



**THE STATE OF**  
LATINAS IN CALIFORNIA

2003 YEAR IN REVIEW



## VISION

Latinas inspiring, empowering, and engaging leadership to strengthen all communities.

## MISSION

HOPE is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization committed to ensuring political and economic parity for Latinas through leadership, advocacy, and education to benefit all communities and the status of women.

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## 2003 HOPE YEAR ROUND SPONSORS



### HOPE Leadership Strategic Partners – Contribution of \$50,000



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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: AN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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HOPE, Hispanas Organized for Political Equality, is proud to present its report on *The State of Latinas in California*. Latinas in this great state are full of promise and potential. The spirit and drive we see in the Latina entrepreneur – California has the most Latina-owned businesses in the Nation – is a glimmer of hope during these economic hard times. The potential that each Latina kindergartner holds if she's educated and empowered to reach her dreams can be California's promise as she represents 1 in every 2 female kindergartners in this state. The growing number of Latinas stepping up to represent their communities via elected or appointed positions is a momentum we can build upon.

*The State of Latinas in California* is a compilation of findings from our successful Latina Leadership Roundtables throughout the state, data collected from the 2000 Census, and HOPE's 2003 survey. Key findings of the report will not only enable HOPE to be better advocates for the 5 million Latinas living in California, but can arm our elected officials throughout the state with Latina specific data they can use as they work toward solutions to our state's fiscal crisis.

Understanding the nuances of the Latina population allows us to:

- 1) Understand specific needs of the Latina community, and
- 2) Develop solid public policy recommendations.

Key findings of the report include:

**Economic Empowerment:** Small Business Development

- *California has the largest number of Latina-owned businesses in the Nation*

**Education:** College Preparation and Higher Education

- *Latinas are a youthful population translating into more educational needs and youth activities*
- *A Latinas ability to graduate from a 2-year college, on average, doubles her annual income*

**Health:** Access and Teen Pregnancy

- *Latina teen pregnancy is the highest of all ethnic groups*
- *Latinas are uninsured at higher rates than their counterparts yet participate at high rates in the labor force*

As Californians we face many challenges given our current fiscal crisis. I believe it is of the utmost importance that as we seek solutions to these challenges, that the Latina voice is not lost in the process. This report is a call to action for elected officials, community leaders, corporate leaders, and all those concerned with having California remain the Golden State. *The State of Latinas in California* was made possible through the hard work and dedication of the HOPE staff under the leadership of Lupita Garza, 2003 Year in Review Chair. We hope you take the time to thoughtfully review our work.

**Elmy Bermejo**  
President  
HOPE

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE: A YEAR IN REVIEW

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*The State of Latinas in California* is a testimony of HOPE's work throughout 2003 and is a road map for policy discussions that lay ahead of us in 2004. Understandably, policy recommendations HOPE proposed in 2003 regarding California's State Budget may seem wishful thinking to some today, but to us at HOPE, it is stating a perspective on what is needed to ensure Latinas are reaching political and economic parity. One of HOPE's contributions to resolving California's fiscal crisis is providing the critical information contained in this report for discussion and review.

2003 was a tremendous year of growth and success for HOPE, thanks largely to the commitment and leadership of the Latinas we serve and the individuals and corporations who understand that investing in Latinas secures the betterment of our State and Nation. In 2003, HOPE impacted the lives of over 3,000 Latinas directly while key empowerment messages and policy issues were disseminated throughout all of the major media markets in California. In the past year HOPE has celebrated the following:

- *Creation of a "Latina Smart" National Policy Initiative resulting in the introduction of U.S. Senate Bill 1956, the HOPE Youth Pregnancy Prevention Act*
- *Convening of the first ever Public Hearing on the Status of the California Budget and its impact on Latinas providing over 700 Latinas crucial information as they met with California legislators*

- *Graduation of the 5th HOPE Leadership Institute Class, bringing the total number of graduates to 181. Over 30% of the alumnae have achieved appointed or elected office*
- *Formalization of the Youth Leadership Through Literacy Program, which was featured in the Los Angeles Times*
- *One of the leading nonprofits to form the "Latino Coalition Against Proposition 54" and campaign successfully to defeat the initiative*
- *Creation of an innovative e-Newsletter distributed to over 3,500 community, corporate, and political leaders*
- *Convening over 200 Latina Leaders from across the state to discuss the future leadership roles of Latinas*
- *Publishing "The Affluence of Latinas", HOPE's third installment of Profiles in Leadership. This publication focused on the achievements of Latinas economically. It has been distributed to over 5,000 readers*

HOPE's first order of business in 2004 is ensuring that Latina leaders are engaged in the California budget process providing a critical voice on fiscal impacts on the Latina population. May we as a community of concerned individuals unite with hope and innovation to advance our State and Nation.

