

About this Report

This report is Part I of the “*Making the Case for Change*” series—a Latino data project launched by the Illinois Latino Family Commission (ILFC) in 2013. The project is an effort to undertake a comprehensive examination of Latinos in Illinois that can provide critical information to improve policy, planning and programming to a broad audience of actors. The project has three goals: 1) to compile and elevate available data to construct a more detailed profile of Latinos in the State; 2) to make the data widely accessible to lawmakers, policy decision makers, state agency directors, community leaders and providers; and 3) to facilitate a data informed Latino action agenda.

The ILFC commissioned the Nathalie P. Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and Community Improvement—a research and technical assistance unit in the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois at Chicago—to compile this in-depth socioeconomic and demographic profile of the Latino community in the State. The report series analyzes data collected from various public sources, such as the 2010 Decennial Census and the 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, as well as other publicly available reports from reliable research institutions.

Part I in the Making the Case for Change series provides demographic, social and economic data on the Latino population in the State of Illinois, and then compares the information with: 1) the Latino population in other states and Puerto Rico; 2) other racial/ethnic groups within the state; and also, 3) among Latino origin groups. Part II, “Legislative District Snapshots,” presents Latino demographic and socioeconomic data by legislative district. These legislative district profiles demonstrate the geographic dispersion and significant growth of Latinos across the State. Additional reports in the series will provide data and policy recommendations for Latinos in key priority areas including economic footprint, health and human services, education, language access, veterans, seniors, disability services, and many others. While more data and research is needed to understand the complexity of the Latino community, we are confident the *Making the Case* series makes valuable data accessible to decision makers, administrators, advocates and leaders. We urge you to utilize the reports as a tool in your public education, resource development and system reform efforts to engage others in *making the case for change*.



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Acknowledgements

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Introduction

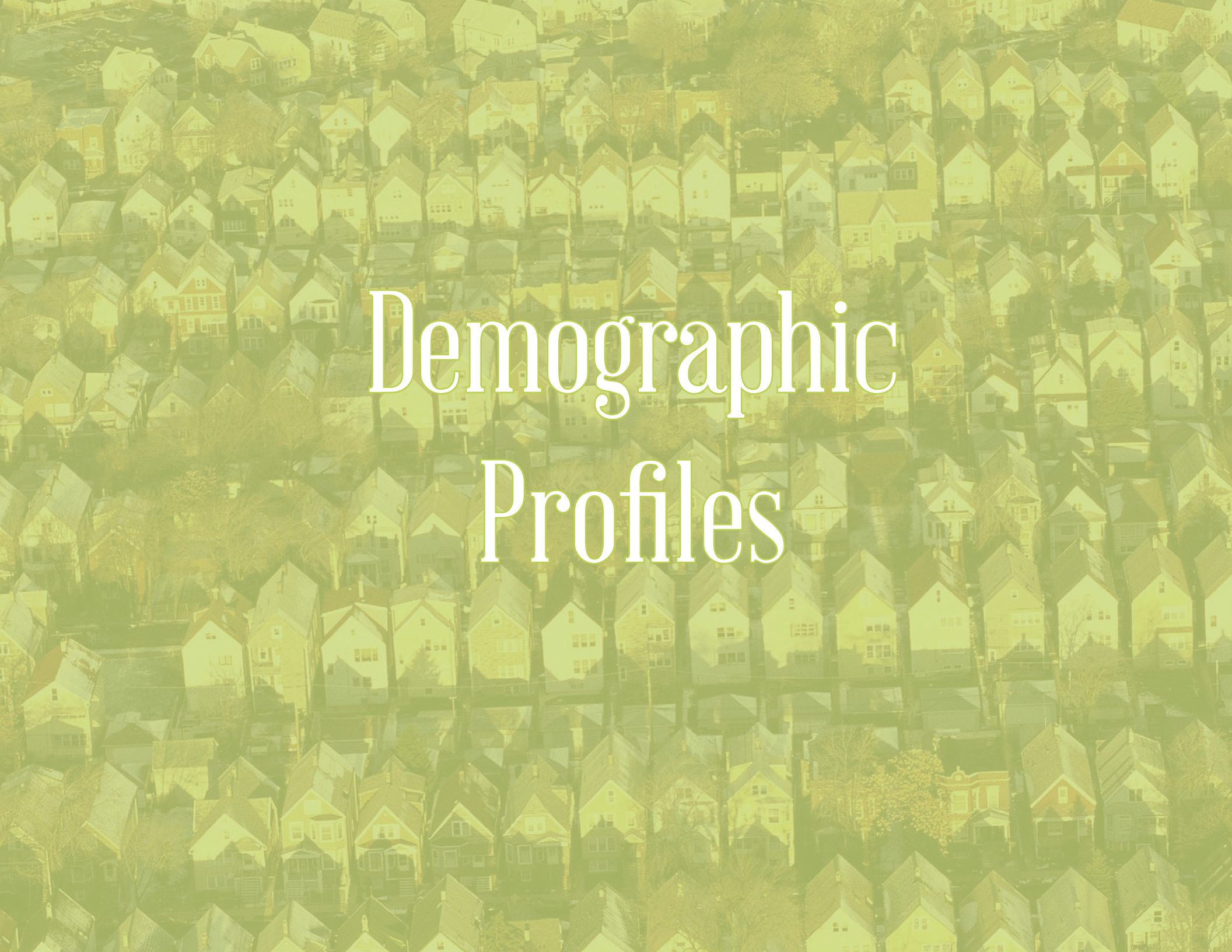
Over 2,000,000 Latinos call Illinois home, representing a significant and growing segment of the state's population. In just 10 years, according to the 2010 U.S. Census, the Latino population grew by 33% or about half a million new residents. This increase is responsible for most of the growth in Illinois, and without it, the State would have lost an additional congressional seat. This dramatic growth, however, is only part of the story; to fully comprehend the significance of the Latino community we have to understand where we are as a community, how we impact the state as a whole and what it is going to take to realize a more robust and brighter future for all Latinos. In this "Making the Case for Change" series, we have compiled baseline information on Latinos in an effort to equip advocates and decision makers with data that can inform a definitive action agenda for Latino advancement.

The Illinois Latino Family Commission (ILFC) was established by statute in 2007 to advise the Governor and the General Assembly on improving the inclusion, opportunity, and equity for Latinos. The "Making the Case for Change" data project provides an opportunity to critically examine information on the status of Latinos in the State to create a more solid data informed foundation for this work. The first report, Part I: Latino Demographic Profile, presents current and trend information illustrating how we compare with other states with large Latino populations, how Latinos compare with other groups in the state and how Latino origin groups compare with each other.

The data included in the report frames a very complex narrative of the Latino community. Latinos have long established roots in Illinois, which ranks fifth in Latino population in the nation, but their presence is growing in new areas throughout the state. Latinos are young, with about 200,000 turning 18 every five years, but there is a growing segment of Latino seniors with high levels of poverty and little access to services. The Latino community is entrepreneurial and Latino business growth has outpaced others almost 3 to 1. Latino consumers are loyal and shop locally, contributing over 50 billion in purchasing power to the State. Latinos have home ownership rates above 55% and relatively high home resale values, but they have also been one of the groups hardest hit during the real estate crisis, losing millions in assets in recent years.

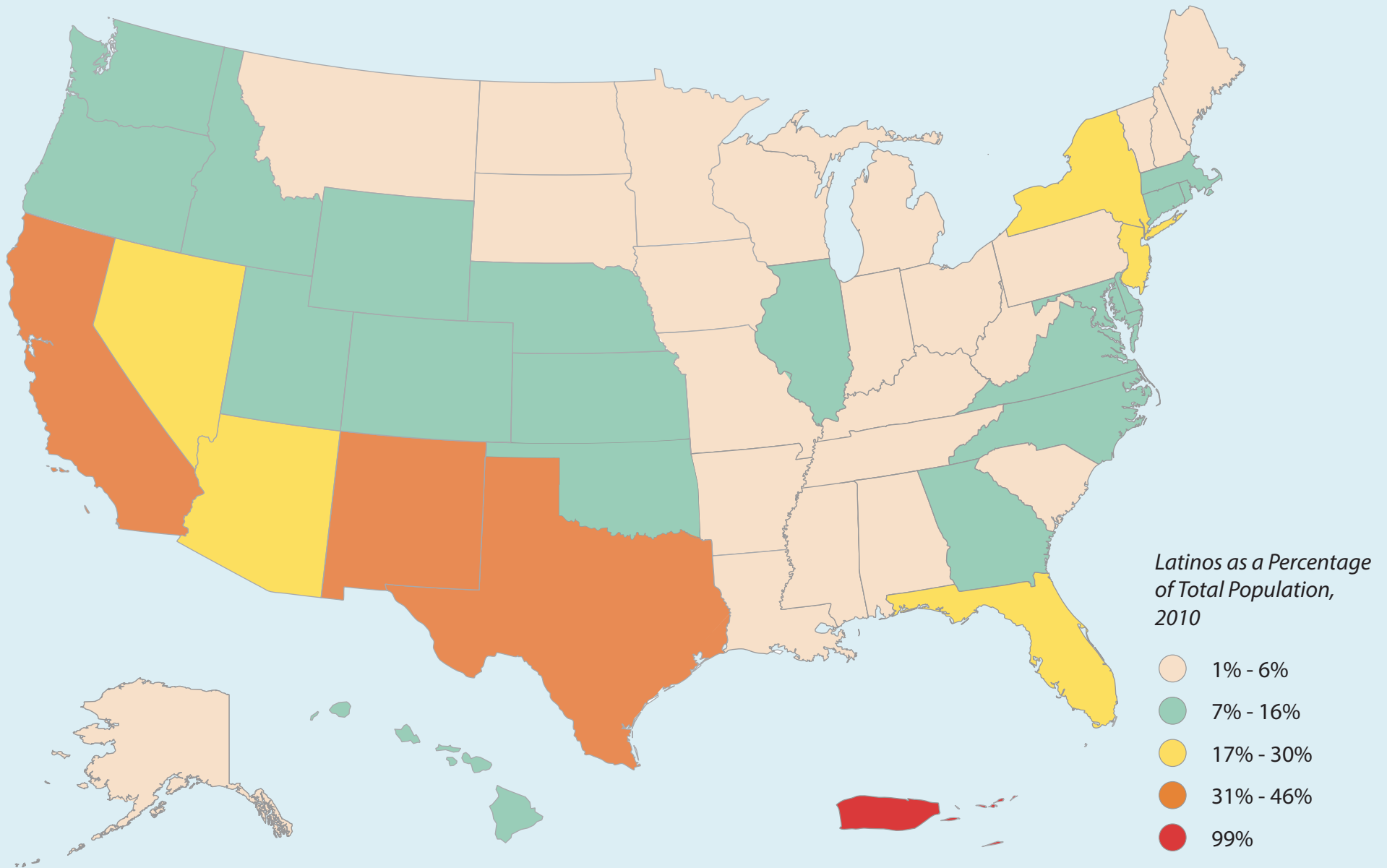
Despite the common characterization of Latinos as an immigrant group, the majority of Latinos in the state are U.S. born and the increase in population is attributable to births and fertility among Latinas. Compared to others in the state, Latinos share much with other immigrant groups in terms of language and household patterns, but they are more similar to African Americans in educational attainment, entrenched poverty and lack of equitable representation. Latinos have the highest participation in the labor force and significantly contribute to the tax base, but they have the lowest participation in public benefits and access to health insurance despite marked disparities. Among Latino origin groups, there are differing educational, immigrant, economic and language patterns, typically obscured by the lack of data available by nationality.

The ILFC is confident that making this data available and accessible will assist lawmakers, advocates, administrators, providers, researchers and business leaders to improve decision making and resource allocation for Latino families in Illinois. In the next 18 months, we will continue to release additional reports with more updated information and recommendations for each specific area. We urge you to explore the data, share the information with other key stakeholders, and join forces to advance an action agenda that increases investments, opportunities and supports for Latinos across the state.

An aerial photograph of a densely packed residential neighborhood, showing numerous houses with varying roof colors and styles, interspersed with trees. The image has a warm, yellowish-green tint. The text "Demographic Profiles" is overlaid in the center in a white, serif font.

