

Welcome to Latino Research@ND

In this first edition of Latino Research @ ND we highlight major demographic changes taking place in Metropolitan Chicago and Illinois, which have profound implications for the delivery of quality educational, health, and social services to the young people of the region and of the state. Subsequent editions of Latino Research @ ND will discuss the challenges and opportunities associated with these changes in greater detail.



About the Researcher

Martha Zurita is a research analyst with the Institute for Latino Studies' Metropolitan Chicago Initiative. She received her PhD in educational policy studies from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with an emphasis on the sociology of education.

Prior to joining the Institute, she was the director of policy and research for the Latino Education Alliance in Chicago. Her current research on measuring the minority education gap in Illinois is funded by the Joyce Foundation with partial support from the MacNeal Health Foundation.

Latino Population in Illinois and Metropolitan Chicago: Young and Growing Fast!

- **Between 1990 and 2000 the Latino population of Illinois grew by 69 percent, while the state's non-Latino population only increased by 3.5 percent.**
- **Half of the Illinois Latino population is 25 years old or younger, compared to a median age of 36 for non-Latino residents.**
- **More than 33 percent of school-aged children in the city of Chicago are Latino.**
- **The Latino population is growing fastest in Chicago's suburbs, where Latinos already outnumber their counterparts in the city.**

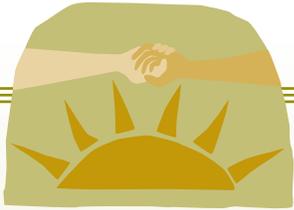
The news is out—and most Americans now know that Latino population growth nationwide was the big story of Census 2000. Recent Census updates reveal that Latinos now number 37 million and are the nation's largest minority. Analyses of Census data show a correspondingly dramatic increase in the Latino population of Illinois, along with distinctive patterns of growth that have profound implications for the health, education, and development of Latino young people in the state.

Latino population growth—and in particular that of young Latinos—will have major implications for the six counties of the Chicago metropolitan area where most Illinois Latinos

reside. As policymakers, state agencies, and school administrators attempt to cope with the present and plan for the future, information about these demographic changes will be crucial for the planning and delivery of effective services.

Historically Latinos have not been well served by schools and have been less likely than other groups to receive the kind of education needed for today's technology- and information-based economy.

This brief focuses on Latino population trends in Illinois from 1990 to 2000, with particular emphasis on school-age children. Future briefs will concentrate on specific educational issues relating to Latino students in Illinois.



Metropolitan Chicago Initiative

The Metropolitan Chicago Initiative (MCI) conducts applied research and policy analysis and promotes community capacity-building in the metropolitan Chicago area. Community projects focus on Berwyn-Cicero, where the MCI profiles the status of Latino families and neighborhoods and identifies ways to improve their health, education, and well-being. Regional projects focus on measuring the minority education achievement gap, monitoring education public policy developments, and conducting analysis of 2000 Census data for Chicago-area neighborhoods and municipalities. Current projects are funded by the MacNeal Health Foundation, the Joyce Foundation, and the Chicago Community Trust.

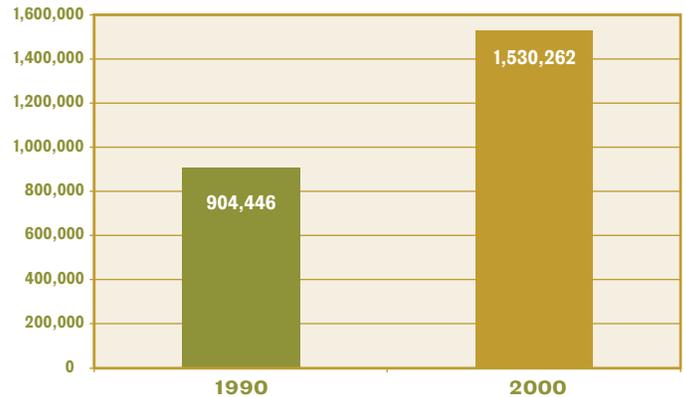
For more information, visit www.nd.edu/~latino/mci.htm