With HOPE toward the future,

**Helen Iris Torres**  
Executive Director

# THE STATE OF LATINAS IN CALIFORNIA



There are over 5 million Latinas residing in California today. Latinas are a youthful population, median age of 25, compared to the California female, median age of 34<sup>1</sup>. This Latina demographic brings with it an enormous economic force via sheer buying power and labor force participation, high levels of participation in the State's public educational institutions both at the K-12 level and at institutions of higher education, increasing need for access to health services, and amazing potential for voter and political participation.

In 2003, HOPE converged over 700 Latinas on the State Capitol for the *9th Annual Latina Action Day*. In partnership with the CA Commission on the Status of Women, The California Legislative Women's Political Caucus, and CEWAER, HOPE called for a historic *Public Hearing on the state of the California Budget and its effects on Latinas*. Focusing on the areas of economic empowerment, education, and health, Latinas from throughout the state personally plead their cases to over 45 legislators, 2 members of the Governor's Cabinet, and Governor Davis with the mantra; "*Latina Representation, Latina Consideration.*"

Throughout this report, you will find highlights of HOPE's 2003 policy priorities in the areas of economic empowerment, education, and health. HOPE recognizes that the 2004 State fiscal climate has changed since then and that we and our elected officials are faced with tough decisions about what to cut and how much to cut. Keeping that in mind, HOPE's 2004 policy recommendations will be reflective of the current fiscal climate but will continue to focus on maintaining the integrity of those public services that support not only a Latinas ability to flourish but all Californians.

**LATINAS MAKE UP 15.3%** of California's total population, totaling 5,195,000<sup>2</sup>

## ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Small businesses are the economic engines moving California forward. California is ranked number 1 in the number of Latina-owned businesses in the nation which are primarily in the service sector and have the potential to grow exponentially given access to capital, contracts, and technical assistance.

► In Governor Schwarzenegger's 2004 State of the State Address, the Governor clearly articulated that, "Creating and retaining jobs - - and the businesses that provide them- - must be a priority of this Legislature. Jobs provide a solid foundation for families. Jobs add revenues to the state budget. Jobs give stability to our society. Jobs. Jobs. Jobs. The more jobs the better."

If making California a "powerful job-creating machine" is truly a priority for the Administration, Legislature, and California, then there needs to be a strategy for ensuring Latina small businesses continue their growth and momentum.

HOPE's *2003 California Policy Initiative* outlined the following short term priorities:

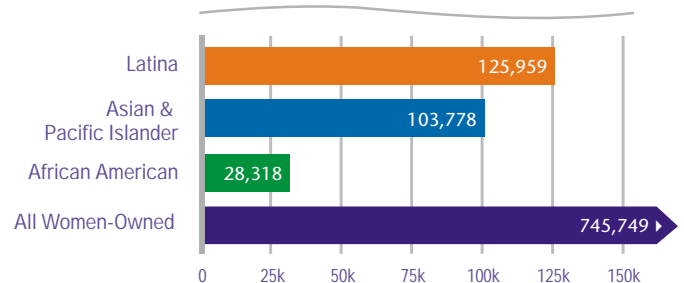
- Setting statewide priorities for small business development and implementation
- Increasing awareness that state technical assistance is available
- Continuing to ensure that state contracts are easily accessible to small business

HOPE's *2003 Profiles in Leadership*, the "Affluence of Latinas," sought to heighten the financial awareness Latinas need to have in terms of starting up a business, owning a home, investing, and advocating for sound policy that benefits California's business climate. HOPE also provided targeted, in-depth financial planning workshops during the *12th Annual Latina History Day* for both Latina adults and high school students. "Financial Literacy" training will continue in HOPE's 2004 programming.

