

A PORTRAIT OF **HISPANIC/LATINE** **MINNESOTANS**

DEMOGRAPHICS AND SOCIAL
ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

MARCH 2023





ABOUT THIS REPORT

A Portrait of Hispanic/Latine Minnesotans: Demographic and Socioeconomic Characteristics was prepared by the Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs (MCLA) to offer a comprehensive and up-to-date overview of the Hispanic/Latine communities in Minnesota. This report explores various demographic and socioeconomic characteristics, including population, geographic distribution, education, income, poverty, employment, homeownership, disability, and healthcare.

The Hispanic/Latine population is rapidly growing across the United States, with an increase of 23% between 2010 and 2020, according to the latest census data and the Pew Research Center. In 2020, the population reached 62.5 million, accounting for 19% of the total U.S. population. As Minnesota's Hispanic/Latine also population continues to grow, it is increasingly important for public officials, state legislators, community and business leaders, and the wider public to have a better understanding of the evolving dynamics within our community.


The main objective of the report is to offer insights into the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of Hispanic/Latine Minnesotans, helping to identify areas where additional resources and support are needed. The report's findings are essential for the development of policies and programs that support the growth and success of our community.

DATA

The report draws heavily on data collected from two sources: the 2020 U.S. Census and the 2021 American Community Survey. The U.S. Census, which is mandated by the U.S. Constitution (Article 1, Section 2), is conducted every 10 years by the U.S. Census Bureau. Its purpose is to collect demographic data on the entire U.S. population, which serves as the basis for determining the allocation of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and the distribution of federal funds. Furthermore, the Census results are used by states to redraw congressional and state legislative boundaries, as well as other local election districts, such as school districts. This process, known as redistricting, is essential for ensuring that each district is fairly represented.

In addition to the U.S. Census, the report also relies on the American Community Survey (ACS), which collects and provides demographic data on an annual basis. The ACS is an ongoing survey that provides valuable information about the changing characteristics of the U.S. population. The ACS data is particularly useful for tracking changes in population and socioeconomic characteristics over time and identifying trends that may not be apparent in the decennial Census.

By drawing on these authoritative sources, the report provides a comprehensive overview of the Hispanic/Latine population in Minnesota, enabling policymakers and community leaders to make informed decisions that support the growth and success of Latine Minnesotans.



ABOUT THE TERMS

The term Latinos refers to individuals living in the U.S. whose ancestors originate from the Caribbean Islands, Central America, Mexico, and South America, including people from Brazil who speak Portuguese. Hispanic refers to people whose heritage is derived from Spanish speaking countries - the term is about language. Latine is a gender-neutral term that is used as an alternative to Latino/Latina/Latin@.

MCLA uses Hispanic/Latine or Latino/a interchangeably to be gender neutral and inclusive.

KEY FINDINGS



Minnesota's Latino population is the third largest demographic group in the state with 345,640 residents.



Minnesota's Latino population has grown by 202,000 in the past 20 years. This growth accounts for more than one quarter (26%) of Minnesota's overall population growth since 2000.



The estimated unemployment rate for Latino Minnesotans in 2021 was 7.7 %, nearly three percentage points higher the state's overall rate (4.9%).



The median household income of Latino households is about \$64,000, which is \$17,000 lower than the median household income of White (non-Hispanic) households.



Two-thirds of Latino Minnesotans are of Mexican heritage.



One in five Hispanic Minnesotans does not have health insurance.



POPULATION

A Fast-Growing Population

345,640

The number of Hispanic/Latinx Minnesotans according to the 2020 Census. The population grew from 143,382 in 2000 to 250,258 (4.7%) in 2010 to 345,640 (6.1%) in 2020.

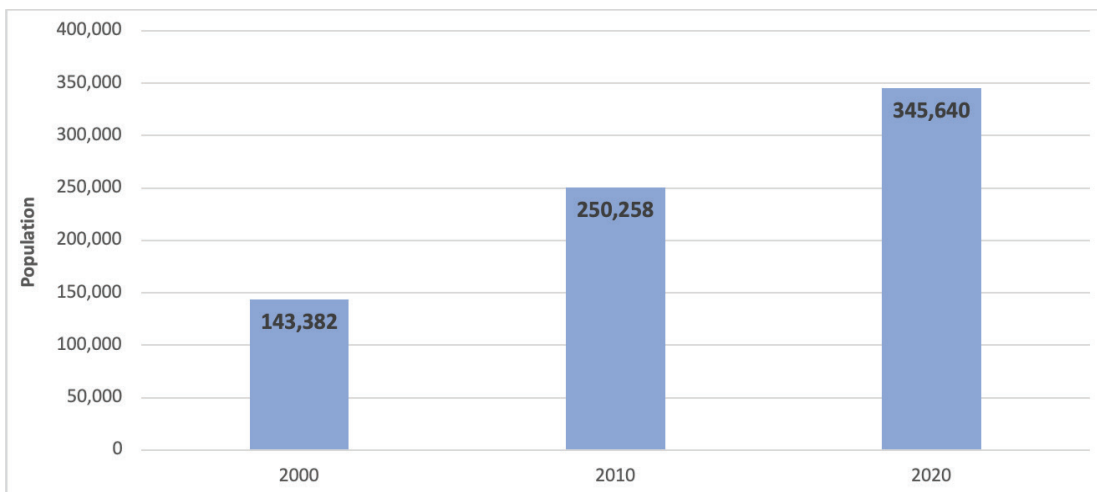
+141%

The change of the Latino population in Minnesota since 2000; the state's Latino population has grown by 202,000 in the past 20 years.¹

1 in 4

Latino population growth accounts for more than one quarter (26%) of Minnesota's overall population growth since 2000.