Demographic Profiles

LATINOS AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL PEOPLE BY STATE*, 2010



** Puerto Rico, an unincorporated territory of the United States, is included for the sake of comparison with the states.*

Top and Bottom Latino Populations by State*

The U.S. population map to the right (page 2) shows the highest concentration of Latinos in traditional areas where Latinos have immigrated (California, Texas, Florida, etc.) and some dispersal across the U.S. Illinois is the 5th most populous in the U.S. with 2,027,578 Latinos; it ranks 5th in terms of absolute Latino numbers, and 10th in percentage (16%). The fastest-growing states in terms of absolute percentages are in the southeastern part of the country like Alabama, South Carolina, and Tennessee, which historically had smaller Latino populations. States with the lowest absolute numbers of Latinos are also among the least populous states (Vermont, North Dakota, etc.). States with the smallest proportions of Latinos are Ohio, Kentucky, and Montana. In terms of absolute percentages, the states with the most Latinos are experiencing a slower growth. While in 2010 Illinois ranked 43 out of the 50 states in total population growth (3.3%), Latinos accounted for more of the growth as the number of Latinos increased by 33% during the last decade.

| Rank | Top States By Latino Population | Number of Latinos |
|----------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | California | 14,013,719 |
| 2 | Texas | 9,460,921 |
| 3 | Florida | 4,223,806 |
| 4 | New York | 3,416,922 |
| 5 | Illinois | 2,027,578 |
| 6 | Arizona | 1,895,149 |
| 7 | New Jersey | 1,555,144 |
| 8 | Colorado | 1,038,687 |
| 9 | New Mexico | 953,403 |
| 10 | Georgia | 853,689 |
| * | Puerto Rico | 3,688,455 |

| Rank | Top States By Latino Percentage | Percentage of Latinos |
|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | New Mexico | 46% |
| 2 | California | 38% |
| 3 | Texas | 38% |
| 4 | Arizona | 30% |
| 5 | Nevada | 27% |
| 6 | Florida | 22% |
| 7 | Colorado | 21% |
| 8 | New Jersey | 18% |
| 9 | New York | 18% |
| 10 | Illinois | 16% |
| * | Puerto Rico | 99% |

| Rank | Top States By Latino Growth | Percentage of Latinos |
|------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Alabama | 156% |
| 2 | South Carolina | 154% |
| 3 | Tennessee | 143% |
| 4 | Kentucky | 135% |
| 5 | Arkansas | 117% |
| 6 | Mississippi | 116% |
| 7 | North Carolina | 115% |
| 8 | South Dakota | 113% |
| 9 | Maryland | 107% |
| 10 | Georgia | 99% |

| Rank | Bottom States By Latino Population | Number of Latinos |
|------|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 52 | District of Columbia | 54,749 |
| 51 | Wyoming | 50,231 |
| 50 | Alaska | 39,249 |
| 49 | New Hampshire | 36,704 |
| 48 | Montana | 28,565 |
| 47 | West Virginia | 22,268 |
| 46 | South Dakota | 22,119 |
| 45 | Maine | 16,935 |
| 44 | North Dakota | 13,467 |
| 43 | Vermont | 9,208 |

| Rank | Bottom States By Latino Percentage | Percentage of Latinos |
|------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 43 | Ohio | 3% |
| 44 | Kentucky | 3% |
| 45 | Montana | 3% |
| 46 | New Hampshire | 3% |
| 47 | Mississippi | 3% |
| 48 | South Dakota | 3% |
| 49 | North Dakota | 2% |
| 50 | Vermont | 1% |
| 51 | Maine | 1% |
| 52 | West Virginia | 1% |

| Rank | Bottom States By Latino Growth | Percentage of Latinos |
|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 43 | Colorado | 41% |
| 44 | New Jersey | 39% |
| 45 | Hawaii | 38% |
| 46 | Michigan | 35% |
| 47 | Illinois | 33% |
| 48 | California | 28% |
| 49 | New Mexico | 25% |
| 50 | District of Columbia | 22% |
| 51 | New York | 19% |
| * | Puerto Rico | -2% |

* Puerto Rico, an unincorporated territory of the United States, is included for the sake of comparison with the states.

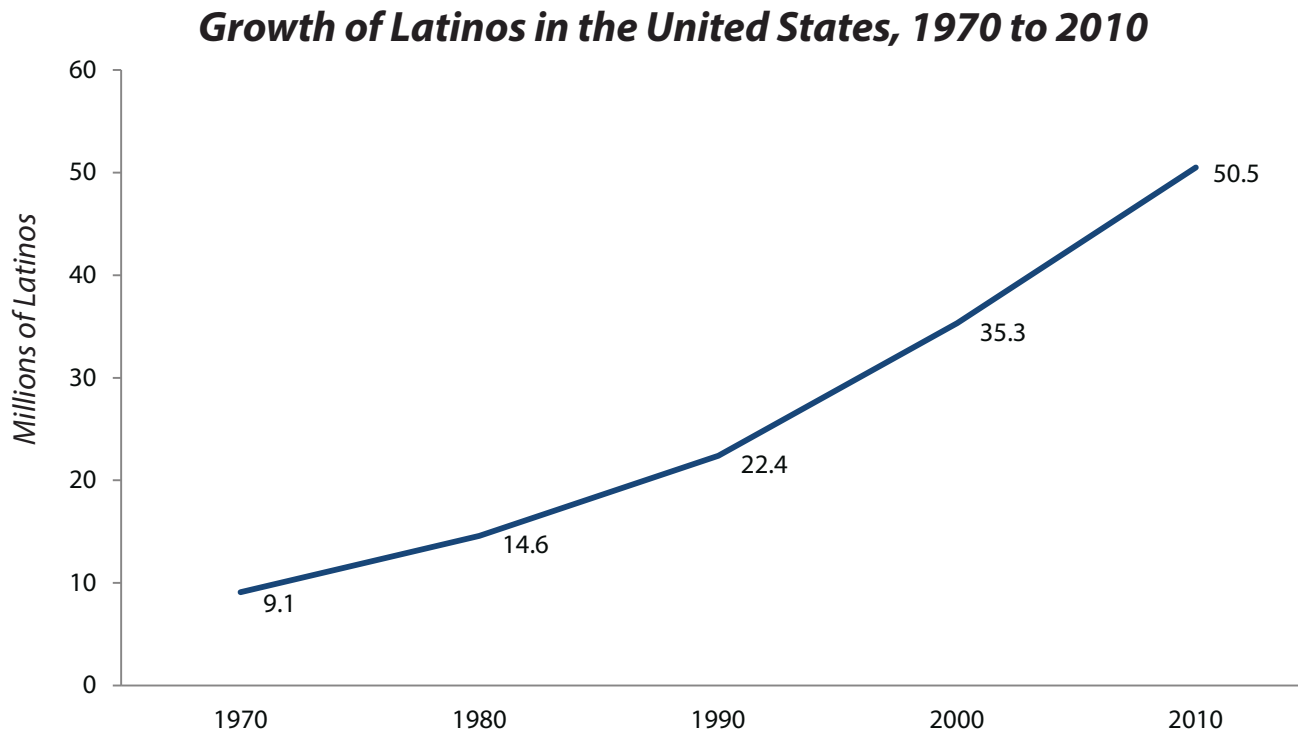
Latino Subgroups in the United States

| Latino Group | Population in the U.S. | Percent of All Latinos in the U.S. |
|--------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Mexican | 31,798,258 | 63.0% |
| Puerto Rican | 4,623,716 | 9.2% |
| Cuban | 1,785,547 | 3.5% |
| Salvadoran | 1,648,968 | 3.3% |
| Dominican | 1,414,703 | 2.8% |
| Guatemalan | 1,044,209 | 2.1% |
| Colombian | 908,734 | 1.8% |
| Spaniard | 635,253 | 1.3% |
| Honduran | 633,401 | 1.3% |
| Ecuadorian | 564,631 | 1.1% |
| Peruvian | 531,358 | 1.1% |
| Nicaraguan | 348,202 | 0.7% |
| Argentine | 224,952 | 0.4% |
| Venezuelan | 215,023 | 0.4% |
| Panamanian | 165,456 | 0.3% |
| Chilean | 126,810 | 0.3% |
| Costa Rican | 126,418 | 0.3% |
| Bolivian | 99,210 | 0.2% |
| Uruguayan | 56,884 | 0.1% |
| Paraguayan | 20,023 | - |
| All other | 3,505,838 | 6.9% |
| Total | 50,477,594 | 100% |

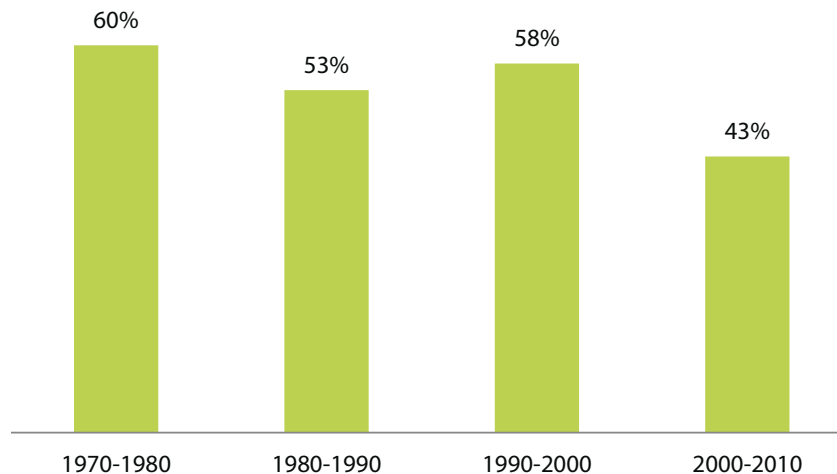
According to the U.S. Census, the “Hispanic or Latino” ethnicity category includes a group of people from different races, who trace the origin of their ancestry to Spanish speaking countries such as Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Spanish-speaking Central and South America, and Spain. The 2010 Census estimated the Latino population to be 50.5 million or 16.3% of the total U.S. population of 308.7 million. Mexican is the largest subgroup with nearly two-thirds or 64% of Latinos in the U.S.



Growth of Latinos in the U.S., 1970 to 2010



Percentage Growth of Latinos in the United States by Ten Year Increments, 1970 to 2010



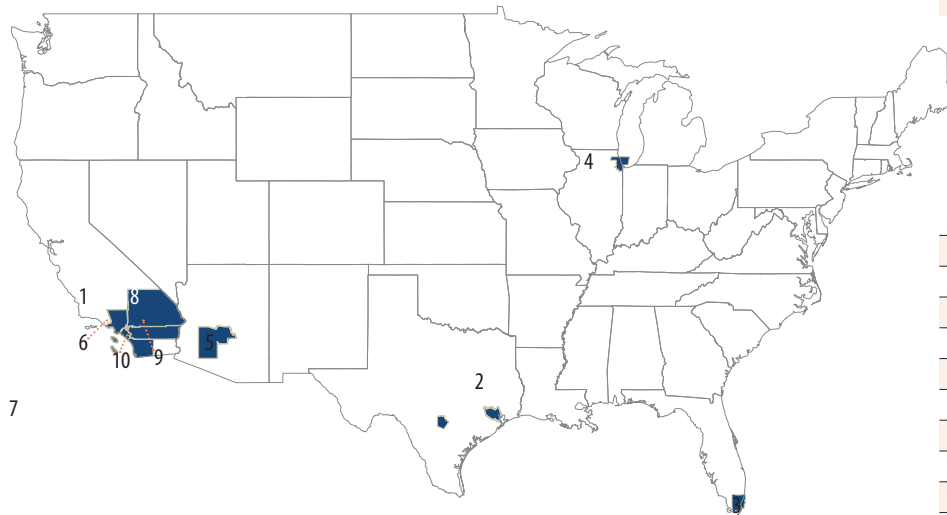
Between 1970 and 2010, the Latino population grew from 9.1 to 50.5 million, accounting for a 455% percent change. Today, roughly 1 out of 6 people in the U.S. self-identify as being of Latino origin. Just in the last decade, the Latino population grew by 43% compared to a nationwide growth rate of about 10%; this constitutes over half of the total population growth since 2000 in the U.S. Native-born Latinos account for most of this growth; in 2010, this group constituted 70% of the Latino population. At 2.9 births per Latino woman compared to 2.1 for the nation, the Latino population can be expected to increase substantially in the coming years. Census Bureau population projections indicate that the Latino population will at least double and make up 30% of the U.S. population by 2050.

Top Latino Cities and Counties Across the U.S.

In 2010, more than 6.7 million Latinos (13%) lived in five cities: New York, Los Angeles, Houston, San Antonio, and Chicago. There are 8 counties in the U.S. that have Latino populations greater than 1 million; these counties together account for about 30% of the Latino population in the U.S.; Cook County is the 5th most populous county in the country with 1,244,762 Latinos; Los Angeles County had almost 4 times that number. Latinos account for 23% of the total population of Cook County, while the Latino population in Los Angeles County constitutes almost 50% of the total.



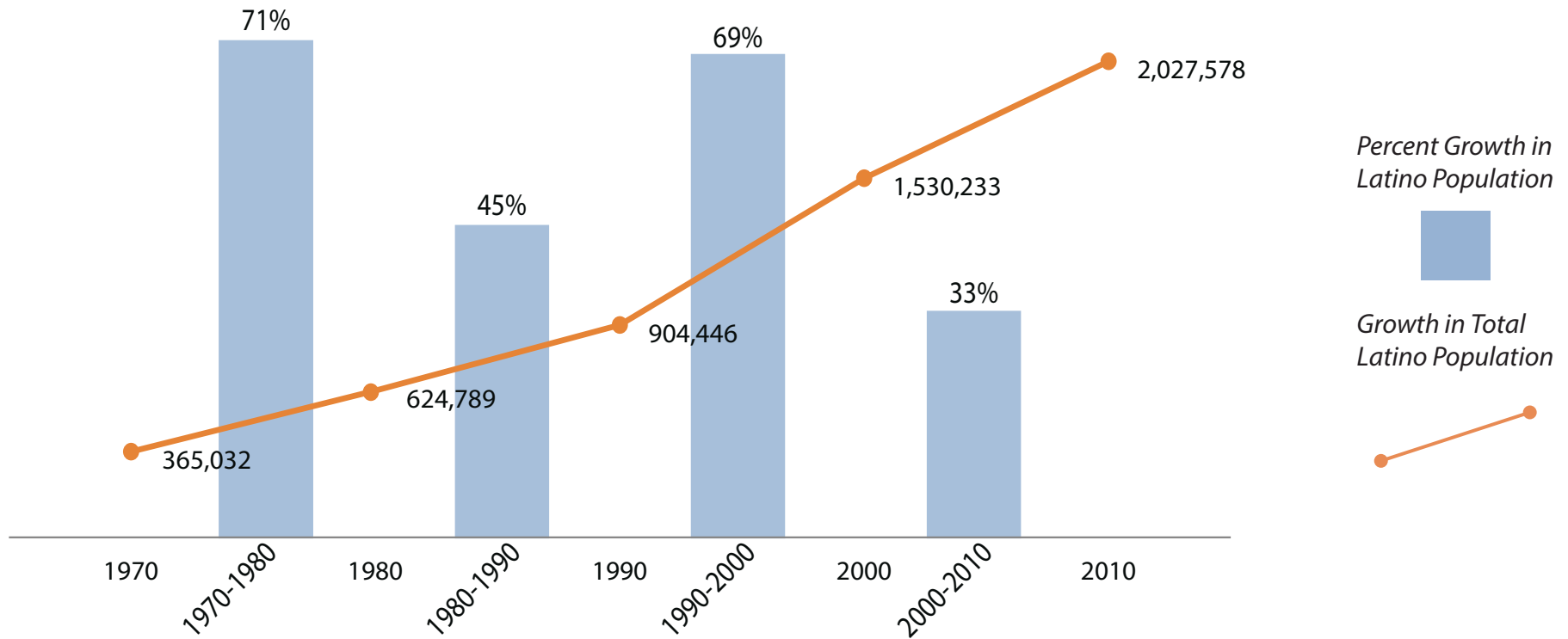
| Rank | Top Cities By Latino Population | Number of Latinos |
|------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | New York, NY | 2,336,076 |
| 2 | Los Angeles, CA | 1,838,822 |
| 3 | Houston, TX | 919,668 |
| 4 | San Antonio, TX | 838,952 |
| 5 | Chicago, IL | 778,862 |
| 6 | Phoenix, AZ | 589,877 |
| 7 | El Paso, TX | 523,721 |
| 8 | Dallas, TX | 507,309 |
| 9 | San Diego, CA | 376,020 |
| 10 | San Jose, CA | 313,636 |
| * | San Juan, PR | 374,920 |



| Rank | Top Counties By Latino Population | Number of Latinos |
|------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Los Angeles, CA | 4,687,889 |
| 2 | Harris, TX | 1,671,540 |
| 3 | Miami-Dade, FL | 1,623,859 |
| 4 | Cook, IL | 1,244,762 |
| 5 | Maricopa, AZ | 1,128,741 |
| 6 | Orange, CA | 1,012,973 |
| 7 | Bexar, TX | 1,006,958 |
| 8 | San Bernardino, CA | 1,001,145 |
| 9 | Riverside, CA | 995,257 |
| 10 | San Diego, CA | 991,348 |