► In 2002, California majority-owned, privately held Hispanic women owned businesses numbered 125,959, have 5.6 billion in sales and employ 48,075. Latina-owned businesses have grown 24.3% from 1997-2002, comprise 16.9% of all women owned businesses, and comprise 33.2% of Latino owned businesses.<sup>3</sup>

### How do Latinas Compare:

California Women-Owned Businesses<sup>4</sup>



<sup>1</sup> US Census Bureau, 2000

<sup>2</sup> US Census Bureau, 2000

<sup>3</sup> Center for Women's Business Research, Source: Estimates using US Census Bureau of Census Data

<sup>4</sup> Ibid





# EDUCATION

## K-12

Latinas represent 1 in every 2 female kindergartners in California's public schools. Latinas represent 22% of all students enrolled in K-12 in California's public schools. Preparing Latinas to be competitive college applicants and students depends upon their success within the California public school system.

**HOPE's 2003 California Policy Initiative** outlined the following short term priorities for K-12 education:

- Earmark and maintain categorical programs that support student success in schools
- Ensure that all students are enrolled in rigorous academic course work meeting the A-G requirements
- Protect funding and program elimination for schools with low API scores

Long term priorities include:

- Mandate comprehensive, age appropriate sex education
- All high schools offer AP courses so that all students compete equally for college entrance
- Expand before and after school programs, including extracurricular and academic based programs

## Community College

Latinas attend the California Community College (CCC) at the highest rates of all public institutions of higher education. If Latinas and the State are to continue to advance, it is imperative that the CCC be accessible, affordable, offer coursework that will allow Latinas to transfer in a timely manner to four year universities, and provide a combination of basic skills training and industry-specific training based on region. Data consistently shows that a Latina's ability to complete 2 years of higher education can double her annual earnings<sup>5</sup>.

**HOPE's 2003 California Policy Initiative** outlined the following short-term priorities for the California Community Colleges:

- Increase Latina transfer rates by maintaining funding for outreach, matriculation, recruitment, and retention programs at the community college level
- No tuition increase for community college students
- Maintain CSU and UC outreach, matriculation, and retention funding

HOPE will continue this work in 2004 with an emphasis on ensuring that the current population the CCC serves is not displaced by CSU/UC students who may receive dual admission.

**Rosa Perez, President of Cañada Community College, on the prospect of "Dual Admission":**

*"Without additional resources for both teachers and facilities to serve these additional students, we are going to have to displace current students from our colleges. Additionally, I am afraid many of the students that are displaced are those that utilize the community college system for basic skills education."*

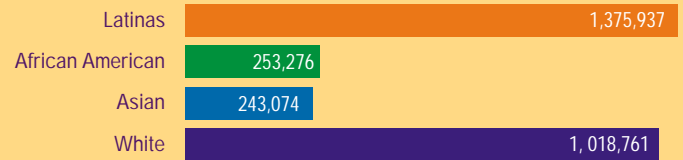
## Latina >> EDUCATIONAL PIPELINE >> Today

### 2002 - Latina Enrollment

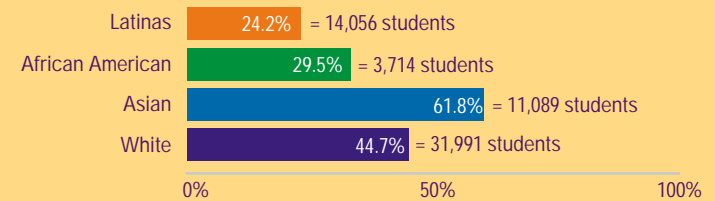
Undergrads - UC	(7% of total UC Enrollment)	13,501
Undergrads - CSU	(13% of total CSU Enrollment)	50,822
Community College	(15% of total CCC Enrollment)	265,363
K-12	(22% of total K-12 Enrollment)	1,375,937

## How do Latinas Compare:

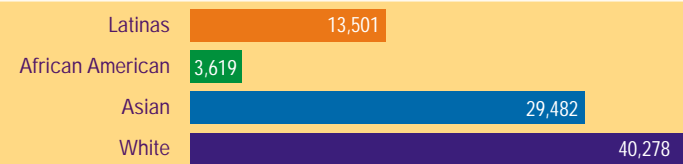
### CA K-12 Public School Enrollment (Female)<sup>6</sup>



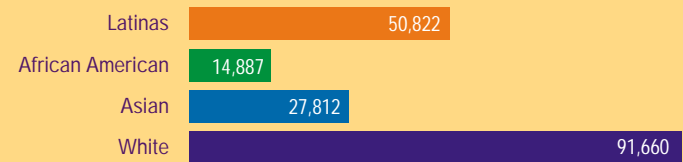
### CA 12th Grade Female Graduates Completing all Courses Required for UC and/or CSU Entrance<sup>7</sup>



