



UConn

PUERTO RICAN STUDIES
INITIATIVE

The Puerto Rican Studies Initiative for Community Engagement and Public Policy: An Overview

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About Puerto Rican Population

Puerto Ricans in Connecticut are the largest Hispanic or Latino population in the state of Connecticut.

Puerto Ricans are the second largest Hispanic or Latino population in the nation.

2/3 of all Puerto Ricans reside in the mainland and 1/3 in the Puerto Rican islands.

Current Puerto Rican population counts in the US and Connecticut

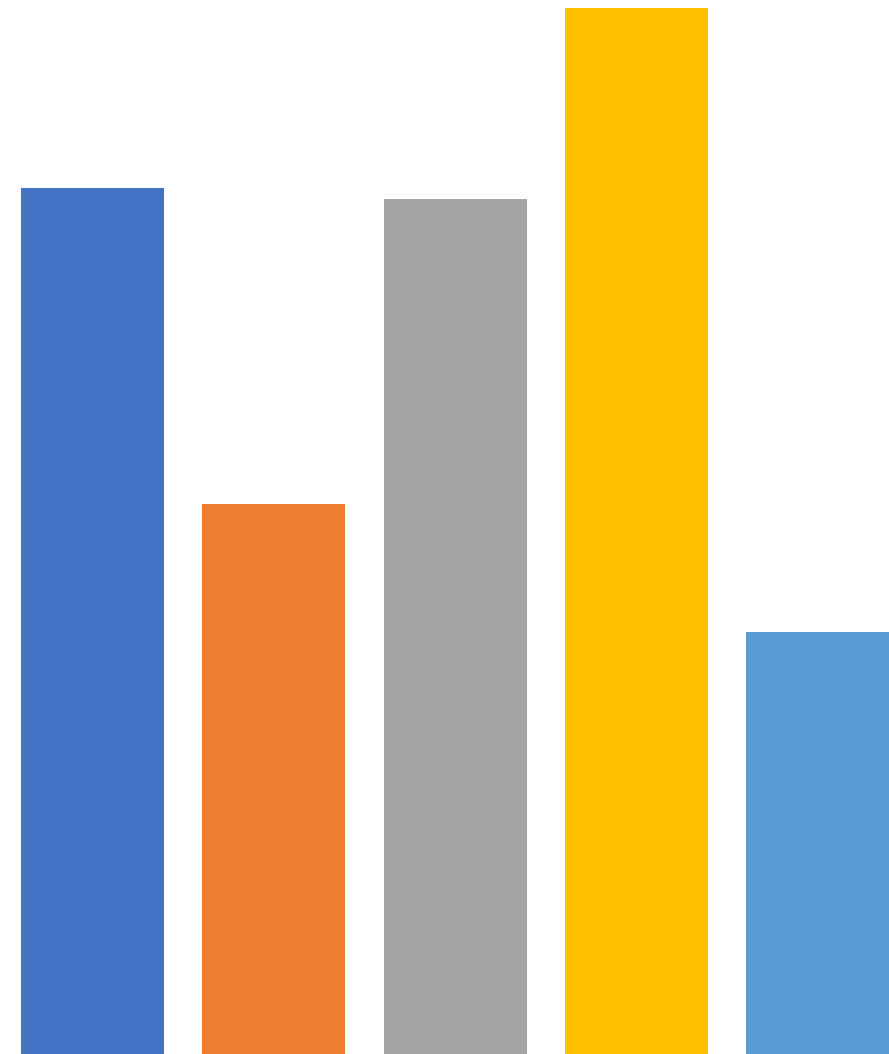
Connecticut	%	Count
Puerto Ricans	8	288,922
Hispanics	17	637,113
Total state Population	100	3,605,597
National	%	Count
Puerto Rican Diaspora	2	5,798,287
Hispanics	19	62,529,064
Total US Population	100	331,893,745
Puerto Rico	%	Count
Total Islands' Population	100	3,263,584