Growth of Latinos in the State of Illinois, 1970 to 2010

Growth of Latinos in Illinois, 1970 to 2010

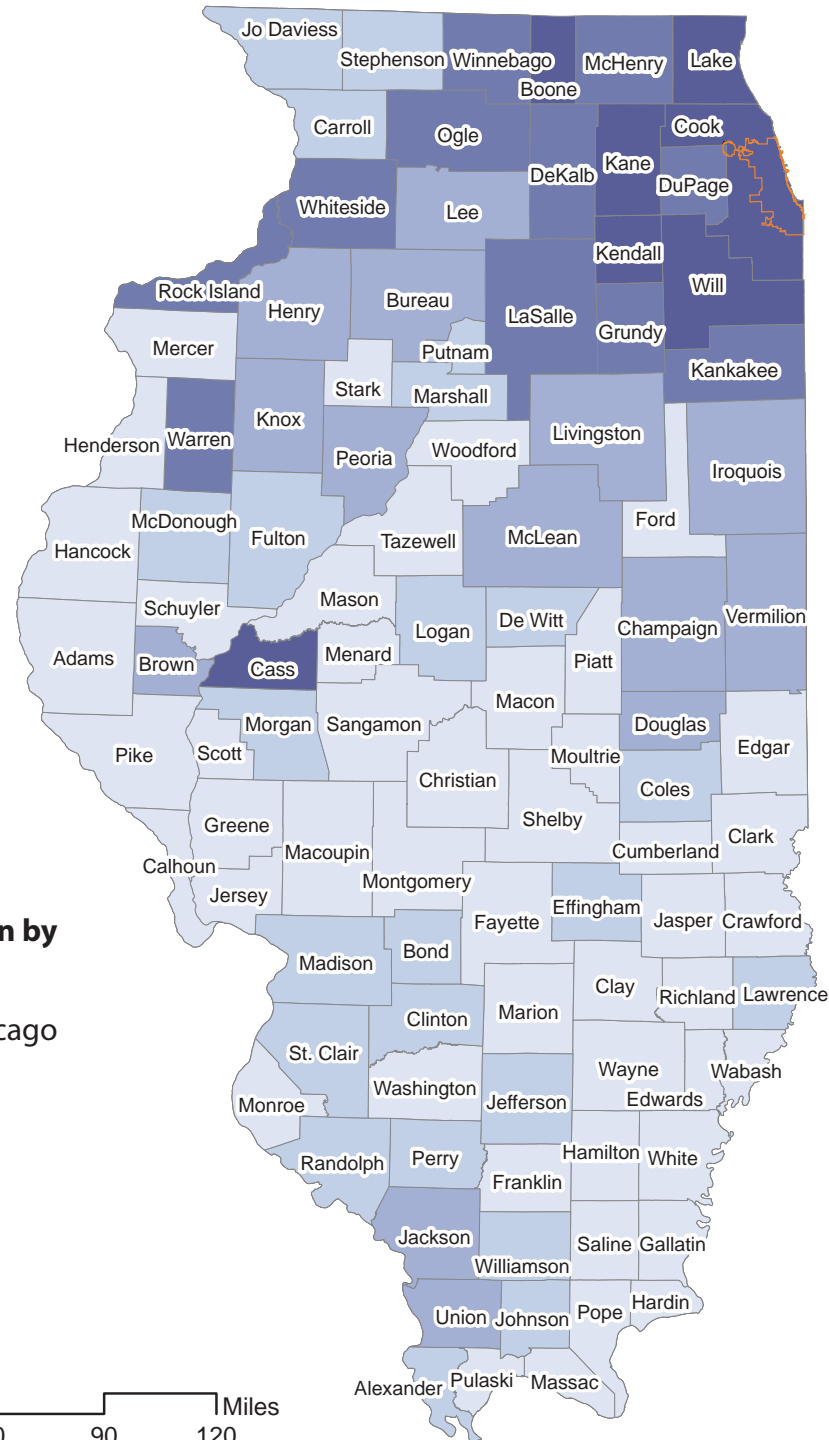
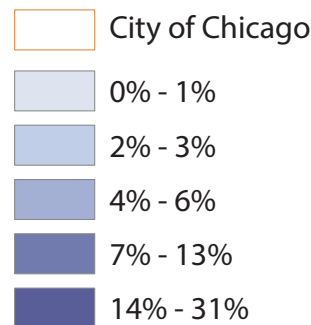


In the last decade, the population of Illinois grew by 3.3%, almost all of it within the Latino population—for example, while the total population for the state increased by 411,339 (from 12,419,293 to 12,830,632), the Latino Population increased by 497,316 (1,529,141 to 2,027,578)—accounting for almost 100% of the state’s population growth. This is not only true for the last decade, but also for the last three decades. From 1970 to 2010, the Latino population in the state of Illinois grew by about 1.7 million (from 365,032 to 2,027,578); in contrast the entire population grew by 1.7 million (from 11,110,285 to 12,830,632). Latinos represent 100% of the population growth of the state in the last three decades.

Illinois Counties by Latino Population

While Kane County is the fifth most populous county in Illinois overall, it leads the state as the county with the greatest share of Latino population. In Kane County, Latinos represent 31% of all people. In comparison, Cook County follows with 24% of the population being Latino. Since 2000, the percentage of Latinos in Kane County grew by 39%; the majority of this growth can be attributed to births. In fact, approximately 23% of all Latinos in Kane County are children under the age of 10, whereas white children aged 10 or younger compose only 14% of the total white population in Kane County.

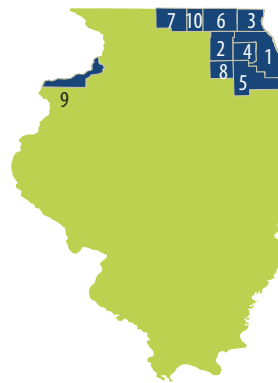
Latino Population by County, 2010



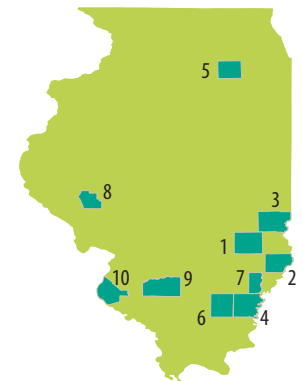
Latino Population in Counties Across Illinois

One of the most important demographic trends to note since the 1990s is that more and more Latinos have been passing by, or moving out of the City of Chicago, and settling in its surrounding suburban counties (Cook, Kane, DuPage, Lake, etc.). As of 2010, 38% of Latinos lived in Chicago while 52% lived in other cities and counties in Illinois. Only about 10% of Latinos in the state (just over 200,000) were living outside of Chicagoland (Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties).

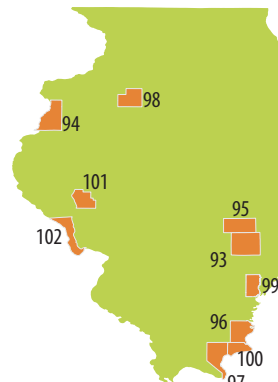
| Rank | Top Counties By Latino Population | Number of Latinos, 2010 | Percent Increase from 2000 |
|------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Cook | 1,244,762 | 23.6% |
| 2 | Kane | 158,390 | 30.0% |
| 3 | Lake | 139,987 | 19.5% |
| 4 | DuPage | 121,506 | 13.1% |
| 5 | Will | 105,817 | 15.3% |
| 6 | McHenry | 35,249 | 11.2% |
| 7 | Winnebago | 32,177 | 10.7% |
| 8 | Kendall | 17,898 | 15.6% |
| 9 | Rock Island | 17,118 | 11.3% |
| 10 | Boone | 10,967 | 3.0% |



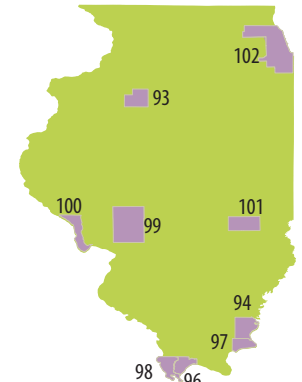
| Rank | Top Counties By Latino Growth | Number of Latinos, 2010 | Percent Increase from 2000 |
|------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Jasper | 81 | 91.1% |
| 2 | Lawrence | 617 | 82.6% |
| 3 | Clark | 164 | 82.0% |
| 4 | White | 145 | 79.1% |
| 5 | Kendall | 17,271 | 77.2% |
| 6 | Hamilton | 95 | 74.3% |
| 7 | Edwards | 1,087 | 72.9% |
| 8 | Scott | 29 | 72.1% |
| 9 | Washington | 280 | 67.5% |
| 10 | Monroe | 6 | 67.1% |



| Rank | Bottom Counties By Latino Population | Number of Latinos, 2010 | Percent Change from 2000 |
|------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 93 | Jasper | 81 | 91.1% |
| 94 | Henderson | 79 | 30% |
| 95 | Cumberland | 75 | 0.28% |
| 96 | Gallatin | 66 | 0.37% |
| 97 | Pope | 64 | 2.49% |
| 98 | Stark | 59 | 1.15% |
| 99 | Edwards | 59 | 2.92% |
| 100 | Hardin | 56 | 0.73% |
| 101 | Scott | 43 | 0.54% |
| 102 | Calhoun | 40 | 0.37% |



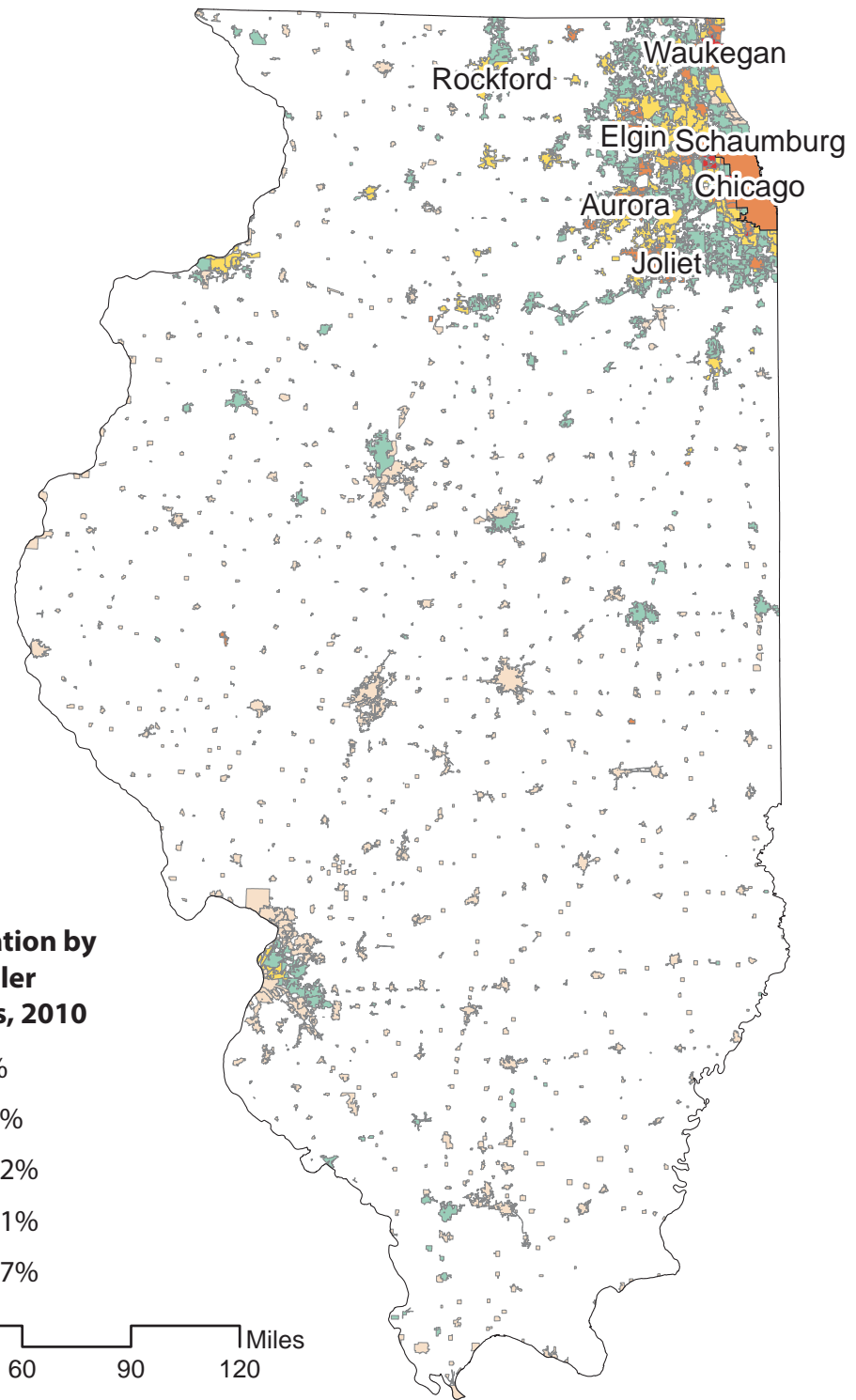
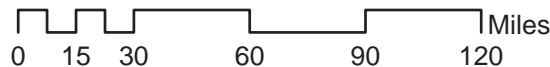
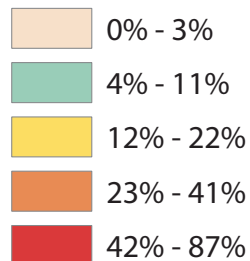
| Rank | Top Counties By Latino Change | Number of Latinos, 2010 | Percent Change from 2000 |
|------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 102 | Cook | 1,225,143 | 13.9% |
| 101 | Cumberland | 31 | 13.3% |
| 100 | Calhoun | 19 | 12.5% |
| 99 | Macoupin | 466 | 7.4% |
| 98 | Alexander | 101 | 7.1% |
| 97 | Pulaski | 31 | -11.3% |
| 96 | Hardin | 32 | -14.3% |
| 95 | Crawford | 350 | -14.9% |
| 94 | Gallatin | 21 | -21.2% |
| 93 | Stark | 69 | -28.8% |