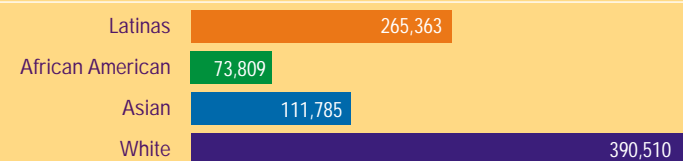
### UC Female Enrollment<sup>8</sup>



### CSU Female Enrollment<sup>9</sup>



### Community College Female Enrollment<sup>10</sup>



<sup>6</sup> CA Department of Education, Enrollment by Gender, Grade and Ethnic Designation, 2002-2003

<sup>7</sup> 12th Grade Graduates Completing all Courses Required for U.C. and/or C.S.U. Entrance, California

<sup>8</sup> Total Enrollment by Institution by Gender by Ethnicity, CA Post Secondary Education Commission, 2002

<sup>9-10</sup> Ibid

<sup>5</sup> Current Population Survey, March 2002. PINC-04. Educational Attainment--People 18 Years Old and Over, by Total Money Earnings in 2001, Age, Race, Hispanic Origin, and Sex



## HEALTH

### Access to Healthcare

1.2 million or 33% of Latinas in California are uninsured yet, Latinas participate in the workforce at high rates. As Latinas continue to work for small businesses, work part-time, or work in industry sectors that often do not provide health care benefits, it is imperative that Latinas continue to have access to quality and affordable health care.

*HOPE's 2003 California policy initiative* outlined the following short-term priorities:

- Maintain Healthy Families Program outreach funding
- Maintain Medi-Cal eligibility redetermination annually
- Maintain medically needed Medi-Cal optional benefits
- Maintain Medi-Cal provider rates
- Maintain teen pregnancy prevention programs

HOPE's long-term priority in this area was to expand the Healthy Families Program to parents and adults that qualify. HOPE will continue to be advocates for expansion of the Healthy Families Program despite the likelihood that the Healthy Families Program will be capped.

*"With a sluggish economy, more working families will be struggling in low paying jobs without increasing premiums for health benefits for their children. Children without consistent access to health coverage endure preventive illnesses, use costly emergency room care, and struggle more in school."*

– Karina Moreno, Children's Defense Fund & 100% Campaign. HOPE 2003 PUBLIC HEARING TESTIFIER

*"We learned long ago that not having health insurance could potentially throw our business into a tailspin. When El Clasificado had only 10 employees, our top salesperson got very sick. He didn't have health insurance and couldn't get the operation he needed. He was unable to work for a long period of time and consequently our sales declined. Health insurance for employees is important to any size business."*

– Martha De La Torre, Owner El Clasificado.  
HLI GRADUATE, CLASS OF 2003

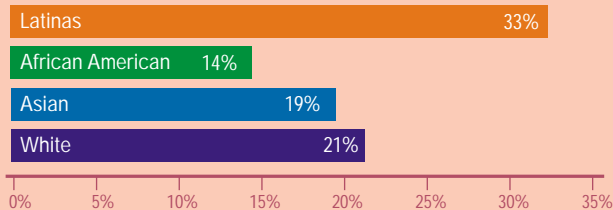
### Insured Latina:

- 1.2 million or 33% of Latinas in California are uninsured<sup>10</sup>
- 33% of Latinas under 17 are uninsured<sup>11</sup>
- 42% of Latinas are privately insured<sup>12</sup>
- 25% of Latinas are on Medi-Cal<sup>13</sup>
- 685,722 children are enrolled in the Healthy Families Program of which, Latino children comprise 400,876 (66%).<sup>14</sup>

### How Do Latinas Compare:

#### The Uninsured<sup>15</sup>

Women who are uninsured



#### MediCal<sup>16</sup>

- 1 of every 5 Latinas relies on MediCal
- 1 of every 10 White Women relies on MediCal
- 1 of every 3 African American Women relies on MediCal



<sup>10</sup> CA Health Interview Survey, 2001

<sup>11</sup> UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. US Census Current Policy Survey, March 93-95.