Population changes in Connecticut, 2016–2021

- Although Connecticut did not gain as many Puerto Rican residents as other states as a result of the displacements/migrations caused by hurricanes Irma and Maria, it also did not lose as many Puerto Ricans as other states during the COVID pandemic.
- Connecticut has the 6th largest Puerto Rican population in the United States.
- Connecticut gained 3,782 Puerto Ricans between 2016 and 2019. This population increase was largely driven by the post-Hurricane Maria displacement/migration to Connecticut.
- Overall Connecticut lost 9,323 Puerto Rican residents between 2016 and 2021.
- The reported losses of Puerto Rican residents between 2019 and 2021 are only slightly higher than the margin of error for the 2019 and 2021 American Community Surveys.

Connecticut trends

■ 2016 ■ 2017 ■ 2018 ■ 2019 ■ 2021

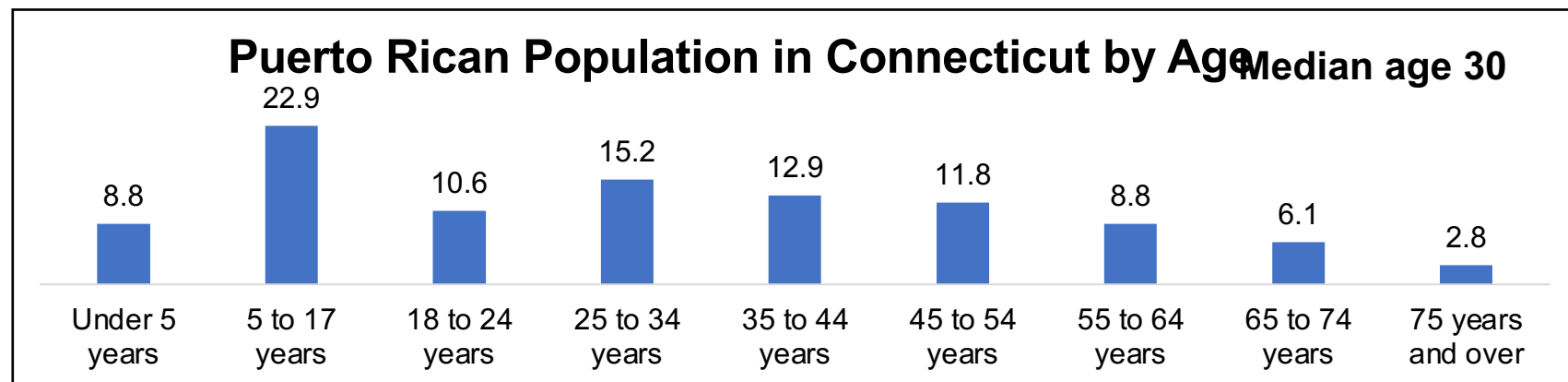
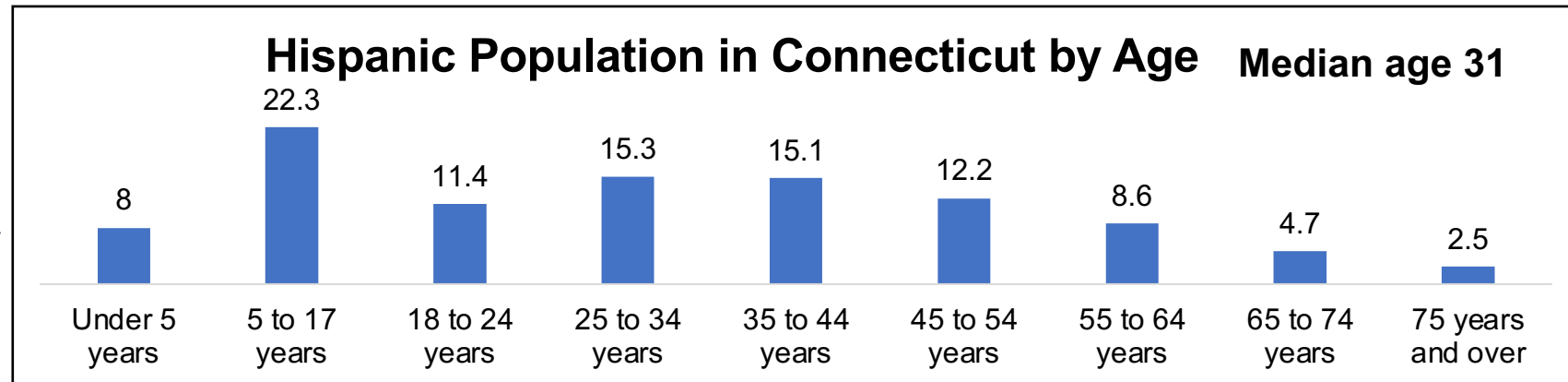
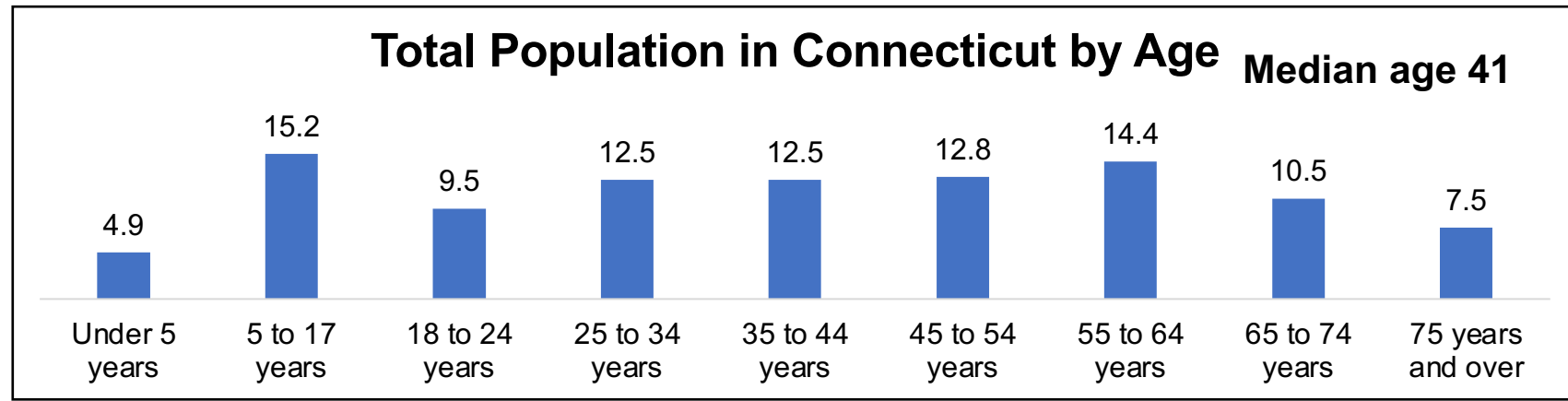


