

Argentina



Bolivia



Chile



Colombia



Costa Rica



Cuba



Ecuador



El Salvador



España



Guatemala



Guinea Ecuatorial



Honduras



Mexico



Nicaragua



Panama



Paraguay



Peru



Rep. Dominicana



Uruguay



Venezuela



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# What is Latinx/Hispanic Heritage Month?

Hispanic Heritage Month is an annual celebration of the history and culture of the U.S. Latino and Hispanic communities. Hispanic Heritage Month 2023 will last from Friday, September 15, 2023 through Sunday, October 15, 2023. The event commemorates how those communities have influenced and contributed to American society at large.

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## Origins of Hispanic History Month

The term Hispanic or Latino (or the more recent term Latinx) refers to a person's culture or origin—regardless of race. On the 2020 Census form, people were counted as Hispanic or Latino or Spanish if they could identify as having Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or “another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin.”

Hispanic Heritage Month actually began as a commemorative week when it was first introduced in June of 1968 by California Congressman George E. Brown. The push to recognize the contributions of the Hispanic community had gained momentum throughout the 1960s when the civil rights movement was at its peak and there was a growing awareness of the United States' multicultural identities.

Brown, who represented East Los Angeles and a large portion of the San Gabriel Valley—both heavily populated by members of the Hispanic and Latinx communities—wanted to recognize the role played by those communities throughout American history.

On September 17, 1968, Congress passed Public Law 90-48, officially authorizing and requesting the president to issue annual proclamations declaring September 15 and 16 to mark the beginning of National Hispanic Heritage Week and called upon the “people of the United States, especially the educational community, to observe such week with appropriate

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ceremonies and activities.” President Lyndon B. Johnson issued the first Hispanic Heritage Week presidential proclamation the same day.

## **Why the Date of Hispanic Heritage Month Is Important**

The timing of Hispanic Heritage Month coincides with the Independence Day celebrations of several Latin American nations. September 15 was chosen as the kickoff because it coincides with the Independence Day celebrations of five “Central American neighbors,” as Johnson called them—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Those five nations declared their independence from Spain on September 15, 1821.

In his proclamation, Johnson also acknowledged Mexico, which declared its independence from Spain on September 16, 1810. Although not mentioned specifically by Johnson, Chile also celebrates its independence during that week (September 18, 1810 from Spain) and Belize, which declared its independence from Great Britain on September 21, 1981, was subsequently added to the list of nations specifically celebrated during what is now Hispanic Heritage Month.

## **Hispanic Heritage Expands From a Week to a Month**

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From 1968 until 1988, Presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter and Reagan all issued the yearly proclamations, setting aside a week to honor Hispanic Americans. In 1987 U.S. Representative Esteban E. Torres of California proposed the expanding the observance to cover its current 31-day period. Torres wanted more time so that the nation could “properly observe and coordinate events and activities to celebrate Hispanic culture and achievement.”

In 1988, Senator Paul Simon (D-Illinois), submitted a similar bill that successfully passed Congress and was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan on August 17, 1988. And on September 14, 1989, President George H.W. Bush (who had been a sponsor of the original Hispanic Heritage Week resolution while serving in the House in 1968) became the first president to declare the 31-day period from September 15 to October 15 as National Hispanic Heritage Month.

“Not all of the contributions made by Hispanic Americans to our society are so visible or so widely celebrated, however. Hispanic Americans have enriched our nation beyond measure with the quiet strength of closely knit families and proud communities,” Bush said.

In the decades since, National Hispanic Heritage Month proclamations have been made by every sitting president of the United States.

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# Top 20 greatest Latin pop songs

1. "Despacito", Luis Fonsi & Daddy Yankee ft. Justin Bieber
2. "Propuesta Indecente", Romeo Santos
3. "A Pura Dolor", Son by Four
4. "Si Tu Supieras", Alejandro Fernandez
5. "La Tortura", Shakira featuring Alejandro Sanz
6. "Te Quiero", Flex
7. "No Me Doy Por Vencido", Luis Fonsi
8. "El Perdon", Nicky Jam & Enrique Iglesias
9. "Bailando", Enrique Iglesias ft. Descemer Bueno & Gente de Zona
10. "Me Enamora", Juanes
11. "Abrazame Muy Fuerte", Juan Gabriel
12. "Ritmo (Bad Boys for Life)", Black Eyed Peas X J Blavin
13. "Hasta El Amanecer", Nicky Jam
14. "Ay Amor", Ana Gabriel
15. "Suerte (Whenever, Wherever)", Shakira
16. "Dakiti" Bad Bunny & Jhay Cortez
17. "MIA", Bad Bunny ft. Drake
18. "No Me Queda Mas", Selena
19. "De Mi Enamorate", Daniela Romo
20. "Ginza", J Blavin

