Latino Population in Nebraska: Main Characteristics

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Quick Facts about the Latino Population

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Age and Sex Structure of the Latino Population

According to data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau, the Latino population of Nebraska was 230,769 people in 2022 and represented almost 12% of the state’s population. The Latino population is younger than the overall population of the state (Figures 1 and 2). Almost 40% of the Latino population is 17 years or younger, whereas the total population is close to 25%. At the other end, 4% of Latinos are 65 years and older, compared to almost 16% of the total population. This can also be observed by comparing the median age of Latinos and of the total population in Nebraska. There is a 13-year difference between the median age of these two populations. In the case of Latinos, the median age is 24 years, while the median age of the total population is about 37 years old.

The Latino population in Nebraska is markedly more diverse than the total population of the state. As Figure 3 shows, almost 41% of Latinos identify as White compared to close to 82% who identify as White among the total population of the state.

Similarly to what is happening in the entire country (Who is Hispanic? | Pew Research Center), more than half of Latinos in Nebraska identify with either “Other Race” (27.6%) or “Two or more races” (27.9%).

While among Latinos this represents a growing tendency towards identifying with a multi-racial identity, this is not the case for the total population of the state (Figure 4). In Nebraska, 3.5% of the population identify with the “Other Race” category and 6.3% with the “Two or more races” category. Close to 5% of the total population of the state identifies as Black, while only 1% of Latinos do so.
Immigrant Origins of the Latino Population

While the immigrant population, or foreign-born as identified by the U.S. Census Bureau, has been growing in the state of Nebraska, the percentage (7.5%) is still lower than the percentage of foreign-born in the United States (13.9%). However, the foreign-born population in Nebraska has, after Minnesota (8.7%) and closely followed by Kansas (7.2%), the largest share over the total population among the surrounding states in what the U.S. Census Bureau calls the “West North Central Division” (Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota).

Figure 5 highlights that the two largest areas of origin of the foreign-born population in Nebraska are Latin America (51%) and Asia (29%). Among those born in Latin America, close to two-thirds were born in Mexico. Guatemala (14%) and El Salvador (7%) are two other main countries of birth (Figure 6).
Close to 44% of Latinos residing in Nebraska were born in the state, while only about a third of all Latinos are foreign-born (Figure 7). This is an important demographic shift; nowadays, the Latino population in the state of Nebraska is growing more due to births than to immigration. Close to one-in-five were born in a different state. Similarly, as in the case of those in Latin America, 71% of Latinos identify with Mexico as their place of origin, regardless of where they were born (Table 1). The second largest place of origin identified is Guatemala (7.5%).

Table 1: Hispanic or Latino Origin by Specific Origin, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific Origin</th>
<th>Nebraska</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexican</td>
<td>163,915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemalan</td>
<td>17,215</td>
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<tr>
<td>Puerto Rican</td>
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<td>Salvadoran</td>
<td>8,423</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cuban</td>
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<td>Honduran</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Latin American</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>15,104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>230,769</td>
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</tbody>
</table>