Latino Population Growth in Illinois and in Chicago

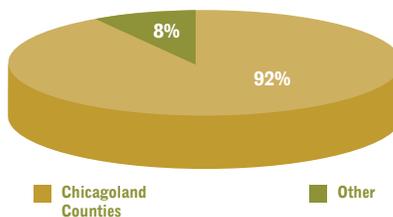
The Latino population of Illinois grew from just over 900,000 in 1990 to more than 1.5 million in 2000. In 1990 Latinos comprised 7.9 percent of

Illinois' total population, but by 2000 Latinos' share of the state's population had increased to 12.3 percent. In 2000 the Latino population of Illinois was the fifth largest in the nation; since 1990 it had increased by 69 percent, exceeding the nationwide growth rate of 58 percent. During the same period the state's non-Latino growth rate was only 3.5 percent.

Latino Population of Illinois 1990 and 2000

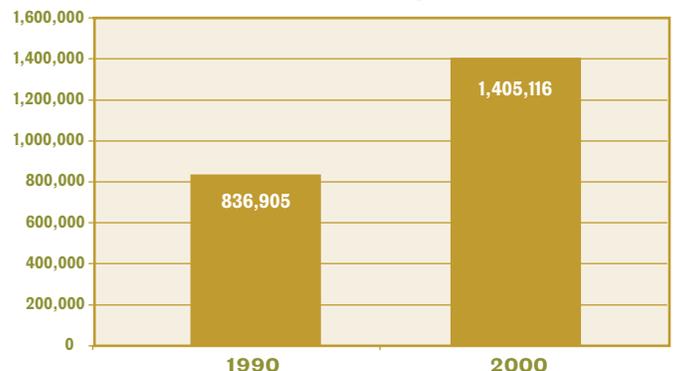


Distribution of Latinos in Illinois 2000



Illinois Latinos are more likely than other state residents to live in the six-county metropolitan Chicago area—especially in Cook County. While only 62 percent of non-Latino residents of Illinois reside in metropolitan Chicago, 92 percent of the state's Latinos are concentrated there.

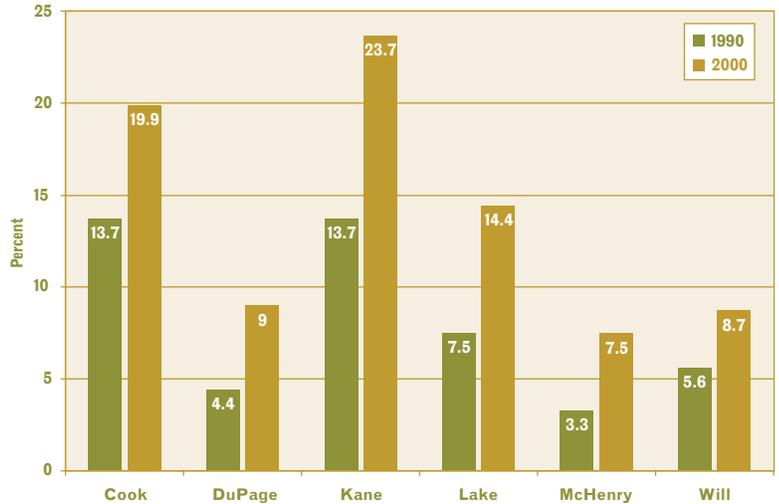
The Latino Population of Metropolitan Chicago, 1990 and 2000



