

Venezuela

Ethnicity in Venezuela

Group selection

According to the 2011 census, 2,7 per cent of Venezuelans belong to indigenous groups. It was the first census that included questions regarding the self identification as Afro-Venezuelans ("Afrodescendiente") which 0,7 per cent answered positively. There was also the possibility to chose "black" ("negro") as a response which 2,9 per cent of the population did (³⁶²⁴). Nevertheless, these findings stand in stark contrast to estimations pronounced by the Interamerican Development Bank and several Non Governmental Organizations that assess that 10 to 15 per cent of Venezuela's population are of African descent (³⁶²⁵, p. 225).

³⁶²⁴ [Instituto Nacional des Estadística, 2012]

³⁶²⁵ [García, 2007]

Power relations

During the "military decade" (1948-1958) (³⁶²⁶, p. 205) and the first decades of bipartisan democracy neither indigenous (³⁶²⁷, p. 156) nor Afro-Venezuelan people had any relevant influence on the political sphere (³⁶²⁸, 224). For indigenous people this situation began to change gradually since 1973, when the first regional indigenous organisation was created: the Federación de Indígenas del Estado de Bolívar (Indigenous Federation of the Bolívar State - FIB). It was the FIB that, in 1989, played a prominent role in the foundation of Venezuela's first national indigenous federation – the Consejo Nacional Indio de Venezuela (National Indian Council of Venezuela – CONIVE) (³⁶²⁹, p. 52). Until then Venezuelan indígenas did not have any platform to " (...) present themselves as a concrete and valid interlocutor in national politics (...)" (³⁶³⁰ p. 53). Political support for the indigenous' cause was gained when Hugo Chávez became president in 1998 and initiated a constitutional reform process. The new constitution, adopted in 1999, guaranteed several distinctive rights to indigenous people, among others a quota for local, regional and national parliaments (³⁶³¹, p. 155). In the regional elections of the year 2000, an indigenous representative was elected as governor of the Amazon state "Amazonas". Since then, he was re-elected twice (in 2006 and 2012) (³⁶³²).

³⁶²⁶ [Rodríguez Caripe, 2013]

³⁶²⁷ [Angosto, 2012]

³⁶²⁸ [García, 2007]

³⁶²⁹ [Van Cott, 2003]

³⁶³⁰ [Van Cott, 2003]

On the contrary, Afro-Venezuelans are still not officially recognized as a minority group (³⁶³³, para. 12). In 2000, the "Red de Organizaciones Afrovenezolanas" (an umbrella organization that unites 23 regional Afro-Venezuelan organizations under its roof) was cre-

³⁶³³ [UN Committee, 2013]

ated, thereby allowing Afro descendants to articulate their demands more effectively (³⁶³⁴, p. 230).

³⁶³⁴ [García, 2007]

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Political status of ethnic groups in Venezuela

From 1946 until 1972

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Whites/mestizos	0.848	IRRELEVANT
Afrovenezuelans	0.125	IRRELEVANT
Indigenous peoples	0.027	IRRELEVANT

From 1973 until 1999

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Whites/mestizos	0.848	MONOPOLY
Afrovenezuelans	0.125	IRRELEVANT
Indigenous peoples	0.027	POWERLESS

From 2000 until 2013

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Whites/mestizos	0.848	DOMINANT
Afrovenezuelans	0.125	POWERLESS
Indigenous peoples	0.027	POWERLESS



Figure 817: Political status of ethnic groups in Venezuela during 1946-1972.



Figure 818: Political status of ethnic groups in Venezuela during 1973-1999.



Figure 819: Political status of ethnic groups in Venezuela during 2000-2013.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Venezuela

From 1946 until 1969



Figure 820: Map of ethnic groups in Venezuela during 2000-2013.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
Whites/mestizos	476 358	Statewide

Table 241: List of ethnic groups in Venezuela during 1946-1969.

From 1970 until 1999



Figure 821: Map of ethnic groups in Venezuela during 2000-2013.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
Whites/mestizos	476 358	Statewide
Indigenous peoples	449 499	Regionally based

Table 242: List of ethnic groups in Venezuela during 1970-1999.

From 2000 until 2013

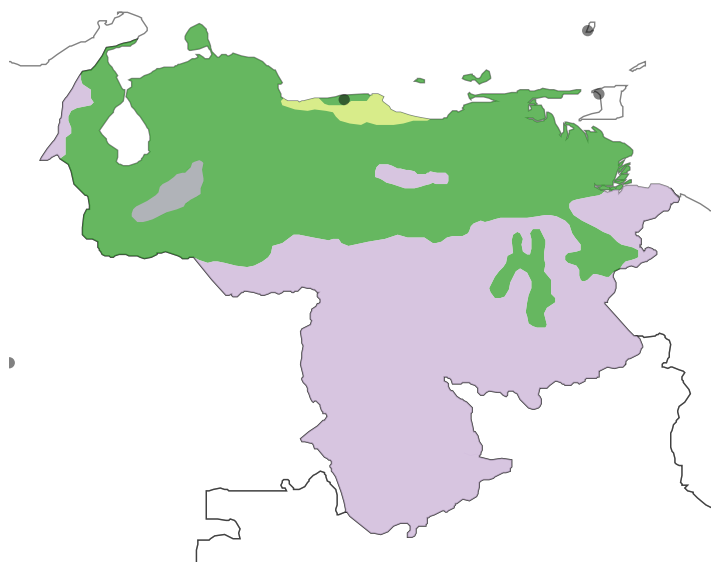


Figure 822: Map of ethnic groups in Venezuela during 2000-2013.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
Whites/mestizos	476 358	Statewide
Indigenous peoples	449 499	Regionally based
Afrovenezuelans	11 483	Regionally based

Table 243: List of ethnic groups in Venezuela during 2000-2013.

Conflicts in Venezuela

Starting on 1962-06-03

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Venezuela	Military faction (navy)		1962-06-03			
Government of Venezuela	Bandera Roja		1981-11-30			
Government of Venezuela	Military faction (forces of Hugo Chávez)		1992-02-04			