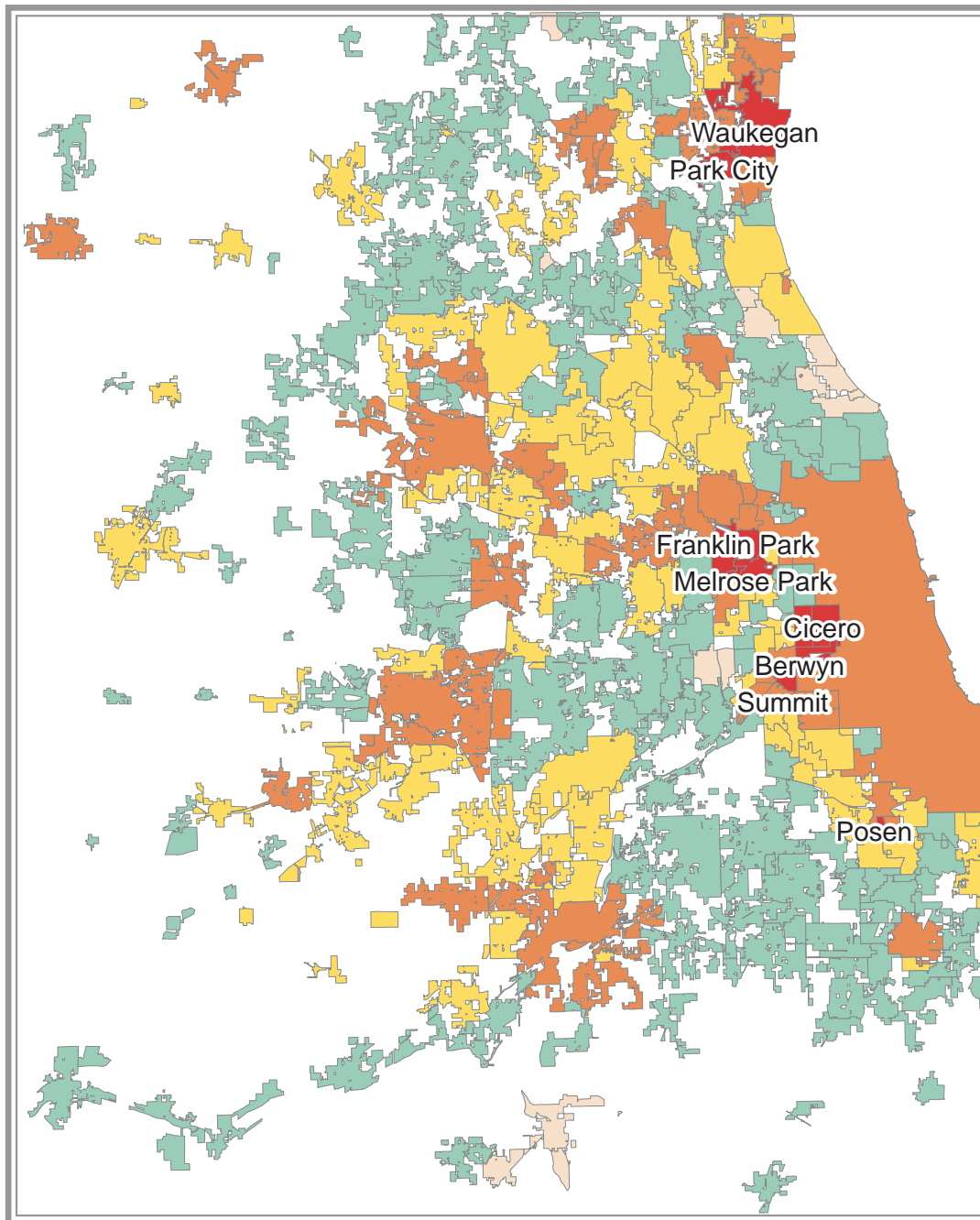
Illinois Municipalities by Latino Population

Latinos now make up the majority of the population in the six mid-size cities in IL that have populations between 25,000 and 100,000: Cicero (86.6%), Melrose Park (69.6%), Berwyn (59.4%), Waukegan (53.4%), West Chicago (51.1%) and Carpentersville (50.1%). Other small cities of less than 25,000 people are also Latino majority: Stone Park (88.1%), Fairmont City (71.4%), Park City (65.2%), Summit (63.7%), Highwood (56.9%), De Pue (54.7%), Posen (53.0%), Northlake (52.9%) and Stickney (50.9%). Latino population growth has major implications for municipalities, especially with regard to the delivery of basic services. Growth and change can represent both planning challenges and opportunities. It is important for decision makers to be aware of the needs and assets of the Latino community in order to improve the quality of life for all.

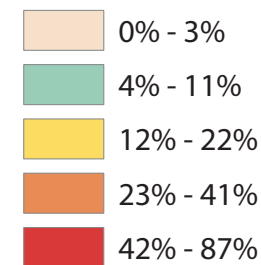
Latino Population by City and Smaller Municipalities, 2010



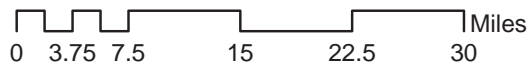
Chicago-Area Illinois Municipalities by Latino Population



**Latino Population by
City and Smaller
Municipalities 2010**



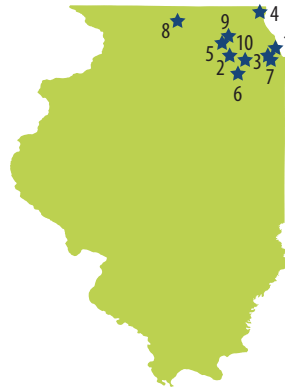
Note: Many county areas in the Chicago Area are unincorporated and therefore not represented with respect to municipal Latino concentration.



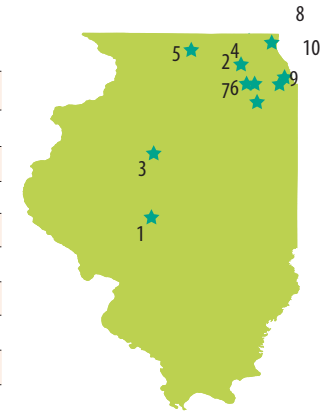
Latino Population in Cities Across Illinois

For decades, a large segment of Latinos settled in the City of Chicago and older industrial cities across the state of Illinois. There are 3 cities in IL where the Latino population constitutes over 50%: Cicero (87%), Berwyn (59%) and Waukegan (57%). Some cities like Springfield experienced an increase of over 112% in the Latino population.

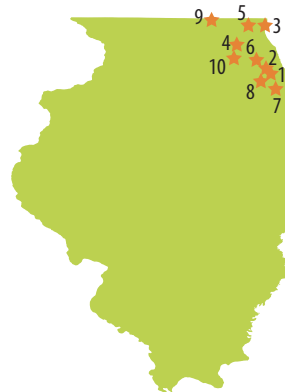
| Rank | Top Cities By Latino Population | Number of Latinos, 2010 | Percent Latino |
|------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Chicago | 778,862 | 29% |
| 2 | Aurora | 81,809 | 41% |
| 3 | Cicero | 72,609 | 87% |
| 4 | Waukegan | 47,612 | 53% |
| 5 | Elgin | 47,121 | 44% |
| 6 | Joliet | 41,042 | 28% |
| 7 | Berwyn | 33,676 | 59% |
| 8 | Rockford | 24,085 | 14% |
| 9 | Carpentersville | 18,877 | 50% |
| 10 | Bolingbrook | 17,957 | 25% |



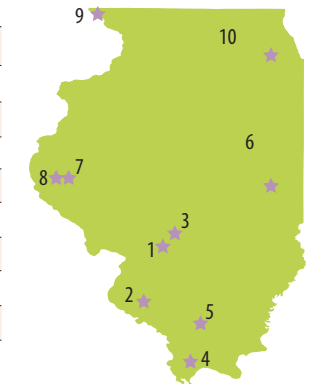
| Rank | Top Cities By Latino Growth* | Number of Latinos, 2010 | Percent Increase from 2000 |
|------|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Springfield | 2,322 | 112% |
| 2 | Elgin | 39,128 | 100% |
| 3 | Peoria | 6,838 | 80% |
| 4 | Naperville | 8,050 | 79% |
| 5 | Rockford | 24,085 | 55% |
| 6 | Aurora | 81,036 | 40% |
| 7 | Joliet | 41,042 | 28% |
| 8 | Waukegan | 52,046 | 17% |
| 9 | Cicero | 72,609 | 9% |
| 10 | Chicago | 778,862 | 1% |



| Rank | Top Cities By Latino Percentage | Number of Latinos, 2010 | Percent Latino |
|------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Cicero | 72,609 | 87% |
| 2 | Berwyn | 33,676 | 59% |
| 3 | Waukegan | 52,046 | 57% |
| 4 | Carpentersville | 18,877 | 50% |
| 5 | Round Lake Beach | 13,530 | 48% |
| 6 | Bensenville | 8,781 | 48% |
| 7 | Blue Island | 11,133 | 47% |
| 8 | Hodgkins | 888 | 47% |
| 9 | Harvard | 4,270 | 45% |
| 10 | Elgin | 47,121 | 44% |



| Rank | Bottom Cities By Latino Loss | Number of Latinos, 2010 | Percent Decrease from 2000 |
|------|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Sorento | 0 | -100% |
| 2 | Baldwin | 8 | -98% |
| 3 | Irving | 11 | -93% |
| 4 | Ullin | 6 | -92% |
| 5 | Freeman Spur | 1 | -92% |
| 6 | Allerton | 1 | -92% |
| 7 | Clayton | 2 | -90% |
| 8 | Coatsburg | 1 | -90% |
| 9 | Oak Grove | 18 | -87% |
| 10 | Menominee | 31 | -86% |



Age Distribution of Latinos Across Illinois

Age Distribution by Sex of Latinos in Illinois Compared With the Total Population, 2010



Latinos are much younger than the general population. The population pyramid on the left shows that the largest portion of the Latino population is between ages 0-5 years old (10.5% vs. 6.5% for the total population). This means that about 1 in 4 children ages 0-5 are Latino (213,367 vs. 835,577). The census 2010 also reported that Latino women represented 23% of all the women who have given birth within the last year, even though they represented about 17% of the overall female bearing population. Right now about 40% of the Latino population is younger than 18 years old; this means that every 5 years about 200,000 Latinos will turn 18—becoming eligible to vote. Not only that, but Latino children attending Illinois' public schools today will be entering the workforce in record numbers in just about a decade. These statistics provide stark evidence that the investments we make in the Latino community today will affect the prosperity of the entire state tomorrow.

Latino Business Ownership in Illinois

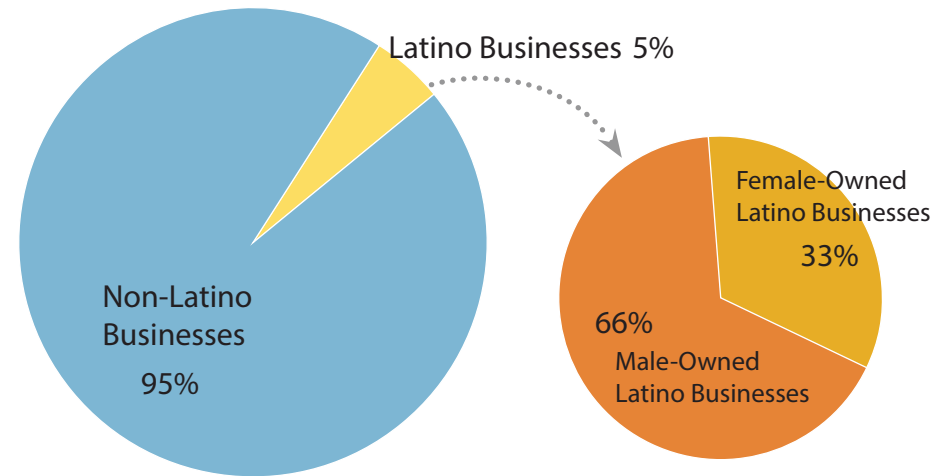
According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2007 Survey of Business Owners, Latinos owned 56,567 businesses in Illinois, or 5% of all firms in the state. In 2002—the previous year in which these data were collected—Latinos owned only 39,539 firms. During this five year period, the number of Latino businesses in Illinois increased by 43%. From 2002 to 2007, the number of Latino firms almost doubled, growing at more than three times the rate of non-Latino firms, which grew only 16% during this period. Given the expected growth of the Latino population, Latino-owned business are expected to continue to grow and become a larger share of all Illinois businesses in the near future.

It is likely that about a third of many of these new business will be owned by women—currently about 18,667 (33%) of Illinois Latino businesses are owned by Latino women, which is slightly higher than for the general population, where women own only 30% of all firms despite constituting 51% of the population.

