



## SPECIAL REPORT

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# Violent Victimization in New and Established Hispanic Areas, 2007–2010

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Hispanic populations in many U.S. communities experienced rapid growth during the past 3 decades.<sup>1</sup> Before 1980, most Hispanics lived in the Southwest and in New York, Florida, and Illinois. From 1980 to 2010, the number of Hispanics living outside of these areas increased from 2.7 million to 13.5 million. Meanwhile, from 2007 to 2010, the overall rate of violence in new Hispanic areas exhibited no statistically significant difference from that in established Hispanic areas.

This report is based on data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) area-identified National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). It examines violent victimization (rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault) among blacks, whites, and Hispanics in four types of Hispanic areas: (1) established slow-growth areas, (2) established fast-growth areas, (3) new Hispanic areas, and (4) small Hispanic areas.

<sup>1</sup>Massey, Douglas S (Ed.) (2008). *New Faces in New Places: The Changing Geography of American Immigration*. New York: Russell Sage.

The NCVS collects information on nonfatal crimes reported and not reported to police against persons age 12 or older from a nationally representative sample of U.S. households. The 2007 to 2010 NCVS data contain geographic codes for states, metropolitan areas, counties, and census tracts based on the respondents' place of residence. The 4 years of data were pooled to increase the sample size to produce reliable estimates for the area comparison analysis.

### U.S. Hispanic population has grown 246% over the past 30 years

Since 1980, the number of Hispanics in the United States has grown from a small proportion of the population to the largest minority group in the country.<sup>2</sup> The Hispanic

<sup>2</sup>Starting in 1980, the U.S. Census Bureau began using only self-identification to enumerate the Hispanic population. (See Gibson, Campbell, and Kay Jung (2002). *Historical Census Statistics on Population Totals by Race, 1790 to 1990, and by Hispanic Origin, 1970 to 1990, for the United States, Regions, Divisions, and States*. Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau.)

## HIGHLIGHTS

This report describes violent victimization rates by victims' race and ethnicity within four types of Hispanic areas using National Crime Victimization Survey data from 2007 to 2010. Hispanic areas are classified based on their historical Hispanic population and the growth in their Hispanic population between 1980 and 2010: (1) established slow-growth areas, (2) established fast-growth areas, (3) new Hispanic areas, and (4) small Hispanic areas.

- From 1980 to 2010, the Hispanic population increased 246%, compared to 44% for non-Hispanic blacks and 9% for non-Hispanic whites.
- From 2007 to 2010, new Hispanic areas had a lower overall rate of violent victimization compared to small Hispanic areas that had relatively little growth in Hispanic populations.

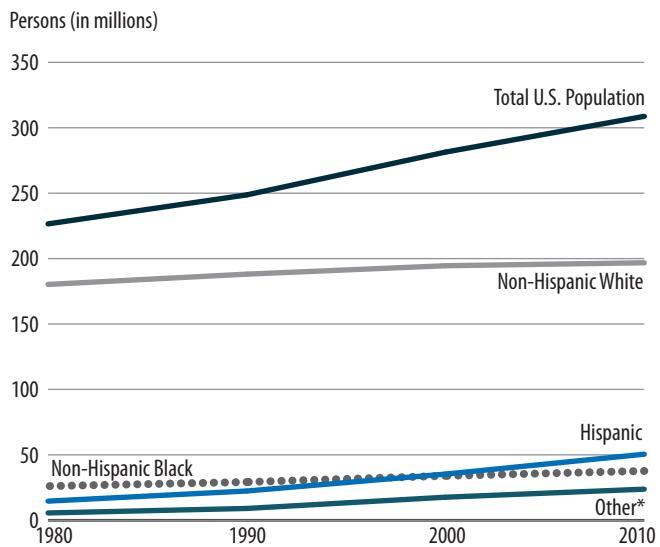
- Unlike blacks and whites, Hispanics experienced higher rates of violent victimization in new Hispanic metropolitan areas (26 per 1,000) than in other areas (16 to 20 per 1,000).
- Hispanics ages 18 to 34 exhibited the largest variation in victimization rates by type of area. Those in new Hispanic areas experienced violence at higher rates than those in established and small Hispanic areas.
- Among all age groups, new Hispanic areas did not show statistically significant higher rates of violent victimization for non-Hispanic white and black residents.
- Blacks experienced higher rates of violent victimization in small Hispanic metropolitan areas (50 per 1,000) than in new Hispanic areas (27 per 1,000).
- For whites, the overall rate of violent victimization was lower in established slow-growth areas, while the other areas showed no significant differences in the overall rate of violent victimization.

growth rate from 1980 to 2010 (246%) exceeded the rates for non-Hispanic blacks (44%) and non-Hispanic whites (9%) ([figure 1](#)).

A typology was used to define established and new Hispanic areas based on historical and recent Hispanic population counts.<sup>3</sup> The typology classified 363 metropolitan areas and 3,103 counties in the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia into four categories according to their Hispanic base population in 1980 and the growth in their Hispanic population from 1980 to 2010. Established Hispanic areas were metropolitan areas or counties in which the Hispanic base population exceeded the national average of 6.4% in 1980. These areas were further divided into two groups (i.e., slow or fast growth) depending on whether the growth in their Hispanic population lagged or exceeded the national average growth rate of 246% between 1980 and 2010.

<sup>3</sup>Suro, Roberto, and Audrey Singer (2002). *Latino Growth in Metropolitan America: Changing Patterns, New Locations*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy and the Pew Hispanic Center.

**FIGURE 1**  
**U.S. population growth, 1980–2010**

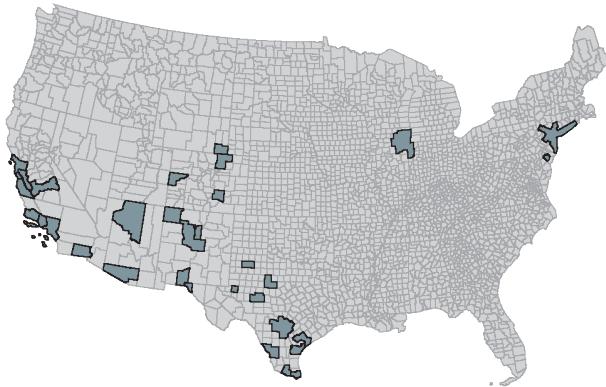


\*Includes all other racial/ethnic groups.

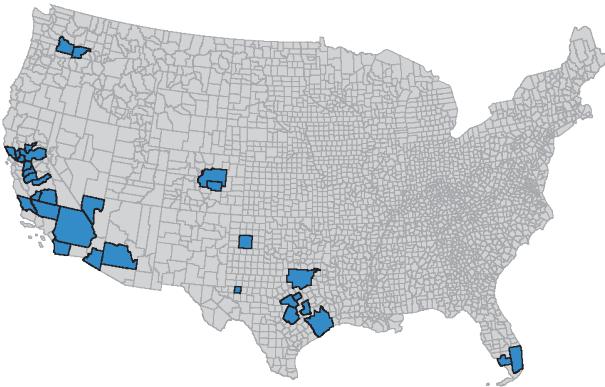
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population and Housing, 1980–2010.

**FIGURE 2**  
**Residential patterns of Hispanics in metropolitan areas, 1980–2010**

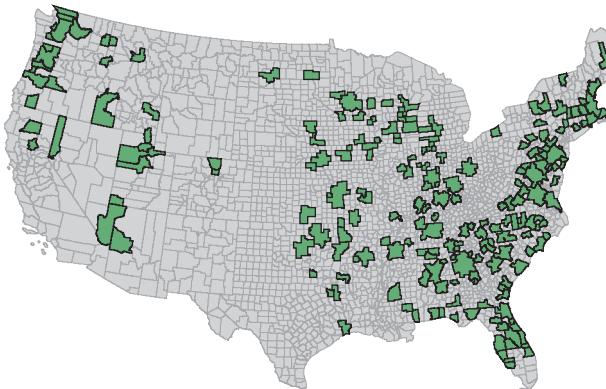
(a) Established slow-growth Hispanic areas



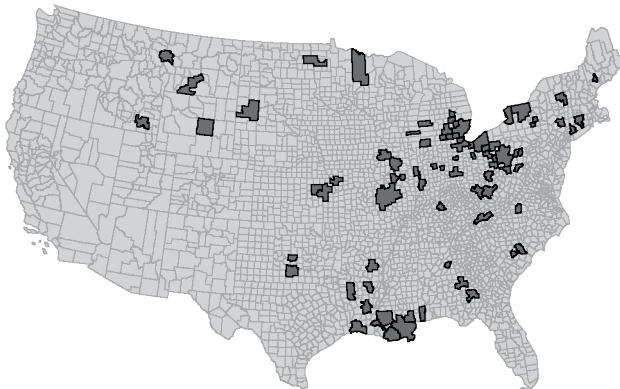
(b) Established fast-growth Hispanic areas



(c) New Hispanic areas



(d) Small Hispanic areas



Note: Metropolitan areas are the unit of analysis. The 2010 metropolitan area definition as delineated by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) was applied consistently to data from each decade. 75 Fed. Reg. 123 (June 28, 2010).

