

Latinos in Iowa: 2022

Latino Heritage Month: September 15 – October 15

During this month, Iowa and the United States celebrate the cultures and traditions of U.S. residents who trace their roots to the Caribbean Islands, Central America, Mexico, and South America.

What started in 1968, when Congress authorized President Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim a week in September as National Hispanic Heritage Week, expanded in 1988 to a month-long celebration of people living in the U.S. with heritage from Spanish-speaking nations in Latin America and Spain. September 15th was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence from Spanish colonization in five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16th.

215,986

The population in Iowa who self-identify themselves as Hispanic or Latino origin according to the 2020 Census. This group comprises 6.8% of Iowa's total population.

161.9%

The percent change in the Latino population from 2000 to 2020. This is an increase of 133,513 for the period.

518,323

The projected Latino population of Iowa as of July 1, 2050.

According to the 2022 Woods & Poole Economics Inc., Latinos will constitute 14.8 percent of the state's total population on that date.

Families and Children

41,451

The number of Latino families in 2021 who resided in Iowa. Of these families, 70.7 percent include related children under 18 years of age.

3,023

The number of Latino grandparents in 2021 living with their own grandchildren. 22.2% of those are responsible for the own grandchildren under 18 years of age.

10.2%

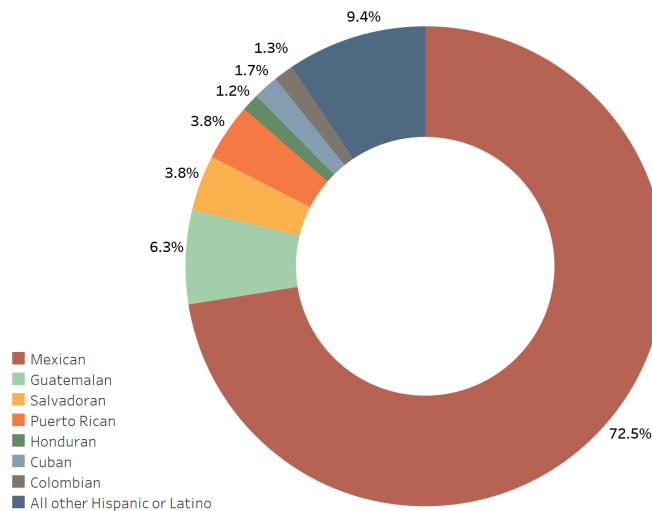
Percentage of Latino population under age 5 as of July 1, 2021. Latinos have one of the highest concentration of preschoolers among the other race or ethnic groups.

2021 Annual Population Estimates

23.7

The median age of Iowa's Latino population in 2021. The median age for the state of Iowa is 38.5.

Hispanic or Latino by Specific Origin: 2021



Income, poverty, & health insurance

\$52,082

The median income of Latino households in 2021. The median household income for the state was \$65,600.

\$58,565

The median income of Latino families in 2021. The median family income for the state was \$84,908.

\$20,333

The per capita income of Latinos in 2021. The per capita income for the state was \$35,715.

19.4%

The poverty rate for the Latino population in 2021. The corresponding rate for Iowa is 11.1 percent.

14.5%

The percent of Iowa Latino population with no health insurance coverage in 2021. The corresponding rate for all Iowa is 4.8 percent.



Education

64,567

The number Latinos enrolled in the state's elementary and high schools during the 2021-2022 school year.

289.7%

Percent increase in Latino enrollment between the 1999-2000 school year and 2021-2022.
Source: Iowa Department of Education

13,613

The number Latinos enrolled in the state's universities and colleges. This represents 7.6% of the total enrollment.
Source: 2021 Student & Faculty Diversity Report, Iowa College Aid

70.3%

The percentage of Iowa Latinos age 25 and over, who had at least a high school education in 2021. In Iowa the percentage of total population with at least a high school education was 93.3%.

16.6%

The percentage of Iowa Latinos age 25 and over, with a bachelor's degree or higher in 2021. In Iowa the percentage of total population with a bachelor's degree or higher was 30.5%.

3,937

Number of Iowa Latinos 25 years and older with a graduate or advanced degree in 2021.



Serving Our Nation

4,079

The number of Iowa Latino veterans of the U.S. armed forces in 2021.

Language

128,039

The number of Iowa residents age 5 and older in 2021 who speak Spanish at home. Among those who speak Spanish at home, 62.9 percent say they speak English "very well."

21,041

The number of Spanish speaking English Language Learners in Iowa's public schools during the 2021-2022 school year. This represents a 240.1 percent increase from the 1999-2000 school year.
Source: Iowa Department of Education

Employment

75.0%

The percent of Iowa Latinos age 16 and over in the labor force in 2021. The percent of Iowans age 16 and over in the labor force was 66.1%.

