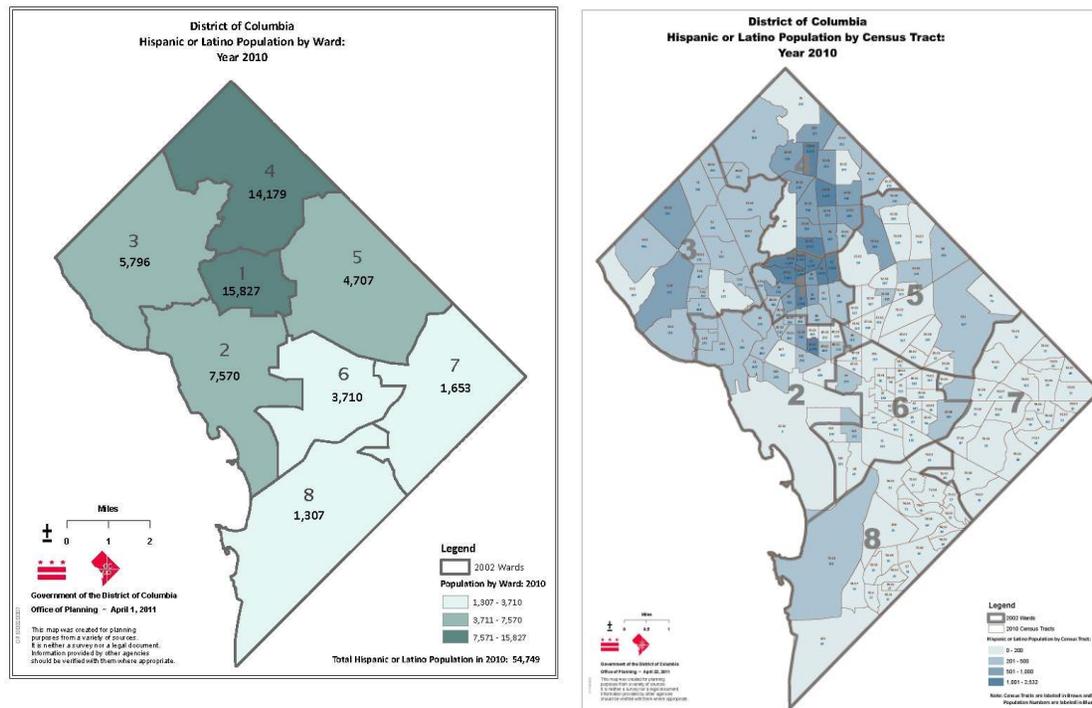


# Latinos in the District of Columbia<sup>1</sup>

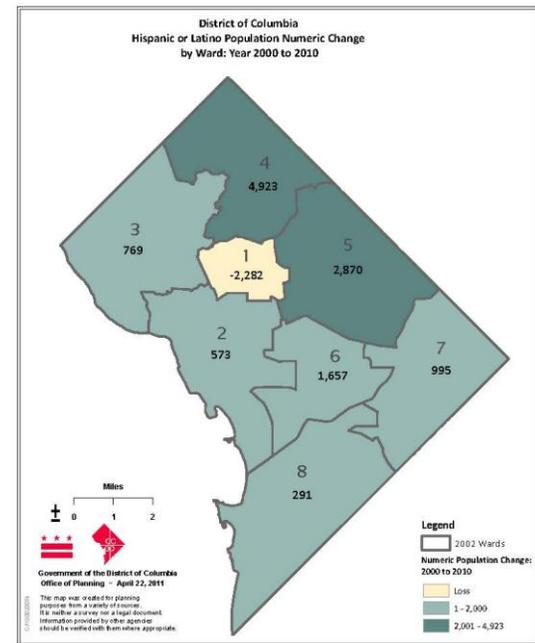
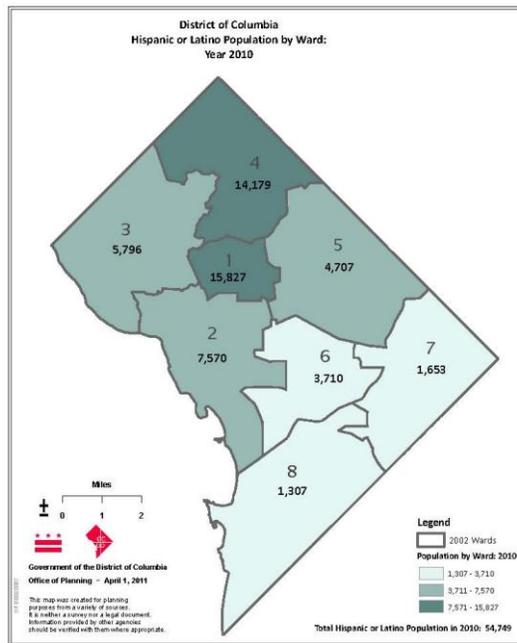
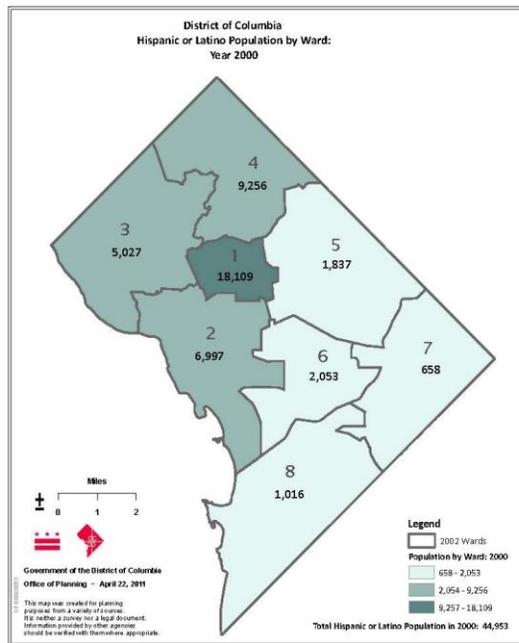
According to the U.S. Census Bureau data released February through March 2011 by the Population Division, 54,749 (9.1 percent) of District residents self-identify as “Hispanic or Latino.” It is widely assumed that Latinos actually make up a much larger share of the District’s population because the group is chronically undercounted in the Census. In terms of geographic distribution, the US Census Bureau data for 2010 show 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 Figures 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 the 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, 2011 American Community Survey, and U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey. This document was created by Josué Salmerón, Cecilia Castillo Ayometzi, Kelsey Chatlosh and Johanna Cajina Castillo. 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)). June 2013.

