

# LATINOS IN IOWA: 2017

SEPTEMBER 2017

In 1968, Congress authorized President Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim a week in September as National Hispanic Heritage Week. The observance was expanded in 1988 to a month-long celebration (Sept. 15-Oct. 15). During this month, the United States celebrates the culture and traditions of U.S. residents who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America and the Caribbean. Sept. 15 was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18, respectively.

## 182,606

The estimated Latino population of Iowa as of July 1, 2016, making people of Latino origin the state's largest race or ethnic minority. Latinos constitute 5.8 percent of the state's total population

## 121.4%

The percent change in the Latino population from 2000 to 2016. This is an 100,133 increase for the period.

## 439,414

The projected Latino population of Iowa as of July 1, 2050. According to the 2017 Woods & Poole Economics Inc., Latinos will constitute 12.8 percent of the state's total population on that date.

## 23.5

The median age of Iowa's Latino population in 2016. The median age for the state of Iowa is 38.0.

## Families and Children

### 34,197

The number of Latino families in 2016 who reside in Iowa. Of these families, 76.0 percent include related children under 18 years of age.

### 3,778

The number of Latino grandparents in 2016 living with their own grandchildren. 26.9% of those are responsible for the own grandchildren under 18 years of age. This compares to 26.1% for the U.S..

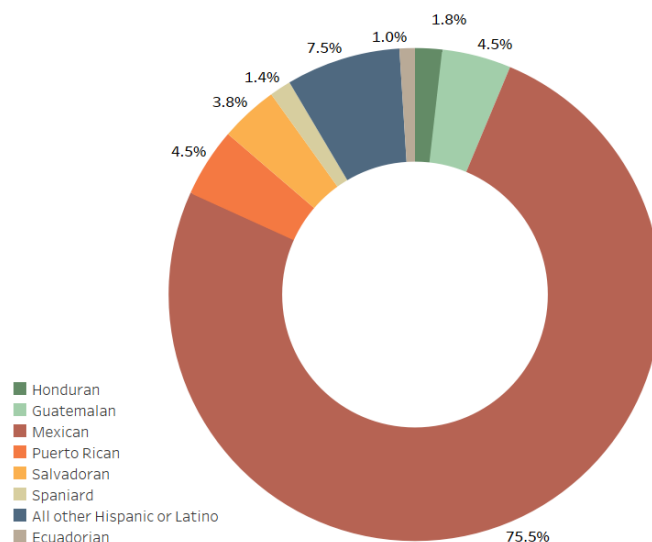
### 11.3%

Percentage of Latino population under age 5 as of July 1, 2016. Latinos have one of the highest concentration of preschoolers among the other race or ethnic groups.

### 3.82

The average family size for the Iowa Latino population in 2015. The average family size in the state of Iowa is 2.99.

Hispanic or Latino by Specific Origin: 2016



## Income, poverty, & health insurance

**\$44,277**

The median income of Latino households in 2016. The median household income for the state was \$56,247.

**\$45,993**

The median income of Latino families in 2016. The median family income for the state was \$72,351.

**15.1%**

The percent of Iowa Latino population with no health insurance coverage in 2016. The corresponding rate for all Iowa is 4.3 percent.

**\$15,899**

The per capita income of Latinos in 2016. The per capita income for the state was \$30,047.

**23.1%**

The poverty rate for the Latino population in 2016. The corresponding rate for Iowa is 11.8 percent.



## Language

**118,206**

The number of Iowa residents age 5 and older in 2016 who speak Spanish at home. Among those who speak Spanish at home, 56.3 percent say they speak English "very well."

**19,290**

The number of Spanish speaking English Language Learners in Iowa's public schools during the 2016-2017 school year. This represents a 211.8 percent increase from the 1999-2000 school year.

Source: Iowa Department of Education

### Serving Our Nation

**2,767**

The number of Iowa Latino veterans of the U.S. armed forces in 2016.

## Education

**57,110**

The number Latinos enrolled in the state's elementary and high schools during the 2016-2017 school year.

**60.9%**

The percentage of Iowa Latinos age 25 and over, who had at least a high school education in 2016. In Iowa the percentage of total population with at least a high school education was 91.8%

**244.7%**

Percent increase in Latino enrollment between the 1999-2000 school year and 2016-2017.

**12.4%**

The percentage of Iowa Latinos age 25 and over, with a bachelor's degree or

higher in 2016. In Iowa the percentage of total population with a bachelor's degree or higher was 34.5%.

**3,213**

Number of Iowa Latinos 25 years and older with a graduate degree in 2016.

Source: Iowa Department of Education

# Businesses and Jobs

**4,695**

The number of Hispanic-owned firms in Iowa in 2012.

**446.6%**

The percent increase in Hispanic-owned firms between 1992 and 2012.

Source: 2012 & 1992 Survey of Business Owners

**71.3%**

The percent of Iowa Latinos age 16 and over in the labor force in 2016. The percent of Iowans age 16 and over in the labor force was 67.6%.

**6.7%**

The unemployment rate of Iowa Latinos in 2016. In comparison the state of Iowa's unemployment rate was 6.9%.

## Earnings

**\$25,794**

The 2016 median earnings for Hispanics in Iowa. The median earnings for the state of Iowa was \$31,717.

**\$37,170**

The median earnings for Latino males in 2016 who worked full-time, year round. Latino women in Iowa had median earnings of \$28,528. In comparison the median earning for men and women in the state of Iowa were \$49,385 and \$37,791 respectively.

## Occupation

**27.0%**

The percent in 2016 of Iowa Latinos in the production, transportation, and material moving occupations.

