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Latinos in the 2014 Election: Iowa

Factsheet

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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Latinos in the 2014 Election: Iowa

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This profile provides key demographic information on Latino eligible voters¹ and other major groups of eligible voters in

Iowa.² All demographic data are based on Pew Research Center tabulations of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2012 American Community Survey.³

Hispanics in Iowa's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in Iowa ranks 36th in the nation. About 161,000 Hispanics reside in Iowa, 0.3% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- Iowa's population is 5% Hispanic, ranking 35th in Hispanic statewide population share nationally.

- There are 61,000 Hispanic eligible voters in Iowa—ranking 36th in Hispanic statewide eligible voter population nationally. California ranks first with 6.4 million.

TABLE 1

Population and Electorate in the United States and Iowa, 2012

	U.S.	Iowa	Iowa state rank
Total population (all ages)			
All (thousands)	313,914	3,074	30
Hispanics (thousands)	52,932	161	36
Percent Hispanic	16.9	5.2	35
Eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
All (thousands)	220,111	2,279	30
Hispanics (thousands)	23,632	61	36
Percent Hispanic	10.7	2.7	36
Eligibility of Hispanic population			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	44.6	37.7	38

Note: Percentages calculated before rounding.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2012 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 2012 [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 2012 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](#).

- Some 3% of Iowa eligible voters are Hispanic, ranking 36th in Hispanic statewide eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 40%.
- Some 38% of Hispanics in Iowa are eligible to vote, ranking Iowa 38th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. By contrast, 78% of the state's white population is eligible to vote.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- **Age.** About one-third of Hispanic eligible voters in Iowa (36%) are ages 18 to 29, about the same as 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, 20% are naturalized U.S. citizens—lower than the 25% of Hispanic eligible voters in the U.S. Just 2% of all eligible voters in Iowa and 8% of eligible voters in the U.S. overall are naturalized U.S. citizens.
- **Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in Iowa have a different Hispanic origin profile from Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. About three-quarters (76%) of Hispanic eligible voters in Iowa are of Mexican

TABLE 2

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Iowa and the United States, 2012

% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)

	U.S.		Iowa	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
Total population (thousands)	313,914	52,932	3,074	161
Eligible voter population (thousands)	220,111	23,632	2,279	61
Age				
18-29	21.6	33.1	21.2	36.3
30-44	24.3	29.1	23.1	34.4
45-54	18.5	16.2	18.2	13.9
55-64	16.7	11.1	17.0	8.4
65 and older	18.9	10.5	20.5	7.1
Gender				
Male	48.4	48.9	48.9	49.9
Female	51.6	51.1	51.1	50.1
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	91.8	75.2	98.0	80.1
Naturalized citizen	8.2	24.8	2.0	19.9
Language				
Speaks only English at home	85.6	31.5	96.1	50.7
Does not speak only English at home	14.4	68.5	3.9	49.3
Educational attainment				
Less than high school graduate	11.5	23.0	7.5	22.9
High school graduate	28.6	28.5	31.6	31.0
Two-year degree/Some college	32.8	33.6	36.2	31.1
Bachelor's degree or more	27.2	15.0	24.7	15.0
Marital status				
Married	50.0	42.9	55.3	40.5
Never married	29.1	39.1	24.7	37.0
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	18.0	20.0	22.4
With child younger than 18 in home	24.2	29.9	25.3	30.6
Homeownership rate	67.5	56.0	73.4	59.8
Hispanic origin				
Mexican	-	58.9	-	75.9
Puerto Rican	-	14.0	-	6.6
Cuban	-	4.8	-	1.8
Salvadoran	-	2.6	-	2.1
Dominican	-	3.2	-	0.2
Other	-	16.5	-	13.4
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	22.2	25.1	22.3	27.3
\$30,000-\$49,999	17.9	20.2	18.4	27.0
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.1	20.5	21.7	18.8
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.6	15.9	11.0
\$100,000 or more	26.9	20.6	21.7	15.9

Note: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. High school graduate includes GEDs or equivalent.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2012 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS sample)

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origin, 7% are of Puerto Rican origin, and 18% claim other Hispanic origin. Among all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide, 59% are Mexican, 14% are Puerto Rican, and 27% are of some other Hispanic origin.

- **Educational Attainment.** About one-quarter of Latino eligible voters in Iowa (23%) have not completed high school, about triple the 8% of all Iowa eligible voters who have not completed high school and the same as the 23% of Hispanics nationwide who have not completed high school.
- **Homeownership.** Six-in-ten Hispanic eligible voters in Iowa live in owner-occupied homes, compared with 56% of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Greater shares of all eligible voters in Iowa (73%) and eligible voters nationwide (67%) 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 Iowa by about 35 to 1. There are a similar number of Hispanic (61,000) and black (57,000) eligible voters in Iowa.

- **Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than white eligible voters in Iowa. Some 36% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29, compared with 20% of white eligible voters. About one-third of black eligible voters (31%) are ages 18 to 29.
- **Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of high school education than do white and black eligible voters in Iowa. Some 23% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high school diploma, compared with 7% of white eligible voters and 13% of black eligible voters. However, Hispanics are about as likely as blacks to have at least a bachelor's degree—15% compared with 12%. One-quarter of whites have a bachelor's degree or more.

TABLE 3

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Iowa and the United States, by Race and Ethnicity, 2012

% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanic	White	Black
Total population (thousands)	161	2,704	90
Eligible voter population (thousands)	61	2,111	57
Age			
18-29	36.3	20.0	31.2
30-44	34.4	22.5	29.3
45-54	13.9	18.4	19.7
55-64	8.4	17.6	12.1
65 and older	7.1	21.5	7.6
Gender			
Male	49.9	48.7	52.7
Female	50.1	51.3	47.3
Type of citizen			
Citizen by birth	80.1	99.3	95.6
Naturalized citizen	19.9	0.7	4.4
Language			
Speaks only English at home	50.7	98.0	97.5
Does not speak only English at home	49.3	2.0	2.5
Educational attainment			
Less than high school graduate	22.9	6.9	12.7
High school graduate	31.0	31.7	32.2
Two-year degree/Some college	31.1	36.3	42.9
Bachelor's degree or more	15.0	25.2	12.2
Marital status			
Married	40.5	56.8	29.1
Never married	37.0	23.1	49.1
Divorced/separated/widowed	22.4	20.1	21.8
With child younger than 18 in home	30.6	25.1	25.9
Homeownership rate	59.8	75.1	35.1
Household income			
Less than \$30,000	27.3	21.3	42.2
\$30,000-\$49,999	27.0	18.4	15.1
\$50,000-\$74,999	18.8	21.9	17.3
\$75,000-\$99,999	11.0	16.2	11.7
\$100,000 or more	15.9	22.1	13.8

Note: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. High school graduate includes GEDs or equivalent. Whites and blacks include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2012 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS sample)

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- **Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters (60%) are more likely than black eligible voters (35%), but are less likely than white eligible voters (75%) to live in owner-occupied homes in Iowa.