CHART 1: **Latino Population, Minnesota: 2000-2020**



Source: P2: Hispanic or Latino, Minnesota, Decennial Census 2020. U.S. Census Bureau.

Almost 1 in 16 Minnesotans (6.1%) are Hispanic.²



POPULATION

A Young Population

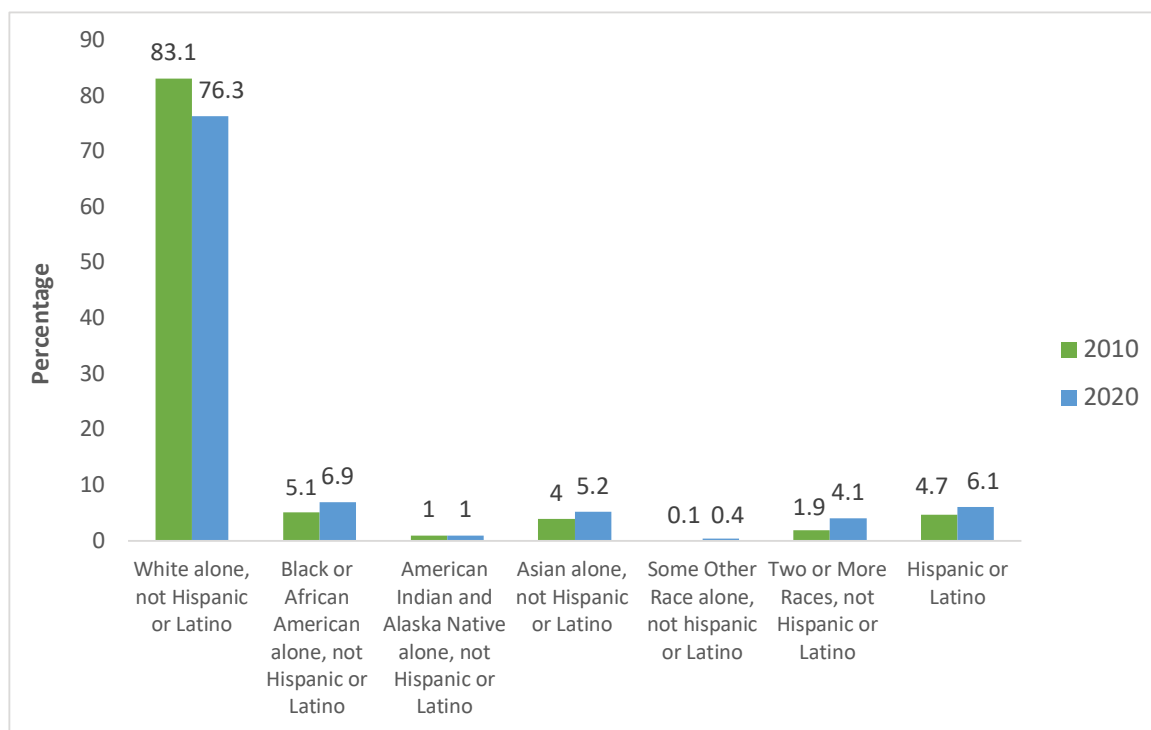
37%

The share of Hispanic Minnesotans under 18 in 2020, which is 14 percentage points higher than the percentage of the state population under 18 (23%). Overall, 1 in 10 children in Minnesota (10%) is Hispanic.³

26.2 years

The median age of Latino Minnesotans in 2021, over 12 years younger than the state median age (38.8).⁴

CHART 2: **Minnesota Population by Racial and Ethnic Groups: 2010-2020**



Source: <https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/racial-and-ethnic-diversity-in-the-united-states-2010-and-2020-census.html>



GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Over 240,000 Latinos live in the Twin Cities metro area, around two thirds of Hispanic Minnesotans. As Table 1 shows, large Hispanic populations are also present in Greater Minnesota metropolitan and micropolitan areas in the southern half of the state (Rochester, Worthington, Faribault-Northfield, Willmar, Austin, Mankato) as well as northern metro areas bordering other states (Fargo-Moorhead, Greater Grand Forks, Duluth-Superior). Micro areas in the southern half of Minnesota have the highest concentrations of Latinos, including the top nine areas listed in Table 2.⁵

TABLE 1: **2020 Minnesota metro & micro areas with the largest Hispanic populations**

METRO/MICROPOLITAN AREA	STATE REGION	AREA HISPANIC POPULATION
Mpls-St. Paul, MN-WI Metro Area	Twin Cities	242,621
Rochester, MN Metro Area	Southern	11,302
Fargo-Moorhead, ND-MN Metro Area	West Central	9,193
St. Cloud, MN Metro Area	Central	8,167
Worthington, MN Micro Area	Southwest	7,271
Faribault-Northfield, MN Micro Area	Southern	6,783
Willmar, MN Micro Area	Southwest	5,916
Greater Grand Forks, ND-MN Metro Area	Northwest	5,656
Duluth-Superior, MN-WI Metro Area	Northland	5,096
Austin, MN Micro Area	Southern	5,081
Mankato, MN Metro Area	Southern	5,021

Source: P2: Hispanic or Latino, Metropolitan & Micropolitan Statistical Areas, Decennial Census 2020. U.S. Census Bureau.