6.4%

The unemployment rate of Iowa Latinos in 2021. In comparison the state of Iowa's unemployment rate was 3.6%.

Earnings

\$29,330

The 2021 median earnings for Latinos in Iowa. The median earnings for the state of Iowa was \$39,068.

\$42,363

The median earnings for Latino males in 2021 who worked full-time, year-round.

\$35,344

The median earnings for Latina women in Iowa. In comparison the median earning for men and women in the state of Iowa were \$56,427 and \$44,801 respectively.

Occupation



25.2%

The percent in 2021 of Iowa Latinos in the production, transportation, and material moving occupations.



22,896

Iowa Latinos in management, business, science and arts occupations in 2021. **28.5%** of the Latinos in this occupation group are in management occupations.



21.0%

The percentage of Iowa Latinos in service occupations in 2021. **8,081** Latinos are working in food preparation and serving related occupations.



14,356

The number of Iowa Latinos in natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations in 2021.





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Latinos: 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 other European countries. Latinos speak French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and many indigenous languages.

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.

Data Source (unless otherwise noted):
U.S. Census Bureau,
2021 American Community Survey,
U.S. Decennial Census 2020
Photos by U.S. Census Bureau

Foreign Born

36.3%
Percentage in 2021 of Iowa's foreign-born population from Latin America. This amounts to **62,836** people.

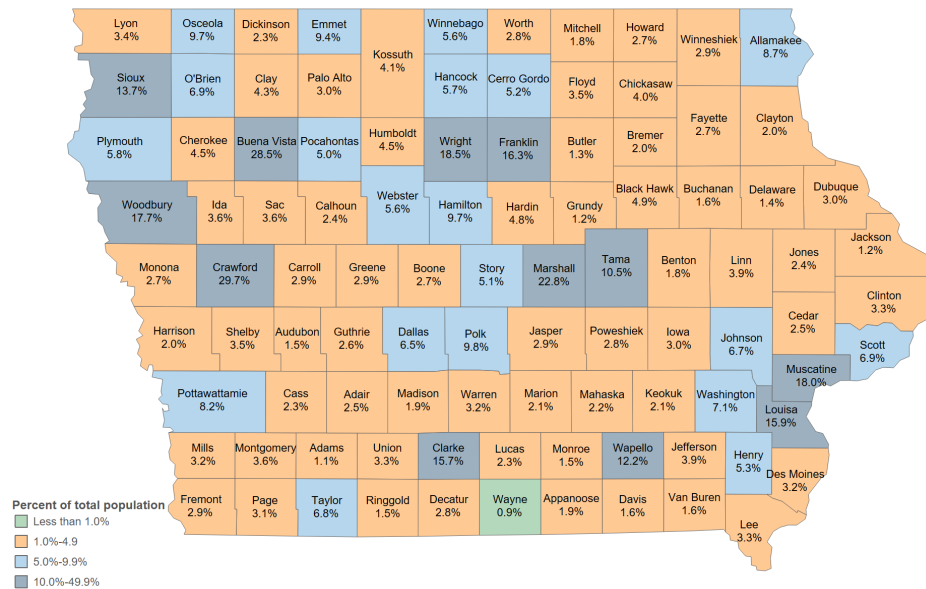
27.8%
The percent of Iowa Latinos in 2021 who are foreign-born.

41,688
The number of foreign-born Iowans in 2021 who were born in Mexico, by far more than any other Latin American country or any other country in the world. Other Latin American countries of origin with a large foreign-born population are El Salvador (**4,285**), Brazil (**888**), Cuba (**559**), and Colombia (**1,176**).

Housing

56.6%
The percentage of Latinos in Iowa who own their home in 2021. The corresponding percentage for the state is **71.9%**.

Latinos as a percent of the total county population:
Census 2020



Latinos in Iowa Counties

45,290
The number of Latinos in Polk County in 2021, making it the largest population of Latinos in any county at **21.1%** of the state-wide population.

56.5%
Over half of the total 2021 Latino population live in eight counties Polk, Woodbury, Scott, Marshall, Johnson, Linn, Pottawattamie, and Muscatine.

30.4%
The percent of total population in Crawford County who are Latino in 2021. Other Iowa counties with a high percentage of Latinos are Buena Vista (**29.5%**), Marshall (**24.9%**), Muscatine (**18.8%**), and Woodbury (**18.6%**).

52.2%
Over half of the growth in Iowa's Latino population from 2000-2021 occurred in seven counties: Polk, Woodbury, Johnson, Marshall, Scott, Linn, and Pottawattamie. The Latino population in Ringgold increased by **907.7%** and by **816.7%** in Lyon county between 2000 and 2021.
2021 Annual Population Estimates