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## Top 10 Famous Latin Dances

1. Salsa
2. Merengue
3. Bachata
4. Cha-Cha-Cha
5. Rumba
6. Samba
7. Paso Doble
8. Jive
9. Mambo
10. Argentine Tango

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# Books to consider that are focused around Latinx/Hispanic Heritage Month

- *Vanishing Maps* by Cristina Garcia
  - From the acclaimed author of *Dreaming in Cuban*, a follow-up novel that tracks four generations of the del Pino family against the tumultuous backdrops of Cuba, the U.S., Germany, and Russia in the new millennium.
- *Solito* by Javier Zamora
  - A young poet tells the unforgettable story of his harrowing migration from El Salvador to the United States at the age of nine in this moving, page-turning memoir hailed as “the mythic journey of our era” (Sandra Cisneros). *Solito* is Javier Zamora’s story, but it’s also the story of millions of others who had no choice but to leave home.
- *A Nation of Women* by Luisa Capetillo
  - In concise prose, Puerto Rican activist Luisa Capetillo advocates a workers’ revolution, forcefully demanding an end to the exploitation and subordination of workers and women. Her essays cover topics such as sexuality, mental and physical health, hygiene, spirituality, and nutrition. At once a sharp critique and a celebration of the gathering fervor of world politics, *A Nation of Women* embraces the humanistic thinking of the early twentieth century and envisions a world in which economic and social structures can be broken down, allowing both the worker and the woman to be free.

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- *Undocumented* by Dan-el Padilla Peralta
  - Discover Dan-el Padilla Peralta's journey from a New York City homeless shelter to the top of his Princeton class. *Undocumented* is essential reading for the debate on immigration, but it is also an unforgettable tale of a passionate young scholar coming of age in two very different worlds.
- *The Undocumented Americans* by Karla Cornejo Villavicencio
  - Author Karla Cornejo Villavicencio was one of the first undocumented immigrants to graduate from Harvard, but it wasn't until after the 2016 election that she decided to share her truth of being on DACA. Traveling around the country, Cornejo Villavicencio meets with other undocumented immigrants, learning about their unique stories, and discovering more about herself along the way. "The Undocumented Americans" brings these voices to light.
- *Finding Latinx* by Paola Ramos
  - The diversity and intersectionality of the Latino community are often overlooked: From Afro-Latinos and Muslims to the queer and undocumented, Latinos are often put into one monolithic group, ignoring its rich diversity. Exploring the rising use and visibility of the controversial term "Latinx," journalist and activist Paola Ramos embarks across the country to discover the people defining this term and finds how it's given a sense of belonging and solidarity to Latinos that have felt invisible. "Finding Latinx" is essential reading for those looking to understand the complexities and diversity of the Latino community.

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## Statistics in Cherokee & Cobb County (per capita)

Cherokee County population: 266,620

White (alone) population: 204,670

Hispanic or Latino population: 32,111

Poverty Status in the last 12 months (White alone): 210,939

Poverty Status in the last 12 months (Latinx/Hispanic): 30,429

Employment Status (Latinx/Hispanic): N/A

Employment Status (White alone): 173,870

Income Estimates (White alone): 213,454

Income Estimates (Latinx/Hispanic): 31,035

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Cobb County population: 766,149

White (alone) population: 387,625

Hispanic or Latino population: 111,240

Poverty status in the last 12 months (White alone): 375,090

Poverty status in the last 12 months (Latinx/Hispanic): 103,685

Employment Status (Latinx/Hispanic): 73,499

Employment Status (White alone): 319,787

Income Estimates (White alone): 156,186

Income Estimates (Latinx/Hispanic): 29,098

Sourced from: <https://www.history.com/topics/hispanic-history/hispanic-heritage-month>, <https://www.billboard.com/pro/the-top-20-latin-songs-of-all-time-billboard-charts/>, <https://www.flodance.com/articles/5066091-10-most-popular-latin-dance-styles-in-the-world>, <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/the-read-down/hispanic-heritage-month/>, <https://data.census.gov/table?q=hispanic+or+latino+in+Cherokee+County,+Georgia&t=Employment&tid=ACSDT1Y2021.B08505I>, <https://www.verywellmind.com/6-harmful-stereotypes-about-latin-americans-5113358>

# Common Misconceptions/Stereotypes of the Latinx/Hispanic Heritage

## “All Latin Americans Have Homogenous Origins”

Latin America is comprised of 33 different countries, located within South America, Central America, and the Caribbean islands. Just like each of the European countries has different cultures and traditions, so do the individual countries in Latin America.