Note: Border metro areas include populations from areas outside of Minnesota. State regions correspond to Minnesota Compass definitions.

TABLE 2: **2020 Minnesota metro & micro areas with the largest Hispanic population**

METRO/MICROPOLITAN AREA	STATE REGION	% OF AREA POPULATION	AREA HISPANIC POPULATION
Worthington, MN Micro Area	Southwest	32.6%	7,271
Willmar, MN Micro Area	Southwest	13.5%	5,916
Austin, MN Micro Area	Southern	12.7%	5,081
Albert Lea, MN Micro Area	Southern	10.3%	3,183
Faribault-Northfield, MN Micro Area	Southern	10.1%	6,783
Owatonna, MN Micro Area	Southern	8.4%	3,140
Hutchinson, MN Micro Area	Southwest	6.9%	2,555
Marshall, MN Micro Area	Southwest	6.9%	1,744
Fairmont, MN Micro Area	Southern	6.6%	1,320
Mpls-St. Paul, MN-WI Metro Area	Twin Cities	6.6%	242,621

Source: P2: Hispanic or Latino, Metropolitan & Micropolitan Statistical Areas, Decennial Census 2020. U.S. Census Bureau.
Note: State regions correspond to Minnesota Compass definitions.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Population Growth in Greater Minnesota Counties

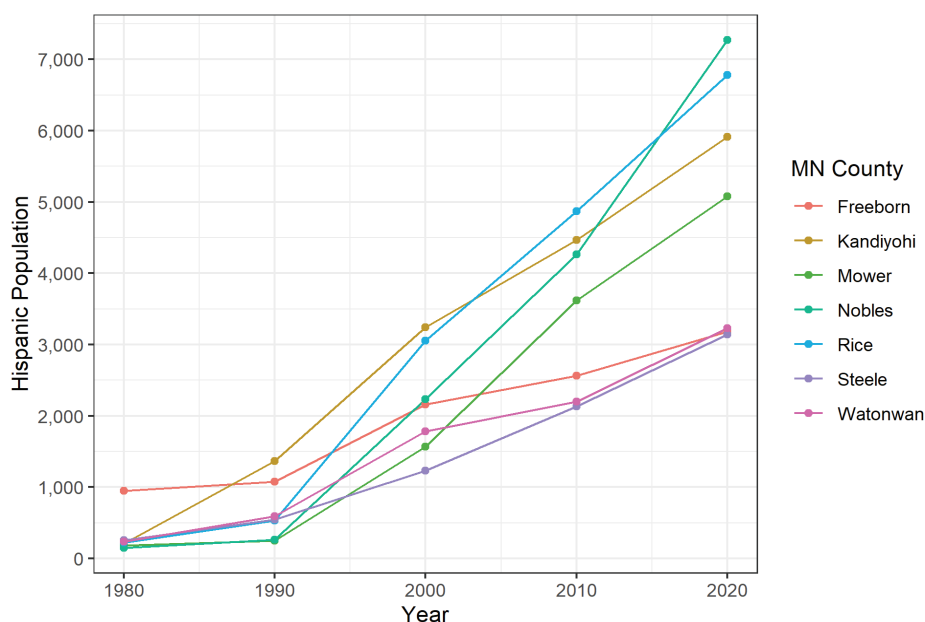
Table 3 and Figure 1 show that nearly all Latino population growth has occurred in counties outside the metro area since 1980. Latino population growth in the 1980-2020 period accounts for over 90 percent of the Latino population in six of seven counties (all except Freeborn), most of them located in the Southeast region (see maps on Appendices).

Over the 40-year study period, the Latino population grew by at least 2,000 in all selected counties and by over 5,000 in three counties, Nobles, Rice, and Kandiyohi (Table 3). In 1980, all of these counties had less than 1,000 Latino residents (Figure 1).

TABLE 3: **Hispanic Population in Selected Minnesota Counties**

Minnesota County	2020 Hispanic Population	2020 Hispanic Percentage	Hispanic Growth 1980-2020
Nobles	7,271	32.6%	7,121
Rice	6,783	10.1%	6,558
Kandiyohi	5,916	13.5%	5,710
Mower	5,081	12.7%	4,902
Watonwan	3,227	28.7%	2,988
Freeborn	3,183	10.3%	2,232
Steele	3,140	8.4%	2,887

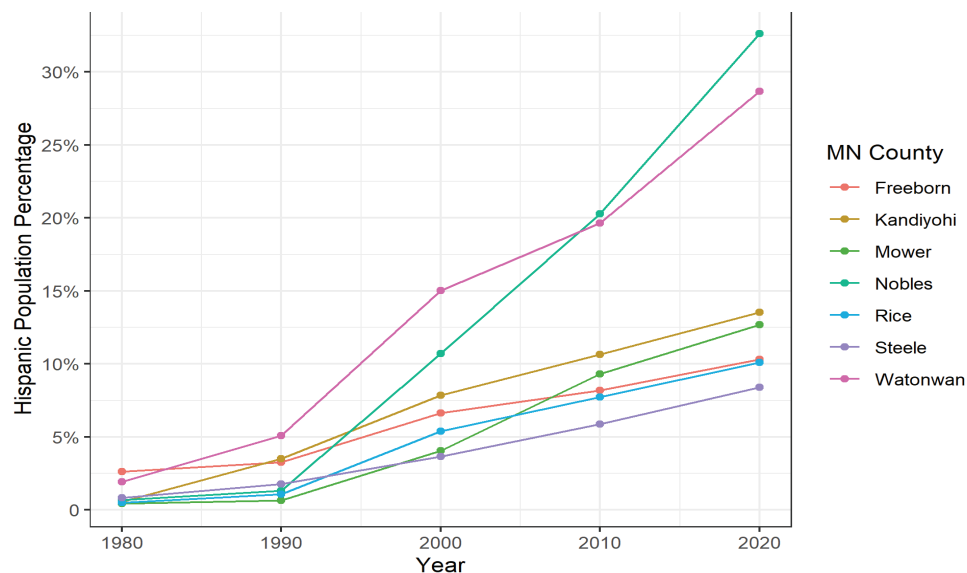
FIGURE 1: **Hispanic population in selected Minnesota Counties, 1980-2020**



GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Figure 2 shows that the Hispanic population percentage was less than five percent in each of the selected counties in 1980. According to the 2020 Census, two counties had a Latino population percentage over 25 percent (Nobles & Watonwan) and four others had a Latino population percentage over 10 percent (Kandiyohi, Mower, Freeborn, Rice).

FIGURE 2: **Hispanic pop. pct. in selected Minnesota Counties, 1980-2020**



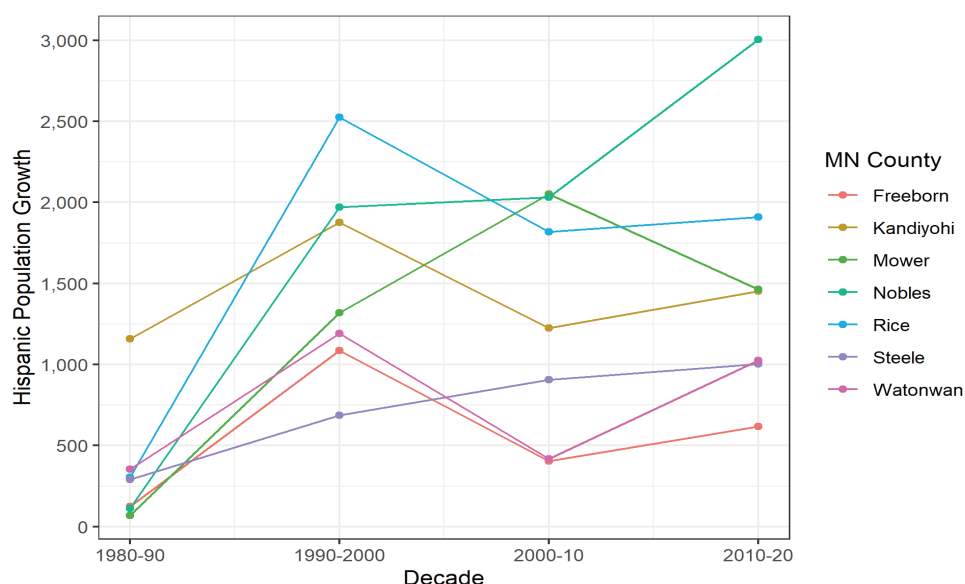
GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Looking at population growth by the decade in Figure 3, the 1990s and 2010s were the periods of highest Latino population growth in these counties. In both the 1990s and 2010s, the Latino population grew by at least 1,000 in six of seven counties and by more than 10,000 overall. In the 2000s, the Latino population grew by at least 1,000 in four of seven counties.

Four counties experienced their highest Hispanic population growth decade in the 1990s (Rice, Kandiyohi, Watonwan, Freeborn), two in the 2010s (Nobles and Steele), and one in the 2000s (Mower).

Nobles experienced the highest overall Hispanic population growth decade with a population increase of 3,005 in the 2010s. Rice experienced the second-highest growth decade with a Hispanic population increase of 2,525 in the 1990s.

FIGURE 3: **Hispanic pop. Growth in selected Minnesota Counties, 1980-2020**



LANGUAGES AND ORIGINS

Somos bilingües / We are bilingual

6 in 7

The number of Hispanic Minnesotans over age five (86%) who speak English well or very well, including 42% who only speak English at home. About four in seven Latino Minnesotans (58%) speak Spanish at home, according to 2021 estimates. A little under half of the state's Latinos (44%) speak both Spanish and English well.⁶

Immigrants and native-born

100,000

The approximate number of foreign-born Hispanic Minnesotans, about one third (30%) of the state's Latino population in 2021. Almost four in five Hispanic Minnesotans (78%) are U.S. citizens, including 232,000 Latinos born in the U.S. (70%) and 28,000 naturalized U.S. citizens (8.5%).⁷

According to 2021 estimates, three in five Hispanic Minnesotans (200,000) trace their ancestry to Mexico, while over 130,000 Latinos trace their ancestry to countries in other parts of the Hispanic world (see Table 4). These include countries in the Caribbean (14,300 Puerto Ricans, 7,100 Cubans, 5,800 Dominicans), South America (19,600 Ecuadorans, 7,900 Colombians), Central America (12,400 Salvadorans, 12,200 Guatemalans, 6,700 Hondurans), and Spain (13,900 Spanish or Spaniards).⁸

TABLE 4: **2021 Minnesota Latino population by country ancestry**

COUNTRY ANCESTRY	POPULATION	% OF MN LATINOS
Mexican	200,000	60%
Ecuadorian	19,600	6%
Puerto Rican	14,300	4%
Spanish/Spaniard	13,900	4%
Salvadoran	12,400	4%
Guatemalan	12,200	4%
Colombian	7,900	2%
Cuban	7,100	2%
Honduran	6,700	2%
Dominican (Dominican Republic)	5,800	2%
All Other	32,300	10%