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 the 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. 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 2012 are from the 2012 American Community Survey. Please see Table 1 below for the yearly Hispanic/Latino population trend from 2000-2012 in the District:

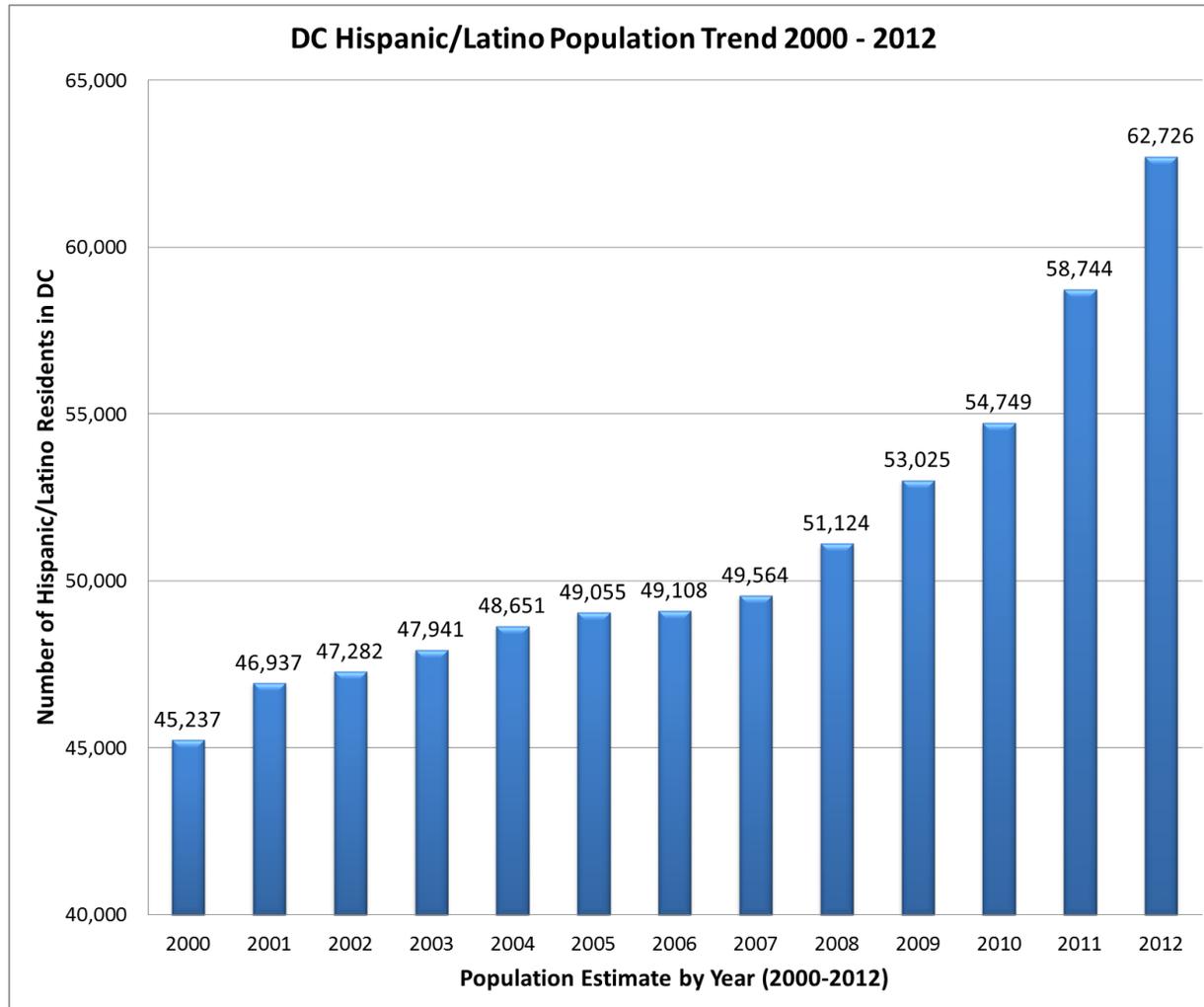
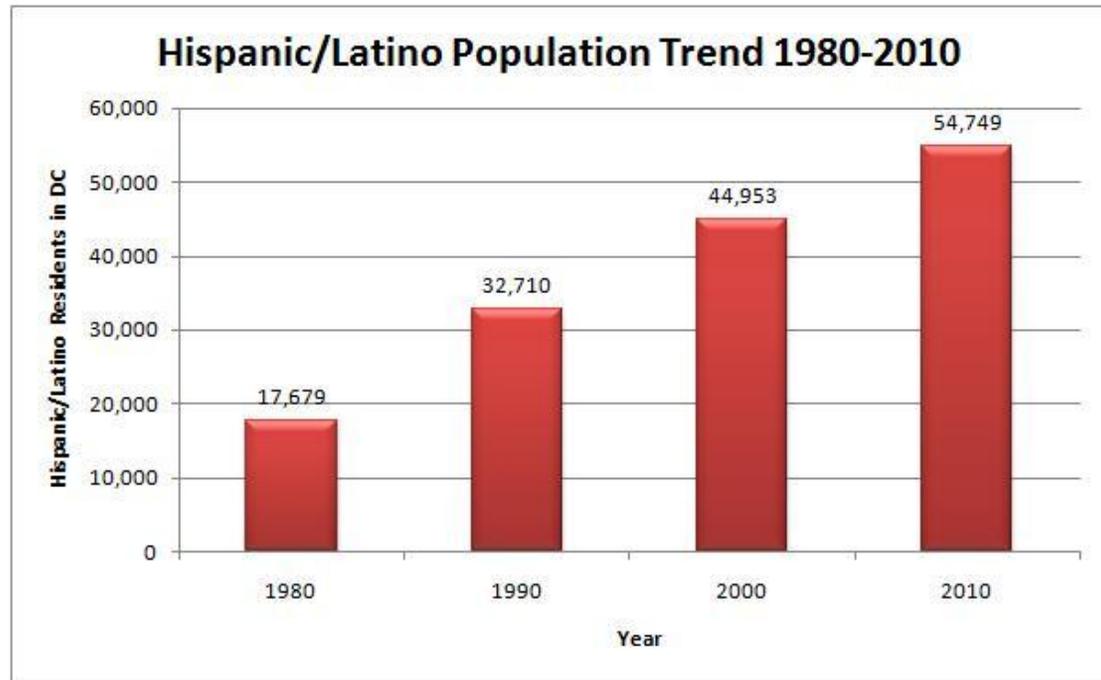


Table 1: Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey. Data prepared by the D.C. Office on Planning/State Data Center. Table created by the Office on Latino Affairs.

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. Data prepared by the D.C. Office on Planning/State Data Center. Table created by the 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 help represent the unique individual countries people are coming from, where often significant differences exist in terms of cultural practices and language. According to 2011 data from the American Community Survey (ACS), the largest Latino population residing in DC is from El Salvador (21,072, 36 percent), while other major countries of origin, in order of highest to lowest populations, include: Mexico (8,663, 15 percent), Guatemala (3,629, 6 percent), Colombia (2,623, 4 percent), and Puerto Rico (2,580, 4 percent). Please see Figure 6 below for additional data on the DC Hispanic/Latino Population by Country of Origin, 2011:

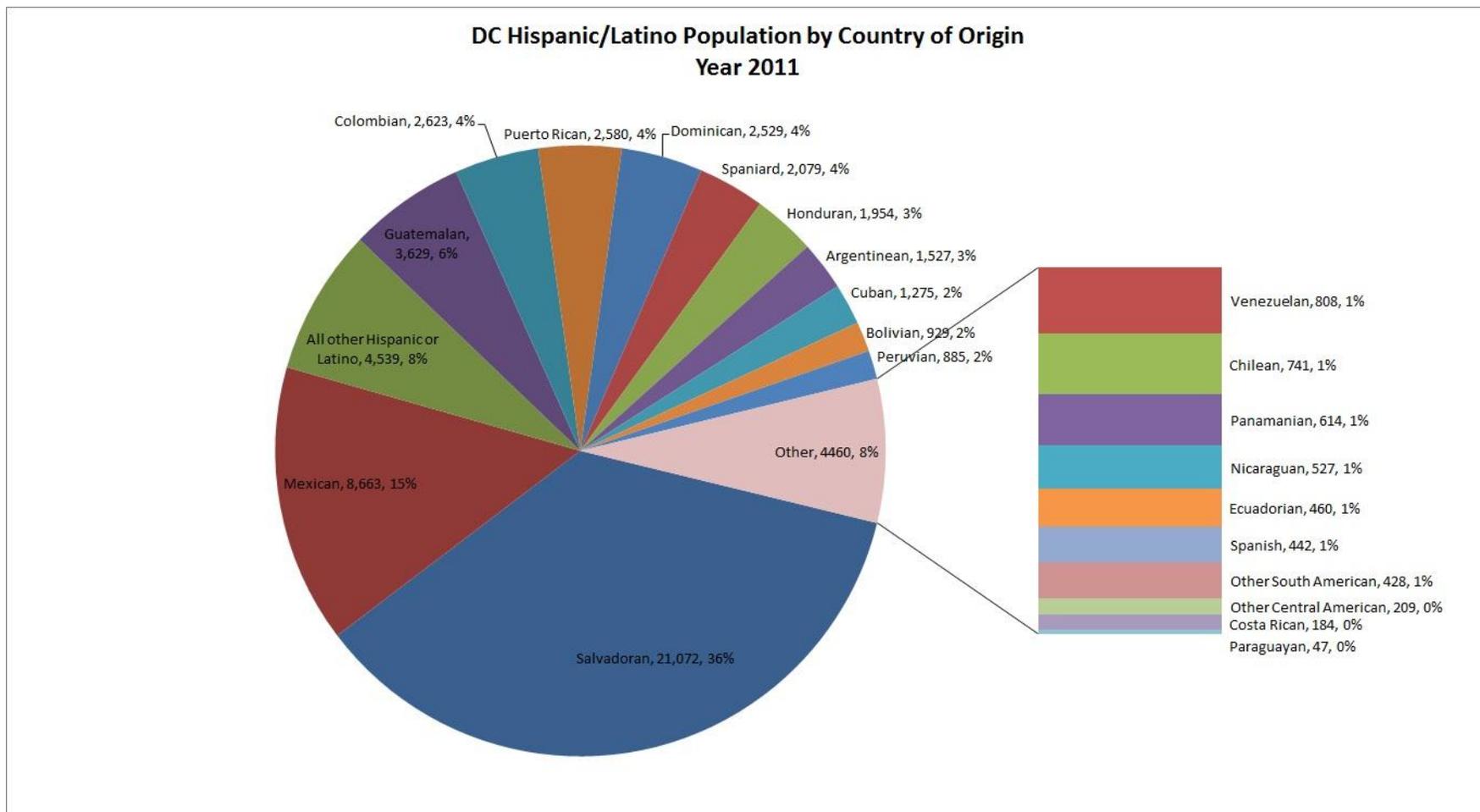


Figure 6: Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey. Data prepared by the D.C. Office of Planning/State Data Center. Figure created by the Office on Latino Affairs.