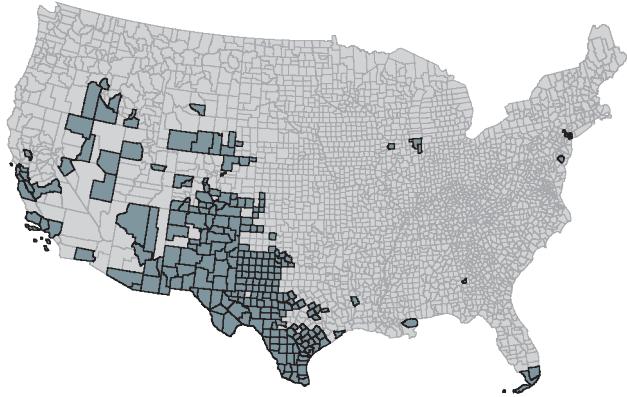
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population and Housing, 1980–2010.

Small Hispanic areas were those in which the Hispanic base population and growth rate were both lower than the national average. New Hispanic areas began with a small, lower than average percentage of Hispanics, but the growth in their Hispanic population exceeded the national average. Using the typology, two maps showing Hispanic residential

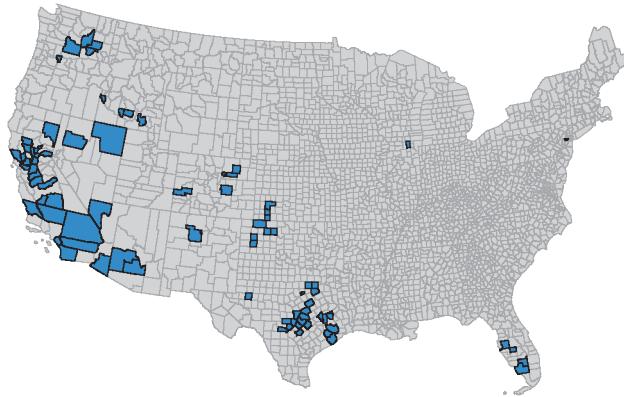
patterns were developed: one for metropolitan areas and one for counties ([figures 2 and 3](#)). Analyses of the metropolitan areas and counties are presented separately throughout this report. Together, they provide a comprehensive overview of Hispanic settlement patterns.

**FIGURE 3**  
Residential patterns of Hispanics in counties, 1980–2010

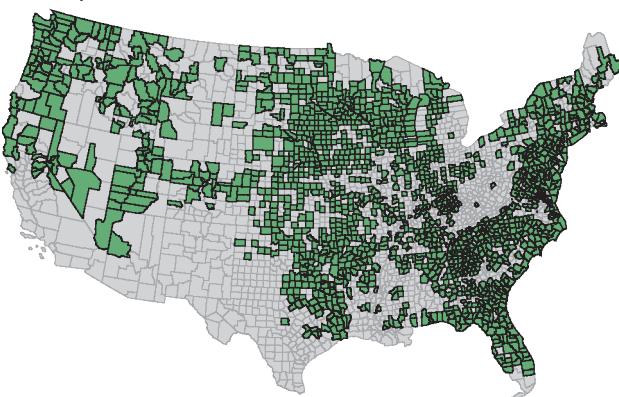
(a) Established slow-growth Hispanic areas



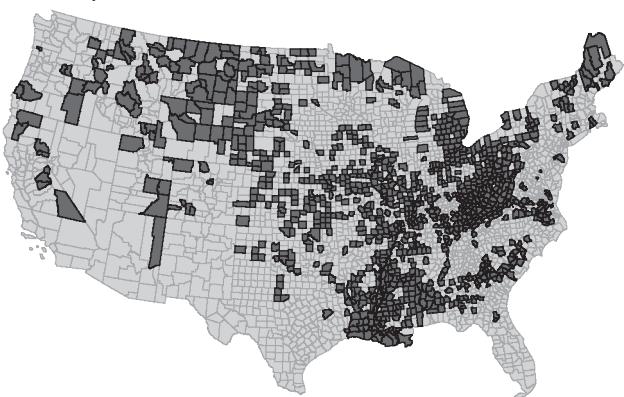
(b) Established fast-growth Hispanic areas



(c) New Hispanic areas



(d) Small Hispanic areas



Note: Counties are the unit of analysis.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population and Housing, 1980–2010.

Established slow-growth areas contained the major immigration gateways (e.g., Los Angeles, New York City, and Chicago) and the major metropolitan areas in the Southwest (e.g., California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Colorado) where Hispanic communities developed largely along the U.S.-Mexico border. These areas extended beyond the metropolitan regions to neighboring non-metro counties, and they formed a continuing strip from Texas to Colorado while covering large proportions of Arizona, Nevada, Idaho, and Wyoming. With the exception of counties near Chicago, New York, and Miami, established Hispanic communities traditionally were concentrated in the Southwest and neighboring states. More than 8 million Hispanics lived in these areas in

1980, and the number grew to nearly 20 million in 2010 (**tables 1 and 2**). Overall, the number of Hispanics grew by 143% in established Hispanic metropolitan areas and by 120% in established Hispanic counties (**tables 3 and 4**). The growth rates in established slow-growth Hispanic metropolitan areas and counties were lower than those of the other area types; however, Hispanics still accounted for a substantial portion of the overall population growth in these areas. The total population grew by about 30% in these areas from 1980 to 2010, with Hispanics accounting for 84% of the growth in metropolitan areas and 98% of the growth in counties.

**TABLE 1**  
**Size of Hispanic population, by type of metropolitan area, 1980 and 2010**

Type of metropolitan area	1980			2010		
	Total U.S. population	Number of Hispanics	Percent of total population	Total U.S. population	Number of Hispanics	Percent of total population
Established slow-growth Hispanic areas	45,447,787	8,130,958	18%	59,298,550	19,741,227	33%
Established fast-growth Hispanic areas	22,024,642	3,143,542	14	45,182,944	15,108,700	33
New Hispanic areas	82,372,426	1,440,032	2	119,627,201	10,304,860	9
Small Hispanic areas	32,112,144	553,186	2	32,777,459	1,446,716	4

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population and Housing, 1980–2010.

**TABLE 2**  
**Size of Hispanic population, by type of county, 1980 and 2010**

Type of county	1980			2010		
	Total U.S. population	Number of Hispanics	Percent of total population	Total U.S. population	Number of Hispanics	Percent of total population
Established slow-growth Hispanic areas	38,009,051	8,879,651	23%	48,868,759	19,536,325	40%
Established fast-growth Hispanic areas	20,750,566	2,819,823	14	41,242,198	13,960,435	34
New Hispanic areas	112,373,549	1,946,279	2	162,690,441	14,604,559	9
Small Hispanic areas	54,046,097	882,159	2	53,817,719	2,209,968	4

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population and Housing, 1980–2010.

**TABLE 3**  
**Hispanic and overall population growth, by type of metropolitan area, 1980–2010**

Type of metropolitan area	1980 to 2010 population growth in—			Hispanics as a percent of overall growth*
	Total U.S. population (percent change)	Hispanic population (percent change)		
Established slow-growth Hispanic areas	30%	143%		84%
Established fast-growth Hispanic areas	105	381		52
New Hispanic areas	45	616		24
Small Hispanic areas	2	162		134

\*The percentage of the overall population growth that is due to the growth in the Hispanic population.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population and Housing, 1980–2010.

**TABLE 4**  
**Hispanic and overall population growth, by type of county, 1980–2010**

Type of county	1980 to 2010 population growth in—			Hispanics as a percent of overall growth*
	Total U.S. population (percent change)	Hispanic population (percent change)		
Established slow-growth Hispanic areas	29%	120%		98%
Established fast-growth Hispanic areas	99	395		54
New Hispanic areas	45	650		25
Small Hispanic areas	-0.4	151		~

~Not applicable.

\*The percentage of the overall population growth that is due to the growth in the Hispanic population.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population and Housing, 1980–2010.