<sup>12</sup> Latina Health Policy Project, Latino Coalition for a Healthy California, November 1999

<sup>13</sup> Ibid

<sup>14</sup> Healthy Families Program Subscribers Enrolled by Ethnicity. November 2003. [www.mrmib.ca.gov](http://www.mrmib.ca.gov)

<sup>15</sup> UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. US Census Current Policy Survey, March 93-95.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid

# POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

In just thirteen years, we have seen dramatic growth in the participation of Latinas in the State's Legislature. In 1990, there was one Latina in the State Legislature and in 2003, there were 12. Representing Californians in the U.S. Congress are 5 Latinas, up from 0 in 1990. Latina voters are 1.2 million strong and, given the Latina Median age, the unregistered voter potential projected for 2004 is 1.7 million.<sup>18</sup>

HOPE strives to ensure Latinas have a voice at all levels of our representative democracy. The *HOPE Leadership Institute* cultivates Latina leaders from throughout the state and poises them to take the next step in their civic activism.

## HLI Statewide Appointments

Now in it's 5th year, the *HOPE Leadership Institute* has graduated 181 Latinas and the 2004 class has accepted 33 talented and diverse leaders from throughout California.

The following HLI graduates ran and won elected office in 2003:

Leticia Vasquez  
*City Councilwoman, Lynwood*

Blanca Figueroa  
*Mayor, South El Monte*

The following HLI graduates were appointed to elected office in 2003:

Lali Moheno  
*Supervisor, Tulare County*

Frances Ortiz,  
*Napa Unified School District*

The following HLI graduates and/or Boardmembers have been appointed to critical statewide positions, representing Latina across California.

Angela Acosta  
*Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians*

Isabella I. Casillas  
*State Board of Nursing*

Claire Cifuentes  
*Domestic Violence Advisory Council*

Carrie Lopez  
*Workforce Investment Board*

Alva Moreno  
*Campus Sexual Assault Taskforce*

Helen I. Torres  
*Commission on Improving Life Through Service*



*"Our time is now! We have an incredible opportunity to use our talents and energy to create change and the way that program dollars are spent to lay a foundation that gives our kids real opportunities. We have an opportunity to elect leaders that are representative of our community and if we don't take charge of that, then shame on us."*  
– Assemblymember Bonnie Garcia

## Latina Elected Officials in California is 288\*

### SNAPSHOT

ELECTED OFFICE	#	% OF TOTAL LATINAS ELECTED
Congress Members	5	1.7%
CA State Senators	6	2.0%
CA State Assemblymembers	6	2.0%
County Supervisors	3	1.0%
Other County Elected Officials	4	1.3%
City Mayors	24	8.3%
City Council Members	50	17.0%
CA School Board Members	142	49.0%
Other City Elected Officials	18	6.3%
Community College District	17	6.0%
Special Districts	11	3.8%
Superior Court Judges	2	.7%

\*NALEO Database as of January 2003. Solely based on NALEO Membership

## How do Latinas Compare:

### CA State Assembly

Total Women in State Assembly	25
Total Latinas in State Assembly	6

### CA State Senate

Total Women in State Senate	11
Total Latinas in State Senate	6

<sup>18</sup> The Almanac of Latino Politics 2002-2004, United Hispanic Leadership Institute



# REGIONAL OVERVIEW

## HOPE LATINA LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLES

### INLAND EMPIRE LATINA SNAPSHOT > Latina Leadership Roundtable, August 2, 2003. Partnering organization: Latina Women's Forum

The Inland Empire has one of the fastest growing regions in all of California. A growing Latino population contributes significantly to that growth. Cultivating the next generation of leaders in the Inland Empire was a key finding of the Latina leaders in this region. From ensuring quality education for Latina youth to developing a regional strategic plan for increasing civic and voter participation, Latina leaders in the Inland Empire are poised to ensure civic participation reflects their growing population.

*"The Latina Leadership Roundtable, sponsored by HOPE and held for Latina leaders in the Inland Empire, provided a unique opportunity for Latinas to come together to focus on issues impacting Latinos in general and Latinas in particular. As the fastest growing area in California, Latinas must be visible and at the forefront. As Latinas, it is imperative that we get involved and demonstrate our leadership skills to fully participate in the decision making process."*

– Ofelia Valdez-Yeager, Latina Women's Forum

2000 RIVERSIDE COUNTY POPULATION <sup>20</sup>	1.7 MILLION
Latina Population Riverside <sup>22</sup>	18% or 272,423
Latina Political Representation Riverside <sup>24</sup>	3%
Latina Age Distribution Riverside <sup>26</sup>	40% under 18 55% 18-64 5% 65+

2000 SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY POPULATION	1.8 MILLION
Latina Population San Bernardino <sup>21</sup>	19% or 330,256
Latina Political Representation San Bernardino <sup>23</sup>	5%
Latina Age Distribution San Bernardino <sup>25</sup>	40% under 18 56% 18-64 5% 65+

### SAN DIEGO LATINA SNAPSHOT > Latina Leadership Roundtable, August 15, 2003. Partnering organization: MANA San Diego

San Diego Latina leaders are ready to take their next step in terms of political activism. Leaders identified the need to create a "How To" manual for Latinas interested in running for office or serving on local boards and commissions. Because of the highly specialized industries found in the San Diego region, Latina leaders stressed the importance of quality K-12 education for Latinas as well as workforce development via the community college system.