Age

In 2021, the median age of Puerto Ricans (30) was similar to that of Hispanics (31) and significantly lower than the general (41) population of Connecticut.

About a third of Puerto Ricans residing in Connecticut are under the age of 18.

Puerto Ricans, like Hispanics, are proportionately younger than the average resident in Connecticut.

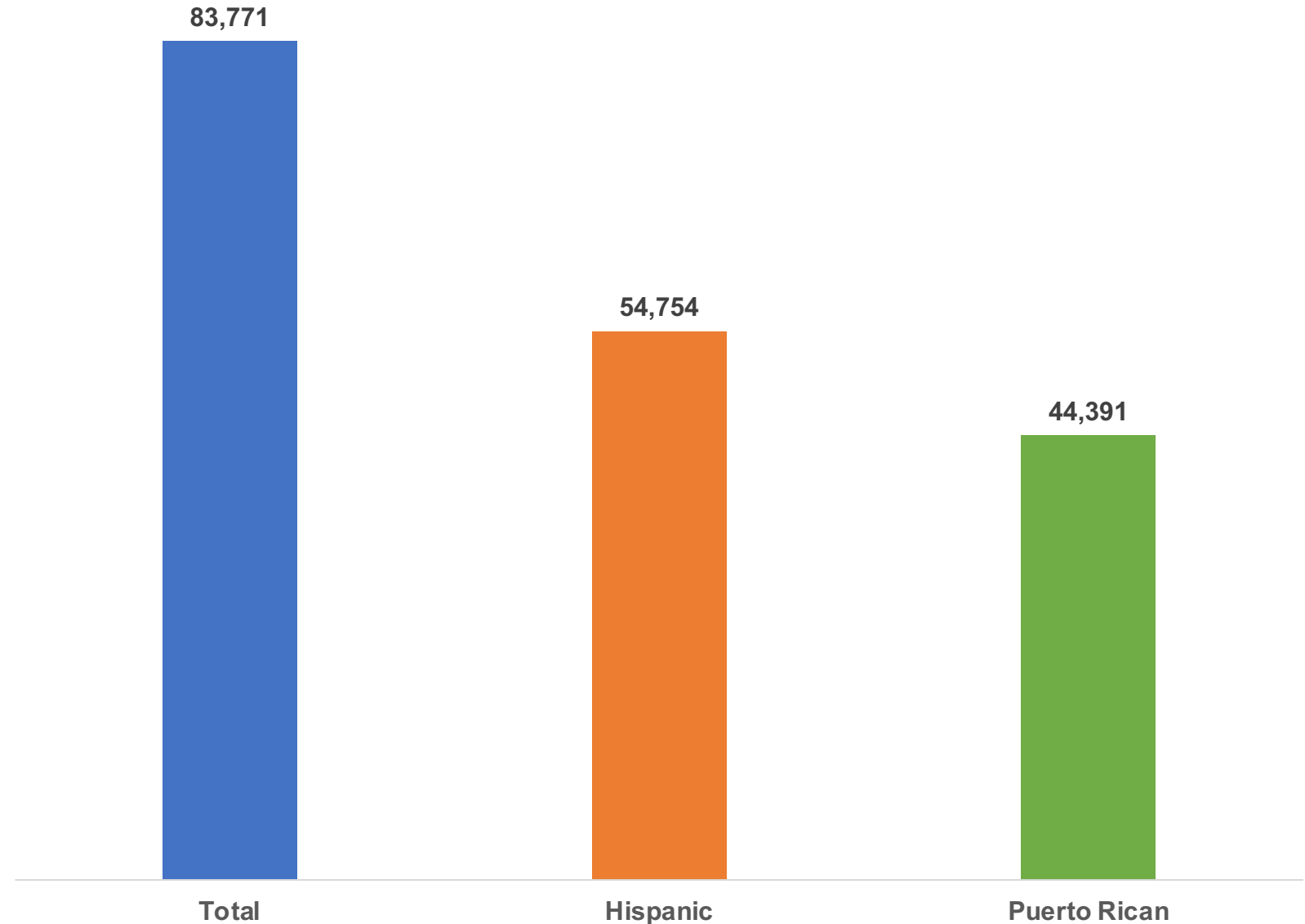


Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2021, State of Connecticut. Table S0201. Base: n= 3,605,597, MOE = +/- 1%

Median Income

In 2021 the median income of Puerto Ricans (\$43,391) in Connecticut was lower than that of Hispanics (\$54,754) and almost half of that of the general population (\$83,771) of the state.