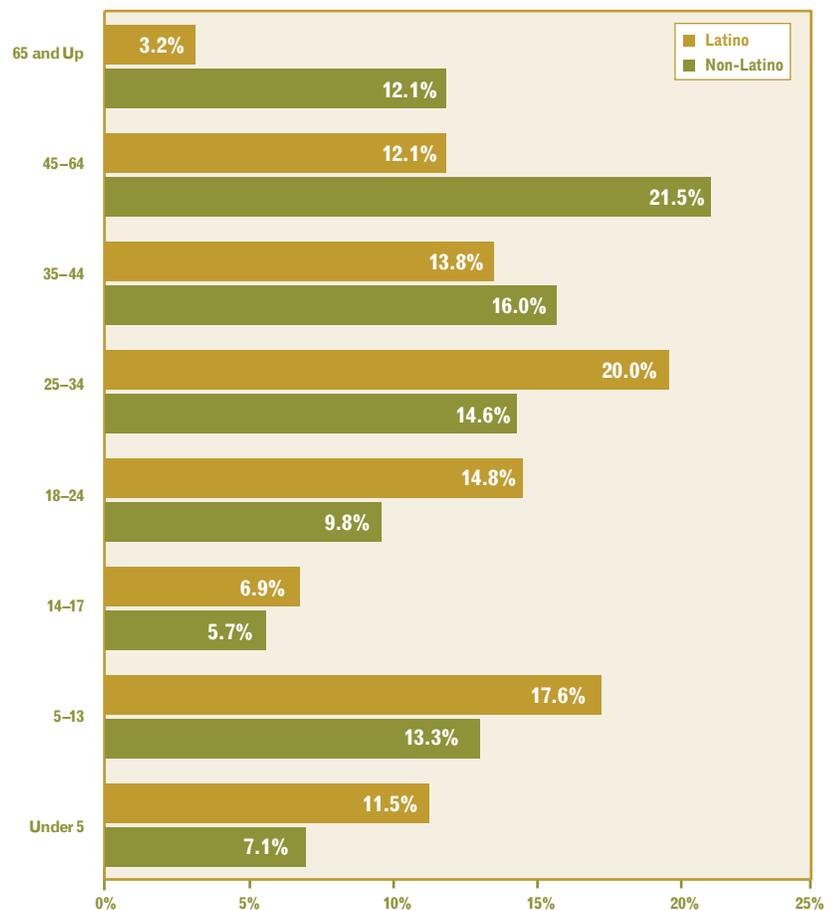
Although four out of every five Chicagoland Latinos (1.1 million of the state's 1.5 million Latinos) lived in only one of those counties—Cook—in 2000, all six Chicagoland counties experienced substantial growth in their Latino populations between 1990 and 2000. In 2000 Kane County had the largest concentration of Latinos in the state (23.7 percent of county residents). Between 1990 and 2000 McHenry County registered the fastest Latino growth rate (223 percent).

In the city of Chicago the Latino population grew by 38.1 percent from 1990 to 2000, whereas the city's non-Latino population decreased by 3.7 percent. In 1990 more than half a million Latinos were residing in Chicago; by 2000 the number had grown to more than three-quarters of a million and one in every four Chicagoans (26 percent) was Latino.

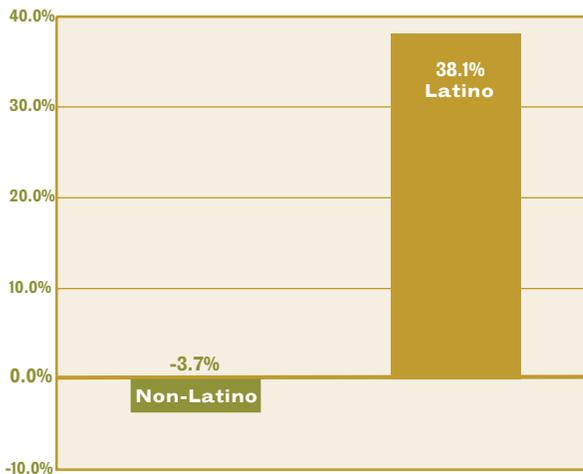
Latinos as Percentage of the Population of Chicagoland Counties, 1990 and 2000



Age Distribution of Illinois Population Latino and Non-Latino, 2000



City of Chicago Population Change Latino and Non-Latino, 1990-2000



Latino Youth

Illinois Latinos are significantly younger than other Illinois residents. In 2000 more than half (51 percent) of the Latino population in Illinois was 25 years of age or younger, compared to a median age of 36 for non-Latinos.

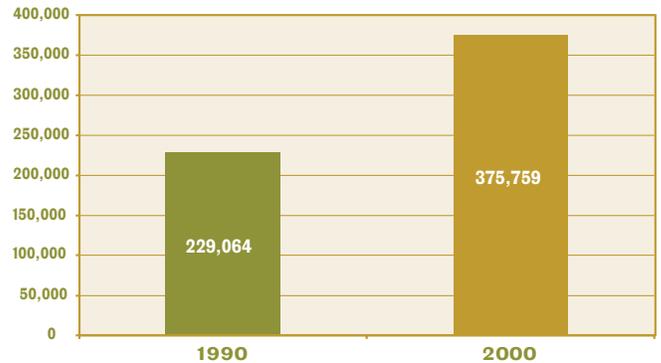
The population of Latino school-age children is growing faster than the Latino population overall. In 1990 there were 229,000 Latino school-age children* in Illinois—11 percent of the state’s school-age children. By 2000 the Latino school-age population had grown to more than 375,000—16 percent of the state’s total.