The 2012 American Community Survey estimates show how the District’s Latino population is overall younger than the city’s entire population. DC’s Latino population concentrates between the ages of 20 and 39 years old, and the median age of Latino residents is 30.4, which is about three years below the citywide median age of 33.6. There is also large proportion of children, under 5 years, amongst DC Latinos; this proportion (10.01 percent) is almost double the District’s entire proportion for this age group (6.15 percent). About 36.68 percent of Latinos are under 25, compared with 30.36 percent for the entire city. Please see Table 4 below for additional information on the DC Hispanic/Latino population by age for 2012:

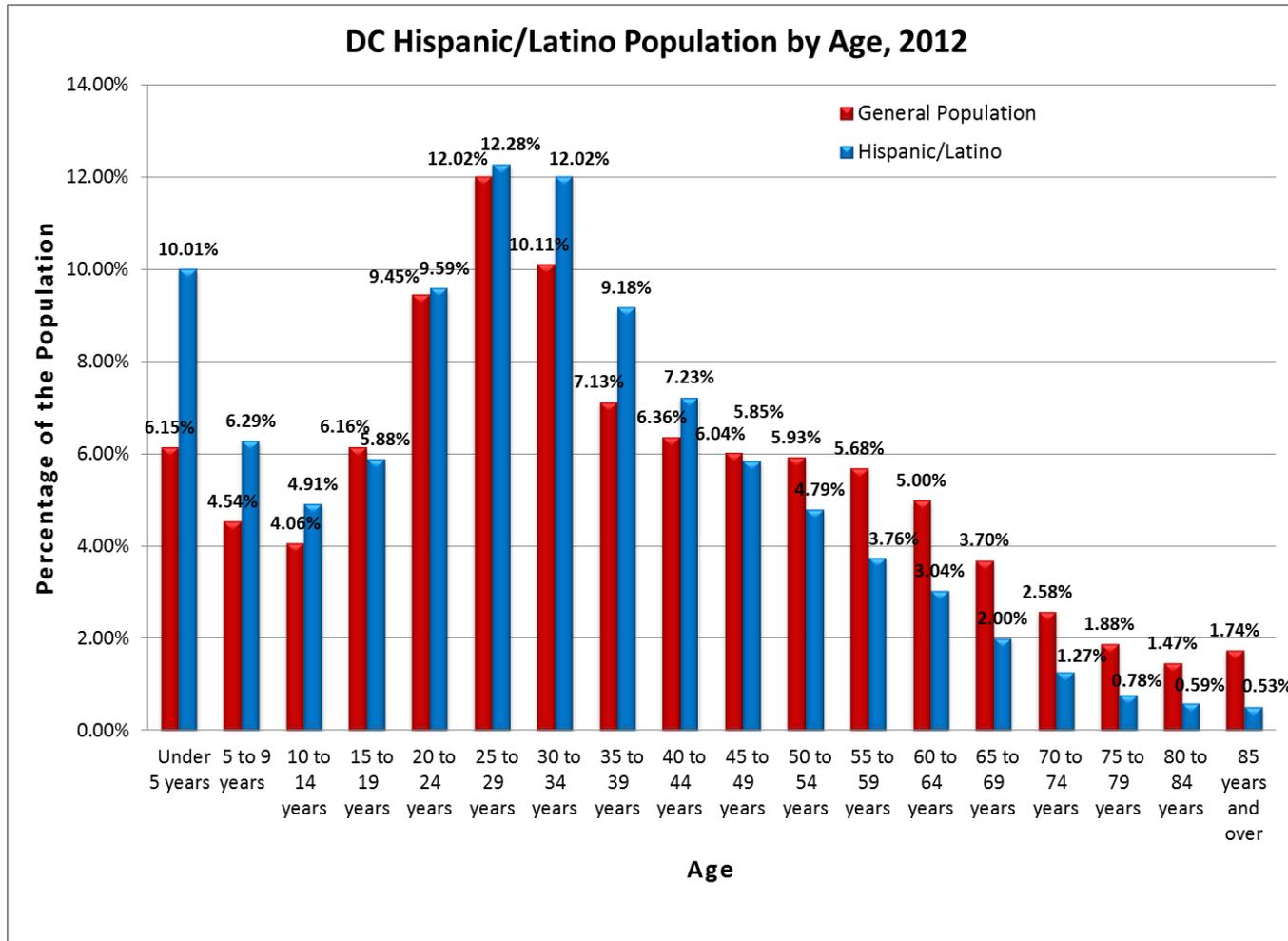


Table 4: Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey. Data prepared by the D.C. Office of Planning/State Data Center. Table created by the Office on Latino Affairs.

