



## NEWS RELEASE

### ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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## Hispanic profile presents statewide health comparisons

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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According to the Bureau of the Census, the number of persons of Hispanic origin in Alabama increased from 24,629 in 1990 to 75,830 in 2000, an increase of 208 percent. While the number of people of Hispanic origin in Alabama is still a small percentage (1.7) of the total population, this group is a rapidly growing population as highlighted in the newly released *Hispanic Health Profile* by the Center for Health Statistics of the Alabama Department of Public Health.

In 13 years, the number of Hispanic births in Alabama has risen from 346 births in 1990 to 2,972 births in 2003, an increase of 759 percent .

Franklin, DeKalb, Marshall, Chilton, Blount and Clay counties reported the largest increase in Hispanic population from 1990 to 2000. In addition, the census data showed that over 50 percent of Alabama's Hispanic population reported being of Mexican origin, and that Alabama's Hispanic population was a young population, with 71.5 percent being under 35 years of age.

According to the Center for Health Statistics, birth data for 2003 show Hispanics in Alabama have a higher birth rate (33.3 per 1,000 population) than non-Hispanic whites (12.1) and non-Hispanic blacks (15.1). Alabama's Hispanic birth rate was higher than the national Hispanic birth rate.

About one in 10 Hispanic mothers received no prenatal care during pregnancy. Nearly half (47.3 percent) of deliveries to Hispanic women were self-pay because they had no insurance coverage. On the other hand, Hispanic women smoked a great deal less during pregnancy than did non-Hispanic white women and non-Hispanic black women.

According to Carol Ann Dagostin, author of the study, "These are interesting facts because Hispanic mothers had a lower percentage (6.7 percent) of low weight births and lower infant mortality (5.3 infant deaths per 1,000 live births) than non-Hispanic white mothers and non-Hispanic black mothers."

Leading causes of death for the Hispanic population in Alabama were different than for non-Hispanics, partially because of the youth of the population. The leading cause of death for Hispanics was accidents, representing one out of five Hispanic deaths compared to one out of 20 for non-Hispanics; however, when the age of the population was taken into account, the accident death rate for the two groups was similar.

For further Hispanic health information, please see the *Hispanic Health Profile, Alabama 2003*, produced by the Statistical Analysis Division of the Center for Health Statistics, Alabama Department of Public Health which is available at <http://ph.state.al.us/chs/Index.htm>.