Toward Understanding the Latino Immigrant Community
DuPage Federation

June 2019
Equity

Just and fair inclusion into a society in which all can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential.

Policylink
What we are doing to Shape our Future

Through advocacy and analysis, the Forum builds a foundation for equity, justice and economic prosperity for the Latino community.
What We’re Doing to Shape Our Future

Catalyze policy change to:
- Improve education outcomes
- Advocate for affordable housing
- Promote just immigration policies
- Strengthen community leadership

With an understanding that advancing Latinos advances a shared future
Background

The Latino Policy Forum facilitates the involvement of Latinos at all levels of public decision-making through Acuerdo network.
What We’re Doing to Shape Our Future

The Forum conducts analysis to:

- **Inform**
  - Promote changes to public awareness & attitudes

- **Influence**
  - Promote policy change

- **Lead**
  - Promote community-level change
Highlights of Structural and System Change

Improve Education Outcomes
- Latino Inclusion in evidence based funding reform
- Every Student Succeed Act recommendations accepted by ISBE
- $38 m increase in bilingual education

Advocate for Affordable Housing
- CHA created office of Diversity and Inclusion
- CHA developed Language Access Plan
- Monitor implementation of Site Based Waiting List

Immigration
- Training on Immigrant Rights
- Immigrant Tenant Protection Act
- Protecting Immigrant Families

Leadership Academy that brings together African American and Latino leaders
In 2016, the number of Latinos living in Illinois was 2,178,790. Latinos are 17% of the state’s total population.
Between 2000 and 2016, the Latino population in Illinois grew by 40%; significantly exceeding the state’s overall population growth of 3%.

Data for 2000 from US Census 2000; data for 2016 from Social Explorer Table 14 derived from American Community (ACS) 2016 5 year estimates.
Number and Percent of Latino Population in Illinois by County, 2016

US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2016 (5 year estimate) B03002
Forty-five percent of the foreign born in Illinois come from a country in Latin America and 30% come from an Asian country.

Source: https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/state-profiles/state/demographics/IL. Accessed 10/30/18 *Due to rounding, it does not add up to 100%
Between 2003 and 2017, the population growth among Latinos in Illinois was driven by native born Latinos, and growth due to immigration was slowed.
Percent of Latinos in Illinois Who are Native Born, Naturalized Citizens, and Non-Citizens, 2017

- **Native Born**: 65%
- **Naturalized Citizen**: 21%
- **Not a U.S. Citizen**: 14%

**Children Under Age of 18**
- **U.S. Citizens**: 98%

**Adults**
- **U.S. Citizens**: 70%

In Illinois, 86% Latinos are citizens.

Source: https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/state-profiles/state/demographics/IL Accessed 10/30/18
In 2016, 32% of Latino households in Illinois had annual incomes greater than $75,000. This is a 78% increase from 2000 and the largest increase for any racial or ethnic group.
Per Capita Income of Persons Living in Illinois by Race/Ethnicity, 2016

In 2016 in Illinois, Latinos had the lowest per capita income of any racial or ethnic group.

US Bureau of the Census. 2016 American Community Survey (1-year Estimate) B19301
Between 2000 and 2016, the number of Latinos with at least a college degree increased by 156%.

In Illinois, Latinos have the lowest percent of college completion for any racial or ethnic group.

US Census Bureau, 2000 SF3 P148, 2016 ACS (1 year estimate) B15002
Between 2007 and 2016, Latino children represented the largest increase both in the number and in the percent of children in Illinois living below 200% of the federal poverty level.
Latinos are driving labor force growth in Illinois. Between 2000 and 2016, the Illinois labor force increased by 437,738 or 7% and the Latino labor force increased by 437,727 or 67%.

The Number of People Participating in Illinois’ Labor Force by Race/Ethnicity, 2000; 2016

US Census 2000 SF 3 P150 and American Community Survey 2016 (1 year estimate) B23002
Challenges and Opportunities

• Driving demographic growth
  • Increased segregation, especially in suburbs
• More households with a foothold in middle class
  • Too many children growing up in low income households
• Increased number of college graduates
  • Slow growth in college completion
• Leading labor market growth
  • but too many in low wage jobs
• Immigration climate and fear
  • Impact of stress, especially on children
  • limits economic mobility
The Forum’s commitment to Latinos in Illinois is resolute. Together we will bridge the divide and promote equity for Latinos in Illinois. The Forum will continue to speak truth, advocate for justice, act with civility and integrity and put trust in democracy.
For More Information

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