Latino Population in Douglas County: Main Characteristics

Office of Latino/Latin American Studies (OLLAS)

University of Nebraska at Omaha

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Quick Facts about the Latino Population

Latino Population in Nebraska: Main Characteristics

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Age and Sex Structure of the Latino Population

According to data provided by the US Census Bureau, in 2022 the Latino population of Nebraska was 230,769 people and represented almost 12% of the State’s population. Latino population is younger than the overall population of the State (Figures 1 and 2). Almost 40% of the Latino population has 17 years or less, proportion that in the case of the total population is close to 25%. At the other end, 11% of Latinos are 65 years and older, compared to almost 40% of the total population. This can also be observed by comparing the median age of Latinos in Nebraska and of the total population. 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 and among the total population is about 37 years old.

Figure 1: Population Pyramid of Nebraska’s Latino Population, 2022
Figure 2: Population Pyramid of Nebraska’s Total Population, 2022

The Latino population in Nebraska is markedly more diverse than the total population of the State. As figure 3 shows, almost 42% of Latinos identify as white compared to close to 82% who identify as whites among the total population of the State.

Similarly to what is happening in the entire country ([Who is Hispanic? | Pew Research Center](https://www.pewresearch.org/race-and-latinos/2023/01/26/who-is-hispanic/)), more than half of Latinos in Nebraska identify with either “Other Race” (27.9%) or “Two or more races” (27.6%).

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 Ethnic and Racial identification of the Latino Population

While the immigrant population, or foreign-born as are identified by the US Census Bureau, has been growing in the State of Nebraska, still represents a significantly lower percentage (7.5%) that the percentage of foreign-born in the United States (13.9%). However, the foreign-born population in Nebraska has, after Minnesota (8.7%) and sharing this place with Kansas (7.2%), the largest share over 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).

The two largest areas of origin of this foreign-born population are Latin America (51%) and Asia (29%) (Figure 5). Among those born in Latin America, close to two-thirds were born in Mexico. Guatemala (14%) and El Salvador (7.2%) are two other main countries of birth (Figure 6).
Most Latinos residing in Nebraska were born in this State (44%), while only about a third of all Latinos are foreign-born (Figure 7). Close to one-in-five were born in a different State. Similarly, as in the case of those in Latin America, 71% of Latinos identity 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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific Origin</th>
<th>Nebraska N.</th>
<th>%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mexican</td>
<td>163,915</td>
<td>71.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guatemalan</td>
<td>17,215</td>
<td>7.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Puerto Rican</td>
<td>6,770</td>
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<td>Salvadoran</td>
<td>8,423</td>
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<td>Cuban</td>
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<td>Honduran</td>
<td>4,483</td>
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<td>Other Central America &amp; Caribbean</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>15,104</td>
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<tr>
<td>South American</td>
<td>6,264</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>230,769</td>
<td>100.0</td>
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