Established fast-growth Hispanic areas contained metropolitan areas and counties that mainly served as secondary destinations for Hispanics passing through major immigration gateways. With the exception of a few metropolitan areas (e.g., Phoenix, Las Vegas, Denver, and Miami), the communities in this category were largely clustered in California and Texas, with a few scattered around the edge of the more established Hispanic areas. Slightly more than 3 million Hispanics lived in these metropolitan areas in 1980, representing 20% of Hispanics in the United States. Established fast-growth Hispanic areas saw an increase of close to 400% in their Hispanic population, as nearly 30% of Hispanics lived in these areas in 2010. The population growth in these areas showed a different pattern than in other area types: the increase in the Hispanic population accounted for slightly more than 50% of the areas' overall population growth. (Compared with the more established Hispanic areas, the growth in the Hispanic population in these secondary destinations represented a more generalized population expansion among all groups.)

New Hispanic areas contained a large number of metropolitan areas and counties outside of the traditional Hispanic gateways. These areas varied in the opportunities they provided for new Hispanic residents. For example, food-processing industries in the Midwest created a demand for labor that was associated with an influx of Hispanics.<sup>4</sup> In the meantime, areas in the Southeast, mid-Atlantic, Northeast, and north-Pacific regions experienced rapid development in technology, information, and financial sectors, which resulted in the expansion of local labor markets.<sup>5</sup> The expansion and restructuring of the service economy, manufacturing industry, and construction

industry was associated with the increased presence of Hispanics in many locales where there had been little previous Hispanic migration.<sup>6</sup> In these new Hispanic areas, the increase in the Hispanic population accounted for only a small proportion (about 25%) of the overall population growth. This pattern is not surprising because the growing economies and relatively low costs of living in many new Hispanic areas made them attractive for both Hispanic and non-Hispanic populations.

Small Hispanic areas contained metropolitan areas and counties in the South (mainly in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama), Midwest, northeastern postindustrial rust belt region, and mountain states (mainly in Montana and Wyoming). Less than 5% of the U.S. Hispanic population lived in these areas in 2010. In addition to showing a limited growth in the Hispanic population, these areas showed a slow (or lack of) growth in the population of the other racial and ethnic groups. The total population of this area type remained essentially unchanged from 1980 to 2010. When examined individually, half of the metropolitan areas and counties in this category (e.g., Detroit, Pittsburgh, and Buffalo) experienced population loss during the 30-year period. Without the small increase in the Hispanic population, this area type would have shown a greater loss in population. In many cases, a sluggish economy and fewer employment opportunities were related to the slow rate of growth among Hispanics and other population groups in these areas.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>4</sup>Leach, Mark A., and Frank D. Bean (2008). The structure and dynamics of Mexican migration to New Destinations in the United States. In Douglas S. Massey (Ed.), *New Faces in New Places: The Changing Geography of American Immigration*. New York: Russell Sage.

<sup>5</sup>Carnoy, Martin (2000). *Sustaining the New Economy: Work, Family, and Community in the Information Age*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

<sup>6</sup>Parrado, Emilio A., and William Kandel (2008). New Hispanic migrant destinations: A tale of two industries. In Douglas S. Massey (Ed.), *New Faces in New Places: The Changing Geography of American Immigration*. New York: Russell Sage.

<sup>7</sup>Beauregard, Robert A (2009). Urban population loss in historical perspective: United States, 1820–2000. *Environment and Planning A*41: 514–528.

## Social and organizational context of Hispanic areas

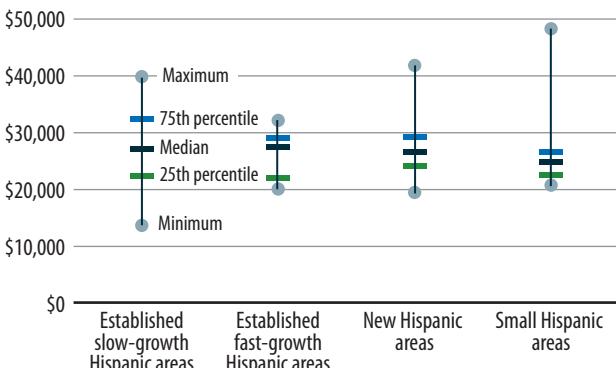
Study of the socioeconomic and organizational structures of the areas in the National Crime Victimization Survey sample adds context to the understanding of life in different communities. The areas' income, poverty rate, unemployment rate, and percentage of female heads of households with children were charted using the American Community Survey 5-year estimates from 2006 to 2010 (**figures 4 and 5**). Although there was substantial overlap in socioeconomic characteristics among area types, new

Hispanic areas had relatively high measures of economic wealth compared to small Hispanic areas. In both counties and metropolitan areas, new Hispanic areas showed higher incomes and lower rates of poverty, unemployment, and family disruption compared to small Hispanic areas as shown by the median values of the social indicators. This pattern was expected as new Hispanic areas were typically formed on the foundation of better economic opportunities.

**FIGURE 4**  
**Socioeconomic characteristics, by type of metropolitan area, 2006–2010**

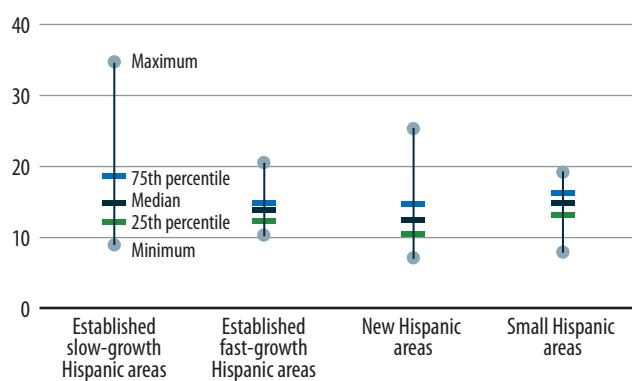
(a) Per capita income in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars

Per capita income



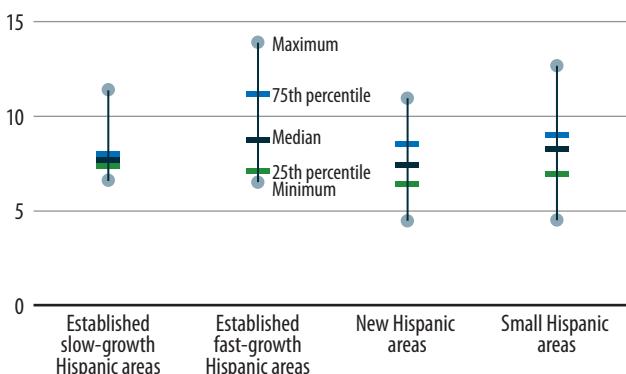
(b) Poverty rate\*

Percent



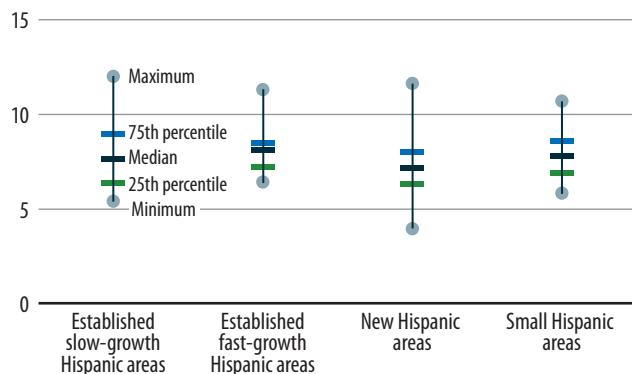
(c) Unemployment rate\*\*

Percent



(d) Female heads of households with children

Percent



\* The percentage of the population in poverty.

\*\* The percentage of the civilian labor force unemployed.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006–2010.