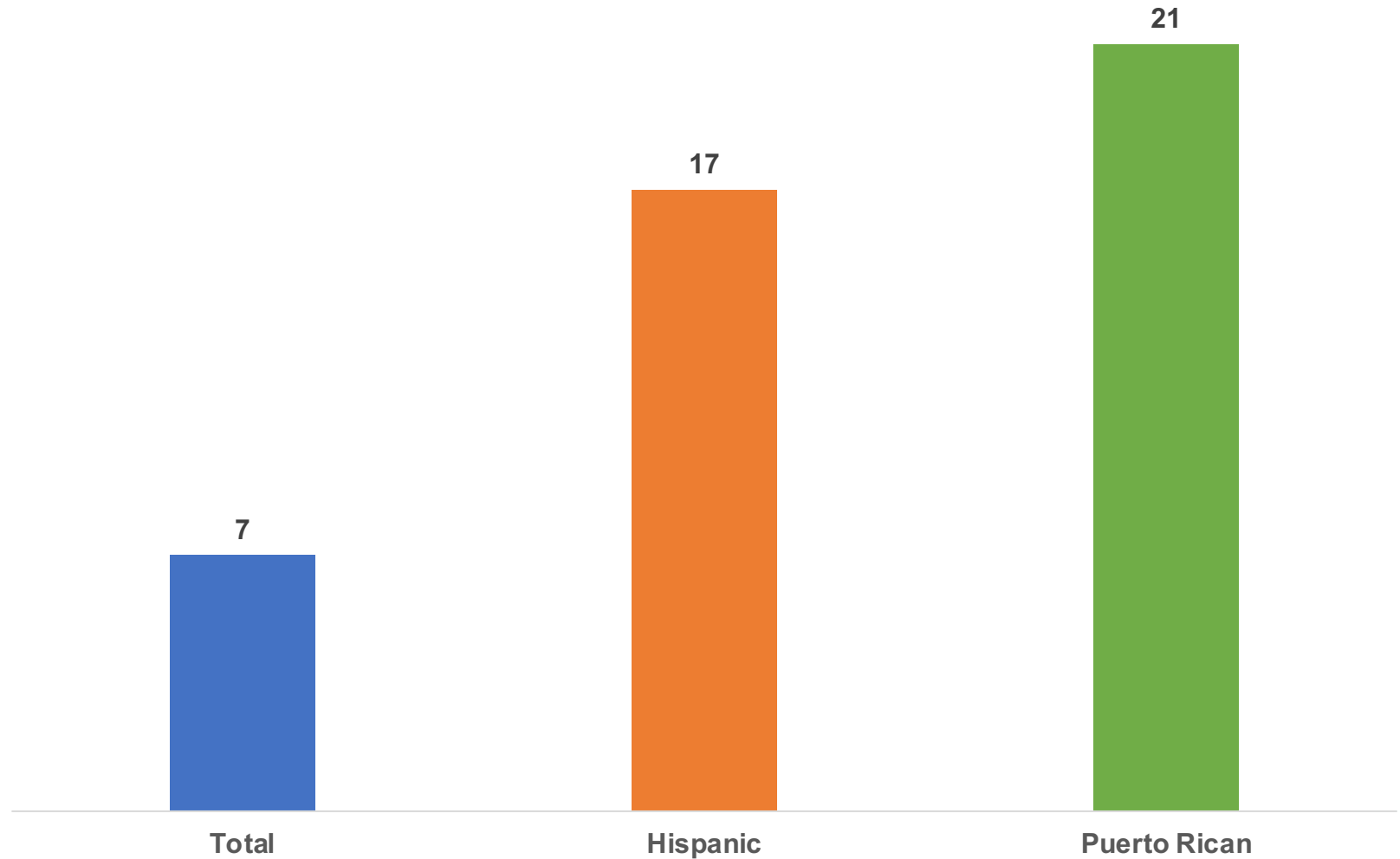
Median Income



Family Rate of Poverty

The poverty rate of Puerto Rican families (21%) in Connecticut was higher than the rate of Hispanics (17%) and three times as high as the rates of the general population (7%) of the state in 2021.

Family Rate of Poverty



Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2021, State of Connecticut. Table S0201. Base: n= 3,605,597, MOE = +/- 1%



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The Puerto Rican Studies Initiative for Community Engagement and Public Policy (PRSI) is a research initiative seeking to document and support Puerto Ricans' vital economic, intellectual, and cultural contributions to Connecticut and provide research-based support for the development of public policies addressing the needs of Puerto Ricans in the State of Connecticut.