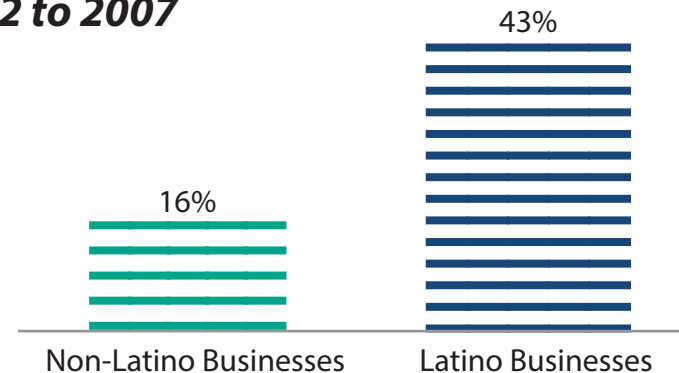
In 2007, the sales, receipts, or value of shipments of Latino businesses in Illinois totaled over \$10.3 billion. Together, Latinos employed 77,449 workers with an annual payroll of over \$2.1 billion.

Of all management companies in Illinois, the share of Latino-owned firms was 54% in 2007. These are headquarters of companies—businesses that manage other companies or enterprises in-house through functions like financial planning, human resources, technical assistance, among others. The US Department of Labor ranked this as one of the industries with the fastest growing output; this sector is expected to expand 4.5% per year nationally through 2020.

Latino-Owned Businesses in Illinois, 2007



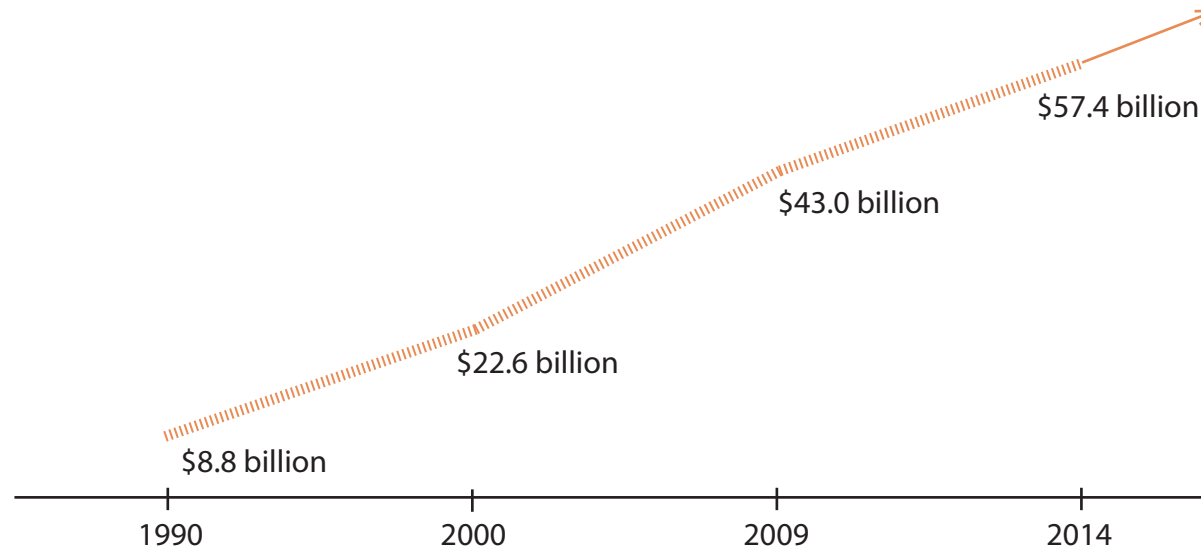
Growth of Latino-Owned Businesses in Illinois Compared Non-Latino Businesses, 2002 to 2007



Latino Buying Power in Illinois

In 2009, the Selig Center for Economic Growth calculated the total buying power of Latinos in Illinois at \$43 billion per year.⁵ The purchasing power of Latinos has increased dramatically over the last twenty years—over 400% since 1990—and is projected to reach over \$57 billion in 2014. As the table below indicates, **the Latino share of the consumer market is projected to be about 10% in 2014, accounting for 10 cents out of every dollar spent in Illinois.**

The Growth of Latino Buying Power in Illinois, 1990 to 2014 (projected)



| | 1990 | 2000 | 2009 | 2014 |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Latino Buying Power | \$8,824,148 | \$22,617,086 | \$42,994,645 | \$57,428,795 |
| Total Population Buying Power | \$208,084,531 | \$340,995,806 | \$485,733,773 | \$582,666,550 |
| <i>Latino Share</i> | 4.2% | 6.6% | 8.9% | 9.9% |

Note: dollar amounts expressed in thousands of dollars

A Socioeconomic Comparison of Latinos in the States with the Largest Latino Populations*

Percent of State That is Latino

ILLINOIS

16%

CALIFORNIA

38%

TEXAS

38%

FLORIDA

22%

Total Latino Population

■ 2,027,578

■ 14,013,719

■ 9,460,921

■ 4,223,806

Family Households as a Percent of All Latino Households



Total Latino Households

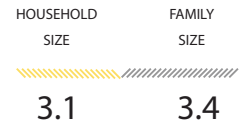
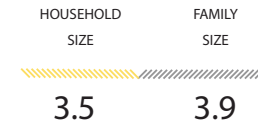
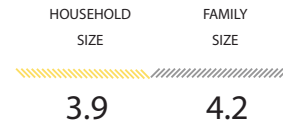
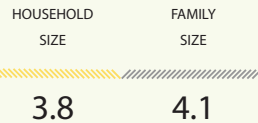
507,235

3,385,176

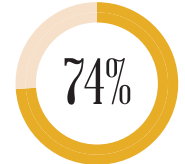
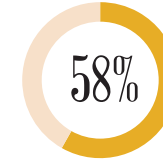
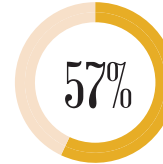
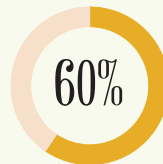
2,614,157

1,333,248

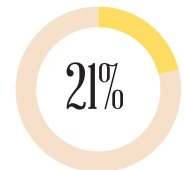
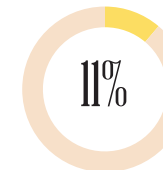
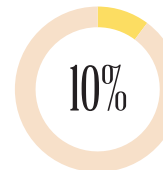
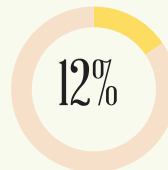
Average Latino Household Size Compared with Average Latino Family Size



Latinos with a High School Degree or Above



Latinos with a Bachelor's Degree or Above



With 2,027,578 Latinos (16%), Illinois has the 5th largest Latino population in the U.S. The 2010 Census shows 507,235 Latino households in Illinois with an average household size of 3.8 persons compared to 2.6 for the national average. In Illinois, the majority of Latinos (81%) live in family households, while 13% live with other extended family members and 6% live with non-relatives. The largest family sizes for Latinos are seen in California (4.2) and Illinois (4.1), and the lowest are in New Mexico and Florida (both at 3.4).

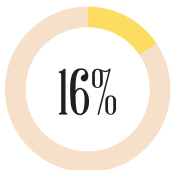
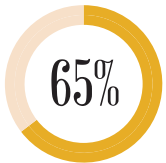
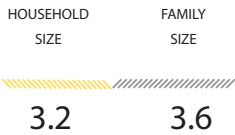
NEW YORK

18%

■ 3,416,922



1,361,311



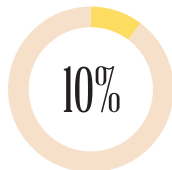
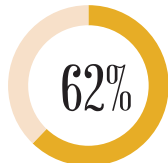
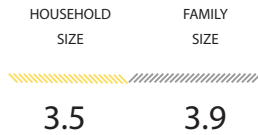
ARIZONA

30%

■ 1,895,149



500,823



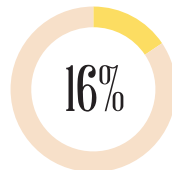
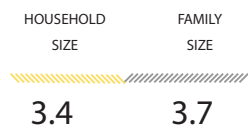
NEW JERSEY

18%

■ 1,555,144



436,743



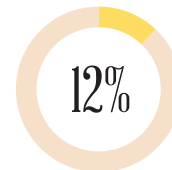
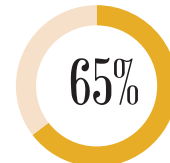
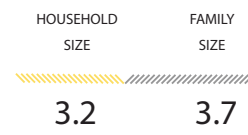
COLORADO

21%

■ 1,038,687



294,610



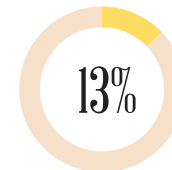
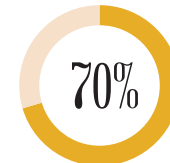
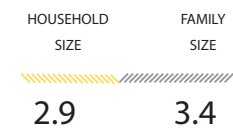
NEW MEXICO

46%

■ 953,403



313,448



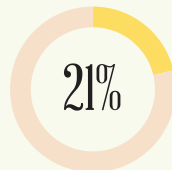
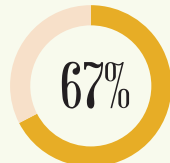
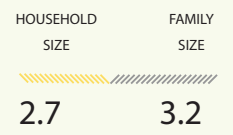
PUERTO RICO*

99%

■ 3,688,455



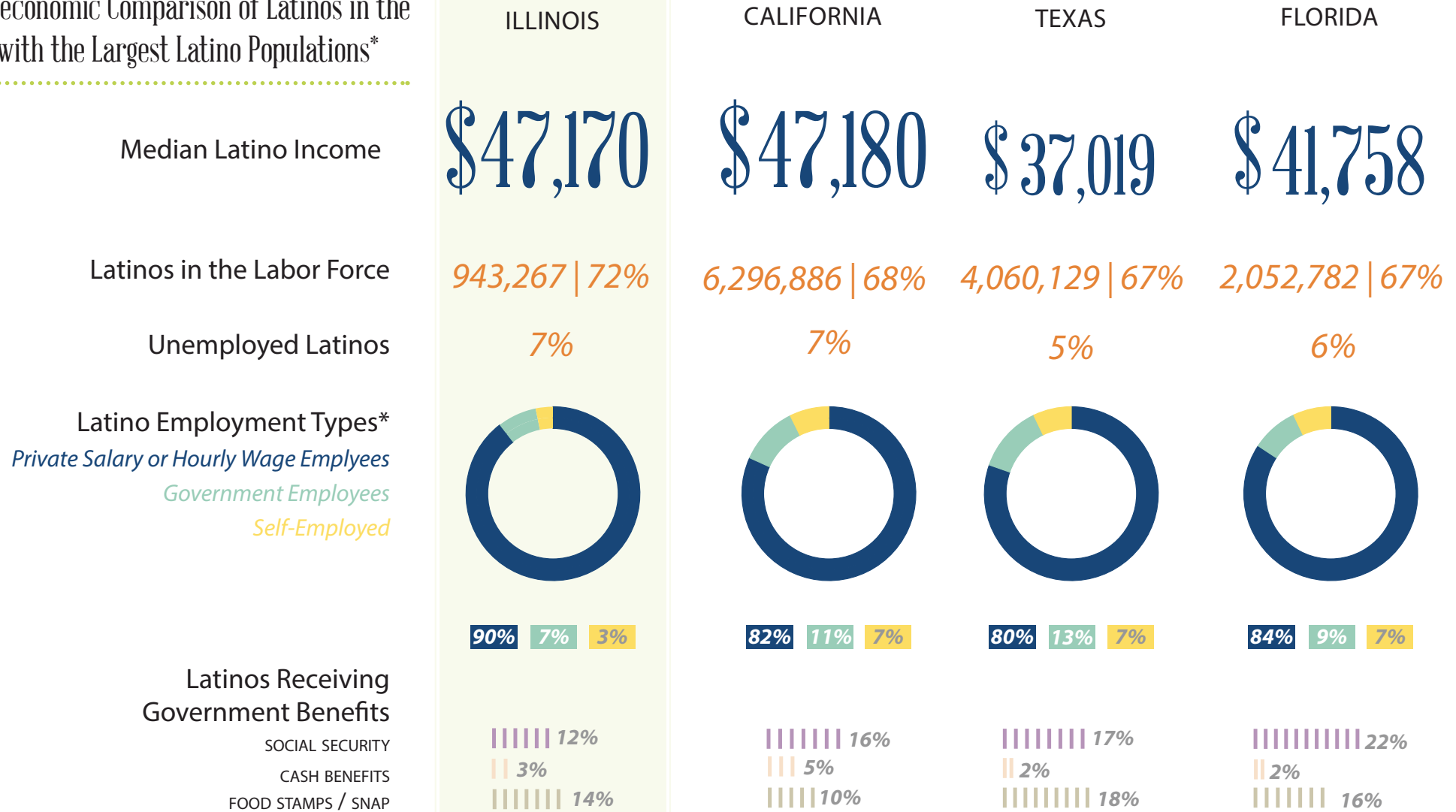
1,361,311



Latinos lag behind other groups in terms of educational attainment. In 2010, only about 60% of Latinos aged 25 or more had finished high school in Illinois; this rate is higher than in California and Texas, but lower than the other states where Latinos constitute a large percentage of the population. In the U.S., 85% the population has a high school diploma or equivalent. Lower levels of high school achievement translate into lower college graduation rates. At 12%, the percent of Latinos in Illinois with a bachelor's degree is lower than the national average (13%), and much lower than the 34% of all people with at least a bachelors in the U.S. Florida, with 21% of Latinos having college degrees has one of the highest rates; its economy is high-tech in comparison to the state of Illinois.

* Puerto Rico, an unincorporated territory of the United States, is included for the sake of comparison with the states.

A Socioeconomic Comparison of Latinos in the States with the Largest Latino Populations*



In 2010, the median annual household income for Latinos in Illinois was \$47,170 compared to \$48,578 in New Jersey, the state with the highest median income. However, it is important to note that the cost of living vary from state to state. For example, \$50K in Illinois is equivalent to \$55K in New Jersey. On the other hand, New Jersey had the highest Latino unemployment rate (at 9.1%), while Illinois is right at the middle with 7.1% whereas New Mexico is performing better with a 5.3%. In 2010, the unemployment rate for the US averaged 7.9%.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of 2011 Latinos represented 15% of the U.S. labor force at nearly 25 million workers. In Illinois about a million (943,267) Latinos are in the Labor force; representing 15% of all laborers in the economy. 72% of all Latinos were in the labor force in Illinois, higher than other states analyzed for comparison purposes.

