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Factsheet

Latinos in the 2012 Election: Illinois

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Latinos in the 2012 Election: Illinois

This profile provides key demographic information on Latino eligible voters¹ and other major groups of eligible voters in Illinois.² All demographic data are based on Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010 American Community Survey.³

Hispanics in Illinois' Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in Illinois is the fifth largest in the nation.⁴ About 2.0 million Hispanics reside in Illinois, 4.0% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- Illinois's population is 16% Hispanic, the 10th largest Hispanic population share nationally.
- There are 773,000 Hispanic eligible voters in Illinois—the 6th largest Hispanic eligible voter population nationally. California ranks first with 5.9

Table 1

Population and Electorate in the United States and Illinois, 2010

	U.S.	Illinois	Illinois state rank
Total population (all ages)			
All (thousands)	309,350	12,843	5
Hispanics (thousands)	50,730	2,037	5
Percent Hispanic	16.4	15.9	10
Total eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
All (thousands)	214,972	8,811	6
Hispanics (thousands)	21,509	773	6
Percent Hispanic	10.0	8.8	11
Eligibility of Hispanic population			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	42.4	37.9	27*

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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¹ 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.

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

³ 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](#).

⁴ 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.

million.

- Some 9% of Illinois eligible voters are Hispanic, the 11th largest Hispanic eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 39%.
- Nearly four-in-ten (38%) Hispanics in Illinois are eligible to vote, ranking Illinois 27th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. By contrast, nearly eight-in-ten (78%) of the state's white population is eligible to vote.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- Age.** More than one-third of Hispanic eligible voters in Illinois (35%) are ages 18 to 29, similar to the share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide (33%) in that age range. By contrast, only 22% of all Illinois eligible voters and of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in Illinois, 29% are naturalized U.S. citizens. This compares with 25% of Hispanic eligible voters in the U.S., and just 8% of all eligible voters in Illinois and in the U.S. overall.
- Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in Illinois have a different Hispanic origin profile from Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. About seven-in-ten (70%) Hispanic eligible voters in Illinois are of Mexican origin, 17% are of Puerto Rican origin, and 13% claim other Hispanic origin. Among all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide, six-in-ten

Table 2

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Illinois and the United States, 2010

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	U.S.		Illinois	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
Total population (thousands)	309,350	50,730	12,843	2,037
Total eligible voter population (thousands)	214,972	21,509	8,811	773
Age				
18-29	21.6	32.8	21.8	35.3
30-44	24.6	29.3	25.0	31.0
45-54	19.4	16.7	19.6	16.1
55-64	16.3	10.9	15.9	9.8
65 and older	18.2	10.4	17.7	7.7
Gender				
Male	48.2	48.3	47.9	49.9
Female	51.8	51.7	52.1	50.1
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	92.2	74.9	91.6	71.3
Naturalized citizen	7.8	25.1	8.4	28.7
Language				
Speaks only English at home	86.2	30.7	85.9	26.4
Does not speak only English at home	13.8	69.3	14.1	73.6
Educational attainment				
Less than high school diploma	12.3	24.7	11.0	25.2
High school diploma or equivalent	29.1	28.6	27.5	29.1
Some college	32.4	32.5	32.2	30.2
Bachelor's degree or more	26.3	14.3	29.3	15.5
Marital status				
Married	50.9	44.7	49.9	43.5
Never married	28.1	37.4	30.5	41.9
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	17.9	19.6	14.5
With child younger than 18 in home	25.0	31.1	25.4	32.9
Homeownership rate	68.8	58.2	71.5	66.5
Hispanic origin				
Mexican	---	59.1	---	70.3
Puerto Rican	---	14.4	---	17.2
Cuban	---	4.8	---	2.0
Salvadoran	---	2.4	---	0.5
Dominican	---	3.1	---	0.3
Other	---	16.2	---	9.7
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	22.9	25.3	20.8	19.7
\$30,000-\$49,999	18.6	20.7	17.5	21.0
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.6	21.0	19.2	23.0
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.3	14.7	16.1
\$100,000 or more	25.1	19.7	27.7	20.2

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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(59%) are Mexican, 14% are Puerto Rican, and about a quarter (26%) are of some other Hispanic origin.

- **Educational Attainment.** One-quarter of Latino eligible voters in Illinois (25%) have not completed high school, more than double the 11% of all Illinois eligible voters who have not completed high school.
- **Homeownership.** Two-thirds of Hispanic eligible voters in Illinois (67%) live in owner-occupied homes, higher than the share of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide (58%). Similar shares of all eligible voters in Illinois (71%) and all eligible voters nationwide (69%) live in owner-occupied homes.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Illinois, by Race and Ethnicity

- Number of Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in Illinois by about 8 to 1, and black eligible voters outnumber Hispanics by almost 2 to 1. There are more than double as many Hispanic eligible voters as Asian eligible voters.
- Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than black, Asian and white eligible voters in Illinois. Some 35% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29, compared with 25% of black eligible voters, 24% of Asian eligible voters and 19% of white eligible voters.
- Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of education than do black, white and Asian eligible voters in Illinois. Some 25% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high school diploma, compared with 19% of black eligible voters and 8% of white and Asian eligible voters.

Table 3

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Illinois, by Race and Ethnicity, 2010

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanic	White	Black	Asian
Total population (thousands)	2,037	8,170	1,836	583
Total eligible voter population (thousands)	773	6,334	1,300	301
Age				
18-29	35.3	19.2	25.1	23.7
30-44	31.0	23.4	27.3	29.2
45-54	16.1	20.2	19.3	17.1
55-64	9.8	17.1	14.4	15.8
65 and older	7.7	20.0	13.9	14.2
Gender				
Male	49.9	48.4	44.8	47.0
Female	50.1	51.6	55.2	53.0
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	71.3	95.8	98.4	27.9
Naturalized citizen	28.7	4.2	1.6	72.1
Language				
Speaks only English at home	26.4	93.7	97.6	24.0
Does not speak only English at home	73.6	6.3	2.4	76.0
Educational attainment				
Less than high school diploma	25.2	7.7	19.1	7.5
High school diploma or equivalent	29.1	28.1	27.8	13.7
Some college	30.2	31.8	37.3	22.2
Bachelor's degree or more	15.5	32.4	15.8	56.7
Marital Status				
Married	43.5	55.1	26.1	62.4
Never married	41.9	25.3	48.7	27.6
Divorced/separated/widowed	14.5	19.6	25.2	9.9
With child younger than 18 in home	32.9	24.7	23.5	29.5
Homeownership rate	66.5	77.7	43.8	76.2
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	19.7	18.0	37.2	12.9
\$30,000-\$49,999	21.0	16.6	20.9	13.0
\$50,000-\$74,999	23.0	19.2	18.3	15.8
\$75,000-\$99,999	16.1	15.4	10.2	16.5
\$100,000 or more	20.2	30.8	13.4	41.7

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

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

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- **Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters (67%) are more likely to live in owner-occupied homes than black (44%) eligible voters in Illinois, but they are less likely to do so than Asian (76%) or white (78%) eligible voters in Illinois.