There are a substantial number of people from South America living in the U.S.<sup>2</sup> While many may speak Spanish like those in Mexico and Central America, their heritage is not one and the same.

This is why it's important to ask a person of Hispanic descent how they'd like to be identified before labeling them yourself. "Recognizing people's unique cultures, just like we do for people of European descent, helps people feel seen and feel proud of their heritage and ethnic origin," says Renteria.

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## “Latin Americans are out to steal American jobs”

This is another harmful Latinx stereotype that often leads to discrimination and assumptions about one’s immigration status. Yet, high rates of immigration (documented or undocumented) do not exacerbate unemployment. In fact, research suggests the opposite.

According to one study, immigration actually lowers unemployment—even for native individuals.<sup>3</sup> This study also found that immigration positively impacts pricing and public finances.

"Maintaining the false belief that immigrants are stealing people's jobs usually makes people in the larger group feel threatened and act hostile towards immigrants," says Renteria, "which leads to a greater sense of being excluded for marginalized groups."

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## “Latino Masculinity Equals Dominance and Violence”

This is rooted in the concept of “machismo,” a set of cultural beliefs about manhood. Machismo emphasizes male strength, honor, emotional reserve, and confidence. Like gender roles in any culture, these traits can be helpful or harmful depending on the context.

When certain ideals are taken too far, machismo has been associated with sexist attitudes and emotional repression. However, many Latino men are moving away from rigid gender roles toward a more flexible definition of masculinity, emphasizing positive traits like chivalry and bravery.

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## “Latin American Women are always the home caretakers and don’t work traditional jobs”

Another common stereotype is that Latin American women aren’t part of the American workforce and always default to staying at home and caring for children. This is false.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that among Latinas aged 25 to 54, over two-thirds are part of the civilian labor force.<sup>5</sup> There are many high-achieving Latin American women in all fields, from law to science and athletics, and perpetuating stereotypes won’t help them pursue their goals.

It is worth noting that prejudice does impact Latin American women's access to certain jobs. Latin American women are vastly underrepresented in fields commonly dominated by White individuals. For example, only 1% of higher education faculty identify as Latina.

In addition, Latin American women are less likely to be assigned leadership positions. The U.S. Government Accountability Office reports that while approximately 69% of female managers in the country are White, the number of Latino or Hispanic female managers is closer to 12%.

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## “All Latin American Families have multiple families”

A study by Pew Research Center reveals that the average family size varies little between ethnicities. Specifically, it noted that all ethnicities of mothers in their early 40s (Hispanic, Black, White, and Asian) had between 2.2 and 2.6 children, on average.

This stereotype is harmful because it plays into the assumption that Latinas are "promiscuous" and destined to become teenage mothers. However, the mean age for giving birth to their first child is 26.5 for mothers of Central or South American ethnicity, 24.1 for those from Puerto Rico, and 23.7 for mothers of Mexican descent.

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## “Latin Americans are unwilling to learn English”

This stereotype is heavily present with people assuming the Latin American people they encounter on a daily basis don't understand what they're saying or, worse, mock them when they try to communicate with limited English. There tends to be a double standard in these interactions, as only 20% of native-born Americans can speak a second language well enough to hold a conversation.

The stereotype is also fed into by the education system, with teachers and administrators assuming kids who speak English as their second language don't want to learn. A lack of funding and support for English language learning programs can hamper students' ability to progress in their studies.

Finally, disparaging someone's speaking ability or poking fun at their accent (like we often see in popular shows like *Modern Family*) is sure to do a number on their confidence, even when they want to improve their language skills.

"Sadly, in the United States, there is still a problem with Spanish from Latinx communities being seen as the less desirable language and accent," says Renteria. "This is a big reason many immigrants feel shame and inadequate attempting to speak English, even if it's a few words."

