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Factsheet

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## Latinos in the 2012 Election: Iowa

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## Latinos in the 2012 Election: Iowa

This profile provides key demographic information on Latino eligible voters<sup>1</sup> and other major groups of eligible voters in Iowa.<sup>2</sup> All demographic data are based on Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010 American Community Survey.<sup>3</sup>

### Hispanics in Iowa's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in Iowa ranks 36th in the nation.<sup>4</sup> About 151,000 Hispanics reside in Iowa, 0.3% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- Iowa's population is 5% Hispanic, ranking 35th in Hispanic population share nationally.
- There are 52,000 Hispanic eligible voters in Iowa—ranking 36th in Hispanic eligible voter population nationally. California ranks first with 5.9 million.
- Some 2% of Iowa eligible voters are Hispanic,

Table 1

#### Population and Electorate in the United States and Iowa, 2010

	U.S.	Iowa	Iowa state rank
<b>Total population (all ages)</b>			
All (thousands)	309,350	3,050	30
Hispanics (thousands)	50,730	151	36
Percent Hispanic	16.4	5.0	35
<b>Total eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)</b>			
All (thousands)	214,972	2,252	30
Hispanics (thousands)	21,509	52	36
Percent Hispanic	10.0	2.3	36
<b>Eligibility of Hispanic population</b>			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	42.4	34.5	34*

Notes: Percentages calculated before rounding. \*Rankings for "Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote" are based on the District of Columbia and the 46 states whose Hispanic samples in the 2010 American Community Survey (ACS) are large enough to generate reliable estimates. All other rankings are based on the District of Columbia and the 50 states.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2010 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS sample)

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<sup>1</sup> Eligible voters are defined as U.S. citizens ages 18 and older. Eligible voters are not the same as registered voters. To cast a vote, in all states except North Dakota, an eligible voter must first register to vote.

<sup>2</sup> The terms "Hispanic" and "Latino" are used interchangeably. References to other races and ethnicities are to the non-Hispanic components of those populations.

<sup>3</sup> This statistical profile of eligible voters is based on the Census Bureau's 2010 [American Community Survey](#) (ACS). The ACS is the largest household survey in the United States, with a sample of about 3 million addresses. The data used for this statistical profile come from the 2010 ACS Integrated Public Use Microdata Series ([IPUMS](#)), representing a 1% sample of the U.S. population. Like any survey, estimates from the ACS are subject to sampling error and (potentially) measurement error. More information is available on [ACS sampling strategy](#) and [associated error](#).

<sup>4</sup> Rankings for "Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote" are based on the District of Columbia and the 46 states whose Hispanic samples in the 2010 ACS are large enough to generate reliable estimates. All other rankings are based on the District of Columbia and the 50 states.

ranking 36th in Hispanic eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 39%.

- About one-third of Hispanics (34%) in Iowa are eligible to vote, ranking Iowa 34th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. By contrast, more than three-quarters (78%) of the state's white population is eligible to vote.

## Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- **Age.** More than four-in-ten Hispanic eligible voters in Iowa (44%) are ages 18 to 29, greater than the share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide (33%) in that age range. By contrast, only 21% of all Iowa eligible voters and 22% of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- **Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in Iowa, 23% are naturalized U.S. citizens. This compares with 25% of Hispanic eligible voters in the U.S., but just 2% of all eligible voters in Iowa and 8% of eligible voters in the U.S. overall.
- **Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in Iowa have a different Hispanic origin profile from Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. More than three-quarters (77%) of Hispanic eligible voters in Iowa are of Mexican origin, 7% of Puerto Rican origin and 16% claim other Hispanic origin. Among all

Table 2

### Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Iowa and the United States, 2010

