

# LATINOS IN IOWA: 2020

SEPTEMBER 2020

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.

## 198,550

The estimated Latino population of Iowa as of July 1, 2019, making people of Hispanic or Latino origin the state's largest race or ethnic minority. Latinos constitute 6.3 percent of the state's total population

## 140.7%

The percent change in the Latino population from 2000 to 2019. This is an 116,077 increase for the period.

*2019 Annual Population Estimates*

## 407,541

The projected Latino population of Iowa as of July 1, 2050. According to the 2020 Woods & Poole Economics Inc., Latinos will constitute 12.1 percent of the state's total population on that date.

## 23.7

The median age of Iowa's Latino population in 2019. The median age for the state of Iowa is 38.5.

## Families and Children

### 39,791

The number of Latino families in 2019 who reside in Iowa. Of these families, 70.2 percent include related children under 18 years of age.

### 3,628

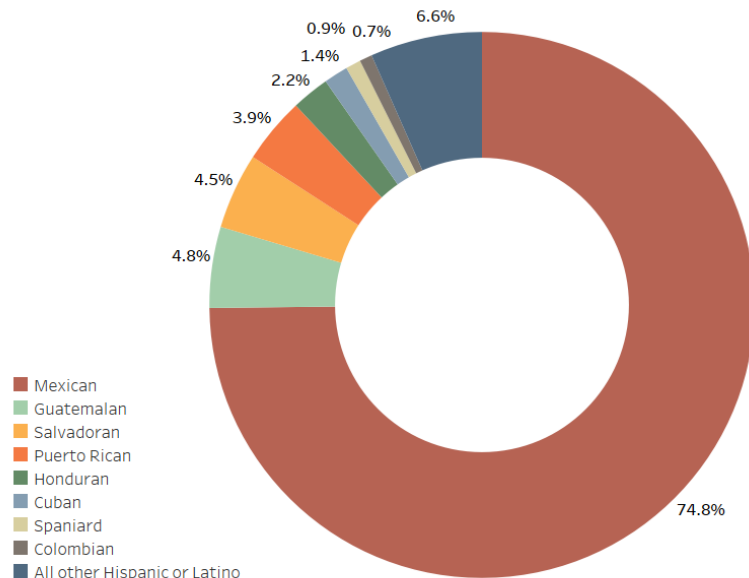
The number of Latino grandparents in 2019 living with their own grandchildren. 35.4% of those are responsible for the own grandchildren under 18 years of age. This compares to 41.6% for the state of Iowa.

### 10.6%

Percentage of Latino population under age 5 as of July 1, 2019. Latinos have one of the highest concentration of preschoolers among the other race or ethnic groups.

*2019 Annual Population Estimates*

Hispanic or Latino by Specific Origin: 2019



## Income, poverty, & health insurance

**\$48,346**

The median income of Latino households in 2019. The median household income for the state was \$61,691.

**\$51,982**

The median income of Latino families in 2019. The median family income for the state was \$78,152.

**13.9%**

The percent of Iowa Latino population with no health insurance coverage in 2019. The corresponding rate for all Iowa is 5.0 percent.

**\$17,995**

The per capita income of Latinos in 2019. The per capita income for the state was \$33,107.

**17.3%**

The poverty rate for the Latino population in 2019. The corresponding rate for Iowa is 11.2 percent.



## Language

**130,407**

The number of Iowa residents age 5 and older in 2019 who speak Spanish at home. Among those who speak Spanish at home, 62.9 percent say they speak English "very well."

**20,590**

The number of Spanish speaking English Language Learners in Iowa's public schools during the 2019-2020 school year. This represents a 232.8% increase from the 1999-2000 school year.

Source: Iowa Department of Education

### Serving Our Nation

**3,522**

The number of Iowa Latino veterans of the U.S. armed forces in 2019.

## Education

**60,631**

The number Latinos enrolled in the state's elementary and high schools during the 2019-2020 school year.

**13,654**

The number Latinos enrolled in the state's universities and colleges. This represents 7.0% of the total enrollment.

Source: 2019 Student & Faculty Diversity Report, Iowa College Aid

**266.0%**

Percent increase in Latino enrollment between the 1999-2000 school year and 2019-2020.

Source: Iowa Department of Education

**13.8%**

The percentage of Iowa Latinos age 25 and over, with a bachelor's degree or higher in 2019. In Iowa the percentage of total population with a bachelor's degree or higher was 29.3%.

**67.5%**

The percentage of Iowa Latinos age 25 and over, who had at least a high school education in 2019. In Iowa the percentage of total population with at least a high school education was 92.6%

**4,738**

Number of Iowa Latinos 25 years and older with a graduate or advanced degree in 2019.

# Businesses and Jobs

**4,695**

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

**446.6%**

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

Source: 2012 & 1992 Survey of Business Owners

**76.9%**

The percent of Iowa Latinos age 16 and over in the labor force in 2019. The percent of Iowans age 16 and over in the labor force was 66.9%.

**6.2%**

The unemployment rate of Iowa Latinos in 2019. In comparison the state of Iowa's unemployment rate was 3.7%.

## Earnings

**\$27,037**

The 2019 median earnings for Latinos in Iowa. The median earnings for the state of Iowa was \$35,837.

**\$40,711**

The median earnings for Latino males in 2019 who worked full-time, year round. Latino women in Iowa had median earnings of \$29,163. In comparison the median earning for men and women in the state of Iowa were \$52,070 and \$40,681 respectively.

## Occupation



**28.9%**

The percent in 2019 of Iowa Latinos in the production, transportation, and material moving occupations.



**14,566**

The number of Iowa Latinos in natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations in 2016.



**19,559**

Iowa Latinos in management, business, science and arts occupations in 2019.; 15.1% of the Latinos in this occupation group are in computer, engineering, and science occupations.



**20.7%**

The percentage of Iowa Latinos in service occupations in 2019. 2,116 Latinos are working in healthcare support occupations.

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Latinos are classified as individuals living in the U.S. whose ancestors originate from the Caribbean Islands, Central America, Mexico, and South America, all countries that were colonized by Spaniards and Portuguese. Latinos speak Romance languages: French, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese.

Latinx is a gender-neutral term that is used as an alternative to Latino/Latina/Latin@.

The term Hispanic refers to people whose heritage is derived from Spanish speaking countries - the term is about language and doesn't include people from Brazil who speak Portuguese, French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Martinique, Saint Barthélemy and Saint Martin who speak French.

# Coming to America

**33.9%**

Percentage in 2019 of Iowa's foreign-born population from Latin America. This amounts to 60,321 people.

**39,445**

The number of foreign-born Iowans in 2019 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 (6,000), Guatemala (5,720), and Cuba (716).

**29.7%**

The percent of Iowa Latinos in 2019 who are foreign-born.

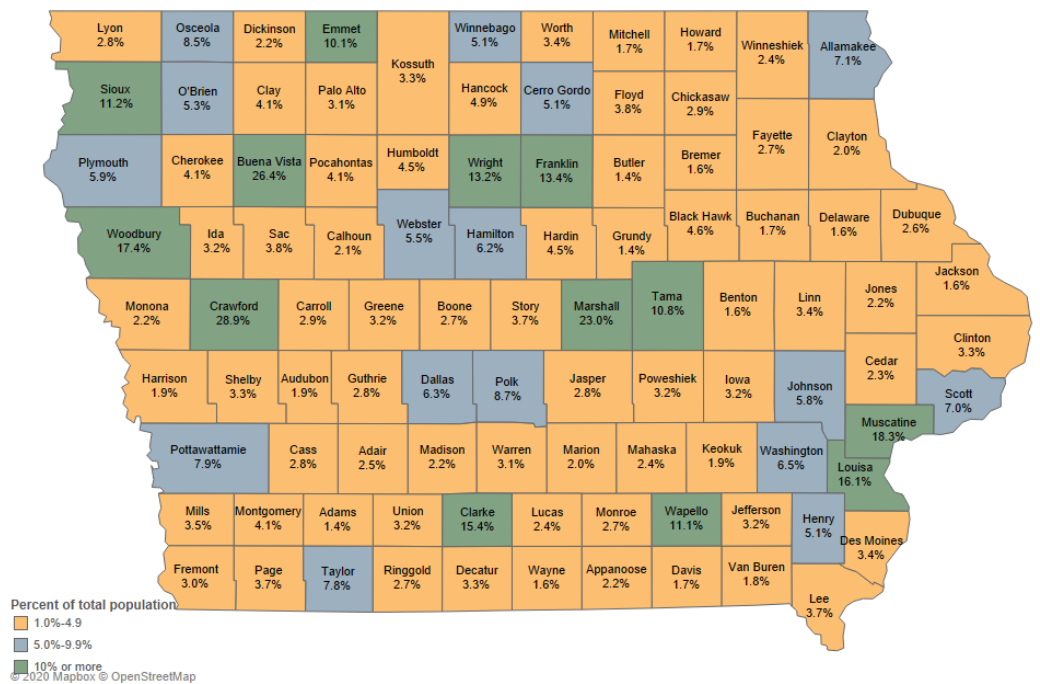
## Housing

**52.7%**

The percentage of Latinos in Iowa who own their home in 2019. The corresponding percentage for the state is 70.5%.

Data Source (unless otherwise noted) :  
U.S. Census Bureau,  
American Community Survey, 2019 1-year  
period estimates  
U.S. Decennial Census 2000  
Photos by U.S. Census Bureau

Latinos as a percent of the total population in Iowa's counties: 2019



Percent of total population:  
1.0%-4.9%  
5.0%-9.9%  
10% or more  
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# Latinos in Iowa Counties

**42,477**

The number of Latinos in Polk county in 2019, making it largest population of Latinos in any county at 21.4% of the state-wide population.

**28.9%**

The percent of total population in Crawford county who are Latino in 2019. Other Iowa counties with a high percentage of Latinos are Buena Vista (26.4%), Marshall

(23.0%), Muscatine (18.3%), and Woodbury (17.4%).

**56.9%**

Over half of the total 2019 Latino population live in eight counties Polk, Woodbury, Scott, Marshall, Johnson, Muscatine, Linn, and Pottawattamie.

**52.3%**

Over half of the growth in Iowa's Latino population from 2000-2019 occurred in seven counties: Polk, Woodbury, Johnson, Marshall, Scott, Linn, and Pottawattamie. The Latino population in Ringgold increased by 961.4% and by 676.2% in Lyon county between 2000 and 2019.