All six Chicagoland counties experienced significant growth in the number of Latino school-age children from 1990 to 2000.

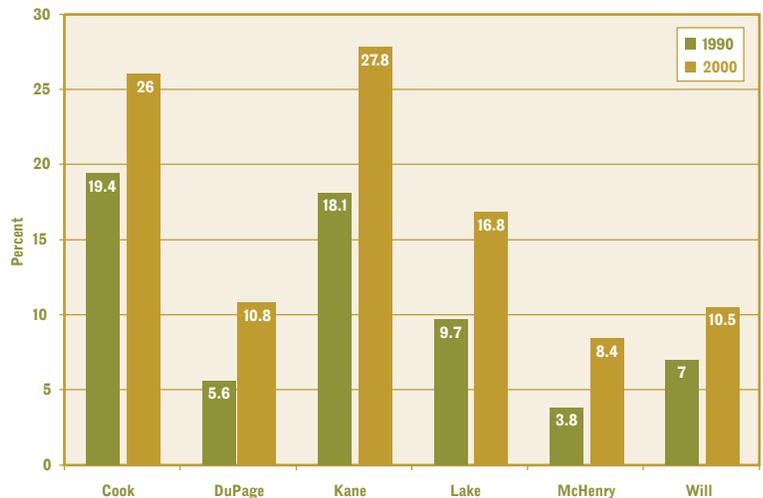
As in the total Latino population of Illinois, 92 percent of the state’s Latino school-age children live in the six Chicagoland counties. In 2000 Cook County had the largest number of Latino children (262,599). Kane County, however, had the largest concentration of Latino school-age children (28 percent), and McHenry County experienced the highest rate of growth from 1990 to 2000 (237 percent).

In the city of Chicago one out of every three school-age children is Latino.

Illinois Latino School-Age Children
1990 and 2000

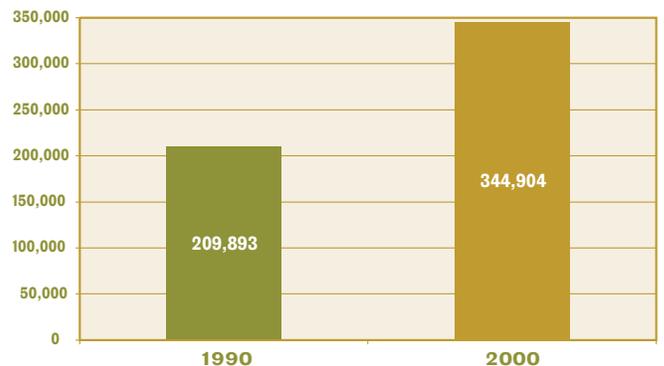


Latino Children as Percentage of Population
of Chicagoland Counties, 1990 and 2000



* For the purposes of this paper, 'school-age children' refers to children who are 5 to 17 years old.

Latino School-Age Children
in Metropolitan Chicago, 1990 and 2000



The three wavy lines shown throughout this publication are a symbol

from ancient times representing the human intellect in action. From *The Book of Signs*, collected, drawn, and explained by Rudolf Koch (London: The First Edition Club, 1930, page 8).

Implications

The rapid growth of the Latino population has profound implications for the localities where it is concentrated—especially Chicago and many of its suburbs. Because the Latino population is young, the healthy growth and development of Latino children are especially crucial, not only for Latino communities themselves but for the continued prosperity of the region and the state as a whole.

Access to a quality education has become increasingly important, if not indispensable, for finding well-paying and rewarding jobs in the current information- and technology-intensive economy. For example, in 1979 a US male college graduate earned 29 percent more than a male worker who had only completed high school and 57 percent more than one who dropped out without completing high school. By 1999 the earnings advantage of the male college graduate over his high school graduate and dropout counterparts had increased to 68 and 147 percent respectively. Adjusting for inflation, the real wages of workers with a high school education or less have stagnated or fallen in recent years.