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	U.S.		Iowa	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
<b>Total population (thousands)</b>	309,350	50,730	3,050	151
<b>Total eligible voter population (thousands)</b>	214,972	21,509	2,252	52
<b>Age</b>				
18-29	21.6	32.8	21.1	44.4
30-44	24.6	29.3	23.3	28.3
45-54	19.4	16.7	19.0	14.9
55-64	16.3	10.9	16.6	8.3
65 and older	18.2	10.4	20.0	4.1
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	48.2	48.3	48.7	45.4
Female	51.8	51.7	51.3	54.6
<b>Type of citizen</b>				
Citizen by birth	92.2	74.9	97.8	76.6
Naturalized citizen	7.8	25.1	2.2	23.4
<b>Language</b>				
Speaks only English at home	86.2	30.7	95.9	53.0
Does not speak only English at home	13.8	69.3	4.1	47.0
<b>Educational attainment</b>				
Less than high school diploma	12.3	24.7	8.9	25.9
High school diploma or equivalent	29.1	28.6	32.9	28.4
Some college	32.4	32.5	34.9	34.6
Bachelor's degree or more	26.3	14.3	23.2	11.1
<b>Marital status</b>				
Married	50.9	44.7	56.6	43.3
Never married	28.1	37.4	23.9	44.9
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	17.9	19.5	11.9
<b>With child younger than 18 in home</b>	25.0	31.1	26.4	36.3
<b>Homeownership rate</b>	68.8	58.2	73.5	60.5
<b>Hispanic origin</b>				
Mexican	---	59.1	---	77.3
Puerto Rican	---	14.4	---	6.6
Cuban	---	4.8	---	0.5
Salvadoran	---	2.4	---	1.7
Dominican	---	3.1	---	0.3
Other	---	16.2	---	13.7
<b>Household income</b>				
Less than \$30,000	22.9	25.3	23.6	24.9
\$30,000-\$49,999	18.6	20.7	20.2	25.8
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.6	21.0	22.7	22.4
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.3	14.8	13.2
\$100,000 or more	25.1	19.7	18.8	13.7

Notes: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2010 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS sample)

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Hispanic eligible voters nationwide, six-in-ten (59%) are Mexican, 14% are Puerto Rican and about one-quarter (26%) are of some other Hispanic origin.

- ***Educational Attainment.*** About one-quarter of Latino eligible voters in Iowa (26%) have not completed high school, almost triple the 9% of all Iowa eligible voters who have not completed high school.
- ***Homeownership.*** Six-in-ten Hispanic eligible voters in Iowa (60%) live in owner-occupied homes, compared with 58% of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Greater shares of all eligible voters in Iowa (73%) and all eligible voters nationwide (69%) live in owner-occupied homes.

## Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Iowa, by Race and Ethnicity

- **Number of Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in Colorado by more than 40 to 1. There are a similar number of Hispanic (52,000) and black (55,000) eligible voters in Colorado.
- **Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than black and white eligible voters in Iowa. Some 44% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29, compared with 29% of black eligible voters and 20% of white eligible voters.
- **Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of education than do black and white eligible voters in Iowa. Some 26% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high school diploma compared with 19% of black eligible voters and 8% of white eligible voters.
- **Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters

Table 3

### Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Iowa, by Race and Ethnicity, 2010

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanic	White	Black
<b>Total population (thousands)</b>	151	2,700	93
<b>Total eligible voter population (thousands)</b>	52	2,099	55
<b>Age</b>			
18-29	44.4	20.1	28.6
30-44	28.3	22.7	33.5
45-54	14.9	19.3	16.8
55-64	8.3	17.0	13.6
65 and older	4.1	21.0	7.5
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	45.4	48.7	51.8
Female	54.6	51.3	48.2
<b>Type of citizen</b>			
Citizen by birth	76.6	99.2	94.8
Naturalized citizen	23.4	0.8	5.2
<b>Language</b>			
Speaks only English at home	53.0	97.7	94.5
Does not speak only English at home	47.0	2.3	5.5
<b>Educational attainment</b>			
Less than high school diploma	25.9	8.1	19.5
High school diploma or equivalent	28.4	33.3	26.7
Some college	34.6	34.9	41.8
Bachelor's degree or more	11.1	23.8	12.0
<b>Marital Status</b>			
Married	43.3	57.8	24.7
Never married	44.9	22.6	48.1
Divorced/separated/widowed	11.9	19.6	27.3
<b>With child younger than 18 in home</b>	36.3	25.9	28.9
<b>Homeownership rate</b>	60.5	75.3	30.7
<b>Household income</b>			
Less than \$30,000	24.9	22.8	52.7
\$30,000-\$49,999	25.8	20.0	18.5
\$50,000-\$74,999	22.4	22.8	17.0
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.2	15.1	6.0
\$100,000 or more	13.7	19.3	5.8

Notes: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. Hispanics are of any race. Whites and blacks include only non-Hispanics.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2010 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS sample)

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(60%) are more likely to live in owner-occupied homes than black eligible voters (31%) in Iowa, but they are less likely to do so than white (75%) Iowa eligible voters.