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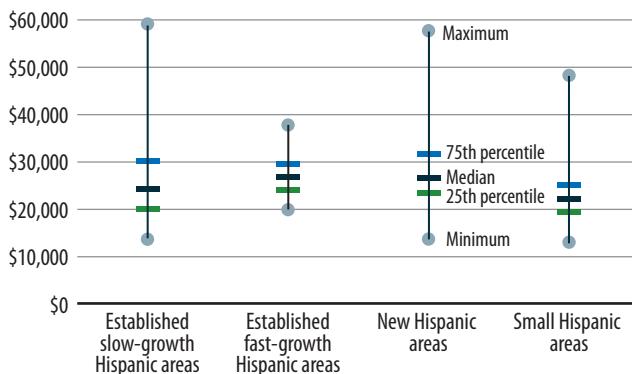
## Social and organizational context of Hispanic areas (continued)

**FIGURE 5**

### Socioeconomic characteristics, by type of county, 2006–2010

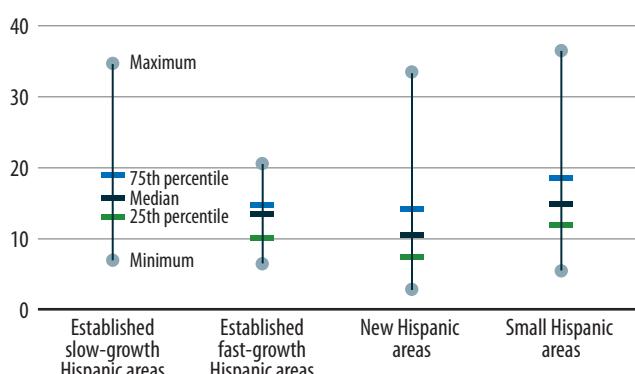
(a) Per capita income in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars

#### Per capita income



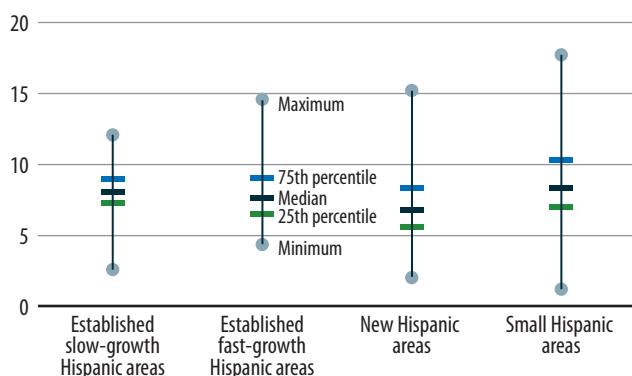
(b) Poverty rate\*

#### Percent



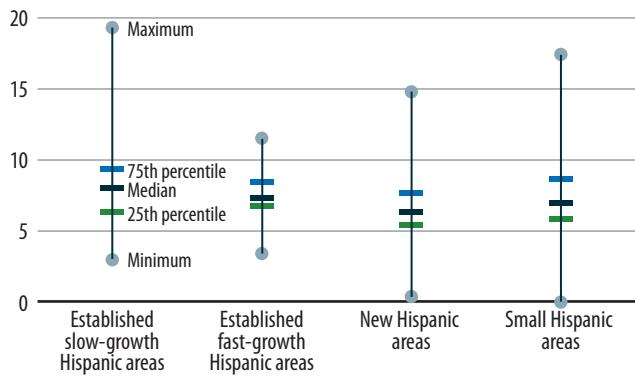
(c) Unemployment rate\*\*

#### Percent



(d) Female heads of households with children

#### Percent



\* The percentage of the population in poverty.

\*\* The percentage of the civilian labor force unemployed.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006–2010.

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## Social and organizational context of Hispanic areas (continued)

In 2006, each area's organizational structures were charted (per 1,000 residents) for numbers of police, social service workers, civic and social organization employees, and religious organization employees (**figures 6 and 7**). When expressed on a per 1,000 resident basis, these represent measures of a community's formal and informal social control and support networks.<sup>8</sup> In 2006, there were

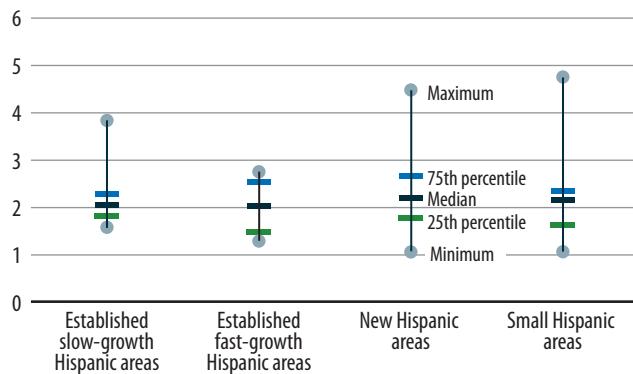
modest differences in organizational structures between new and small Hispanic areas, except there were fewer social service workers in new Hispanic areas than in small Hispanic areas. When compared with established Hispanic areas, new Hispanic areas had a relatively large number of employees for both civic and social organizations and religious organizations.

<sup>8</sup>Xie, Min, Janet L. Lauritsen, and Karen Heimer (2012). Intimate partner violence in U.S. metropolitan areas: The contextual influences of police and social services. *Criminology* 50: 961–992.

**FIGURE 6**  
Service and organizational structures, by type of metropolitan area, 2006

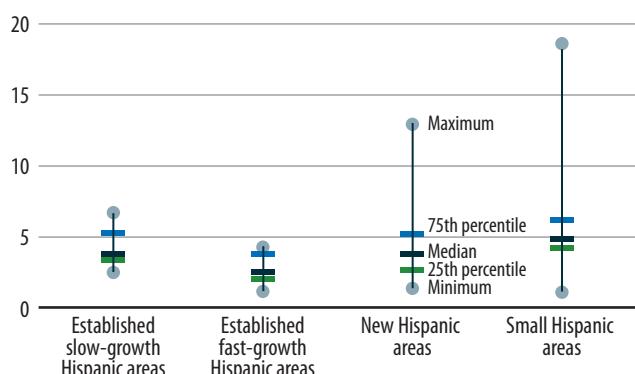
(a) Full-time sworn police officers

Per 1,000 residents



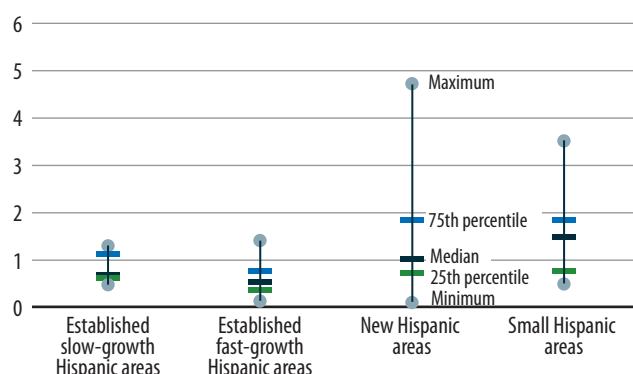
(b) Social service workers

Per 1,000 residents



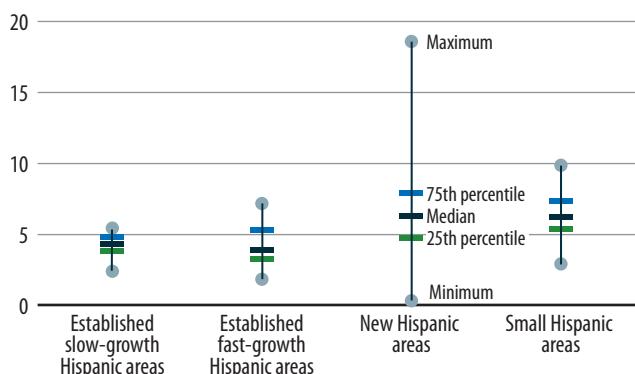
(c) Civic and social organization employees\*

Per 1,000 residents



(d) Religious organization employees

Per 1,000 residents



\*The North American Industry classification system (NAICS) defines civic and social organization (NAICS code 8134) as establishments primarily engaged in promoting the civic and social interests of their members.

Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies, 2004 and 2008; and U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns, 2006.