2000 SAN DIEGO COUNTY POPULATION <sup>27</sup>	2,813,833
Latina Population <sup>28</sup>	12.5% or 352,953
Latina Age Distribution <sup>29</sup>	39% under 18 56% 18-64 5% 65+
Latina Political Representation <sup>30</sup>	6.6%

### FRESNO LATINA SNAPSHOT > Latina Leadership Roundtable, October 10, 2003. Partnering organization: Latino Issues Forum

Educating Latina youth in Fresno was viewed by Latina leaders of the region to be the most critical factor in empowering Latinas. A close second was the ability to provide support to Latina-owned-businesses. Latinas in the Fresno region were looking to each other to create the first "Fresno Latina" organization. Once organized, they hope the organization can begin to strategize on ways to decrease disparities and capitalize on unique opportunities.

*"With the Central Valley's grandiose geographic territory growing in population it is more important than ever for Latinas to become civically involved and take on the responsibility of pushing themselves to rise to the occasion of representation. It's impressive that a statewide organization would take the time to do a roundtable and afford Central Valley Latinas the opportunity to come together and impress the need to organize a local Latina network as a vehicle to get to the next level. The roundtable allowed many to reflect about stepping up to the plate."*

– Claudia Soria-Delgado, Latino Issues Forum

2000 FRESNO COUNTY POPULATION <sup>31</sup>	799,407
Latina Population in Fresno <sup>32</sup>	21% or 170,086
Latina Age Distribution <sup>33</sup>	41% under 18 54% 18-64 5% 65+
Latina Political Representation <sup>34</sup>	6.4%

<sup>20</sup> California Counts, Public Policy Institute of CA  
<sup>21-22</sup> Ibid

<sup>23</sup> NALEO Database, January 2003  
<sup>24</sup> Ibid  
<sup>25</sup> US Census 2000, SF3

<sup>26</sup> Ibid  
<sup>27</sup> California Counts, Public Policy Institute of CA

<sup>28</sup> CA Counts, Public Policy Institute of CA  
<sup>29</sup> US Census 2000, SF3  
<sup>30</sup> NALEO Database, January 2003



San Jose

Fresno

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Riverside  
San Bernardino

San Diego

In 2003, HOPE launched the "HOPE Latina Leadership Roundtables" in an effort to foster Latina Leadership throughout the State. HOPE selected 5 key regions to have roundtable discussions and focused on cultivating Latina political power and forging new strategic partnerships.

**SAN JOSE (SANTA CLARA COUNTY) LATINA SNAPSHOT** > Latina Leadership Roundtable, October 17, 2003.  
Partnering organization: Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley

Latinas in the San Jose region are feeling the effects of a downturn in the high-tech industry. With a higher than usual unemployment rate, the region is placing increasing importance on skills diversification. Consequently, Latina leaders in the San Jose region pressed upon the need for accessibility to institutions of higher education for job re-training. As advocates, San Jose Latina leaders made a call for better regional and statewide communication between Latina organizations in California.

2000 SANTA CLARA COUNTY POPULATION <sup>35</sup>	1,682,585
Latina Population <sup>36</sup>	12% or 193,844
Latina Age Distribution <sup>37</sup>	36% under 18 59% 18-64 5% 65+
Latina Political Representation <sup>38</sup>	7%

**LOS ANGELES LATINA SNAPSHOT** > Latina Leadership Roundtable: November 14, 2003

The Los Angeles region has been the home to many Latina firsts in the State, especially in the area of political representation. With a history of political activism in mind, Latina leaders in the Los Angeles region stressed the importance of maintaining a "pipeline" of Latinas in elected and appointed office. Maintaining this "pipeline" was identified as the primary way to ensure quality K-12 education and a healthy business climate for Latina-owned businesses in Los Angeles.