This initiative is part of a series of collaborations with [El Instituto: Institute for Latino/a, Caribbean, and Latin American Studies](#) (UConn Storrs, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences), [Puerto Rican and Latin@ Studies Project](#) (UConn Hartford, School of Social Work), and the [Hispanic Health Council/Mi Casa](#).

The PRSI is funded by the Connecticut General Assembly with American Rescue Plan Act funds.



Research Initiatives for 2022–2023

Civic Engagement

Data Collection and Analysis

Oral Histories Project

Public Archives

Academic Projects

**Emergency Communications
Hub**

Civic Engagement

Central to the Puerto Rican Studies Initiative is a commitment to working on various community-based projects and fostering more civic education, engagement, and participation of Puerto Ricans in Connecticut. We are developing collaborative projects with other organizations that foster the civic engagement of Puerto Ricans in Connecticut and elsewhere.

- **El Show de Analeh Civic Education Spanish TV Series**
- **Hispanic Health Council Welcome Center**
- **Smithsonian National Museum of the American Latino Educational Programs**
- **National Puerto Rican Agenda Puerto Rico Puerto Ricans in Connecticut**

Data Collection and Analysis

- **Data Sheets and Reports**

The PRSI Data Hub is a public repository of socio-economic U.S. Census data about Puerto Ricans in Connecticut. This data hub enables users to gain basic profiles at a district level in Connecticut.

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ECONOMIC PROFILE OF PUERTO RICANS IN CONNECTICUT, 2021

Puerto Rican Studies Initiative for Community Engagement and Public Policy
Data Sheet/DS 2022-2
November 2022
Charles R. Venator-Santiago & Volodymyr Gupan
University of Connecticut



In 2021 the median income of Puerto Ricans (\$43,391) in Connecticut was lower than that of Hispanics (\$54,754) and almost half of that of the general population (\$83,771) of the state.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Puerto Ricans in Connecticut account for the largest share of the Hispanic/Latino population in the state. This economic profile contains a summary of 2021 aggregate data on occupation, occupation by industry, classification of the workforce, median income and family rates of poverty for Puerto Ricans in Connecticut.

WHERE DID WE GET THIS INFORMATION FROM?

The data for this report was gathered from annual American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau.

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PUERTO RICAN POPULATION CHANGE IN THE UNITED STATES, 2016-2021

Puerto Rican Studies Initiative for Community Engagement and Public Policy
Data Report DR 2022-1
September 2022
Charles R. Venator-Santiago & Volodymyr Gupan
University of Connecticut

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Central to the discussion of the location/residence of Puerto Ricans in the United States are impacts on the displacement/migration of islands-based Puerto Ricans caused by push factors such as the economic conditions of Puerto Rico, climate events like hurricanes Irma/Maria and Fiona, earthquakes, and the COVID pandemic. The mobility of Puerto Ricans is also contingent on pull factors such as the presence of kin/family and friends outside of Puerto Rico as well as friendly labor conditions in various states.

WHAT IS OUR SOURCE OF DATA?

This Data Report provides a simple overview of the Puerto Rican population change in the United States between 2016 and 2021. The mobility of Puerto Ricans includes mobility of Puerto Ricans between Puerto Rico and the states as well as among the states.

The data for this report was gathered from annual American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. The U.S. Census Bureau, however, does not publish data on states that have Puerto Rican population at or lower than margin of error for a corresponding year of American Community Survey.

The 2021 U.S. Census estimated that the current population of Puerto Ricans in the United States at 9,061,871. About two-thirds (5,789,287) of the Puerto Rican live in the states or the District of Columbia and one-third (3,263,584) reside in the Puerto Rican islands. Puerto Rican diaspora in the US account for 9% of the Hispanic or Latino population and about 2% of the total population.

The 2021 U.S. Census estimated that Hispanics accounted for 17% or 637,113 residents of Connecticut. Puerto Ricans made more than half of the Hispanic population and 8% or 288,922 of the residents of Connecticut.

	%	Count
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Puerto Rico		
Total Islands' Population	100	3,263,584

Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2016-2021, Table S0201, Y2021. Base: n= 5,695,997. MOE = +/- 1%.