Unfortunately, many schools have struggled to provide Latino students with the kind of quality education needed for the twenty-first-century economy. Nationally in 2000 28 percent of Latinos 16–24 years of age had dropped out of high school without earning a diploma or

Latino Population Growth in the United States, Illinois and Metropolitan Chicago, 1990–2000
Totals and School-Age Children*

Location	Population	1990		2000		% Change
		No.	%	No.	%	
United States	Total	22,354,059	9.0	35,305,818	12.5	57.9
	Children	5,369,976	11.9	8,624,285	16.2	60.6
Illinois	Total	904,446	7.9	1,530,262	12.3	69.2
	Children	229,064	10.9	375,759	15.9	64.0
Cook County	Total	694,194	13.6	1,071,740	19.9	54.4
	Children	174,873	19.4	262,599	26.0	50.2
DuPage County	Total	34,567	4.4	81,366	9.0	135.4
	Children	7,984	5.6	18,927	10.8	137.1
Kane County	Total	43,535	13.7	95,924	23.7	120.3
	Children	12,049	18.1	24,230	27.8	101.1
Lake County	Total	38,570	7.5	92,716	14.4	140.4
	Children	9,598	9.7	22,851	16.8	138.1
McHenry County	Total	6,066	3.3	19,602	7.5	223.1
	Children	1,436	3.8	4,843	8.4	237.3
Will County	Total	19,973	5.6	43,768	8.7	119.1
	Children	5,389	7.0	11,454	10.5	112.5
Chicago City	Total	545,852	19.6	753,644	26.0	38.1
	Children	139,091	27.5	183,439	33.9	31.9

* Children refers to school-age children (5–17).

completing a GED, compared to only 13 percent of African Americans and 7 percent of whites. Similarly, Latinos were substantially under-represented among bachelor's degree recipients. In 2000 only 6 percent of bachelor's degrees were awarded to Latinos, despite the fact that Latinos made up more than 13 percent of the college-age population, 18–24.

Statistics for Illinois vary somewhat from these national trends. The reasons for disparities in educational achievement are many and complex, and future issues of *Latino Research @ ND* will explore some

of their causes and suggest promising, research-based strategies to address them, with a particular focus on Illinois.

Meanwhile policymakers, educators, and others must begin to take demographic change into account as they plan for the future. As this issue of *Latino Research @ ND* documents, Latinos have become a large and growing presence in Chicago and many of its suburbs. The region's future will depend in no small part on the effectiveness of programs and policies to develop the potential of Latino residents.

Summary

A review of Census data shows that the Latino population grew rapidly between 1990 and 2000. Population growth has been especially rapid in the school-age population, and Latinos make up a significantly larger share of that age group than of the population overall. This is true not only in the city of Chicago, where more than one-third of school-age children are Latino, but in the suburban jurisdictions as well.

Key Resources

- **Census Information Center** of the Institute for Latino Studies, University of Notre Dame <www.nd.edu/~iuplr/cic/>
This is a good source for detailed Census information about Latinos.
- **United States Census Bureau** <www.census.gov>
Much useful information can be obtained by searching this website using keywords such as 'Hispanic', 'Illinois', and 'Chicago'.
- **Hispanic Scholarship Fund Institute** <www.hsfi.org/condition.html>
Has a collection of fact sheets on Latino education at all points of the educational pipeline.
- **Illinois State Board of Education** <www.isbe.state.il.us>
An excellent source of information about student performance and educational resources, available for individual schools, districts, and statewide.
- **The Digest of Education Statistics** and other reports produced by the National Center for Education Statistics of the US Department of Education <<http://nces.ed.gov/index.html>>
- **Achieving High Educational Standards for All** by the National Research Council (Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 2002) <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/10256.html?se_side> An overview of progress and continuing challenges related to the education of minority and economically disadvantaged students.

Latino Research @ ND is produced by the Communications Group of the Institute for Latino Studies. To view this document electronically with live links to further information and topics of related interest, go to <www.nd.edu/~latino/ils_publications.htm> For more information call the Institute at (574) 631-4440 or email latino@nd.edu.

INSTITUTE for

Latino Studies



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

Institute for Latino Studies
230 McKenna Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556-0764

Return Service Requested