**13,068**

The number of Iowa Latinos in natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations in 2016. Latinos are represented in a wide variety of occupations. For instance, there are about 7,649 construction and extraction occupations; 6,345 in management, business, and financial occupations; 2,420 in education, training, and library occupations; and 1,357 in Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations.

## Industry

**21.3%**

The percent of Iowa Latinos in 2016 employed in the Manufacturing industry.

**15.5%**

The percent of Hispanic or Latinos in 2016 who work in the educational services, and health care and social assistance industry. 13.1 percent of Iowa Latinos work in the arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services industry; 11.2 percent in construction; 8.4 percent in retail trade; and 8.1 percent work in professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services.

Occupation in Iowa and by Hispanic origin

■ Hispanic or Latino  
■ State total

Production, transportation, and material moving <i>27.0%</i>	Management, business, science, and arts <i>19.4%</i>	Sales and office <i>13.3%</i>
Service <i>23.2%</i>	Natural resources, construction, and maintenance <i>17.2%</i>	
Management, business, science, and arts <i>40.2%</i>	Sales and office <i>20.5%</i>	Service <i>11.6%</i>
	Production, transportation, and material moving <i>17.1%</i>	Natural resources, construction, and maintenance <i>10.6%</i>

**STATE DATA CENTER  
OF IOWA / A  
PROGRAM OF IOWA  
LIBRARY SERVICES**

321 East 12th Street  
Second Floor  
Lucas State Building  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
Phone: 515-281-4080  
Toll free: 877-330-3516



This program is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by Iowa Library Services/State Library of Iowa

[www.iowadatacenter.org](http://www.iowadatacenter.org)  
<https://humanrights.iowa.gov/cas/la>

**OFFICE OF LATINO  
AFFAIRS- IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
HUMAN RIGHTS**

321 East 12th Street  
Second Floor  
Lucas State Building  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
Phone: 515-281-4080  
Toll free: 877-330-3516

Data Source (unless otherwise noted) :  
U.S. Census Bureau,  
American Community Survey,  
2016 1-year period estimates  
U.S. Decennial Census 2000  
Photos by U.S. Census Bureau

Hispanic or Latino includes people of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

Source: Federal Register Notice (10/30/97, Vol. 62, No. 210)  
Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity.

# Coming to America

**38.2%**

Percentage in 2016 of Iowa's foreign-born population from Latin America. This amounts to 61,126 people.

**33.1%**

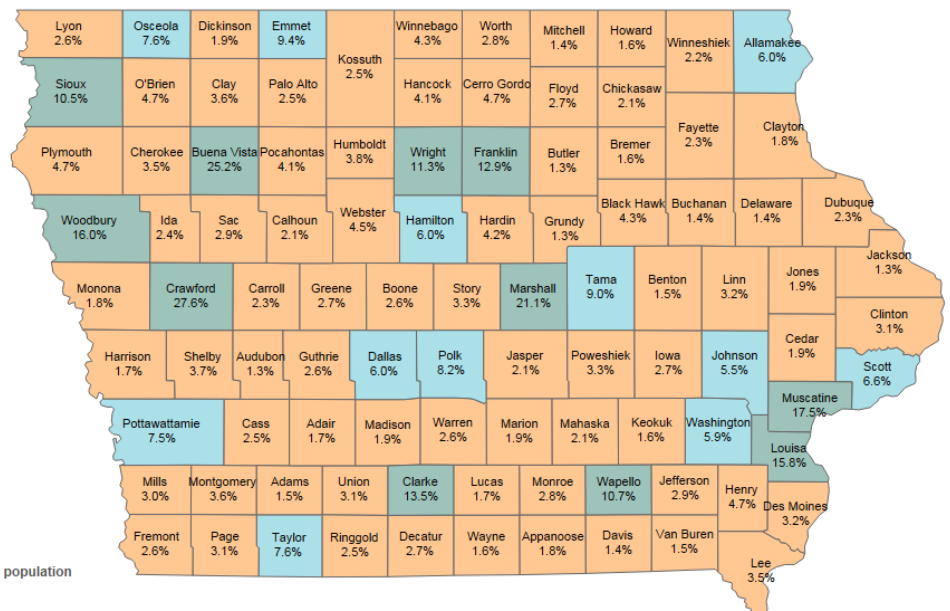
The percent of Iowa Latinos in 2016 who are foreign-born.

**42,788**

The number of foreign-born Iowans in 2016 who were born in Mexico, by far more than any other Latin American country or any other country in the world. Other Latin American areas of origin with a large foreign-born population are El Salvador (3,364), Guatemala (6,372), Panama (159), Ecuador (946), Columbia (579), Brazil (485), and Venezuela (390).



Latinos as a percent of total population in Iowa's counties: 2016



Percent of total population  
■ 1.0%-4.9  
■ 5.0%-9.9%  
■ 10% or more

## Latinos in Iowa Counties

**38,925**

The number of Latinos in Polk County in 2016, making it largest population of Latinos in any county at 21.3% of the state-wide population.

**27.6%**

The percent of total population in Crawford County who are Latino in 2016. Other Iowa counties with a high percentage of Latinos are

Buena Vista (25.2%), Marshall (21.1%), Muscatine (17.5%), and Woodbury(16.0%).

**45.6%**

Nearly half of the total 2016 Latino population live in five counties Polk, Woodbury, Scott, , Marshall, and Johnson

**53.9%**

Over half of the growth in Iowa's Latino population from 2000-2016 occurred in seven counties: Polk, Woodbury, Scott, Johnson, Linn, Marshall, and Dallas. The Latino population in Ringgold increased by 892.3% and by 638.1% in Lyon county between 2000 and 2015.