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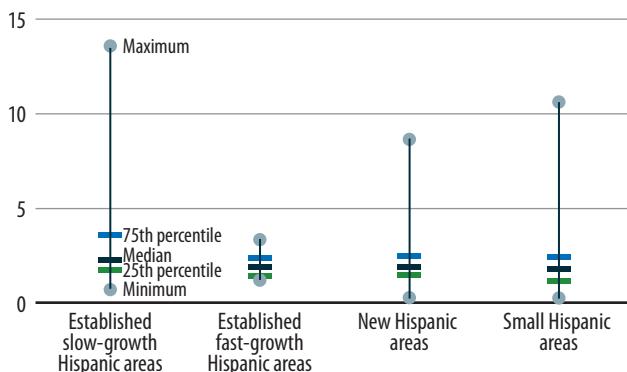
## Social and organizational context of Hispanic areas (continued)

**FIGURE 7**

### Service and organizational structures, by type of county, 2006

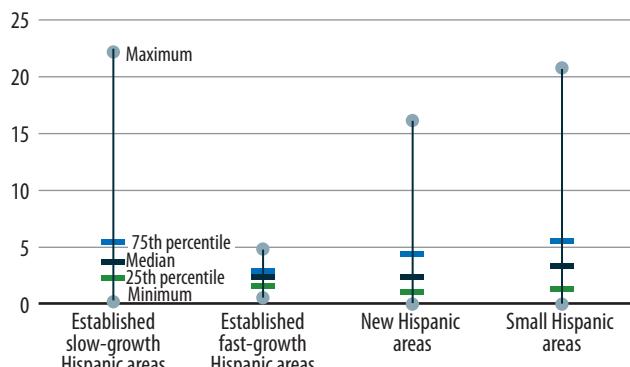
(a) Full-time sworn police officers

Per 1,000 residents



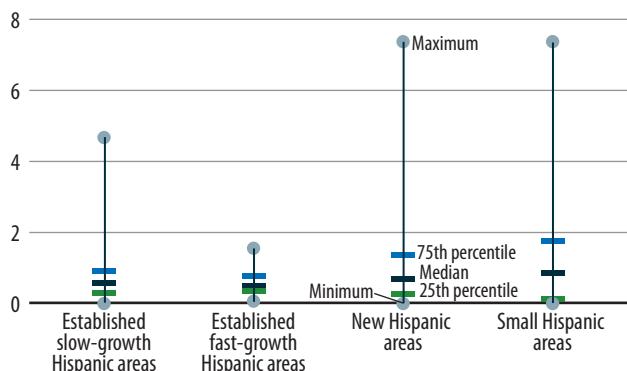
(b) Social service workers

Per 1,000 residents



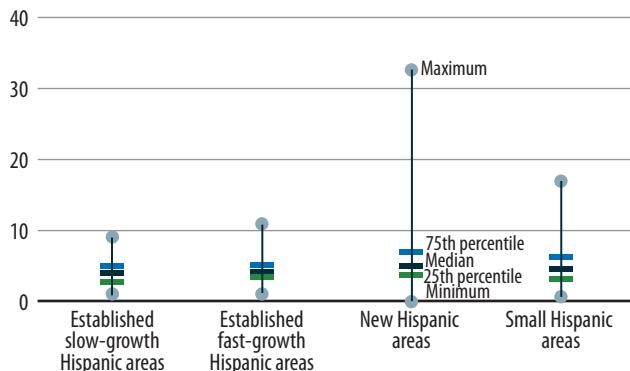
(c) Civic and social organization employees\*

Per 1,000 residents



(d) Religious organization employees

Per 1,000 residents



\*The North American Industry classification system (NAICS) defines civic and social organization (NAICS code 8134) as establishments primarily engaged in promoting the civic and social interests of their members.

Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies, 2004 and 2008; and U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns, 2006.

**New Hispanic areas had a lower rate of violent victimization compared to small Hispanic areas that had little growth in Hispanic populations**

The rate of nonfatal violence was approximately 24 violent crimes per 1,000 persons for new Hispanic metropolitan areas when all racial and ethnic groups were combined, which was close to the average for all metropolitan areas (**table 5**). The violence rate was lower in established slow-growth Hispanic areas (approximately 17 violent crimes per 1,000 persons), and higher in small Hispanic areas where there was little growth in Hispanic populations (about 31 violent crimes per 1,000 persons). The county level showed a similar pattern, although the difference in victimization between the new and small Hispanic areas was not statistically significant at the county level (**table 6**). Overall, when all racial and ethnic groups were combined, new Hispanic areas did not show a higher rate of violent victimization than the U.S. total population. Instead, small Hispanic areas tended to show higher rates of violence.

**Hispanics in new Hispanic areas experienced higher rates of violent victimization compared to other Hispanic areas**

Hispanics, whites, and blacks showed some similarity with the overall patterns of violence; however, important differences existed between groups. For whites, the rate of violence for those living in established slow-growth Hispanic metropolitan areas (16 per 1,000) was lower than in other areas (23 to 27 per 1,000) (**table 5**). The three areas (established fast-growth, new, and small Hispanic metropolitan areas) exhibited no significant differences between victimization rates for whites. A similar pattern was observed for whites at the county level (**table 6**).

Blacks in small Hispanic metropolitan areas experienced violence at higher rates (50 per 1,000) than blacks in new Hispanic areas (27 per 1,000) and accounted for the higher overall rates of violence in small Hispanic areas. Blacks also had relatively higher risks of violent victimization in established fast-growth Hispanic metropolitan areas (36 per 1,000). New Hispanic areas were not high-risk areas for blacks. At the county level, black victimization patterns were similar to the metropolitan areas.

**TABLE 5**  
**Nonfatal violent victimization, by race and ethnicity and type of metropolitan area, 2007–2010**

Type of metropolitan area	Total		Hispanic		Non-Hispanic white		Non-Hispanic black	
	Number of victimizations	Rate per 1,000						
Total	19,996,956	23.6	2,668,965	20.5	12,984,478	23.3	3,252,340	31.2
Established slow-growth Hispanic areas	3,140,870	17.0	983,294	18.4	1,444,573	16.2	456,775	22.3
Established fast-growth Hispanic areas	3,383,681	24.6	837,457	19.6	1,942,876	27.3	493,219	35.6
New Hispanic areas	9,834,177	24.3	774,485	26.2	7,114,319	23.4	1,409,896	27.1
Small Hispanic areas	3,638,228	30.7	73,728	16.4	2,482,711	26.9	892,450	49.5

Note: The analysis is restricted to the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia. Based on persons age 12 or older. See appendix table 3 for standard errors.  
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2007–2010.

**TABLE 6**  
**Nonfatal violent victimization, by race and ethnicity and type of county, 2007–2010**

Type of county	Total		Hispanic		Non-Hispanic white		Non-Hispanic black	
	Number of victimizations	Rate per 1,000						
Total	23,473,683	23.4	2,834,950	20.3	15,890,780	23.1	3,499,958	29.9
Established slow-growth Hispanic areas	2,791,312	19.7	986,136	19.3	1,104,722	19.7	470,885	26.0
Established fast-growth Hispanic areas	2,679,349	21.8	614,487	16.3	1,538,956	24.0	416,589	38.6
New Hispanic areas	12,848,104	23.8	1,094,810	24.7	9,596,039	23.4	1,463,742	25.4
Small Hispanic areas	5,154,916	25.9	139,516	21.0	3,651,063	23.3	1,148,742	37.6

Note: The analysis is restricted to the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia. Based on persons age 12 or older. See appendix table 4 for standard errors.  
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2007–2010.

Compared to whites and blacks, victimization rates for Hispanics showed a different pattern. Hispanics in new Hispanic metropolitan areas experienced higher rates of violent victimization (26 per 1,000) than those in established areas, regardless of their Hispanic growth rates. The differences were more pronounced in metropolitan areas than in counties. The victimization rate for Hispanics was also higher in new Hispanic metropolitan areas (26 per 1,000) than in small Hispanic areas (16 per 1,000), although the difference was only marginally statistically significant at the metropolitan area level ( $p < .10$ ) and not statistically significant at the county level. Overall, the pattern of

victimization for Hispanics was unique in that those living in new Hispanic areas experienced more violent victimization compared to other areas.

### **Young Hispanics accounted for the higher rates of violent victimization in new Hispanic areas**

Since Hispanics in new Hispanic areas have a younger age profile and younger age is associated with higher victimization rates, violent victimization rates were adjusted by age, and the comparison between area types accounted for the age differences. The age-adjusted victimization rates were calculated using a standard age distribution based on the U.S. population in 2000 (tables 7 and 8).

**TABLE 7**

#### **Age-adjusted nonfatal violent victimization rates, by race and ethnicity and type of metropolitan area, 2007–2010**

Victim race/ethnicity and type of metropolitan area	Age-adjusted rate per 1,000*	Age-specific rate per 1,000				
		12–17	18–24	25–34	35–49	50 or older
<b>Hispanic</b>	17.6	41.5	32.4	16.9	14.2	8.3
Established slow-growth Hispanic areas	16.5	34.5	19.8	18.7	16.3	8.9
Established fast-growth Hispanic areas	16.9	55.0	29.3	11.4	11.7	8.0
New Hispanic areas	20.9	37.1	57.0	22.1	14.7	8.0
Small Hispanic areas	13.0! <sup>!</sup>	33.6!	31.3! <sup>!</sup>	12.7! <sup>!</sup>	9.5! <sup>!</sup>	3.5! <sup>!</sup>
<b>Non-Hispanic white</b>	25.4	47.9	42.5	33.9	23.8	9.7
Established slow-growth Hispanic areas	18.3	37.8	36.8	21.9	14.8	6.9
Established fast-growth Hispanic areas	30.5	74.1	40.9	39.6	26.8	12.0
New Hispanic areas	25.2	46.5	38.1	34.4	24.3	10.3
Small Hispanic areas	29.3	43.7	62.3	38.6	29.2	9.0
<b>Non-Hispanic black</b>	29.5	59.7	42.4	42.8	25.2	12.8
Established slow-growth Hispanic areas	21.5	46.4	41.7	23.8	17.5	8.9
Established fast-growth Hispanic areas	33.7	33.9	62.4	37.6	43.7	13.2
New Hispanic areas	25.5	53.5	38.3	35.5	21.9	10.5
Small Hispanic areas	46.7	110.0	38.5	90.3	29.0	23.4

Note: The analysis is restricted to the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia. Based on persons age 12 or older. See appendix table 5 for standard errors.