In terms of education, the Latino population shows a bimodal distribution in data from the 2011 American Community Survey. Latinos live worlds apart in that the highest population concentrations include, on one hand, those who have received less than a high school diploma and on the other hand, those who have obtained a Bachelor's or a higher degree. In 2011, the highest proportion of the DC Latino population, 25 years and older, had attained a Bachelor's degree or higher (13,731 residents, 36.6 percent), which is followed closely behind by the second highest proportion of Latino residents who had attained less than a high school diploma (13,423 residents, 35.8 percent). Meanwhile, only 27.6 percent of Latino residents in the District (10,333 residents) 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, who had received less than a high school diploma (35.8 percent), in comparison with the District's total population at this same education level (12.8 percent). At the same time, data from 2011 also challenge the common view that all members of the Latino population have a low level of education, as exemplified by how the highest proportion of Latinos have achieved a Bachelor's degree or higher. As the bar graph below illustrates, the distribution of educational attainment in the District is bimodal with the highest concentrations in both the highest and lowest attainment categories. Please view Table 5 below for data on the educational attainment of the District's Latino population, 25 years and older, in 2011:

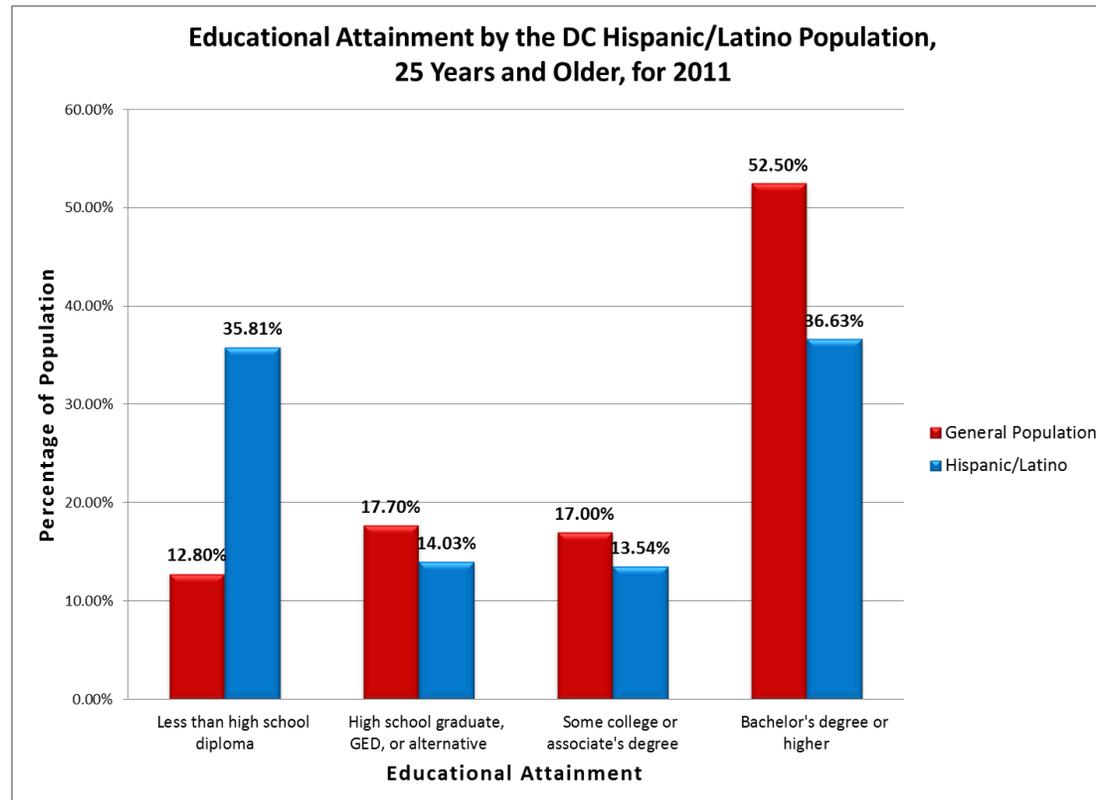


Table 5: Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey. Data prepared by the D.C. Office of Planning/State Data Center. Table created by the Office on Latino Affairs.

A close analysis of the 2011 American Community Survey data on language spoken at home shows that 33 percent of the DC Latino population speak only English (17,525 individuals), and 2 percent speak an “other language” (1,244 individuals), while a large majority, 65 percent, speak Spanish (34,528 individuals). Of the Latino residents who speak Spanish at home, 54 percent of the entire DC Latino population self-identify as speaking English “very well” or “well” (28,648 individuals), and 11 percent speak English “not well” or “not at all” (5,880 individuals). Of the entire Latino population in DC, these data exemplify a significant proportion of Latinos with high English speaking abilities, given that 33 percent speak only English at home and 54 percent speak Spanish at home, but still speak English “very well” or “well.” However, Language Access is still incredibly vital to those 11 percent (5,880 individuals) who speak Spanish at home and are limited or no-English proficient, who speak English “not well” or “not at all.” Please view Table 6 and Figure 7 below for data on the language spoken at home and ability to speak English by the DC Hispanic/Latino population in 2011:

DC Hispanic/Latino Population, 5 Years and Over, by Language Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English: 2011		
	Number	Percent
<b>Total:</b>	53,297	100
<b>Speak only English</b>	17,525	33
<b>Speak Spanish:</b>	34,528	65
<b>Speak English "very well"</b>	21,960	41
<b>Speak English "well"</b>	6,688	13
<b>Speak English "not well"</b>	4,490	8
<b>Speak English "not at all"</b>	1,390	3
<b>Speak other language</b>	1,244	2