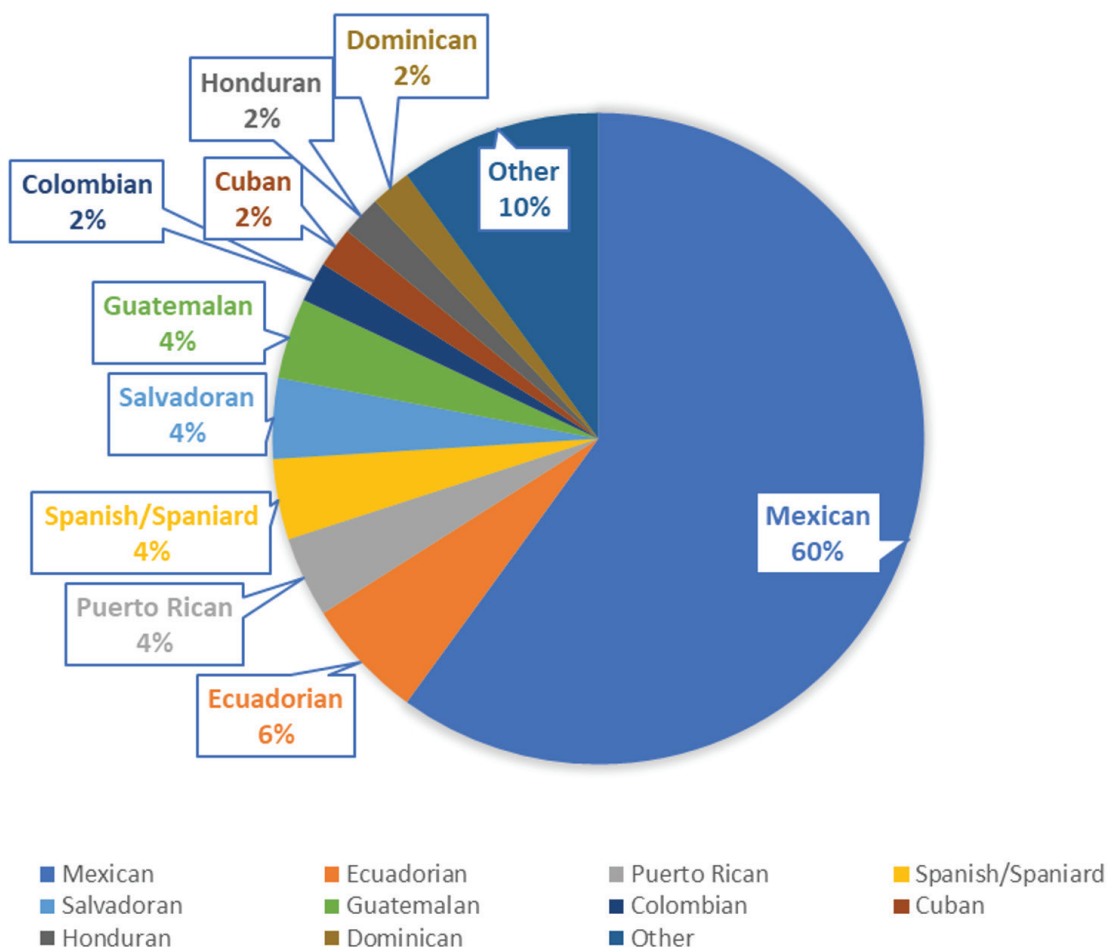


Source: B03001: Hispanic or Latino origin by specific origin, Minnesota, ACS 2021. U.S. Census Bureau.

Note: Population numbers are estimates subject to sampling error; populations are rounded the hundreds place and may not sum to the total population.

LANGUAGES AND ORIGINS

CHART 3: **Minnesota Latinx Population by Heritage**



Source: B03001: Hispanic or Latino origin by specific origin, Minnesota, ACS 2021. U.S. Census Bureau.



EDUCATION

35%

The percentage of Hispanic Minnesotans who went to school in 2021. Of the estimated 116,600 Latinos in school, 68,200 were enrolled in preschool and elementary school, 29,100 in high school, and 19,300 in college and graduate school.⁹

For Minnesota Latinos 25 and older, almost three in four (72%) have graduated from high school and almost one in four (23%) have a bachelor's degree or higher.¹⁰

-17

The drop in the estimated number of Latinos enrolled in postsecondary education between 2019 and 2021. Approximately 19,000 Hispanic Minnesotans were enrolled in postsecondary education in 2021, around 4,000 fewer than in 2019.¹¹ The drop in postsecondary enrollment occurred even though the number of young Latino adults (ages 18-24) increased by around 3,000 from 2019 to 2021.¹² Disruptions in schooling during the pandemic may have contributed to the enrollment decline.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Income and homeownership gaps

81K vs. 64K

The median income of White (non-Hispanic) households in Minnesota versus the median income of Latino households in the state, a \$17,000 gap. Household median income in the state was approximately \$77,700 in 2021.¹³

78% vs. 57%

The homeownership rate among White (non-Hispanic) households in Minnesota versus the rate among Minnesota's Latinos, a 21-percentage point gap. In 2021, an estimated 73% of all Minnesota households owned the home they lived in.¹⁴ The White-Latino homeownership gap has decreased substantially in the past decade. The gap was 38-percentage points in 2011, nearly double the current gap. In 2011, the Hispanic homeownership rate was 39%, 18-percentage points lower than in 2021. The state's White homeownership rate has stayed about the same (77% in 2011, 78% in 2021).