NEW YORK

ARIZONA

NEW JERSEY

COLORADO

NEW MEXICO

PUERTO RICO*

\$39,541

\$39,076

\$48,578

\$38,450

\$36,392

\$18,692

1,578,024 | 65%

792,759 | 66%

765,525 | 71%

457,737 | 69%

416,527 | 64%

1,363,248 | 47%

6%

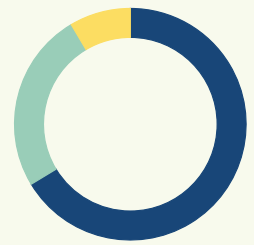
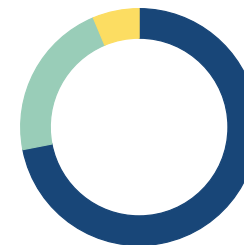
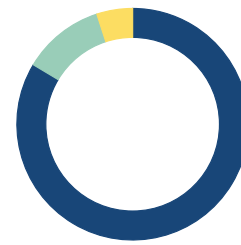
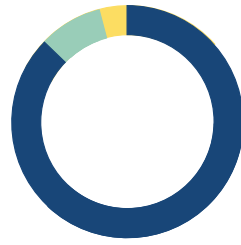
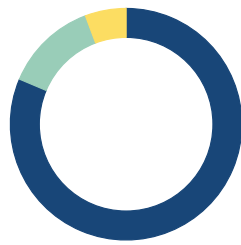
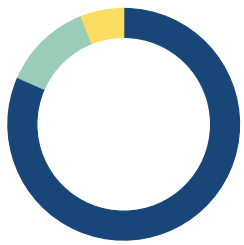
6%

9%

7%

5%

8%



82% 12% 6%

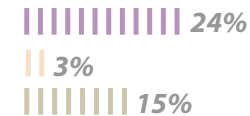
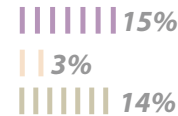
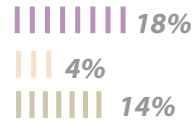
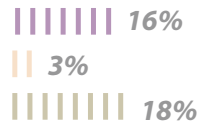
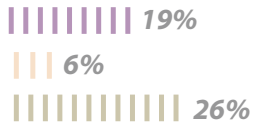
81% 13% 6%

87% 9% 4%

84% 11% 5%

72% 22% 6%

66% 25% 9%

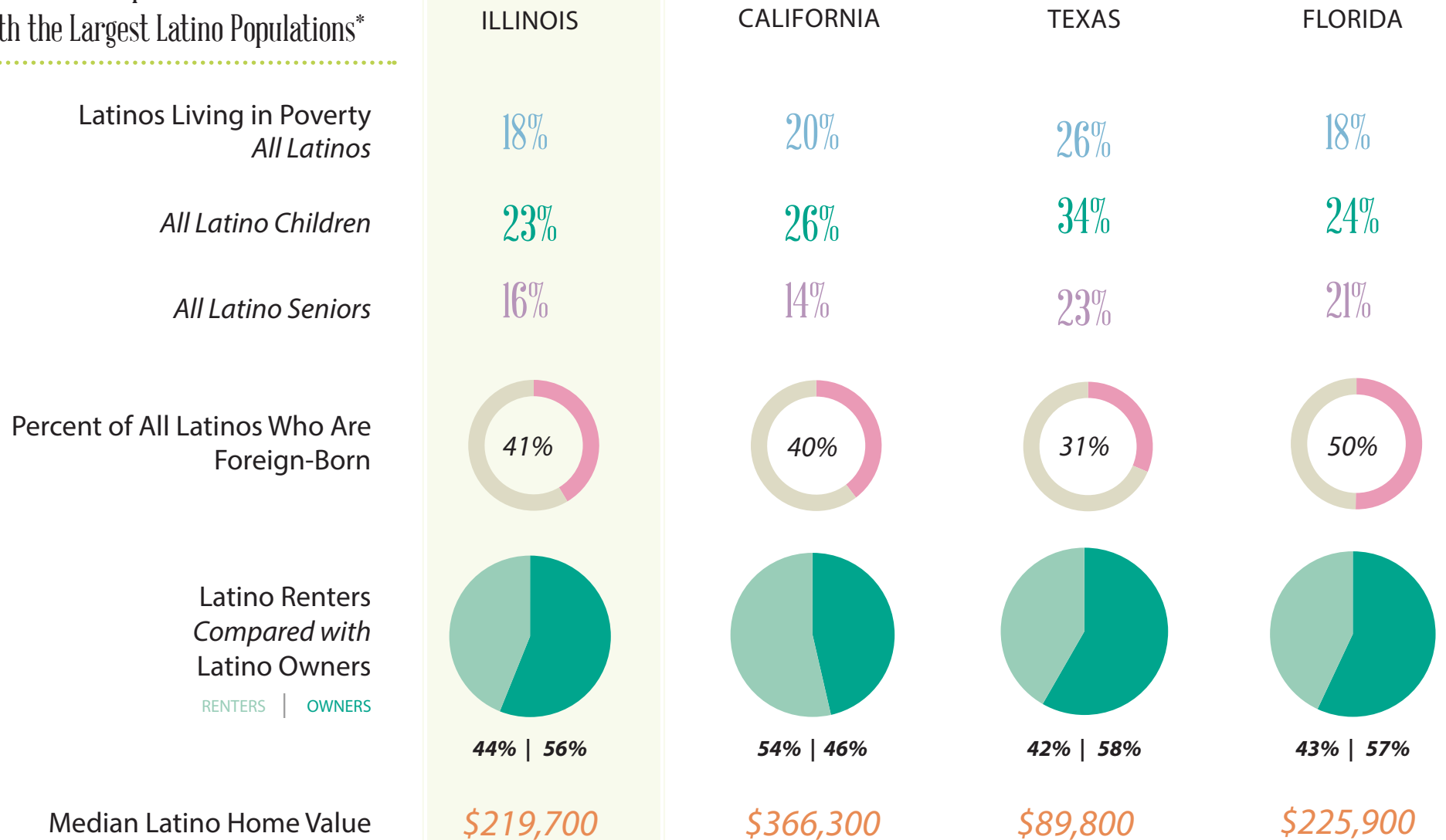


Illinois has the lowest percentage of Latinos who are self-employed (3%). As stated in several reports by Bureau of Labor Statistics, self-employment is reflective of people owning businesses or independent contractors. The rate of Latinos working for government in Illinois are the lowest at 7% compared to other states analyzed.

On average, 5.1% of Americans receive SSI in the U.S. while the average in Illinois is 4.4%. About 12% of Latinos receive SSI in Illinois, lower than for Latinos in states analyzed for comparison. About 1 in 7 Americans receives SNAP (15%); the percent of Latinos receiving SNAP in Illinois is comparable to the national average (14%), but higher than for the Illinois average (11%). About 3% of Latinos receive cash assistance, equivalent to the Illinois average and the national average.

* Puerto Rico, an unincorporated territory of the United States, is included for the sake of comparison with the states.

A Socioeconomic Comparison of Latinos in the States with the Largest Latino Populations*



At 18% poverty rate, Illinois, Florida, and New Jersey have the lowest poverty levels among Latinos—the national average was 14%. The poverty rate for all persons in Illinois was slightly lower at 13%. About 1 in 4 (23%) Latino children live in poverty in Illinois—although high, still lower than any of the other states used for comparison. Poverty rates for Latino elderly in Illinois were at 16%, slightly higher than in California (14%), but lower than the rest of the states. Nationwide, 38% of Latinos are foreign born. In Illinois 41% of Latinos are foreign born compared with 14% for the overall population. Florida, at 50% has the highest proportion of foreign born Latinos, while New Mexico (at 17%) has the lowest among the states.

NEW YORK

ARIZONA

NEW JERSEY

COLORADO

NEW MEXICO

PUERTO RICO*

25%

24%

18%

24%

23%

45%

33%

31%

24%

31%

30%

56%

25%

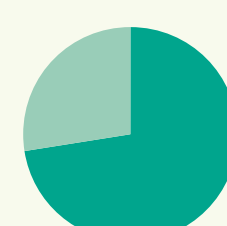
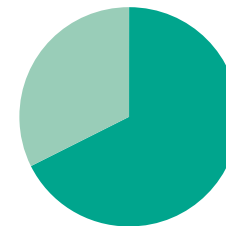
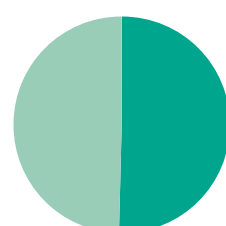
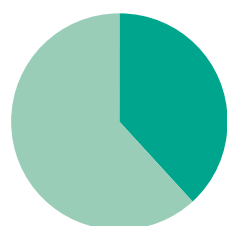
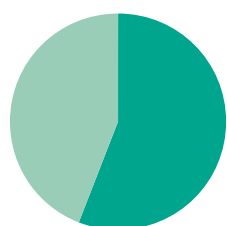
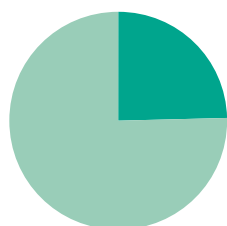
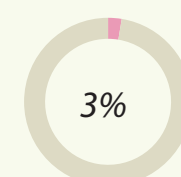
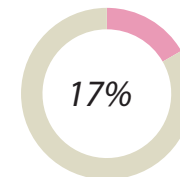
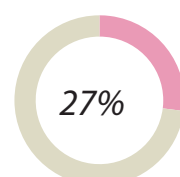
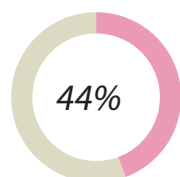
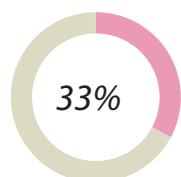
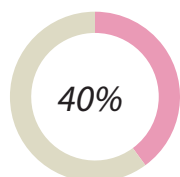
18%

19%

16%

20%

42%



\$405,800

\$165,800

\$344,000

\$175,400

\$129,200

\$112,400

Nationwide, 67% of households were homeowners and 33% were renters—the rate for Latinos was 49% and 51%, respectively. Most Latinos in Illinois are homeowners (56%), but homeownership rates in Illinois are higher than for many other states. In 2010, both New Mexico and Texas had higher rates of Latino homeowners (68% and 73%, respectively), but the home values in those states are lower than in Illinois. The average home value for Latinos in Illinois was \$219,700, while in New Mexico and Texas, it was \$129,200 and \$89,800, respectively. However, the cost of living is lower in those states. Homeownership rates and home values for Latinos in Illinois seem more comparable to those of Florida (57% and \$225,900).

* Puerto Rico, an unincorporated territory of the United States, is included for the sake of comparison with the states.

Socioeconomic Comparison of Latinos in Illinois with Other Groups

- Population
- Median Age
- Total Households
- Total Family Households
- Share of All Births
- Average Family Size
- Tenure: Owner Occupied Compared with Renter Occupied Households
- Median Home Sale Value
- Educational Attainment: High School Graduate or Higher Bachelor's Degree or Higher

■ RENTER ■ OWNER

LATINOS
1,939,928

26 years

490,360



23%

4.0 people

44% 56%

\$219,700



TOTAL POPULATION
12,745,359

36 years

4,769,951



100%

3.2 people

31% 69%

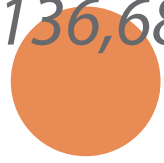
\$202,500



This section examines key indicators of socioeconomic status among Latinos, and Non-Hispanic Whites, African Americans, and Asians. Latinos make up about 15% percent of the total population of Illinois, the same as African Americans (15%). Non-Hispanic Whites account for 72% of the state's population, while Asians make up a smaller share of the population at 4%. Latinos and Asians tend to have more family-households than non-family households, 82% and 73% respectively, compared to 66% for the total population. The average size for a Latino family is larger than for other groups (4 people), followed by African Americans and Asians (both having 3.5 on average). Minority groups are also more likely to live with extended family members such as grandparents.

WHITES

9,136,680



39 years

3,627,325



65%

3.1 people



\$202,200



AFRICAN AMERICANS

1,860,305



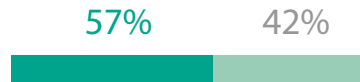
32 years

663,622



16%

3.5 people



\$165,800



ASIANS

571,537



34 years

188,384



6%

3.5 people



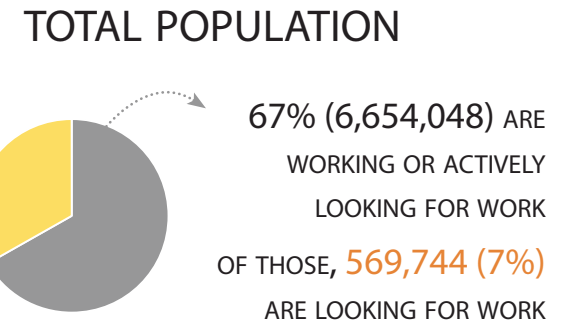
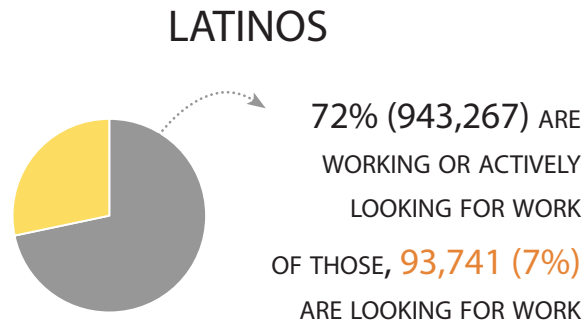
\$312,200



The homeownership rate for Latinos (56%) is higher than that of African Americans (42%) but lower than the homeownership rate for Whites (76%) and Asians (63%). However, the median home value for all Latinos (\$220) is well above the median for the total population (\$203), including Whites (\$202). In contrast, the home value for Asians is almost \$100,000 higher than any other ethnic or racial group. Latinos had the lowest percentages (60%) of people (over 25 years old) who received either a high school diploma or the equivalent—compared to 86% for the total population. This translates to levels of higher educational attainments; for example, only 12% of Latinos have Bachelor's degrees or higher. In contrast, Asians have the highest high-school-graduation (91%) and college-degree-attainment rates (62%).