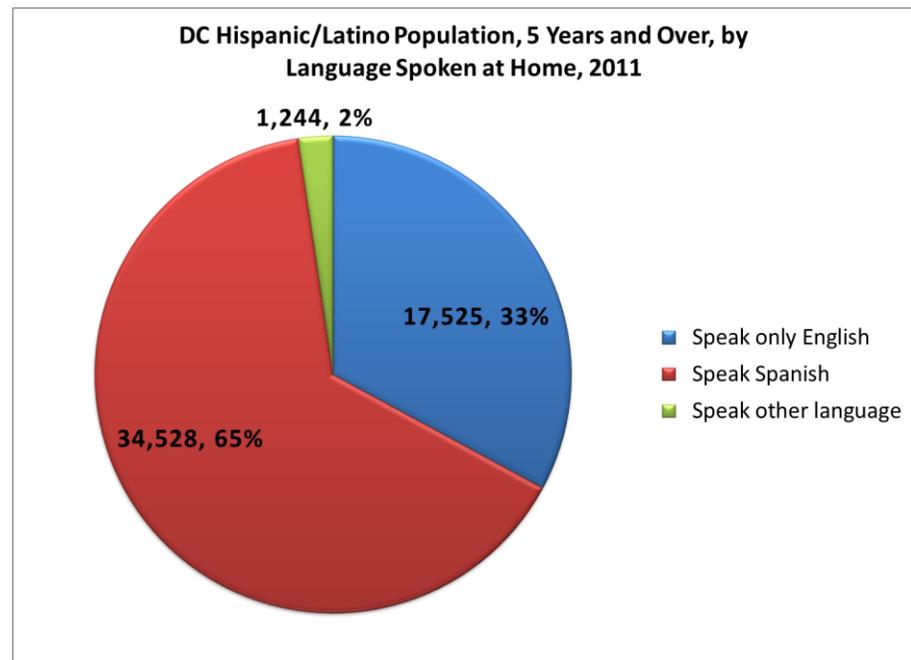


Table 6 and Figure 7: Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey. Data prepared by the D.C. Office of Planning/State Data Center. Tables created by the Office on Latino Affairs.

Inspection of the distribution given in Table 7 below for both male and female Latinos shows a skew towards the management/professional and service occupation 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 clear exception of the “construction” category. Please view Table 7 below for data on the DC Latino population, 16 years and older, by employment/occupation area for 2011:

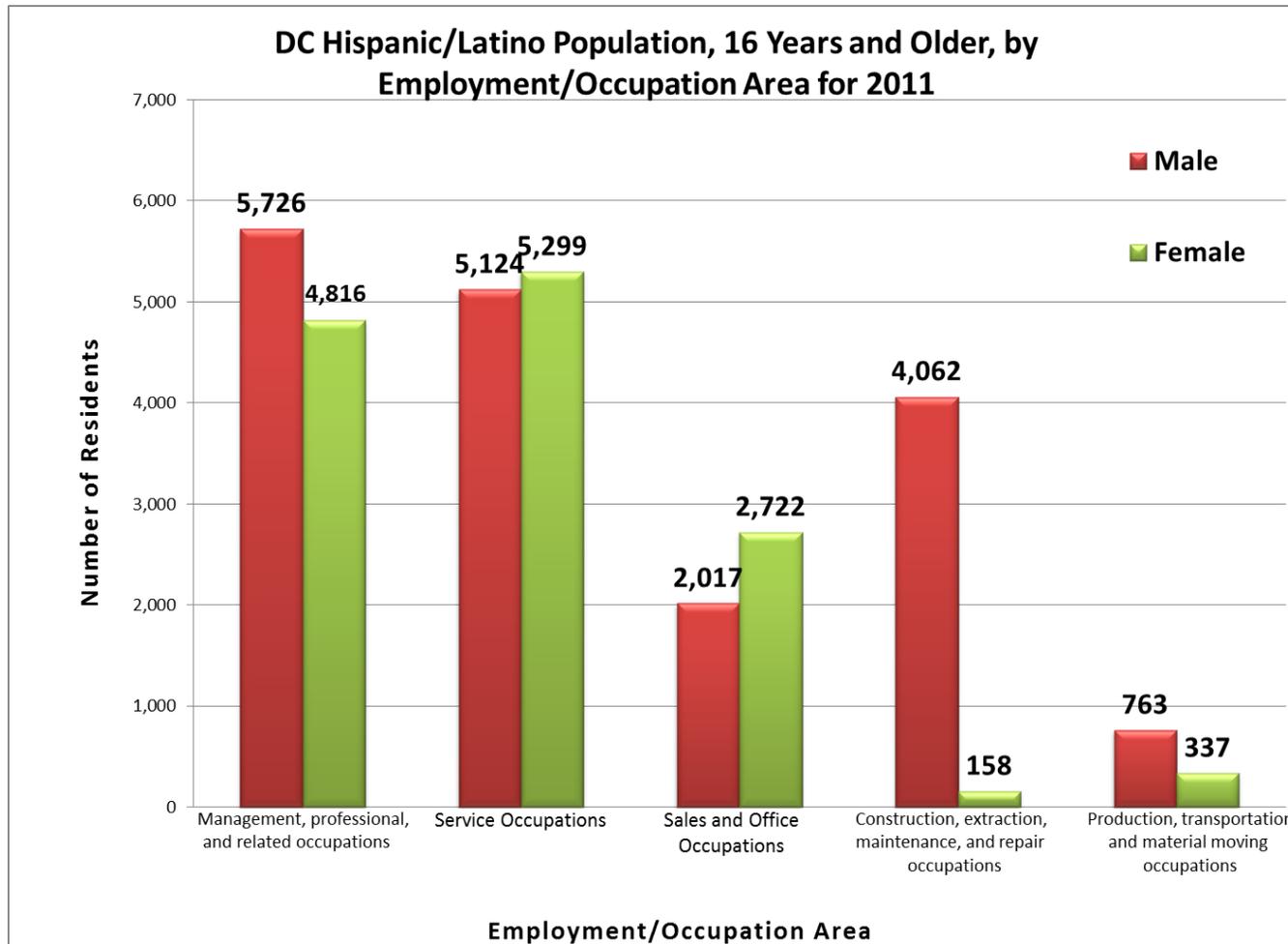


Table 7: Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey. Data prepared by the D.C. Office of Planning/State Data Center. Table created by the Office on Latino Affairs.