<sup>!</sup>Interpret data with caution. Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or the coefficient of variation exceeds 50%.

\*Rates were adjusted using direct standardization with the 2000 U.S. Standard Population. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2007–2010.

**TABLE 8**

#### **Age-adjusted nonfatal violent victimization rates, by race and ethnicity and type of county, 2007–2010**

Victim race/ethnicity and type of county	Age-adjusted rate per 1,000	Age-specific rate per 1,000				
		12–17	18–24	25–34	35–49	50 or older
<b>Hispanic</b>	17.5	40.1	32.8	16.4	14.2	8.5
Established slow-growth Hispanic areas	17.3	45.1	20.5	20.1	13.5	9.4
Established fast-growth Hispanic areas	14.5	36.7	23.6	8.2	12.8	9.1
New Hispanic areas	19.9	37.1	53.6	18.8	16.3	6.4
Small Hispanic areas	18.3! <sup>!</sup>	41.7! <sup>!</sup>	29.0	22.4! <sup>!</sup>	14.6! <sup>!</sup>	8.5! <sup>!</sup>
<b>Non-Hispanic white</b>	25.4	47.5	44.3	33.7	24.2	8.9
Established slow-growth Hispanic areas	22.3	47.5	46.1	20.1	20.2	9.2
Established fast-growth Hispanic areas	26.6	63.9	38.8	33.5	21.4	11.7
New Hispanic areas	25.6	49.6	39.8	35.1	24.5	9.4
Small Hispanic areas	25.9	36.7	57.7	35.4	26.1	6.6
<b>Non-Hispanic black</b>	28.4	58.4	41.1	39.9	24.6	12.2
Established slow-growth Hispanic areas	25.4	46.9	34.3	36.4	23.4	11.9
Established fast-growth Hispanic areas	36.4	46.5	88.4	32.8	40.5	13.6
New Hispanic areas	23.6	53.5	36.1	27.9	21.4	9.7
Small Hispanic areas	36.5	79.1	37.4	69.6	25.5	15.9

Note: The analysis is restricted to the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia. Based on persons age 12 or older. See appendix table 6 for standard errors.

<sup>!</sup>Interpret data with caution. Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or the coefficient of variation exceeds 50%.

\*Rates were adjusted using direct standardization with the 2000 U.S. Standard Population. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2007–2010.

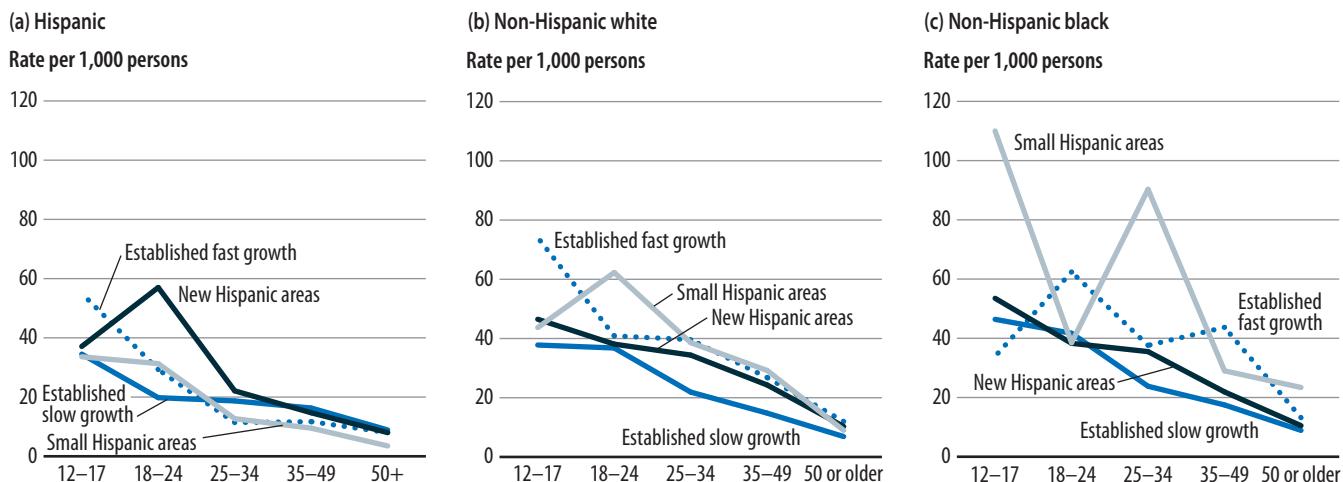
The age-adjusted victimization rates showed that the risk of violent victimization appeared to be higher for Hispanics in new Hispanic metropolitan areas (21 per 1,000), although the differences were not statistically significant (**table 7**). However, the age-specific victimization rates showed that the differences in victimization between new Hispanic areas and other area types were the largest for Hispanics ages 18 to 24, followed by those ages 25 to 34. Among Hispanics ages 18 to 24, those in new Hispanic areas had higher rates of violent victimization than those in established and small Hispanic areas (**figures 8a and 9a**). Among those ages 25 to 34, the rate of violent victimization was higher in new Hispanic areas than in established fast-growth areas. For Hispanics in other age groups, the apparent difference in violent victimization was not statistically significant across area types. Overall, the victimization of young adult Hispanics

ages 18 to 34 was the main reason Hispanics showed higher rates of violent victimization in new Hispanic areas than in other area types.

In comparison, new Hispanic areas did not present elevated risks of violent victimization for non-Hispanic whites and blacks, and the pattern was consistent across all age groups (**figures 8b, 8c, 9b, and 9c**). For example, small Hispanic areas were the sites of the highest victimization rate for whites ages 18 to 24, whereas the rate of violent victimization was significantly lower in new Hispanic areas for whites in this age group. Blacks also showed higher rates of violent victimization in small Hispanic areas compared with new Hispanic areas, and the differences were statistically significant for most age groups (i.e., ages 12 to 17, ages 25 to 34, and age 50 or older).

**FIGURE 8**

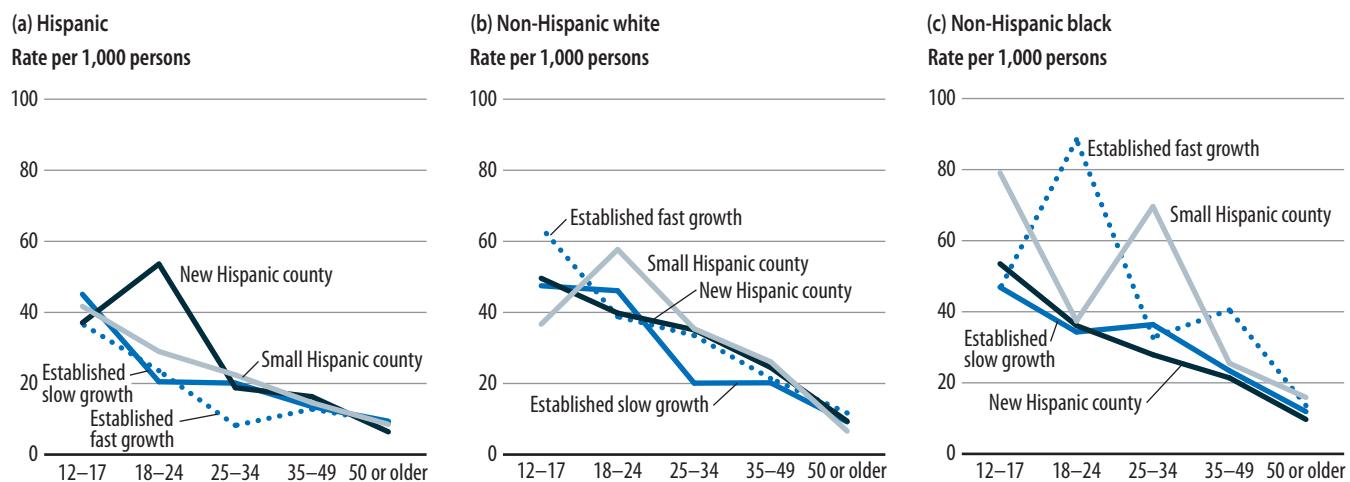
**Age-specific violent victimization rates, by race and ethnicity and type of metropolitan area, 2007–2010**



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2007–2010.