- **Data Hub**

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/7e353f990a8a4d0fbf8414fa5dff5d5a>

Oral Histories Project

The Oral Histories Project seeks to document the lived experiences of key Puerto Rican leaders in Connecticut who have struggled to promote change for the state's Puerto Rican residents. This project seeks to document in what ways and how Puerto Rican leaders sought to foster the incorporation of Puerto Ricans in the state of Connecticut. The collected oral histories will be released in a separate and forthcoming dedicated webpage.

This project is part of a collaboration with Dr. Fiona Vernal, the director of the Engaged, Public, Oral and Community Histories (EPOCH) program in the Department of History, University of Connecticut.

- **Focus on lessons from community leaders for civic engagement.**
- **15 initial politicians, media, and activists, educators.**
- **Next round, political leaders, the Puerto Rican day parade, and non-profit leaders.**
- **Public Archive**

Public Archives

The PRSI is committed to creating public repositories or archives of historical documents that can assist in clarifying important debates about Puerto Rican history. These archives will make primary documents available to researchers and the public alike. Our goal is to document the Puerto Rican experience through the study of primary archival materials.

- **Puerto Rico Citizenship Archives Project**
<https://scholarscollaborative.org/PuertoRico/>
- **1909 Survey of Puerto Rican Elites**
- **Puerto Rico Status Archives Project**
- **American Samoa Nationality and Archives Project**
- **US Virgin Islands Citizenship Archives Project**

Academic Projects

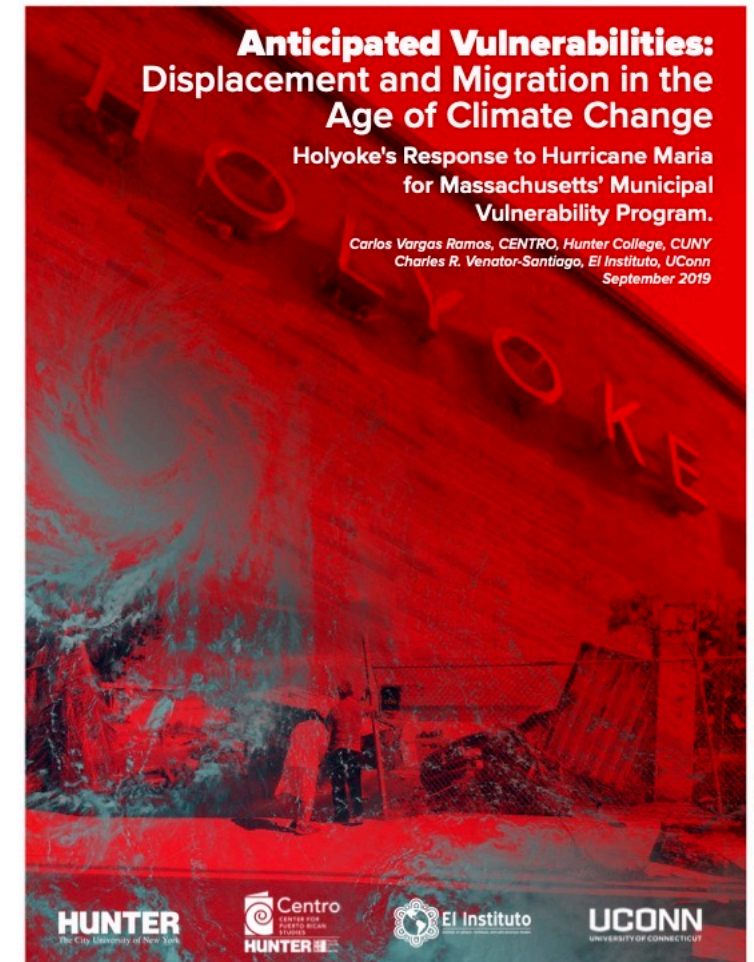
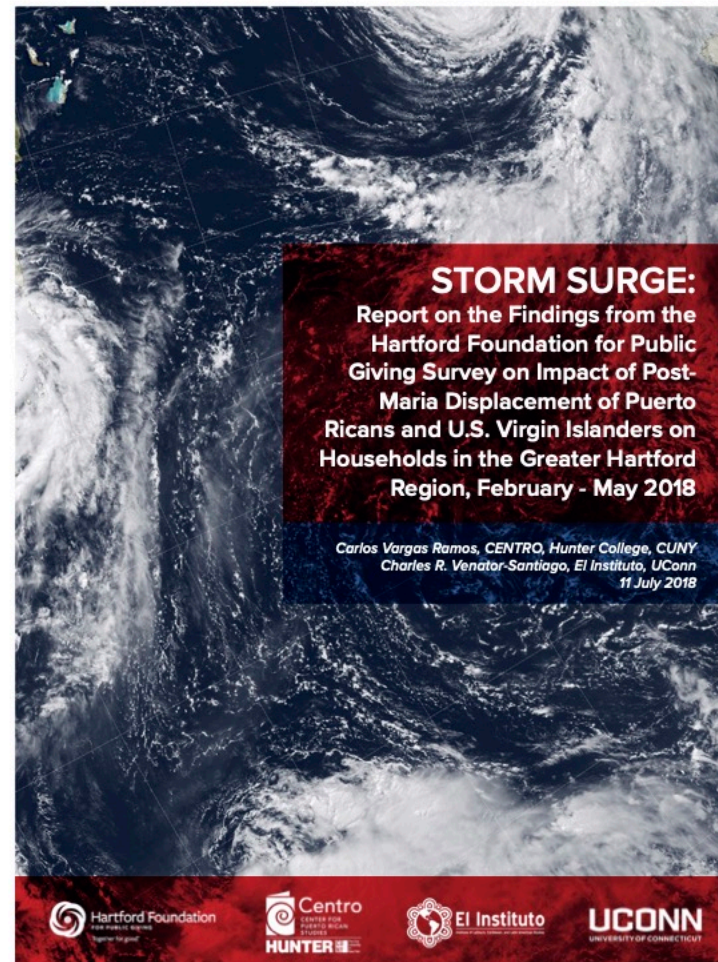
The PRSI will develop several academic projects to support scholarship in University settings.