In 2009, according to that year’s American Community Survey estimates, the income distribution of the Latino population in the District resembled a normal curve, with the greatest income concentration between \$25,000 and \$75,000 dollars a year. However, as seen in Table 8 below, this trend has drastically changed to a rather unequal income distribution in 2011. The highest proportion of Latino householders earned less than \$10,000, while the next highest concentration of Latino householders earned an income of \$50,000 to \$200,000 or more. The median Latino household income was \$59,607 in 2011. Please view Table 8 below for data on the household income of DC Hispanic/Latino householders for 2011:

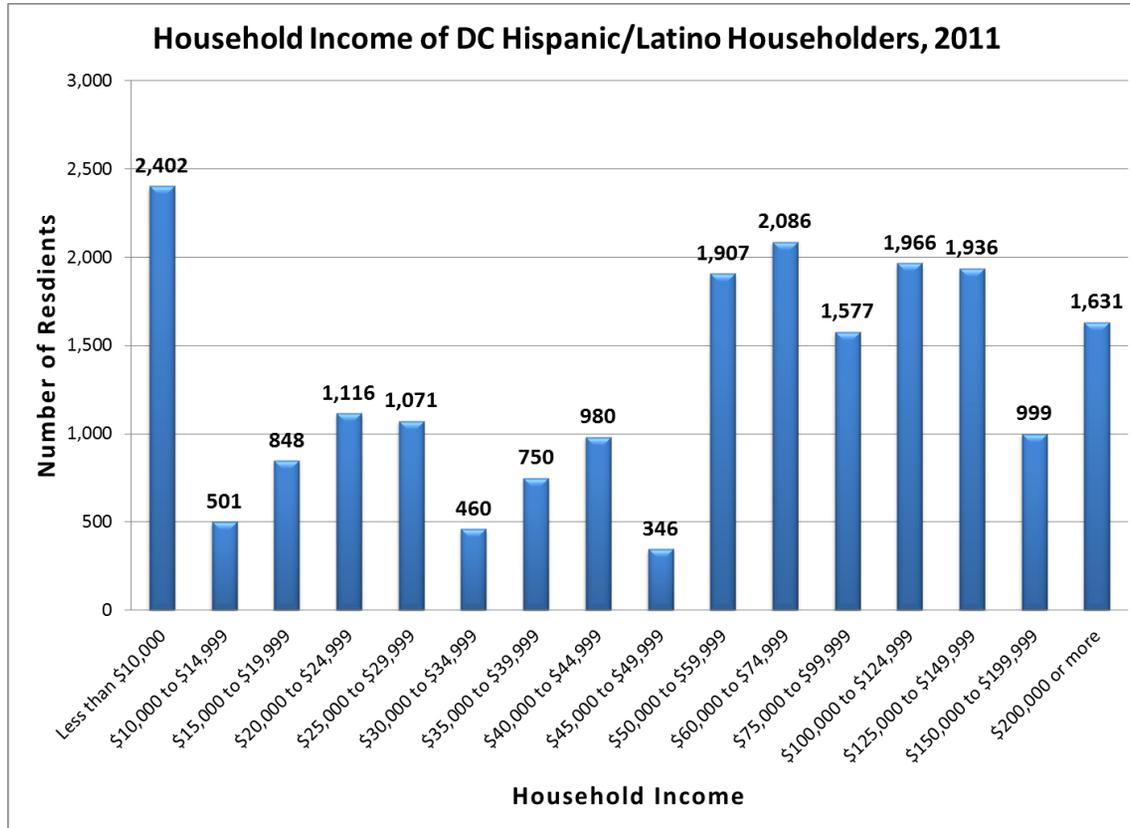


Table 8: Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey. Data prepared by the D.C. Office of Planning/State Data Center. Table created by the Office on Latino Affairs.

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, Public Affairs, 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. OLA's Grants Program supports services offered by 501 (c) 3 organizations that target Latinos who reside in the District of Columbia. The general goals of OLA's Grants Program are as follows:

- Support of culturally and linguistically competent services that increase low-income Latino immigrants' capacity for independence and assimilation into the general community.
- Support of a broad range of educational and training opportunities to assist Latinos to achieve greater success in academics or the labor market.
- Support of a broad range of services that increase Latinos' knowledge of critical issues (e.g., civil rights, public safety, and/or social services).
- Support services that reduce health disparities that affect Latino D.C. residents.
- Support the expression of Latino heritage through educational programs and cultural events in District of Columbia.

Fiscal year (FY) 2012 was a very successful year for the grants program. OLA made **55 grant awards**, a new record, to 52 non-profit organizations that provide services in: economic development, education, crisis intervention, education, health education, English language instruction, gang prevention/intervention, youth development, workforce development, and healthcare services, totaling **\$2,043,880.77**. Our grantees served **62,850** clients with this funding.

The grants program made major additions and improvements to its administrative processes, resulting in improved efficiency and accountability. Quarterly reports are now submitted online through our grants management system, which has decreased the time to receive and review reports. The new online reporting component allows us to receive activity, narrative, budget and expenditure reports. The expenditure report is a new requirement as of FY 2012. Grantees now must submit evidence on how the funds were used (e.g. Payroll, receipts, and invoices), and we then review all expenses made and ensure that taxpayer dollars were properly invested.