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# How to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month as an Ally

Sourced from: <https://experiencelife.lifetime.life/article/how-to-celebrate-hispanic-heritage-month-as-an-ally/>

## 1. Educate Yourself

- a. While the term “Hispanic” refers to various Spanish-speaking communities overall, including a vast majority of the countries in Central and South America, as well as Spain, there is a whole universe of differences, nuances, and so much more than just a common language. Not all Hispanics are the same, and being Hispanic means different things to each of us, including different dialects, cultures, traditions, and foods. Engage with members of our community with curiosity and genuine interest, and never assume we are identical by region, country, or town.

## 2. Understand the Differences

- a. The terms “Hispanic” and “Latino/Latina/Latinx” are not interchangeable: Spanish is a gendered language, so “Latino” and “Latina” are common, while “Latinx” has been adopted as a gender-neutral or nonbinary identifier. You may also hear the terms “Chicano” or “Chicana” from descendants from Mexico. Additionally, many people identify directly with their own or their ancestors’ country of origin. I, for example, identify myself as Caribbean Latina. Part of supporting our heritage is braving the discomfort to ask us what term or identity we prefer.

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### 3. Check your bias

- a. If you allow yourself to address the anti-Hispanic and anti-Latino narrative you have unconsciously accepted as true, you can start to rethink the way you engage with our communities, as well as support us wholeheartedly. Cultural and racial biases are normal; it is our duty to recognize and challenge them.

### 4. Taste our flavors

- a. The richness and diversity of our heritage comes with flavors and culinary experiences that can blow your mind — and wake up your taste buds. Join the celebration by cooking or trying something new, like Venezuelan tequeños, fresh Peruvian ceviche, or the sweet and buttery Argentinean pasta frola.

### 5. Enjoy our music

- a. There are countless playlists with the sounds of our communities, so you can explore a rich musical assortment online and through streaming services. I set the tone to celebrate my Latino American communities with Mercedes Sosa, for example. You can also listen to Beat Latino to learn more about our sounds and music.

### 6. Listen to our perspective

- a. There are countless Hispanic and Latino American podcasts bringing a different perception of the world. Try **Hollywood in Color**, **The Self-ish Latina**, **Two Hispanics and a White Guy**, and **Tres Cuentos** to gain new insights around our stories and ideas.

Sourced from: <https://www.history.com/topics/hispanic-history/hispanic-heritage-month>, <https://www.billboard.com/pro/the-top-20-latin-songs-of-all-time-billboard-charts/>, <https://www.flodance.com/articles/5066091-10-most-popular-latin-dance-styles-in-the-world>, <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/the-read-down/hispanic-heritage-month/>, <https://data.census.gov/table?q=hispanic+or+latino+in+Cherokee+County,+Georgia&t=Employment&tid=ACSDT1Y2021.B08505I>, <https://www.verywellmind.com/6-harmful-stereotypes-about-latin-americans-5113358>

## 7. Support our dreams

- a. Uplift our communities by supporting, patronizing, and choosing Hispanic- or Latinx-owned businesses, especially family-owned restaurants, bodegas, and shops where every customer and purchase count.

## 8. Learn about our world

- a. Find a breadth of narratives from Hispanic and Latino American authors, including Gabriel García Márquez's masterpiece *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, Ana Castillos's *Sapogonia*, and Jorge Luis Borges's "The Library of Babel."

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# ELCA Resources:

Sourced from: [elca.org](http://elca.org)

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# AMMPARO Migrant Children

**“Dios es nuestro amparo y fortaleza,” (“God is our refuge and strength,”) – Psalm 46:1**

***AMMPARO is a holistic, whole church commitment by the ELCA, as a church in the world, to accompany children today and in the future.***

The word “amparo” in Spanish means the protection of a living creature from suffering or damage. The ELCA’s strategy to Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO) was envisioned after witnessing the plight of children who are forced to flee their communities because of complex and interrelated reasons, including chronic violence, poverty, environmental displacement and lack of opportunities in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. Due to our connection to companion churches in the region, including companion synod relationships, and existing ministries in the U.S., the ELCA is well-positioned to help ensure that these vulnerable children are protected.