**FIGURE 9**

**Age-specific violent victimization rates, by race and ethnicity and type of county, 2007–2010**



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2007–2010.

## Methodology

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is a data collection conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). The NCVS is a self-report survey in which interviewed persons are asked about the number and characteristics of victimizations experienced during the past 6 months. The NCVS collects information on nonfatal personal crimes (rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault) and property crimes (burglary, larceny-theft, arson, motor vehicle theft, and other theft) both reported and not reported to police. In addition to providing annual level and change estimates on criminal victimization, the NCVS is the primary source of information on the nature of criminal victimization incidents. Survey respondents provide information about themselves (such as age, sex, race and ethnicity, marital status, education level, and income) and whether they experienced victimization. For each victimization incident, information is collected about the offender (such as age, race and ethnicity, sex, and victim-offender relationship), characteristics of the crime (including time and place of occurrence, use of weapons, nature of injury, and economic consequences), whether the crime was reported to police, reasons the crime was or was not reported, and experiences with the criminal justice system.

The NCVS is administered to persons age 12 or older from a nationally representative sample of households in the United States. The NCVS defines a household as a group of members who all reside at a sampled address. Persons are considered household members when the sampled address is their usual place of residence at the time of the interview and when they have no usual place of residence elsewhere. Once selected, households remain in the sample for 3 years, and eligible persons in these households are interviewed every 6 months for a total of seven interviews. New households rotate into the sample on an ongoing basis to replace outgoing households that have been in the sample for the 3-year period. The sample includes persons living in group quarters (such as dormitories, rooming houses, and religious group dwellings) and excludes persons living in military barracks and institutional settings (such as correctional or hospital facilities) and the homeless. (For more information, see *Survey Methodology for Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2008*, NCJ 231173, BJS web, May 2011.)

This report uses the geographic micro-data restricted-use files from 2007 to 2010 to identify specific counties and metropolitan statistical areas. From 2007 to 2010, the NCVS conducted more than 130,000 interviews each year, providing sufficient observations for each area type (appendix tables 1 and 2). For all years, the number of Hispanic respondents was relatively small in each Hispanic area type. The data were pooled across the 4-year period to increase the reliability of the violent victimization estimates.

## Weighting adjustments for estimating personal victimization

NCVS data files are weighted to produce annual estimates of victimization for persons age 12 or older living in U.S. households. Because the NCVS relies on a sample rather than a census of the entire U.S. population, weights are designed to inflate sample point estimates to known population totals and to compensate for survey nonresponse and other aspects of the sample design.

The NCVS data files include both household and person weights. Household weights provide an estimate of the total U.S. household population. Person weights provide an estimate of the population represented by each person in the sample. Person weights are most frequently used to compute estimates of criminal victimizations of persons in the total population. After proper adjustment, both household and person weights are also used to form the denominator in calculations of crime rates.

Victimization weights used in this analysis account for the number of persons present during an incident and for repeat victims of series incidents. The weight counts series incidents as the actual number of incidents reported by the victim, up to a maximum of 10 incidents. Series victimizations are similar in type but occur with such frequency that a victim is unable to recall each individual event or to describe each event in detail. Survey procedures allow NCVS interviewers to identify and classify these similar victimizations as series victimizations and to collect detailed information on only the most recent incident in the series. In 2011, about 3% of all victimizations were series incidents. Weighting series incidents as the number of incidents up to a maximum of 10 produces more reliable estimates of crime levels, while the cap at 10 minimizes the effect of extreme outliers on the rates. For more information on the series enumeration, see *Methods for Counting High-Frequency Repeat Victimization in the National Crime Victimization Survey*, NCJ 237308, BJS web, April 2012.

## Standard error computations

When national estimates are derived from a sample, as is the case with the NCVS, caution must be taken when comparing one estimate to another estimate or when comparing estimates over time. Although one estimate may be larger than another, estimates based on a sample have some degree of sampling error. The sampling error of an estimate depends on several factors, including the amount of variation in the responses, the size of the sample, and the size of the subgroup for which the estimate is computed. When the sampling error around the estimates is taken into consideration, the estimates that appear different may not be statistically different.

One measure of the sampling error associated with an estimate is the standard error. The standard error can vary from one estimate to the next. In general, for a given metric, an estimate with a small standard error provides a more reliable approximation of the true value than an estimate with a large standard error. Estimates with relatively large standard errors are associated with less precision and reliability and should be interpreted with caution.

In order to generate standard errors around estimates from the NCVS, the Census Bureau produced generalized variance function (GVF) parameters for BJS. The GVF parameters take into account aspects of the NCVS complex sample design and represent the curve fitted to a selection of individual standard errors based on the Jackknife Repeated Replication technique. The GVF parameters were used to generate standard errors for each point estimate (such as counts, percentages, and rates) in the report. For average annual estimates, standard errors were based on the ratio of the sums of victimizations and respondents across years.

In this report, BJS conducted tests to determine whether differences in estimated numbers and percentages were statistically significant once sampling error was taken into account. Using statistical programs developed specifically for the NCVS, all comparisons in the text were tested for significance. The primary test procedure used was Student's t-statistic, which tests the difference between two sample estimates. To ensure that the observed differences between estimates were larger than might be expected due to sampling variation, BJS set the significance level at the 95% confidence level.

In this report, BJS also calculated a coefficient of variation (CV) for all estimates, representing the ratio of the standard error to the estimate. CVs provide a measure of reliability and a means to compare the precision of estimates across measures with differing levels or metrics. In cases where the CV was greater than 50%, or the unweighted sample had 10 or fewer cases, the estimate was noted with a “!” symbol (Interpret data with caution. Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or the coefficient of variation exceeds 50%).

Many of the variables examined in this report may be related to one another and to other variables not included in the analyses. Complex relationships among variables were not fully explored in this report and warrant more extensive analysis. Causal inferences should not be made based on the results presented.

## Direct standardization with the 2000 U.S. Standard Population<sup>9</sup>

The method used to generate age-adjusted rates of violent victimization presented in this report was direct standardization with the 2000 U.S. Standard Population from the Decennial Census as the standard population. Age-adjusted standardization eliminates the problem of different age distributions between and within groups. Because crime rates vary by age, direct standardization produces age-adjusted rates that would occur if both populations had the same age distribution as the standard population.

The 2000 U.S. Standard Population was created by the U.S. Census Bureau Population Projection Program (<http://www.census.gov/population/projections/>), which uses data from the Current Population Survey. To calculate age groups using the 2000 U.S. Standard Population, populations of single years of age were obtained for persons age 12 or older from the Census P25-1130 (<http://www.census.gov/prod/1/pop/p25-1130.pdf>) series estimates of the 2000 populations generated by the U. S. Census Bureau Population Projection Program. These single-year populations for persons age 12 or older were then summed to create the following age groups: ages 12 to 17, 18 to 24, 25 to 34, 35 to 49, and 50 or older. In this report, the total standard population refers to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population age 12 or older.

The violent victimization rate, age-adjusted using direct standardization with the 2000 U.S. Standard Population ( $R_d$ ) is calculated as—

$$R_d = \sum (w_a * r_a)$$

where

$R_d$  = age-adjusted rate of violent victimization of the population of interest calculated using direct standardization

$w_a$  = weight calculated from the 2000 U.S. Standard Population for age group a

$r_a$  = unadjusted rate of violent victimization for age group a

The weight ( $w_a$ ) for age group a is calculated as—

$$w_a = n_a / N$$

where

$w_a$  = weight calculated from the 2000 U.S. Standard Population for age group a

$n_a$  = number of persons in age group a in the 2000 U.S. Standard Population

$N$  = total number of persons in the 2000 U.S. Standard Population.