Poverty

47,000

The estimated number of Hispanic Minnesotans living in households below poverty level in 2021, approximately 14% of the state's Latino population. About 9% of Minnesotans lived in poverty in 2021.¹⁵



WORKFORCE

7.7%

The estimated unemployment rate for Hispanic Minnesotans in 2021, an increase of about two percentage points relative to the 2019 unemployment rate (5.8%). The rate likely increased due to the economic effects of the pandemic. The 2021 Hispanic unemployment rate was almost three percentage points higher than the state's overall rate (4.9%). The unemployment rate excludes those who are not employed or actively seeking employment.¹⁶

72%

The estimated employment to population ratio (E/P ratio) for Hispanic Minnesotans in 2019. This ratio captures another aspect of employment status, measuring the number of people who are employed relative to the number of people 16 years and older in that population. Latinos have among the highest E/P ratio among racial and ethnic groups in Minnesota. The ratio for Latinos in the state is about seven percentage points higher than the overall state E/P ratio of 65%.¹⁷

Minnesota Latinos worked in a variety of occupational areas in 2021. As Table 5 shows, more than 15,000 Latinos worked in production occupations (23,200), food preparation and serving (18,400), education/legal/social service/arts/media occupations (15,400), and management/business/financial occupations (15,100). There are higher concentrations of Hispanic workers in several occupations: farming/fishing/forestry (26% of the occupational workforce), food preparation and serving (14%), production (12%), building/grounds cleaning and maintenance (11%) and material moving (10%).¹⁸

TABLE 5: Ten occupations with the most Hispanic workers in Minnesota in 2021

OCCUPATION	HISPANIC WORKERS	OCCUPATIONAL WORKFORCE %
Production	23,200	12%
Food prep/serving	18,400	14%
Education, legal, social service, arts & media	15,400	5%
Management, business & financial	15,100	3%
Office & administrative support	14,700	5%
Sales & related	10,300	4%
Building/grounds cleaning & maintenance	9,700	11%
Material moving	9,700	10%
Construction & extraction	9,300	7%
Computer, engineering & science	7,000	3%
Healthcare (support)	6,700	6%
Farming, fishing & forestry	4,800	26%
Healthcare (practitioners & technical)	4,600	2%
Installation, maintenance & repair	4,500	5%
HISPANIC WORKFORCE TOTALS	161,700	5.5%

Source: B240101: Sex by occupation for the civilian employed population 16 years and older (Hispanic or Latino), Minnesota, ACS 2021. U.S. Census Bureau.

B24010: Sex by occupation for the civilian employed population 16 years and older, Minnesota, ACS 2021. U.S. Census Bureau.

Note: Worker numbers are estimates subject to sampling error. Worker numbers are rounded the hundreds place.



Veterans

4,900

The number of Minnesota Latinos who are U.S. Armed Forces Veterans according to 2021 estimates.¹⁹

HEALTH

Life Expectancy

83.4 years

The life expectancy for Hispanic Minnesotans in 2018, 2.5 years more than the Minnesota average life expectancy of 80.9 years. Minnesota Latinos have the second highest life expectancy among racial and ethnic groups after Asian/Pacific Islanders (86.8 years).²⁰

Health insurance

1 in 5

The estimated share of Hispanic Minnesotans without health insurance in 2021, over 50,000 people. The uninsured rate among Minnesota Latinos (15.3%) was more than three times the state's overall uninsured rate (4.5%) in 2021. One in five uninsured Minnesotans is Hispanic (20%).²¹



Disability Status

30,500

The estimated number of Latinos in Minnesota with a disability, about 9% of the state's Hispanic population.²² The Census defines a person with a disability as anyone who has serious difficulties with hearing, vision, cognition, walking, self-care, and/or independent living).²³