Socioeconomic Comparison of Latinos in Illinois with Other Groups

Labor Force Participation



Median Household Income

\$47,170

\$55,735

Households with Income Through Earnings

92%

81%

Households Receiving Public Subsidies

Food Stamps / SNAP



Social Security



Cash Public Assistance

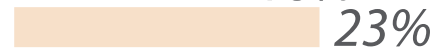


Living in Poverty

Of All People



Of All Children



Of All Seniors

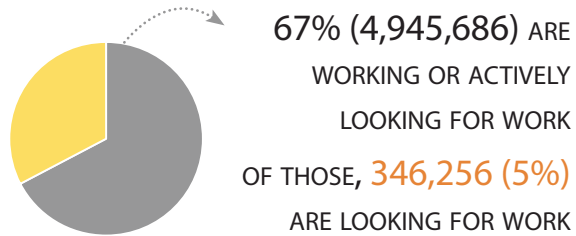


Individuals Without Health Insurance



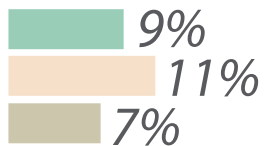
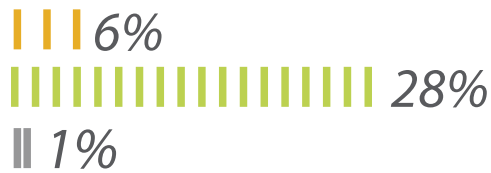
Latinos have the highest labor force participation rates of any ethnic group (72%), compared to the state average rate of 67%. With 943,267, Latinos have the second-largest group of workers in the labor force. Whites are the largest group with 4,945,686 workers. The unemployment rate for Latinos (7%) is lower than for African Americans (11%), but higher than for Whites and Asians (both at 4%). The median household income of Latinos is about \$12,000 higher than that of African Americans households. In contrast, Latinos have household median income about \$13,000 less than Whites. Asians have the highest income of any racial group in the state (\$72,492). A large percentage of Latinos (92%) earn their income through wages and salaries instead of through benefits or taxable pensions—the state average is 81%. Latinos are less likely to receive SNAP benefits than African Americans (14% vs. 26%), but more likely than Whites (6%) and Asians (5%). Because of issues with citizenship or immigration status, some immigrants are not able to access SNAP in their

WHITES

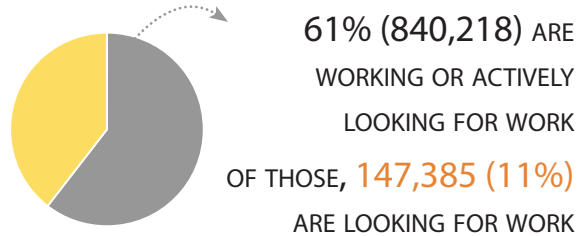


\$60,433

80%

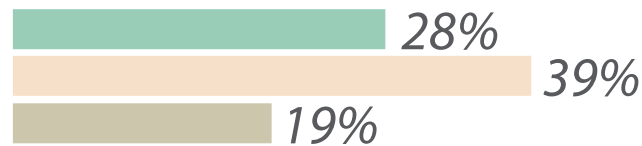
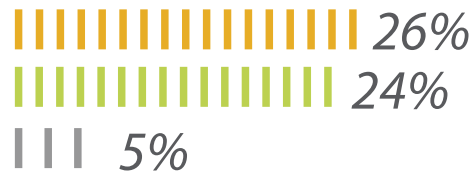


AFRICAN AMERICANS

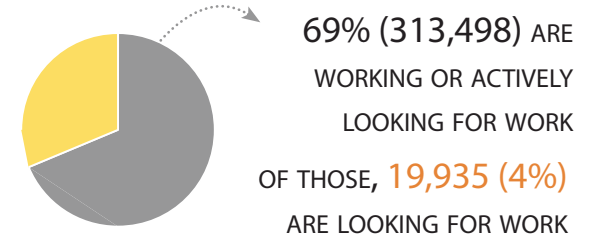


\$34,874

76%

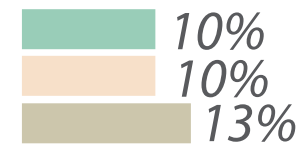
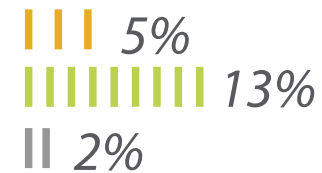


ASIANS



\$72,492

91%



first five years living in the U.S. A substantial portion of eligible Latinos are not receiving SNAP, despite the fact that the poverty rate among Latinos stands at 18%. This is especially true for Latino families with children (23%) and the elderly (16%) who live in poverty—about 5% and 7% respectively higher than the average. Social security participation rates among Latinos are considerably lower than the average (12% vs. 26%). This is could partly be because the Latino population tends to be younger than the overall population and therefore contains fewer workers approaching the retirement age. In addition, some immigrants might not qualify to receive social security. Latinos have the highest rate (27%) of individuals lacking health insurance in the state of Illinois, more than double the rate in the total population (13%). The lack of insurance could be attributed to not having job-based health insurance plans, as well as issues related to citizenship and immigration status.

Socioeconomic Comparison of Latinos in Illinois

Population

Latinos Born in the U.S.* Compared with Those Born Abroad

■ BORN IN THE U.S.
 ■ BORN ABROAD

**Includes Puerto Rico*

Of Those Born Abroad, Naturalized Citizens Compared with Those Who Are Not U.S. Citizens

■ NATURALIZED U.S. CITIZENS
 ■ NOT U.S. CITIZENS

Of Those Born Abroad, Those Who Entered the U.S. Before 2000 Compared with Those Who Entered the U.S. After 2000

■ ENTERED THE U.S. BEFORE 2000
 ■ ENTERED THE U.S. AFTER 2000

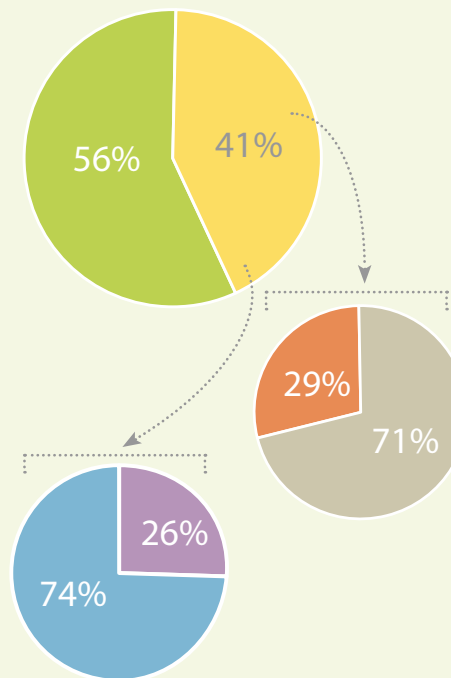
Speak English Only

Speak English Less Than "Very Well"

Speak Spanish

ALL LATINOS

1,939,928 | 100%



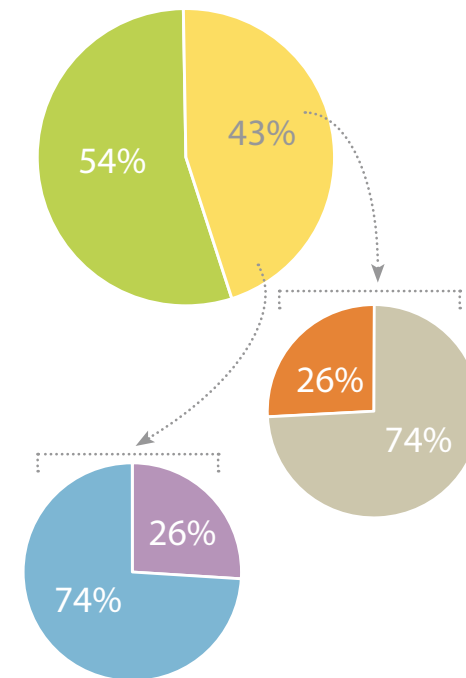
316,369 - 18%

700,689 - 41%

1,407,288 - 81%

MEXICANS

1,602,403 | 83%



210,250 - 15%

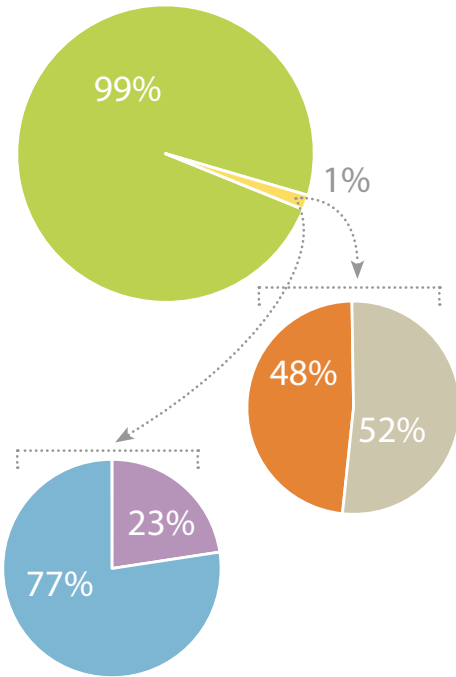
605,048 - 45%

1,148,007 - 84%

In 2010, the Latino population in Illinois was composed of Mexican (83%), Puerto Ricans (9%), Cubans (1%), Dominicans (0.3%), Central Americans (4%) and of other of Latino origin (3%). The majority (56%) of Latinos living in Illinois were born in the US, and among the foreign born, most are of Cuban origin in terms of percentage. And of all of foreign born Latinos, about 30% were naturalized US citizens—meaning that they are eligible to vote. When compared to other Latino groups, Mexican immigrants had lower rates of naturalization—26% naturalized vs. 74% non-naturalized. In a nationwide survey of the Pew Hispanic Center, 93% of Latino immigrants that have not naturalized identified language and monetary constraints as the two main barriers.¹ Although 71% of Latino immigrants or migrants are not naturalized citizens, the majority (74%) have lived in the US for more than a decade. The length of tenure shows the stability that exists within non-naturalized Latinos, who for many years have made productive contributions to society and the economy by deciding to stay in the US.

PUERTO RICANS

182,989 | 9%



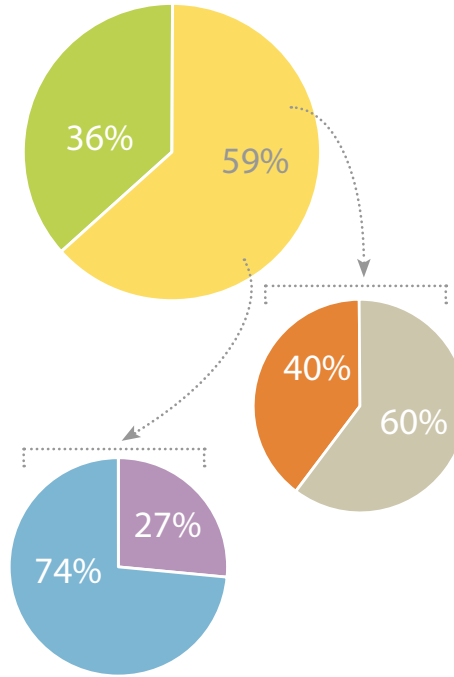
52,026 - 33%

28,338 - 18%

107,333 - 67%

CENTRAL AMERICANS

70,000 | 4%



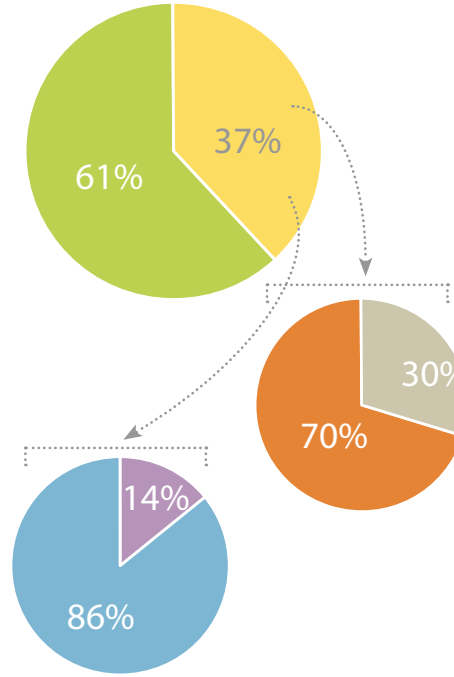
8,193 - 14%

27,974 - 47%

51,651 - 86%

CUBANS

22,541 | 1%



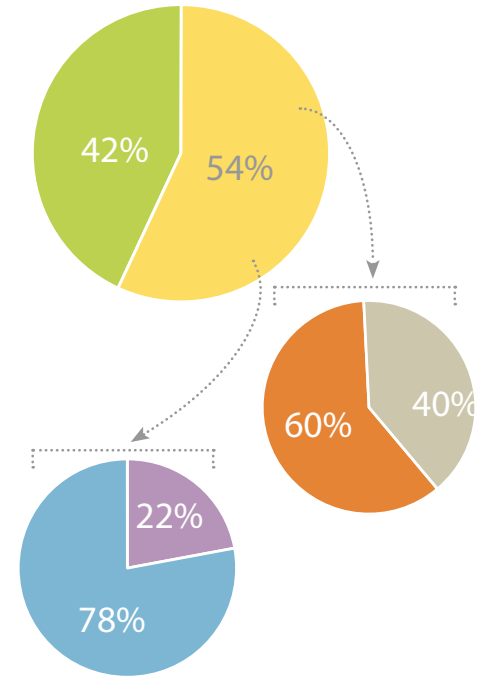
8,049 - 40%

3,892 - 19%

11,773 - 59%

DOMINICANS

5,691 | 0.3%



990 - 20%

1,693 - 34%

4,011 - 80%

About 20% of Latinos (ages five and older) speak only English, while nearly 80% speak Spanish at home. About 45% of Mexicans and 47% of Central Americans in Illinois self-reported to the Census as not being proficient in the English Language, compared to 41% of all Latinos. Cubans (40%) and Puerto Ricans (33%) are most likely to self-report proficiency in the English language. The ability of speaking English is closely tied to being a first or second-generation immigrant. Latinos born in the US are more likely to speak English.² Nonetheless, the fact that out of 56% born in the US, only 18% do not speak Spanish, shows that Spanish does not dissipate from one generation to the next and that Latinos at large are able to maintain their language. A recent survey of the Pew Hispanic Center found that Latinos believed that the lack of English proficiency is a major source of discrimination and a barrier to equal opportunity.³