<sup>9</sup>For more information on direct standardization, see Curtin, L.R. & Klein, R.J. (1995). Direct standardization (age-adjusted death rates). *Healthy People 2000: Statistical Notes, 6 Revised*. Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/statnt/statnt06rv.pdf>

## **Standard error computations and statistical significance for age-adjusted rates<sup>10</sup>**

Due to the complexity in generating age-adjusted rates of violent crime, other methods were used to compute standard errors and determine statistical significance. For each age-adjusted rate, variances were computed for each age group-specific rate using information from the generalized variance function (GVF) parameters that the Census Bureau produced for the NCVS. For each age group, the variance was multiplied by the squared weight for that particular age

<sup>10</sup>For more information on computing standard errors for age-adjusted rates, see Anderson, R.N., & Rosenberg, H.M. (1998). Age Standardization of Death Rates: Implementation of the Year 2000 Standard. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 47 (3). Available at [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr47/nvs47\\_03.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr47/nvs47_03.pdf).

group in the 2000 U.S. Standard Population. The result was then summed across all age groups to produce the variance for the age-adjusted rate. The square root of this variance was taken to produce the standard error of the age-adjusted rate. To calculate statistical significance among two age adjusted rates, the standard errors were computed for each rate. Next, the estimated standard error for the difference of the two rates was calculated. This was done by taking the square root of the sum of each rate's squared standard error (that is,  $Se_1^2 + Se_2^2$ ). The absolute difference in the rates was divided by the estimated standard error for the difference to generate a t-statistic. If the t-statistic was greater than 1.96, the difference was statistically significant. If it was equal to or less than 1.96, the difference between the two rates was not statistically significant.

**APPENDIX TABLE 1****NCVS interviews, by type of metropolitan area, 2007–2010**

Type of metropolitan area	Number of metropolitan areas in—		Persons interviewed in—				Interviews by race/ethnicity (2007–2010)		
	U.S.	NCVS	2007	2008	2009	2010	Hispanic	White*	Black*
Total	363	150	119,632	110,280	113,499	121,479	68,176	317,192	51,759
Established slow-growth Hispanic areas	33	14	25,078	22,798	23,891	26,219	27,606	50,223	9,254
Established fast-growth Hispanic areas	32	15	19,517	17,535	18,234	19,247	22,529	40,290	6,707
New Hispanic areas	218	89	57,646	53,998	55,369	58,999	15,672	173,735	26,761
Small Hispanic areas	80	32	17,391	15,949	16,005	17,014	2,369	52,944	9,037

Note: The analysis is restricted to the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia.

\*Excludes persons of Hispanic origin.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2007–2010.

**APPENDIX TABLE 2****NCVS interviews, by type of county, 2007–2010**

Type of county	Number of counties in—		Persons interviewed in—				Interviews by race/ethnicity (2007–2010)		
	U.S.	NCVS	2007	2008	2009	2010	Hispanic	White*	Black*
Total	3,103	626	145,137	133,108	136,322	145,379	73,509	398,148	57,613
Established slow-growth Hispanic areas	260	40	19,375	17,561	18,247	20,161	26,790	31,797	8,317
Established fast-growth Hispanic areas	80	34	17,400	15,320	16,142	17,219	19,445	36,205	5,128
New Hispanic areas	1,677	410	77,892	72,711	74,457	79,164	23,672	237,475	29,069
Small Hispanic areas	1,086	142	30,470	27,516	27,476	28,835	3,602	92,671	15,099

Note: The analysis is restricted to the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia.

\*Excludes persons of Hispanic origin.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2007–2010.

**APPENDIX TABLE 3****Standard errors for table 5: Nonfatal violent victimization, by race and ethnicity and type of metropolitan area, 2007–2010**

Type of metropolitan area	Total		Hispanic		Non-Hispanic white		Non-Hispanic black	
	Number of victimizations	Rate per 1,000						
Total	568,558	0.7	166,680	1.3	436,118	0.8	187,575	1.7
Established slow-growth Hispanic areas	183,697	1	92,960	1.7	116,108	1.3	60,254	2.9
Established fast-growth Hispanic areas	192,082	1.4	84,804	1.9	138,111	1.9	62,892	4.4
New Hispanic areas	367,621	0.9	81,112	2.7	301,432	1	114,478	2.1
Small Hispanic areas	200,638	1.6	22,441	4.9	159,661	1.7	87,940	4.7

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2007–2010.

**APPENDIX TABLE 4****Standard errors for table 6: Nonfatal violent victimization, by race and ethnicity and type of county, 2007–2010**

Type of county	Total		Hispanic		Non-Hispanic white		Non-Hispanic black	
	Number of victimizations	Rate per 1,000						
Total	627,068	0.6	172,784	1.2	493,785	0.7	196,019	1.6
Established slow-growth Hispanic areas	171,192	1.2	93,114	1.8	99,398	1.7	61,285	3.3
Established fast-growth Hispanic areas	167,066	1.3	71,152	1.9	120,473	1.8	57,243	5.1
New Hispanic areas	433,295	0.8	98,883	2.2	362,126	0.9	117,003	2
Small Hispanic areas	247,684	1.2	31,511	4.7	201,064	1.3	101,664	3.2

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2007–2010.

**APPENDIX TABLE 5**

**Standard errors for table 7: Age-adjusted nonfatal violent victimization rates, by race and ethnicity and type of metropolitan area, 2007–2010**

Victim and metropolitan characteristics	Age-adjusted rate per 1,000	Age-specific rate per 1,000				
		12–17	18–24	25–34	35–49	50 or older
<b>Hispanic</b>	1.0	4.2	3.4	2.1	1.8	1.5
Established slow-growth Hispanic areas	1.5	5.6	4.0	3.5	2.9	2.3
Established fast-growth Hispanic areas	1.6	8.1	5.4	2.8	2.6	2.5
New Hispanic areas	2.1	7.8	8.6	4.5	3.6	3.2
Small Hispanic areas	4.0	19.3	14.8	8.6	7.4	4.9
<b>Non-Hispanic White</b>	0.7	3.1	2.6	2.0	1.3	0.6
Established slow-growth Hispanic areas	1.3	6.2	5.6	3.6	2.2	1.2
Established fast-growth Hispanic areas	1.9	9.9	6.5	5.2	3.3	1.7
New Hispanic areas	0.9	3.9	3.2	2.6	1.7	0.9
Small Hispanic areas	1.6	6.2	6.8	4.8	3.2	1.3
<b>Non-Hispanic Black</b>	1.5	5.9	4.8	4.3	2.7	1.8
Established slow-growth Hispanic areas	2.6	11.1	10.4	6.7	4.6	3.0
Established fast-growth Hispanic areas	3.9	11.4	14.4	9.8	8.7	4.8
New Hispanic areas	1.8	7.5	6.3	5.3	3.4	2.2
Small Hispanic areas	4.1	17.4	10.0	13.9	6.7	5.3

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2007–2010.

**APPENDIX TABLE 6**

**Standard errors for table 8: Age-adjusted nonfatal violent victimization rates, by race and ethnicity and type of county, 2007–2010**

Victim and county characteristics	Age-adjusted rate per 1,000	Age-specific rate per 1,000				
		12–17	18–24	25–34	35–49	50 or older
<b>Hispanic</b>	1.0	4.0	3.3	2.0	1.7	1.5
Established slow-growth Hispanic areas	1.5	6.7	4.2	3.8	2.7	2.3
Established fast-growth Hispanic areas	1.6	6.8	5.1	2.5	2.9	2.9
New Hispanic areas	1.7	6.4	7.1	3.5	3.1	2.4
Small Hispanic areas	4.1	17.4	12.5	9.9	7.5	6.0
<b>Non-Hispanic white</b>	0.6	2.8	2.5	1.9	1.2	0.6
Established slow-growth Hispanic areas	1.8	9.4	7.6	4.1	3.2	1.6
Established fast-growth Hispanic areas	1.8	9.4	6.6	5.1	3.1	1.8
New Hispanic areas	0.8	3.5	2.9	2.3	1.5	0.7
Small Hispanic areas	1.2	4.4	5.3	3.6	2.4	0.9
<b>Non-Hispanic black</b>	1.3	5.5	4.5	3.9	2.5	1.6
Established slow-growth Hispanic areas	3.0	12.0	10.2	8.7	5.7	3.7
Established fast-growth Hispanic areas	4.6	14.8	19.6	10.6	9.4	5.4
New Hispanic areas	1.7	7.1	5.8	4.4	3.2	2.0
Small Hispanic areas	2.8	12.0	7.8	9.8	4.9	3.3

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2007–2010.



The Bureau of Justice Statistics of the U.S. Department of Justice is the principal federal agency responsible for measuring crime, criminal victimization, criminal offenders, victims of crime, correlates of crime, and the operation of criminal and civil justice systems at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels. BJS collects, analyzes, and disseminates reliable and valid statistics on crime and justice systems in the United States, supports improvements to state and local criminal justice information systems, and participates with national and international organizations to develop and recommend national standards for justice statistics. William J. Sabol is acting director.

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