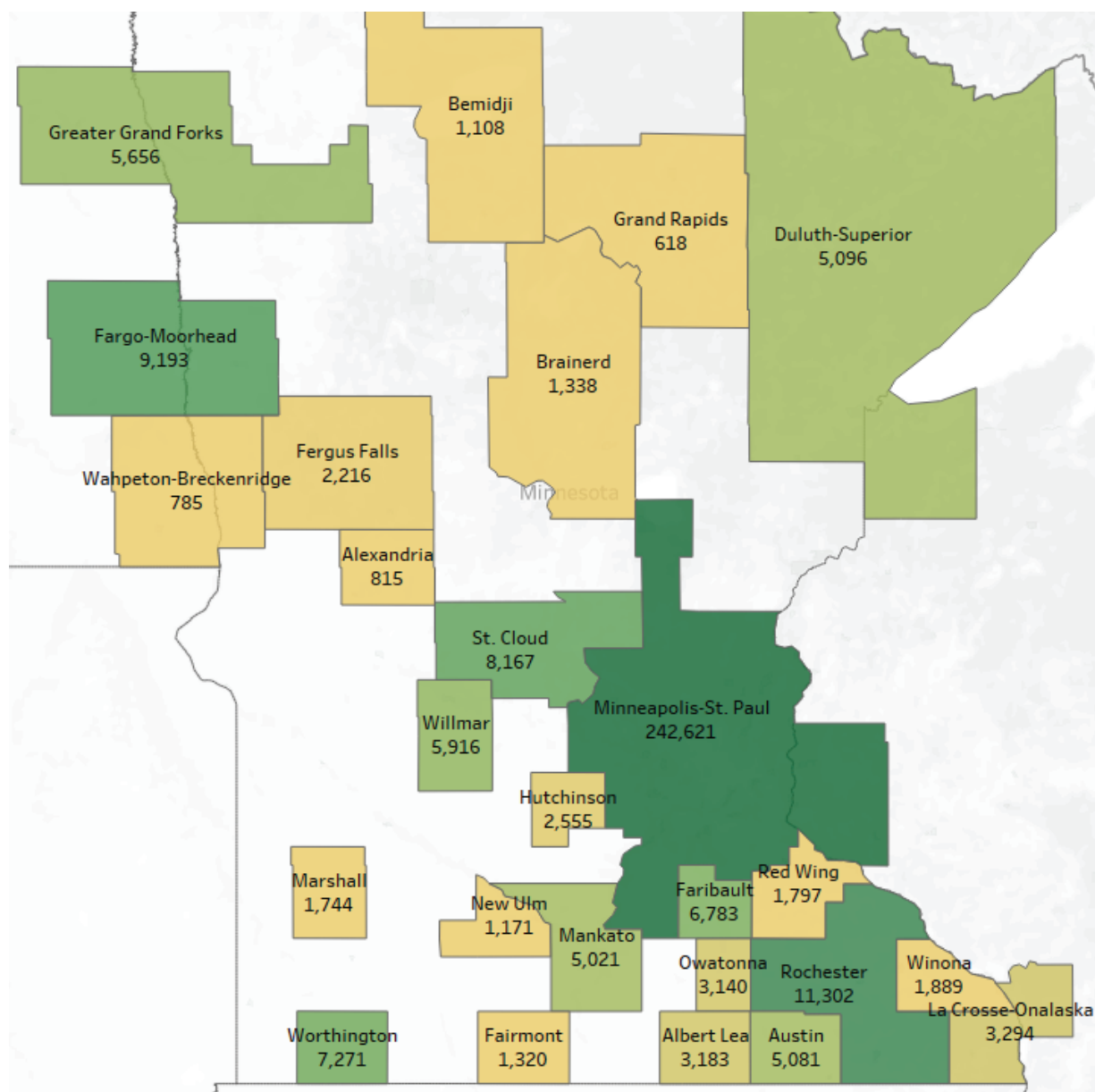
Latine Vote

82%

The increase since 2010 in the number of Hispanic Minnesotans who are potentially eligible to vote. In 2021, an estimated 146,500 Latinos in Minnesota were adult citizens (native-born or naturalized). In absolute terms, the Latine voting age population has grown by about 66,000 since 2010.²⁴