Socioeconomic Comparison of Latinos in Illinois

Total Households

ALL LATINOS

490,306

MEXICANS

369,949

Total Family Households



Average Family Size

4.0 people

4.2 people

Tenure: Renter Occupied Compared with Owner Occupied Households

44% 56%

42% 58%

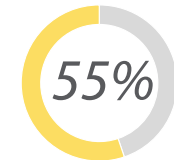
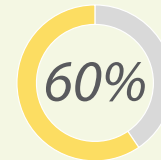
RENTER OWNER

Median Home Value

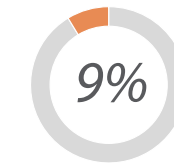
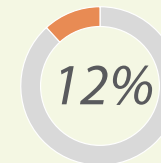
\$219,700

\$210,600

Educational Attainment: High School Graduate or Higher



Educational Attainment: Bachelor's Degree or Higher



Because the majority of Latinos are of Mexican origin (83%), data is mostly reported for this prominent group when reporting aggregated statistics for Latinos. The intent of these tabulations is not to divide the so called "Latino Agenda"—which makes Latinos work together towards a common goal of equality—but to show that there are important differences between Latino sub-groups and that these differences, if driven with unifying agendas, could illuminate new findings and be used to inform more targeted public policy. Nevertheless, it is important to point out that it will be a mistake to generalize about matters such as educational attainment and home values even among Mexicans because of the diversity that exists within the Mexican community itself. We could pose the same argument for other Latino subgroups. Further, regardless of national origin, there are important differences between the first and second-generations, which are not being disaggregated in this report. For example, second-generation Latinos are more likely to have higher incomes

PUERTO RICANS

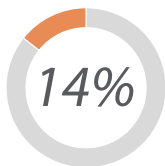
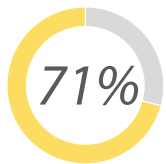
53,987



3.4 people



\$262,100



CENTRAL AMERICANS

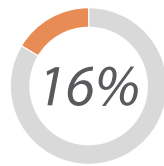
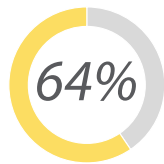
18,854



3.8 people



\$252,800

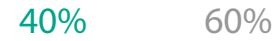


CUBANS

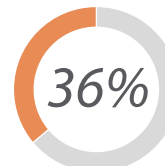
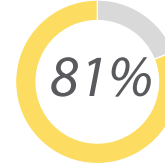
7,398



3.4 people



\$317,500



DOMINICANS

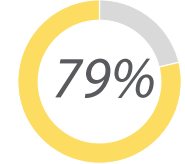
1,546



3.8 people



\$241,600



and achieve higher educational attainments than their first-generation counterparts. Fewer gains are seen between the second and the third-generation.⁴ For more in depth understanding, there is a need to conduct more studies that disaggregate data not only based on ethnic subgroups but also citizenship status, generations, race, gender, age, and the like.

Family households make up 82% of all Latino households. The average household size for a Latino family in 2010 was 4 people. Mexicans with an average family size of 4.2 people had a slightly larger household size; they are also most likely (85%) to live in family households. Cubans had the highest median home values (\$317,500) as well as the highest percentages of homeownership (60%). The homeownership rate for Mexicans (58%) ranked second, but home values ranked the lowest. Cubans and Dominicans (25 years and older) had the highest rates of high school as well as college graduates. The educational attainment levels of Mexicans, followed by Central Americans, lagged behind the Latino population overall.

Socioeconomic Comparison of Latinos in Illinois

Labor Force Participation

ALL LATINOS
943,267 - 72%

MEXICANS
740,875 - 73%

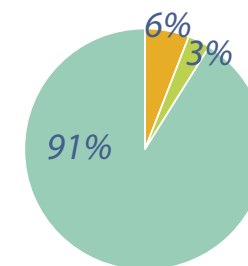
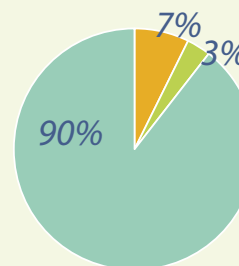
Unemployment

7.1%

7.0%

Types of Employment

PRIVATE WAGE + SALARY WORKERS ■
GOVERNMENT WORKERS ■
SELF-EMPLOYED WORKERS ■



Living in Poverty

Of All People

18%

18%

Of All Children

23%

24%

Of All Seniors

16%

14%

Median Household Income

\$47,170

\$46,580

Households with Income from Wages

92%

94%

Households Receiving Social Security

12%

10%

Households with Food Stamps/SNAP Benefits in the Last Year

14%

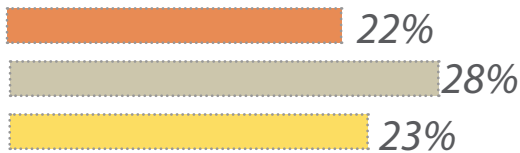
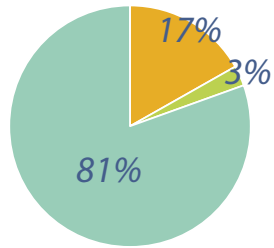
13%

In 2010, 72% of Latinos (ages 16 and over) participated in the labor force, and 7.1% were unemployed. Puerto Ricans represented a smaller share of the Latino labor force (65%); they also had among the highest unemployment rates (8.8%). Dominicans showed very similar numbers with 66% and 8.8%, respectively. Many studies note such differences could be attributed to discrimination in the labor market due to the racial composition of Puerto Ricans and Dominicans (who have darker skin color), as opposed to the Amerindian make-up of Mexicans and Central Americans. Many Puerto Ricans (17%) held government jobs, which could be partially attributed to the commonwealth status of the island or the lack of access to the private labor market. Mexicans, although the largest group, had less access to government positions (6%). Central Americans and Dominicans show larger rates of self-employment (5% and 4%, respectively), which could mean that either they are more likely to start businesses or participate in the informal labor market at higher rates.

PUERTO RICANS

82,703 - 65%

8.8%



\$43,925

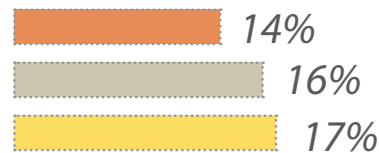
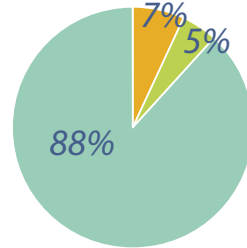
82%



CENTRAL AMERICANS

36,659 - 75%

6.9%



\$48,314

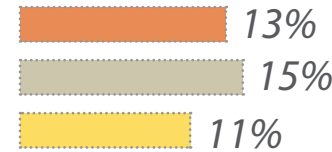
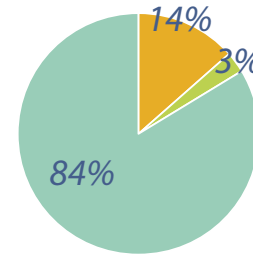
94%



CUBANS

10,518 - 65%

6.9%



\$54,667

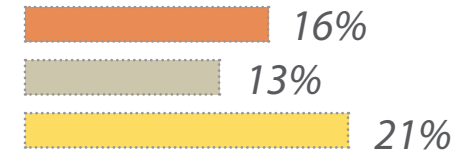
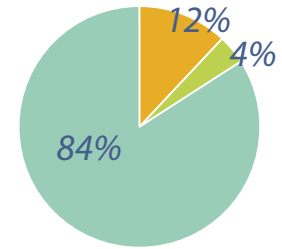
80%



DOMINICANS

2,676 - 66%

8.8%



\$53,873

87%



Disaggregation shows that Puerto Ricans and Mexicans are at the bottom of the income ladder, earning \$43,925 and \$46,580, respectively—both less than the median Latino household income of \$47,170. Cubans, followed by Dominicans, had the highest incomes. Twenty-two percent of all Puerto Ricans lived below the poverty line; they also had the highest poverty levels for children and the elderly. Mexicans, the largest group, reflect the poverty level of the average Latino (18%). Cubans (13%) and Central Americans (14%) had among the lowest poverty levels of all the subgroups. The larger story of poverty could be unveiled when taking a closer look at the households with income from wages as well as the percentage of households receiving non-income benefits such as food stamps. For example, 82% of Puerto Ricans receive their income from wages, meaning that the remaining percentage (18%) receive their income from other sources, often government benefits such as social security. On the other hand, Mexicans and Central Americans earn most (94% for both groups) of their income through wages. They also receive the lowest amounts of benefits, which could be attributed to issues of citizenship status.

Conclusion: Towards a Data-Informed Action Agenda

The data presented throughout the report provide the contours of a complex portrait of Latinos in the State of Illinois. It is a Latino narrative that speaks to struggle and disparity; progress and aspiration, all at once. Overall the data is helpful in creating some common ground when it comes to understanding the Latino community profile. Key characteristics that emerge include the following:

- **Latinos have long established roots in Illinois, yet Latino communities are a growing presence in new areas throughout the state.** – The Latino population continues to grow and Illinois ranks fifth in the nation. However, Latinos are moving away from the densely populated Chicago city center into suburban areas and collar counties. Counties and municipalities in the northern and central region of the state are experiencing marked growth. Developing an infrastructure of inclusion and support will be critical for Latino success across the State. Illinois can and should continue to be a lead state in immigrant rights, but beyond immigration, it must do more to eliminate economic, educational and health disparities for the Latino population.
- **The majority of Latinos in Illinois are U.S. born, although many households are of mixed status.** Latinos share many language and family characteristics with other immigrant groups, however, they more closely resemble the African American community when it comes to entrenched poverty, educational outcomes, and lack of equitable representation. Latinos are uniquely positioned in this nation and we must continue to voice the complexity of that positionality. Despite the importance of immigration reform for so many Latino households, it remains a complex issue and should not define Latinos as a single issue constituency.
- **Latinos continue to embrace Spanish as a preferred household language, and when viewed as an asset and supported, it represents a competitive advantage in the global marketplace.** Language access barriers abound for the Latino community in just about every sector: education, health, human services, access to employment and business development resources. Providing meaningful access is not only required by law, it will lead to healthier and more productive outcomes for Latinos. Dual language educational settings can equip Illinois children with a valuable asset in the global marketplace.
- **Latinos have the lowest educational attainment of any group, and throughout the P-20 pipeline are not equitably represented in early education and STEM learning opportunities.** Despite high levels of labor force participation, Latinos are not prepared for high demand and high paying emerging fields such as STEM and health. Not participating fully in the P-20 pipeline geared towards the jobs in high demand fields such as STEM, results in greater marginalization into lower paying and high risk employment for Latinos. The new job market increasingly requires higher education degrees or certificates, and only 12% of Latinos attain a Bachelor's degree of higher leading to a widening skills gap for Latinos.

- **Latinos have the lowest rates of health insurance and lack access to affordable and high quality healthcare.** Almost 1 in 3 Latinos lack health insurance, and just about as many lack a primary health home. Lack of cultural and language responsiveness, affordability and access, remain as barriers for the Latino community despite recent health reform efforts.
- **Latinos have high rates of homeownership, over 55%, but were one of the groups hardest hit with the housing crisis and suffered great losses in assets.** Home ownership comes at great sacrifice for Latinos who pay on average 60% of their household income towards mortgage costs. Targeted by predatory lending and other financial schemes, and left out of many formal banking relationships, Latinos suffered great losses in assets during the financial down turn. Latino wealth and asset building must be a critical component for any economic mobility agenda.
- **Latinos are entrepreneurial and lead the state in new business growth at a 3:1 rate, but face many challenges in access to capital, business development supports and public contracts.** Despite initiatives geared toward small businesses, Latino business owners have a difficult time accessing capital and business development opportunities. Moreover, they identify great barriers in securing government contracting opportunities. As an economic engine for growth and employment in Illinois, Latino small businesses need the right supports to increase in size and revenue.

The Latino population will continue driving the economic, social and political future of the entire state and its ability to compete in evolving markets here and abroad. Yet, despite significant contributions to the social, cultural, political and economic vitality of the state, Latinos remain largely outside of major decision making, planning and policy agendas at the state and local level. Data can assist in transforming the Latino narrative as a first step in “making the case,” however, moving forward will require greater inclusion of Latinos in governance and management of public and private resources and a commitment to greater investments and an action agenda for change.

Endnotes

1. Gonzalez-Barrera, Ana, Mark Hugo Lopez, Jeffrey S. Passel, and Paul Taylor. Pew Hispanic Center , “The Path Not Taken: Two-thirds of Legal Mexican Immigrants are not U.S. Citizens.” Last modified February 04, 2013. Accessed October 22, 2013.
2. Hakimzadeh, Shirin, and D’Vera Cohn. Pew Hispanic Center , “English Usage Among Hispanics in the United States.” Last modified November 29, 2007. Accessed October 22, 2013.
3. Ibid.
4. National Research Council (2006). Hispanics and the Future of America. Panel on Hispanics in the United States. Marta Tienda and Faith Mitchell, eds. Committee on Population, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.
5. Jeffrey M., Humphreys. Selig Center for Economic Growth, “The Multicultural Economy 2012 .” http://www.terry.uga.edu/media/documents/multicultural_economy_2009.pdf.

Data Sources:

2010 Census and 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, available online at <http://factfinder2.census.gov>