2000 LOS ANGELES COUNTY POPULATION <sup>39</sup>	9,519,338
Latina Population in Los Angeles <sup>40</sup>	22% or 2,109,525
Latina Age Distribution <sup>41</sup>	37% under 18 58% 18-64 5% 65+
Latina Political Representation <sup>42</sup>	10%

*"The need for Latinas to hold leadership positions is obvious...we have the numbers, we know the challenges, and we have the commitment to our communities. Translating this potential is not obvious or automatic. Preparing Latinas for the mantle of leadership takes a serious investment of time, energy, and dollars. We must make a smart investment in the leadership development of our most promising leaders."*  
– Carrie Lopez, Executive Director, CORO Southern California

<sup>31</sup>CA Counts, Public Policy Institute of CA  
<sup>32</sup>Ibid  
<sup>33</sup>US Census 2000, SF3

<sup>34</sup>NALEO Database, January 2003  
<sup>35-36</sup>California Counts, Public Policy Institute of CA

<sup>37</sup>US Census 2000, SF3  
<sup>38</sup>NALEO Database, January 2003  
<sup>39</sup>US Census Data

<sup>40</sup>Ibid  
<sup>41</sup>US Census 2000 SF3  
<sup>42</sup>NALEO Database, January 2003

# HOPE'S TEEN PREGNANCY INITIATIVE

High teen birth rates not only pose a burden to the health care system but also limit opportunities for young women if they do not complete high school. Although teen birth rates have been declining steadily in the last decade, Latina teen births represent 67% of teen births in California. California must continue on the road of providing comprehensive, age appropriate sex education to our youth if we hope to see a steady decline in Latina teen birth rates.

Through a grant from The California Wellness Foundation, HOPE has been able to mobilize the 2002 and 2003 *HOPE Leadership Institute* classes into bringing awareness around the issue of teen pregnancy to a variety of audiences. From compiling research to make compelling cases for HOPE's state and national policy initiatives, to working with local elected school board members on creating sound comprehensive age appropriate sex education curriculum, HOPE has been at the forefront of teen pregnancy prevention advocacy.

*HOPE's 2003 California Policy Initiative* outlined the following priorities around teen pregnancy prevention:

- Maintain teen pregnancy prevention programs
- Mandate comprehensive, age appropriate sex education (K-12)

*HOPE's 2003 National Policy Initiative* outlined the following priorities around teen pregnancy prevention:

- Support comprehensive, age appropriate sex education policies and programs that are inclusive of abstinence education
- Support comprehensive programs that include and engage parents, individuals, schools, community based organizations, businesses, the media, faith based organizations, and health care providers in the prevention of teen pregnancy
- Incorporate research-based, data-driven programs and policies to assure that resources are applied most effectively

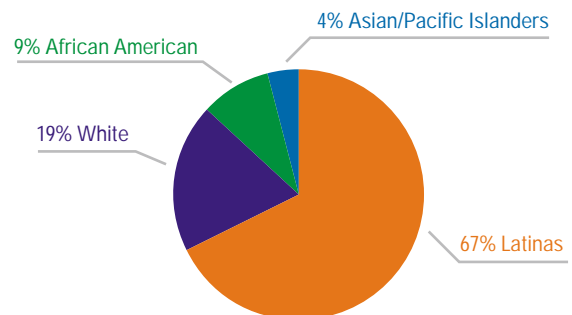
As a result of HOPE's advocacy on the issue of teen pregnancy during the *Latina Action Day, Washington DC* conference, Senator Barbara Boxer introduced on November 25, 2003, the "HOPE Youth Pregnancy Prevention Act," a bill to provide assistance to States and nongovernmental entities to initiate public awareness and outreach campaigns to reduce teenage pregnancies.

*"The HOPE meeting with her {Senator Boxer} had clearly left a strong and positive impression. She referenced the meeting in her remarks, mentioned what an important group of women were in the organization, stated that HOPE had made teen pregnancy prevention a very high priority, and repeated a number of the compelling statistics about the issue for Latinas. She was quite passionate and I'm sure this was in no small measure because of your meeting with her. Again, I think you and all the members of the task force have a lot to be proud of."*

– Andrea Kane, Director of Public Policy, National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy  
2003 Latina Action Day, Washington, DC Panel Expert



## How do Latinas Compare: Teen Births in California



Source: CA Center for Health Statistics



*A SPECIAL THANKS to our teen pregnancy prevention grantor, their contributions over 2002-2003 has advanced HOPE's policy agenda.*

# THE STATE OF LATINAS NATIONALLY



In 2003, HOPE converged on our Nation's Capitol for the *6th Annual Latina Action Day, Washington, DC*. The focus of the conference was to more clearly define and strengthen the Latina Agenda. HOPE inaugurated its *National Policy Initiative* in 2003 which highlighted proposed legislation in both the House and Senate and created a forum in which participants of *Latina Action Day* made determinations as to whether or not a given policy could be deemed, "Latina Smart."