- **Puerto Rican Studies Journal**
- **Society for the Study of Puerto Rico and Puerto Ricans**

Emergency Communications Hub

We aim to collaborate with key partners, including community-based organizations and government agencies, to find solutions to the challenges affecting Puerto Ricans in the midst of an emergency. We are identifying key partners who can help us develop proposals and projects that address the particular needs of Puerto Ricans during an emergency.

- **Prior Studies**



The logo for UConn, featuring the letters "UCONN" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. A dark blue triangle is positioned to the left of the text. Below the text is a horizontal line.

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So, why does this project matter?

- There is a vacuum of information/data on Puerto Ricans in Connecticut and the U.S. more generally.
- The main research center that focuses on Puerto Ricans, CENTRO or the Center for Puerto Rican Studies (Hunter College, CUNY) has moved to a cultural center approach, creating a hole in available public analysis of data on Puerto Ricans. We are trying to fill this gap.
- Some of this type of research has already been used to secure significant funding for projects addressing the needs of Puerto Ricans in Connecticut.
- The PRSI is already creating a public repository of information about Puerto Ricans in Connecticut and elsewhere that is unrivalled.

Puerto Rican Studies Initiative

The Puerto Rican Studies Initiative for Community Engagement and Public Policy (PRSI) is a research initiative that can help document and support the Puerto Ricans' vital economic, intellectual, and cultural contributions to Connecticut and provide research-based support for the development of public policies addressing the needs of Puerto Ricans in the State of Connecticut.

This initiative is part of a collaboration between El Instituto (CLAS, UConn Storrs), the Puerto Rican and Latin@ Studies Project (School of Social Work, UConn Hartford) and the Hispanic Health Council.

For more information, please contact Charles R. Venator-Santiago, Director of the Puerto Rican Studies Initiative, University of Connecticut:

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