



Guatemala Human Rights Commission / USA

Fact Sheet

Guatemalans in the United States

The most recent U.S. census documents the Guatemalan population at 872,000. However, the actual number is estimated to be roughly 1.6 million. Given the country of Guatemala's population of 13.9, a full 10% of the country now lives in the U.S. This growing population of second, third, and fourth generation Guatemalan-Americans contributes greatly to the economy, community, and cultural diversity in the United States.

Population Distribution: Guatemalans in the U.S.

According to the 2008 Census

- Los Angeles, CA: 280,333
- New York, NY: 119,063
- Washington, DC: 55,476
- Boston, MA: 45,965
- Houston, TX(IOM 2000): 43,174
- San Francisco, CA: 41,508
- Chicago, IL(2000): 13,610
- Providence, RI (2000): 13,144
- Palm Beach County, FL: 18,000



Guatemalan ethnic pride parade in Chicago, IL

Population Profile

According to the 2008 Census

- Male:** 57.7 %
- Female:** 42.3%
- Born outside of U.S.:** 70%
- Entered U.S. before...**
 - **1990:** 31.8%
 - **1990 to 1999:** 28.7
 - **2000 or later:** 39.6%
- Average household size:** 3.95
- Under 18 years:** 28%
- Over 62 years:** 3.3%
- Median age:** 27.8
- High school graduates:** 24.4%
- Percent of U.S. Hispanic population:** 2.1%

Guatemalan Indigenous Communities

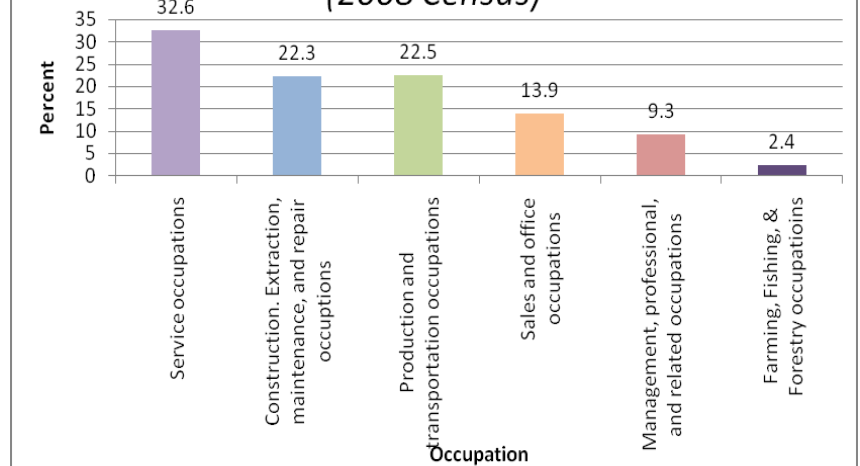
Guatemala's population is 50-60% indigenous and comprised of about 24 different linguistic and cultural groups. In the U.S., 8.7% of those who identify as "American Indian" are from Guatemala. (2008 Census)

U.S. cities with notable Guatemalan indigenous communities:

- Providence, RI:** K'iche
- New Bedford, MA:** K'iche
- Arlington, VA:** Mam
- Indiantown, FL:** Q'anjob'al
- Chattanooga, TN:** Mam & Q'anjob'al
- Jupiter, FL:** Popti (Jakalteko)
- Saluda, SC:** K'iche
- Los Angeles, CA:** K'iche

Common Occupations of Guatemalans in the U.S.

(2008 Census)



Guatemalan Organizations in the United States

There are over 300 community organizations formed by Guatemalans living in the U.S. Focuses range from legal support to business networking to cultural enrichment.



Location: Chicago, IL

Mission: To politically and socially inform and support the Guatemalan community.

Programs:

- *Leadership:* Training for organizing skills and coalition work
- *Civic Participation:* Promotes involvement and education in political decision-making in the US and Guatemala; focuses on immigration reform.

Guatemala Unity Information Agency

Location: Los Angeles, CA

Mission: To provide legal and social support to the Guatemalan community

Programs:

- *Immigration:* Provides legal counseling
- *Social Services:* Health education, driver's training, counseling
- *Education:* GED, computer, and literacy classes



Desarrollo Sostenible para Guatemala

Mission: To promote economic development and sustainability in Guatemala by connecting communities in the U.S. and in Guatemala

Programs:

- *Immigration:* Aids immigrants in social transitions
- *Youth:* Connects youth movements across countries
- *Historical Memory:* Promotes knowledge of geographic and cultural backgrounds

Organización Maya K'iche



Location: New Bedford, MA

Mission: To educate, support, and advocate for the Central American community

Programs:

- *Research and Awareness:* Coordinates activities that advance civil rights knowledge and other community causes.
- *Social:* Promotes cultural values
- *Political:* Responds to immigration concerns, such as the March 2007 raid in New Bedford.

El Sol: Jupiter's Neighborhood Resource Center



Location: Jupiter, FL

Mission: To order to foster a strong economic and ethnically diverse community by organizing, educating, and assisting Jupiter's immigrant population

Programs:

- *Labor center:* Works with employers to meet day labor needs
- *Education:* Provides literacy, computer, and ESL programs.
- *Legal Services:* Advocates for fair compensation of workers

AWAL: Mayan Folkloric Dance Group



Location: Arlington, VA

Mission: To share Maya cultural traditions and support their community center in Concepcion, Chiquirichapa, Quetzaltenango.

Events:

- Gran Dia Chapin: an annual Guatemalan festival in the DC Area
- Performances at the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian