

# State Data Center of Iowa and the Iowa Division of Latino Affairs

## HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH SEPTEMBER 2005: LATINOS IN IOWA

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, America 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.

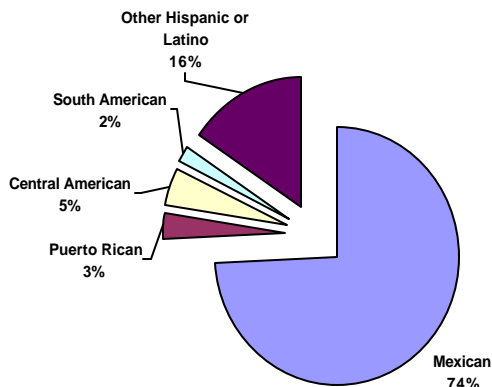
### 104,119

The estimated Latino population of Iowa as of July 1, 2004, making people of Hispanic origin the state's largest race or ethnic minority. Latino constitute 3.5 percent of the state's total population.

### 21,646

The numeric change in the Latino population from 2000 to 2004. This is a 26.2 percent increase for the period.

Hispanic or Latino Groups in Iowa: 2000



### 269,830

The projected Latino population of Iowa as of July 1, 2030. According to Woods & Pool Economics Inc., Latinos will constitute 8.1 percent of the state's total population on that date.

### Families and Children

### 15,272

The number of Latino families who reside in Iowa. Of these families, 69.8 percent include their own children under 18 years of age.

### 70%

Percentage of Latino children who live with both parents compared to 78.9 percent for the state of Iowa.

### 10.2%

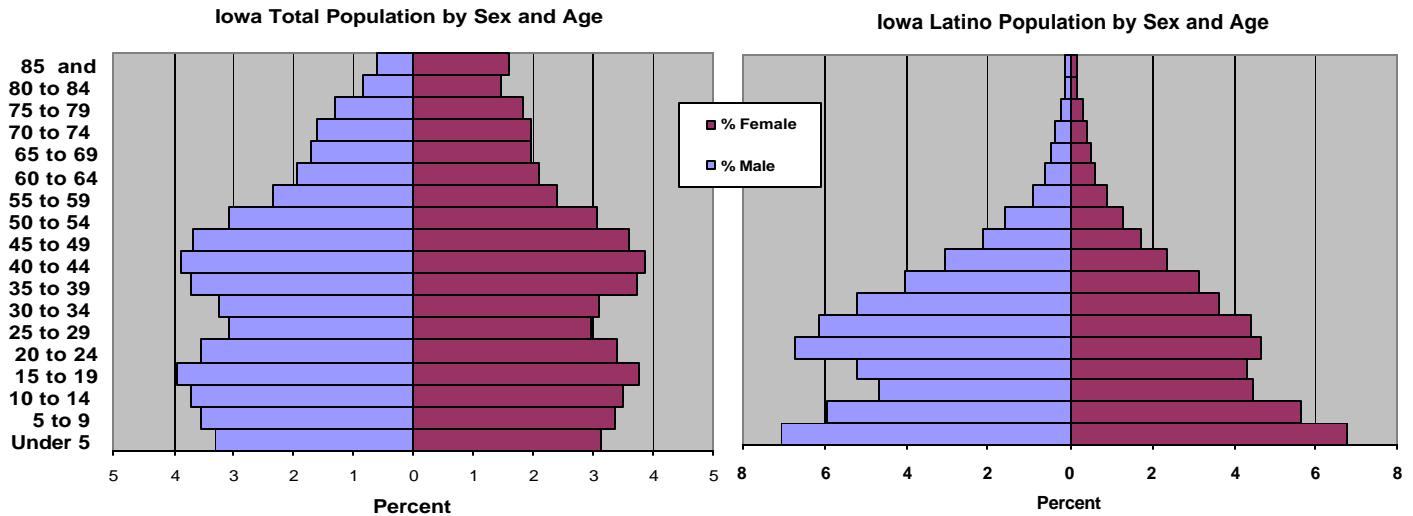
Percentage of Latino population under age 5, as of July 1, 2004. Latinos have a higher concentration of preschoolers among the population than any other race or ethnic group.



### 3.89

*The average family size for the Iowa Latino population. The average family size in the state of Iowa is 3.0.*

# AGE DISTRIBUTION



## 22.6

The median age of Iowa's Latino population. The median age for the state of Iowa is 36.6.

# SPANISH LANGUAGE

## 79,491

The number of Iowa residents age 5 and older who speak Spanish at home. Among those who speak Spanish at home, more than two-thirds say they speak English "very well."

## 10,964

The number of Spanish speaking English Language Learners in Iowa's public and non-public schools during the 2004-2005 school year. This represents a 77 percent increase from the 1999-2000 school year.

# EDUCATION

## 23,661

The number Latinos enrolled in the state's elementary and high schools during the 2003-2004 school year.

## 481.5%

Percent increase in Latino enrollment between the 1985-1986 school year and 2003-2004.

Source: Iowa Department of Education

## 52.3%

The percentage of Iowa Latinos age 25 and over, who had at least a high school education in 2000.



## 8.7%

The percentage of Iowa Latinos age 25 and over, with a bachelor's degree or higher in 2000.

## 1,527

Number of Iowa Latinos 25 years and older with an advanced degree in 2000. (e.g., master's, professional, doctorate.)

# Coming to America

## 36%

Percentage of Iowa's foreign-born population from Latin America. This amounts to 32,824 people.

## 25,242

The number of foreign-born Iowans who were born in Mexico, by far more than any other Latin American country or any other country in the world for that matter. Other Latin American countries of origin with a large foreign-born population are El Salvador (1,968), Guatemala (1,636), Honduras (537) and Ecuador (447).

## 39.1%

The percent of Iowa Latinos who are foreign-born.

## BUSINESSES AND JOBS

Man On Fire

**1,535**

The number of Latino-owned firms in 2002.

**87.5%**

The percent increase in Latino-owned firms between 1997 and 2002.

**9.2%**

The unemployment rate for Iowa Latinos in 2000. The Iowa unemployment rate at that time was 4.2%.

### Industry

**12,621**

The number of Iowa Latinos in the manufacturing industry.

**12.5%**

The percent of Latinos who work in the educational, health, and social services industry. Another approximately 10.7 percent work in the arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services industry, 7.2 percent in retail trade, and 6.6 percent work in construction.

### Occupation

**39.9%**

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

Figure 1 - Employment by Industry (Percent of Population)

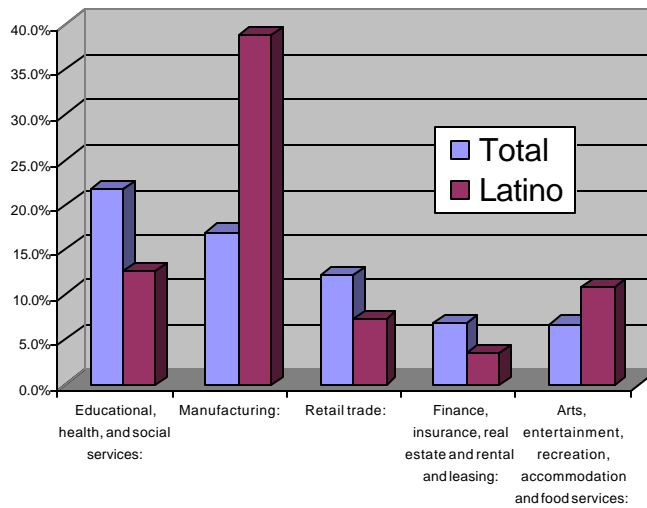


Figure 2 - Employment by Occupation (Percent of Population)

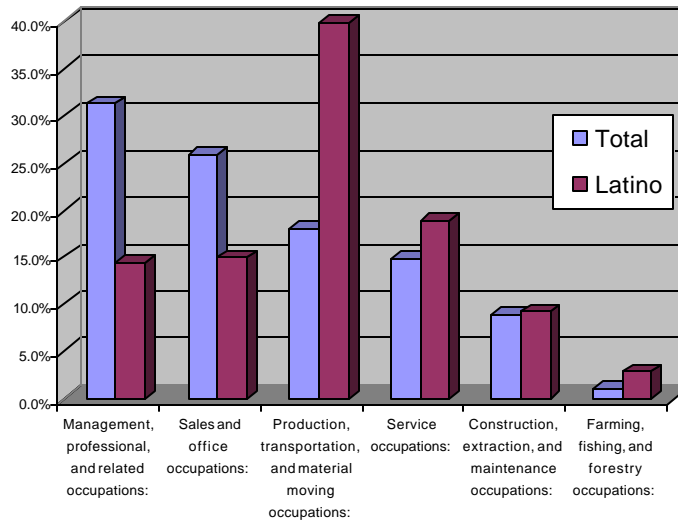


Figure 1 shows the percent of Iowa Latinos in the top 5 industries in Iowa. Figure 2 shows the percent of Iowa Latinos by occupation in comparison to the state.

**4,116**

The number of Iowa Latinos food processing workers. Latinos are represented in a wide variety of occupations. For instance, there are about

1,361 cooks and food preparation workers; 899 agricultural workers, including supervisors; 422 nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides; and 362 postsecondary teachers.

## INCOME AND POVERTY

**\$32,971**

The median income of Latino households in 2000. The median household income for the state was \$39,469.

**20.2%**

The poverty rate for the Latino population. The corresponding rate for Iowa is 9.1 percent



## Serving Our Nation

**2,757**

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

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We're on the web!  
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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.

**COUNTIES AND CITIES**

**21,601**

The number of Latinos in Polk County, making it largest population of Latinos in any county.

**17.9%**

The percent of total population in Buena Vista County who are Latino. Other Iowa counties with

a high percentage of Latinos are Crawford (14.6%), Louisa (14.6%), Muscatine (12.8%) and Marshall (12.1%).

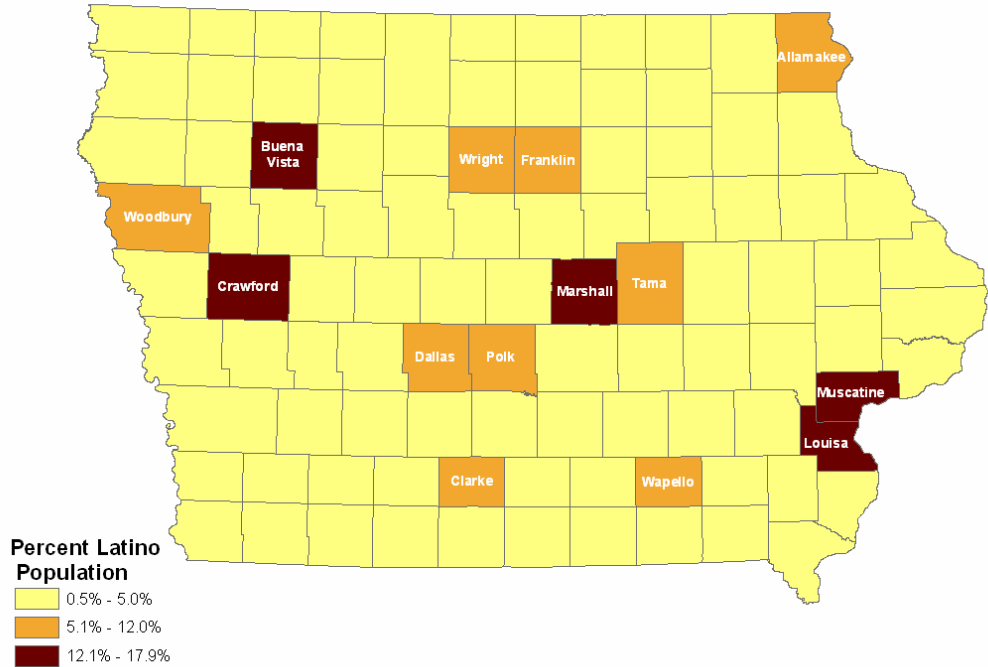
**48.2%**

Nearly half of the total Latino population live in Polk, Woodbury, Scott, Muscatine and Marshall counties.

**48.9%**

Almost half of the growth in Iowa's Latino population from 2000-2004 occurred in five counties: Polk, Woodbury, Wapello, Marshall and Buena Vista. The Latino population in Wapello increased by 174.6% between 2000 and 2004.

**Latinos as a Percent of Total Population in Iowa's Counties**



**13,138**

The number of Latinos in Des Moines in 2000, making it largest population of Latinos in any city in Iowa.

**59%**

The percent of total population in Conesville who

are Latino. Other Iowa cities with a high percentage of Latinos are West Liberty (40.5%), Columbus Junction (39.0%), Columbus City (33.2%) and Fredonia (31.5%).

**45%**

The percentage of Iowa's total Latino population

living in 5 cities: Des Moines, Sioux City, Davenport, Marshalltown and Muscatine.

Data Source (unless otherwise noted) :  
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000  
Photo by Norman Shapiro for the U.S. Census Bureau