## POLICIES ANALYZED INCLUDED:

- American Dream Down Payment Initiative
- Homeownership Tax Credits (2 Senate Bills, 1 House Bill)
- No Child Left Behind Act
- The DREAM Act
- The Student Adjustment Act
- Small Business Health Fairness Act

## PROFILE OF THE U.S. LATINA

### US Population<sup>43</sup>

2002	Total US population:	291.2 million
2002	Total Latino/a population:	38.8 million or 13.5% of the total population

2002	Total female population:	146.7 million
2002	Total Latina population: <sup>44</sup>	18.3 million

### Age<sup>45</sup>

2002	US Female Median Age:	36.7
2002	Latina Median Age:	26.9

### Median Earnings<sup>46</sup>

2001	US Female Median Earnings year round, F/T Work:	\$28,720
2001	Latina Median Earnings year round, F/T Work:	\$21,607

### Education<sup>47</sup>

> Percent of High school graduate or higher age 15 years and over:

2002	US Female	79.4%
2002	Latina	55.1%
2002	US Female with Bachelor's degree or higher:	21.9%
2002	Latinas with a Bachelor's degree or higher:	8.9%

### Healthcare<sup>48</sup>

2001	Total female population without health care insurance:	13.5%
2001	Latinas without health care insurance:	30.5%

### Teen Birth Rates<sup>49</sup>

> Birth rates for women aged 15-19 years per 1,000 women

2001	US Teen Births:	45.3
2001	Latina Teen Births:	86.4

### Small Business<sup>50</sup>

2002	US Female Owned Businesses:	6.2 million
2002	US Latina-owned Businesses:	5 million (470,344)

### Voter Registration<sup>51</sup>

2000	Females Registered to Vote:	101.4 million or 70.9% of total female population
2000	Females Voted:	60.7%
2000	Latinas Registered to vote:	7.1 million or 18% of total Latina population
2000	Latinas voted:	46%

<sup>43</sup> US Census Bureau 2000

<sup>44</sup> Latina population is estimated at 53% of the total Latino population

<sup>45</sup> US Census Bureau 2000

<sup>46-49</sup> Ibid

<sup>50</sup> Center for Women's Business Research

<sup>51</sup> US Census Bureau 2000



# JOIN HOPE

- ▶ The HOPE Associates are one way for you to join the growing HOPE family. By becoming a HOPE Associate, you can support HOPE's year-round programming and help expand a statewide network of Latina leaders.
- ▶ If you are an organization interested in supporting HOPE, you can become an Affiliate organization. Affiliate organizations support HOPE programming by recruiting individuals from their membership base to partake in HOPE's conferences.

## ▶ \$250 – GUARDIAN OF HOPE

Acknowledged in HOPE's key publications & website  
10% discount on HOPE conferences Symposium, Latina Action Day Sacramento and Washington D.C.  
HOPE T-shirt (indicate size preference S or M), Women of HOPE book, a HOPE pin, and a set of "HOPE Rising" postcards.

## ▶ \$100 – PATRON OF HOPE

Acknowledged in HOPE's key publications & website  
5% discount on HOPE conferences Symposium, Latina Action Day Sacramento and Washington D.C.  
HOPE Pin, and a set of "HOPE Rising" postcards.

## ▶ \$50 – ADVOCATE OF HOPE

Acknowledged in HOPE's key publications & website  
HOPE pin, and a set of "HOPE Rising" postcards.

## ▶ \$25 – LEGACY OF HOPE

For seniors 60+ years of age  
Acknowledged in HOPE's key publications & website

## ▶ \$20 – HOPE FOR TOMORROW

For high school or college students  
Acknowledged in HOPE's key publications & website  
HOPE pin, and a set of "HOPE Rising" postcards.

## ▶ AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

Affiliate Organizations are required to pay an affiliate fee or recruit a set number of individual members to pay the registration fee for a given conference. The organization's affiliate status will be recognized during the conference and in the printed program.

For more information, call HOPE at 213-622-0606 or visit our website at [www.latinas.org](http://www.latinas.org)

## 2003 AFFILIATES AND PARTNERS

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