In a holistic, whole church response that connects international and US outcomes, the ELCA has developed this strategy based on the following commitments:

- Uphold and guarantee basic human rights and safety of migrant children and their families;
- Address the root causes of migration in countries from Central America’s Northern Triangle and Mexico and the treatment of migrants in transit;
- Work toward just and humane policies affecting migrants in and outside the U.S.; and
- Engage as a church body with all of its companions, affiliates and partners to respond to the migration situation and its causes and to advocate for migrant children and their families.

As brothers and sisters in Christ, the ELCA is called to bear witness to the conditions affecting so many communities and to work to find solutions that will acknowledge the humanity in all of God’s children. Join us in making a difference in the lives of vulnerable children and families.

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# Get involved

**Pray** for the safety of migrant children and families on the journey and for justice as they reach their destinations.

**Become a Welcoming Congregation** to accompany these children and families through their transition to life in the U.S. Link to resource. [www.elca.org/Resources/AMMPARO](http://www.elca.org/Resources/AMMPARO)

**Advocate** for justice for migrant children and families. [www.elca.org/Advocacy](http://www.elca.org/Advocacy)

**Accompany** migrant children and families through the Guardian Angel Program as the physical presence of the church in the courtroom. <https://Vimeo.com/157458987>

**Give** to AMMPARO to provide opportunities for children and families in Central America and in the U.S. <https://community.elca.org/ammparo-donation-form>

**New program for youth:** [Bridging Youth to Youth](#)

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# Racial Justice Ministries

We believe that Christ's church is for all people. God calls each of us by name, and it is not our job to sort, divide, categorize or exclude. But as "saints and sinners," we know and experience God's work of healing and restoring as well as the persistent human pain and injustices of racism in the world. This is where God has put us, in the thick of life, where we participate in what God is doing by insisting on justice and upholding human dignity for the inclusion of all people in the life of the church and society.

We are called to be a church that embraces each person and confronts racial, ethnic, cultural, religious, age, gender, familial, sexual orientation, physical, personal and class barriers that often manifest themselves in unjust treatment, inequalities, exclusion and violence.

The Racial Justice Ministries of the ELCA serve as catalysts and bridge builders committed to the work of:

- Equipping leaders to recognize and understand the complexity and implications of racism and racial issues.
- Training and education in the areas of anti-racism and racial justice for leaders in partnership with synods, congregations, associations and social service agencies.
- Building alliances and strategies across race, ethnicity, class, gender, age and sexual orientation to break through barriers of racism and oppression.
- Creating and supporting ecumenical networks that call for and help equip the church to be a multiracial and multicultural community.
- Working together throughout the church in public witness, programs and policies that advance racial justice — locally and globally.
- Developing and sharing educational tools and training models for congregations to use in facing the challenges of racism in a diverse, complex and changing world.

When we confront racism and move toward fairness and justice in the church and society, we all benefit. We begin to understand that each of us has a unique story, and we are all part of a larger, rich story that makes up the ELCA.

The ELCA Social Statement, "Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity and Culture," offers theological reflection on the church's commitment to undo racism and move toward reconciliation, healing and embracing all people.

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# Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

We are a church that does God's work in the world and in local communities pursuing justice, peace and human dignity for and with all people.

In partnership with Lutheran congregations and Lutheran social ministry organizations, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service has welcomed more than 379,000 refugees to the United States since 1939. This ongoing partnership and work is driven by God's love for all people and a vision for congregations to be welcoming and generous centers for mission and ministry.

The work of the ELCA through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service includes responding to people caught in conflict and facing persecution, advocating for their needs and interests, helping people access resources for basic human needs, working with foster care programs for minors, legal assistance, developing new and innovative service programs and partnerships, and much more.

Join us in this courageous work of serving and loving our neighbors in the name of Jesus Christ. Learn more about Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service today.

Website: <https://www.lirs.org/>

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# ELCA World Hunger

More than 820 million people - that's about 11 percent of people in our world today - are hungry.

As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work.

Working with and through our [congregations](#), in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands Lutheran churches overseas and other partners, **ELCA World Hunger** is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty. [Learn More](#).

## Hunger facts

- 821 million people around the world - that's more than 1 in 10 - can't access the food they need to live active, healthy lives. [1]
- According to the most recent estimates, 736 million people live in extreme poverty on less than \$1.90 per day. That's 10% of the world's population. [2]
- At some point in 2017 (the most recent year available), more than 40 million people in the United States were unsure where their next meal might come from. [3]
- 39.7 million Americans were living in poverty in 2017. For a family of four, this means their annual household income was below \$25,094. [4]

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