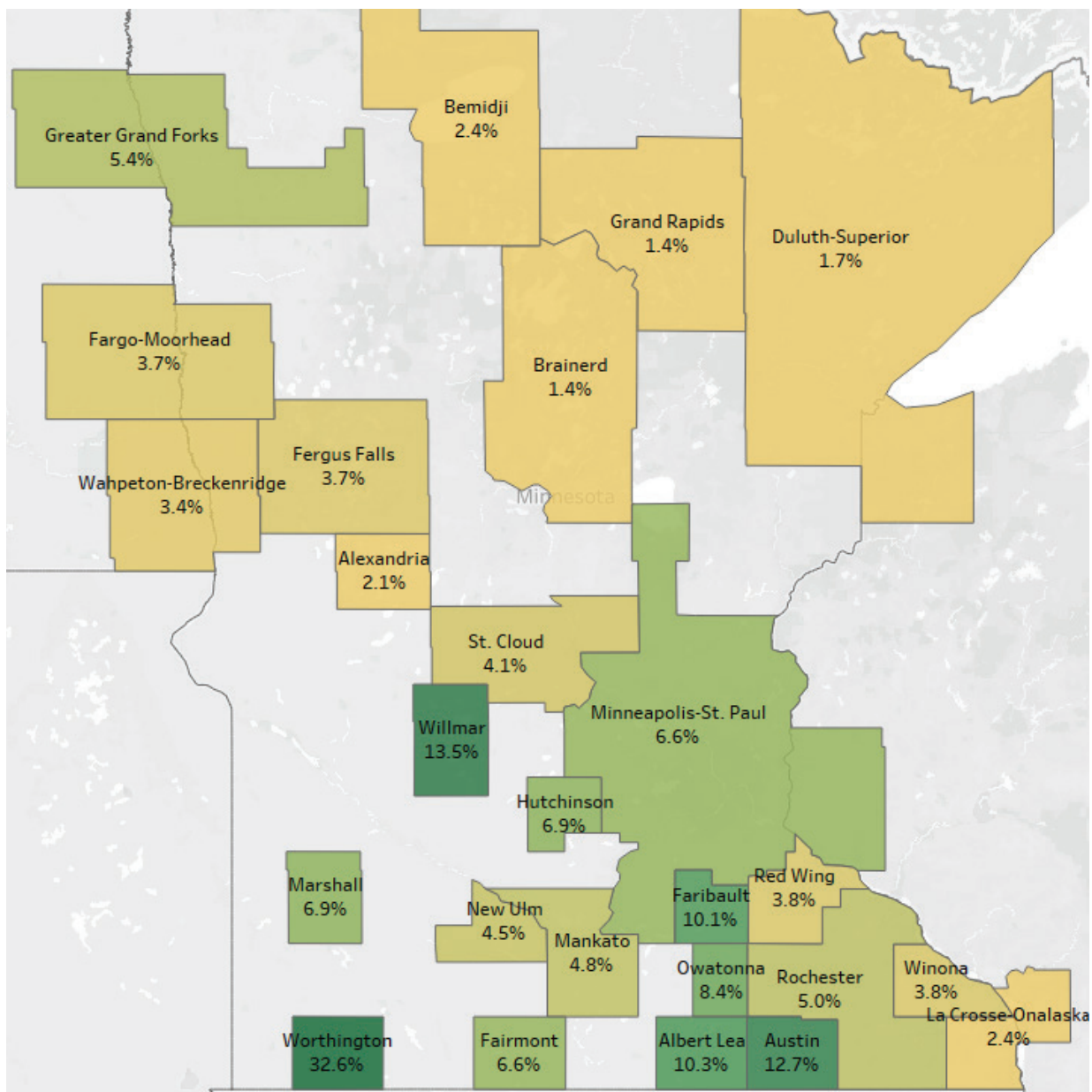
APPENDICES

A. Hispanic Population by Metro and Micro Areas



APPENDICES

B. Hispanic Population Percentage by Metro & Micro Areas



Sources:

- ¹ [DP1: Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000, Minnesota, U.S. Census Bureau.](#)
- ² [P2: Hispanic or Latino, Minnesota, Decennial Census 2020, U.S. Census Bureau.](#)
- ³ [P4: Hispanic or Latino for the Population 18 Years and Over, Minnesota, Decennial Census, U.S. Census Bureau.](#)
- ⁴ [B01002I: Median Age by sex \(Hispanic or Latino\), Minnesota, ACS 2021, U.S. Census Bureau.](#)
[B01002: Median Age by sex, Minnesota, ACS 2021, U.S. Census Bureau.](#)
- ⁵ [P2: Hispanic or Latino, Metropolitan & Micropolitan Statistical Areas, Decennial Census 2020, U.S. Census Bureau.](#)
- ⁶ [B16006: Language spoken at home by ability to speak English for the population 5 years and older \(Hispanic or Latino\), Minnesota, ACS 2019, U.S. Census Bureau.](#)
- ⁷ [B05003I: Sex by age by nativity and citizenship status \(Hispanic or Latino\), Minnesota, ACS 2021, U.S. Census Bureau.](#)
- ⁸ [B03001: Hispanic or Latino origin by specific origin, Minnesota, ACS 2021, U.S. Census Bureau.](#)
- ⁹ [C14007I: School enrollment by detailed level of school for the population 3 years old and over \(Hispanic or Latino\), Minnesota, ACS 2021, U.S. Census Bureau.](#)
- ¹⁰ [C15002I: Educational Attainment, Minnesota, ACS 2021, U.S. Census Bureau.](#)
- ¹¹ [C14007I: School enrollment by detailed level of school for the population 3 years old and over \(Hispanic or Latino\), Minnesota, ACS 2021, U.S. Census Bureau.](#)
- ¹² [B01001I: Sex by age \(Hispanic or Latino\), Minnesota, ACS 2021, U.S. Census Bureau.](#)
[B01001: Sex by age \(Hispanic or Latino\), Minnesota, ACS 2019, U.S. Census Bureau.](#)
- ¹³ [S1903: Median income in the past 12 months \(in 2021 inflation-adjusted dollars\), Minnesota, ACS 2021, U.S. Census Bureau.](#)
- ¹⁴ [S2502: Demographic characteristics for occupied housing units, Minnesota, ACS 2021, U.S. Census Bureau.](#)
- ¹⁵ [S1701: Poverty status in the past 12 months, Minnesota, ACS 2021, U.S. Census Bureau.](#)
- ¹⁶ [Concepts and Definitions \(CPS\). \(2021, January 27\). U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.](#)
- ¹⁷ [S2301: Employment status, Minnesota, ACS 2021, U.S. Census Bureau.](#)
- ¹⁸ [B24010I: Sex by occupation for the civilian employed population 16 years and older \(Hispanic or Latino\), Minnesota, ACS 2021, U.S. Census Bureau.](#)
- ¹⁹ [C21001I: Sex by age by veteran status for the civilian population 18 years and older \(Hispanic or Latino\), Minnesota, ACS 2021, U.S. Census Bureau.](#)
- ²⁰ [List of U.S. states and territories by life expectancy. \(2021, March 24\). In Wikipedia.](#)
- ²¹ [S2701: Selected characteristics of health insurance coverage in the United States, Minnesota, ACS 2021, U.S. Census Bureau.](#)
- ²² [B18101I: Age by disability status \(Hispanic or Latino\), Minnesota, ACS 2021, U.S. Census Bureau.](#)
- ²³ [Disability. Census Report.](#)
- ²⁴ [B05003I: Sex by age by nativity and citizenship status \(Hispanic or Latino\), Minnesota, ACS 2021, U.S. Census Bureau.](#)
[B05003I: Sex by age by nativity and citizenship status \(Hispanic or Latino\), Minnesota, ACS 2010, U.S. Census Bureau.](#)

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ABOUT MCLA

The Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs (MCLA) is a state agency charged with advising and informing the Office of the Governor and Lt. Governor, legislators, and state agencies on issues and policies that impact Latine communities in the state of Minnesota. Additionally, MCLA serves as a liaison to the broader Hispanic/Latine community throughout the state, providing updates and information from the State Capitol and other government agencies. The Council also serves as a bridge between the community and state resources, services, and programs.



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