The system also allows the management team, grantees and grant reviewers with instant access to past performance data. This is crucial information for the development of OLA's funding strategy to respond to the City's priorities, constituent needs, and in the decision making process for grant awards.

All of our programs had great success. Highlighted below are a few of those successes:

- Workforce development – Our funding trained individuals for new jobs, including:
  - ✓ Green constructions (including solar panel installation).
  - ✓ Building maintenance professionals.
  - ✓ Language interpreters (Spanish, English, Amharic).
  - ✓ Medical assistants.
  - ✓ Careers for youth (Event planning/management, office careers).

- Economic Development
  - ✓ 10 new businesses in FY 2012.
  - ✓ 34 existing business assisted in becoming competitive.
- Civic Engagement
  - ✓ Youth engagement project registered 233 new first-time voters.
  - ✓ Our citizenship program assisted DC residents pass the US citizenship exam and process, resulting in 20 new US citizens and registered voters.

The grand total for grants provided during the 2012 fiscal year was \$1,843,880.77. These grants covered ten broad fields including health services with 24.95 percent of the total, education services with 20.91 percent of the total, youth development with 12.58 percent of the total, economic and workforce development with 16.68 percent of the total, arts, culture and humanities with 8.43 percent of the total, housing services with 4.34 percent of the total, gang prevention and intervention with 4.07 percent of the total, civic engagement with 3.04 percent of the total, crisis intervention with 2.58 percent of the total, and legal services with 2.44 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 limited or no-English proficiency. Please see Figure 8 below for distribution of funds by field:

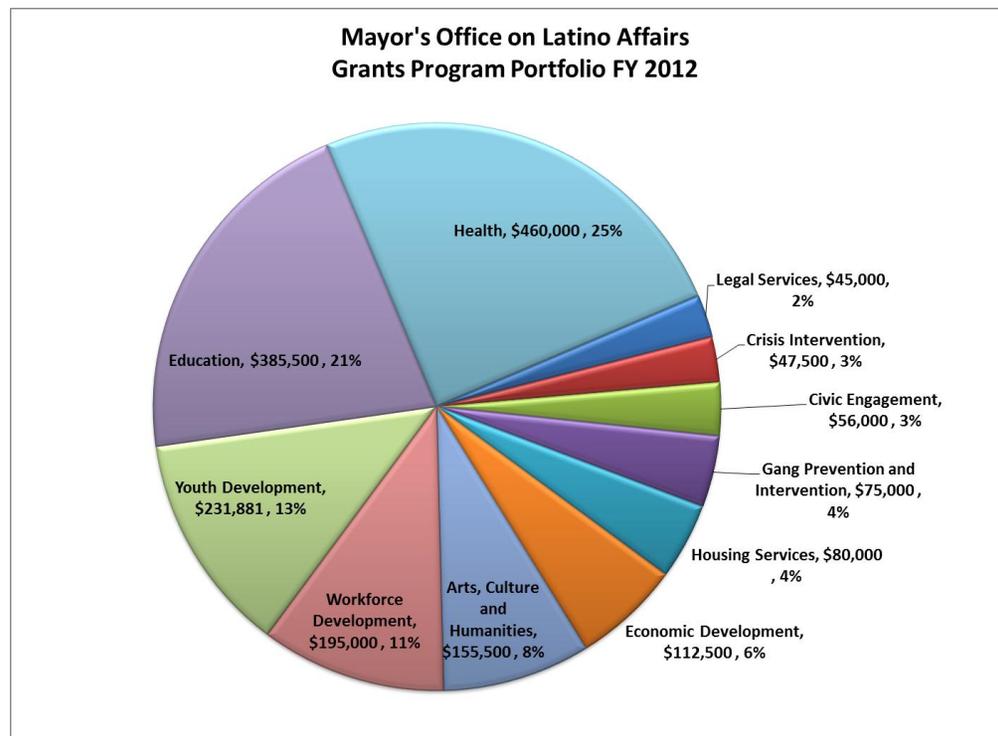


Figure 8: Source: Office on Latino Affairs' Grants Program. Table created by the Office on Latino Affairs.

**Language Access and Advocacy Program:** 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 has provided technical support to the 34, and continuously increasing number of 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 a consultative and collaborative body to the Office on Human Rights to develop, update, and monitor the execution of each District agency's 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 no-English proficiency (LEP/NEP) 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 individuals with limited or no-English proficiency living in Washington, DC. 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 on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, and the Office on African Affairs assist and monitor DC government agencies, programs, and services in complying with the LAA.

With the new hiring of the Language Access Monitor, the Language Access and Advocacy Program is now more proactively identifying areas of improvement at DC government agencies named under the Language Access Act by meeting and establishing relationships with frontline employees at Latino LEP and NEP-serving community-based organizations (CBOs) and at DC government customer service centers. From June to October of 2012, the LA Monitor met face-to-face with sixty-eight (68) individuals across twenty-nine (29) different CBOs. For a comparative perspective, the LA Monitor began site visits, and interviews with frontline employees, at DC government agency customer service centers as well. The identified specific areas of improvement from these projects are informing the LA Coordinator where to focus specialized technical support and future initiatives to the LA agencies.

**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 of 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.

**Public Affairs:** The Public Affairs program promotes high quality communications in both English and Spanish, and fosters understanding and awareness of the activities and achievements of the agency. The Public Affairs program prepares speeches, presentations, press releases, interviews, and radio and television appearances; responds to media requests; and maintains media relations. It is responsible to develop outreach plans, communicate directly with the public through daily correspondence, as well as implement specific communication strategies related to key issues and messages for the Latino population in the District of Columbia. The program is also responsible to maintain the web content and design of the office's main [OLA.dc.gov](http://OLA.dc.gov) website and all pertinent social media.

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