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Latinos in the 2014 Election: New Jersey

Factsheet

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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Latinos in the 2014 Election: New Jersey

BY Anna Brown AND Eileen Patten

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

New Jersey.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 New Jersey's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in New Jersey is the seventh largest in the nation. About 1.6 million Hispanics reside in New Jersey, 3.1% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- New Jersey's population is 19% Hispanic, the eighth largest Hispanic statewide population share nationally.

TABLE 1

Population and Electorate in the United States and New Jersey, 2012

	U.S.	New Jersey	New Jersey state rank
Total population (all ages)			
All (thousands)	313,914	8,865	11
Hispanics (thousands)	52,932	1,643	7
Percent Hispanic	16.9	18.5	8
Eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
All (thousands)	220,111	6,018	11
Hispanics (thousands)	23,632	770	7
Percent Hispanic	10.7	12.8	9
Eligibility of Hispanic population			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	44.6	46.9	19

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](#).

- There are 770,000 Hispanic eligible voters in New Jersey—the seventh largest Hispanic statewide eligible voter population nationally. California ranks first with 6.4 million.
- Some 13% of New Jersey eligible voters are Hispanic, the ninth largest Hispanic statewide eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 40%.
- Some 47% of Hispanics in New Jersey are eligible to vote, ranking New Jersey 19th 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 three-in-ten Hispanic eligible voters in New Jersey (28%) are ages 18 to 29, somewhat lower than the share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide (33%) in that age range. By contrast, only 19% of all New Jersey eligible voters and 22% of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- **Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in New Jersey, 34% are naturalized U.S. citizens. This is greater than the 25% of Hispanic eligible voters in the U.S. Just 16% of all eligible voters in New Jersey and 8% of eligible voters in the U.S. overall are naturalized U.S. citizens.
- **Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in New Jersey have a different Hispanic origin profile from Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Some four-in-ten Hispanic eligible voters in New

TABLE 2

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in New Jersey and the United States, 2012

% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)

	U.S.		New Jersey	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
Total population (thousands)	313,914	52,932	8,865	1,643
Eligible voter population (thousands)	220,111	23,632	6,018	770
Age				
18-29	21.6	33.1	19.0	28.0
30-44	24.3	29.1	23.7	30.1
45-54	18.5	16.2	20.4	18.7
55-64	16.7	11.1	17.2	12.4
65 and older	18.9	10.5	19.7	10.8
Gender				
Male	48.4	48.9	47.6	47.7
Female	51.6	51.1	52.4	52.3
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	91.8	75.2	84.4	66.3
Naturalized citizen	8.2	24.8	15.6	33.7
Language				
Speaks only English at home	85.6	31.5	77.3	20.9
Does not speak only English at home	14.4	68.5	22.7	79.1
Educational attainment				
Less than high school graduate	11.5	23.0	9.6	19.7
High school graduate	28.6	28.5	29.0	30.7
Two-year degree/Some college	32.8	33.6	27.1	31.0
Bachelor's degree or more	27.2	15.0	34.3	18.7
Marital status				
Married	50.0	42.9	51.6	43.2
Never married	29.1	39.1	30.0	38.6
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	18.0	18.4	18.2
With child younger than 18 in home	24.2	29.9	25.7	31.0
Homeownership rate	67.5	56.0	71.9	50.9
Hispanic origin				
Mexican	-	58.9	-	5.2
Puerto Rican	-	14.0	-	39.8
Cuban	-	4.8	-	8.6
Salvadoran	-	2.6	-	2.9
Dominican	-	3.2	-	12.5
Other	-	16.5	-	31.0
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	22.2	25.1	15.0	21.8
\$30,000-\$49,999	17.9	20.2	12.7	16.2
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.1	20.5	15.8	18.5
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.6	14.0	14.5
\$100,000 or more	26.9	20.6	42.5	29.0

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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Jersey are of Puerto Rican origin, 12% are of Dominican origin, 9% are of Cuban origin, 5% are of Mexican origin, and 34% claim other Hispanic origin. Among all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide, only 14% are Puerto Rican, 3% are Dominican, 5% are Cuban, 59% are Mexican, and 19% are of some other Hispanic origin.

- **Educational Attainment.** Some two-in-ten Latino eligible voters in New Jersey have not completed high school, twice the 10% of all New Jersey eligible voters who have not completed high school and less than the 23% of Hispanics nationwide who have not completed high school.
- **Homeownership.** About half of Hispanic eligible voters in New Jersey (51%) live in owner-occupied homes, lower than the 56% of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Greater shares of all eligible voters in New Jersey (72%) and eligible voters nationwide (67%) live in owner-occupied homes.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in New Jersey, by Race and Ethnicity

- **Number of Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in New Jersey by 5 to 1. Hispanics eligible voters outnumber Asian eligible voters by 2 to 1. There are about the same number of black (789,000) than Hispanic (770,000) eligible voters in New Jersey.

- **Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than white, black and Asian eligible voters in New Jersey. Some 28% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29, compared with 16% of white eligible voters, 23% of black eligible voters and 19% of Asian eligible voters.

- **Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of high school education than do white, black and Asian eligible voters in New Jersey. Some 20% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high school diploma, compared with 7% of white eligible voters, 14% of black eligible voters and 7% of Asian eligible voters. Hispanics and blacks are less likely to have a bachelor's degree or

TABLE 3

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

% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanic	White	Black	Asian
Total population (thousands)	1,643	5,134	1,126	776
Eligible voter population (thousands)	770	3,990	789	386
Age				
18-29	28.0	16.1	23.1	18.9
30-44	30.1	21.2	27.2	30.1
45-54	18.7	20.7	20.1	21.7
55-64	12.4	18.7	14.9	16.4
65 and older	10.8	23.3	14.6	12.9
Gender				
Male	47.7	47.9	45.6	48.8
Female	52.3	52.1	54.4	51.2
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	66.3	93.4	88.3	21.1
Naturalized citizen	33.7	6.6	11.7	78.9
Language				
Speaks only English at home	20.9	90.9	92.4	18.9
Does not speak only English at home	79.1	9.1	7.6	81.1
Educational attainment				
Less than high school graduate	19.7	7.1	13.8	6.5
High school graduate	30.7	29.3	35.2	11.2
Two-year degree/Some college	31.0	25.9	32.5	20.0
Bachelor's degree or more	18.7	37.8	18.5	62.3
Marital status				
Married	43.2	56.1	30.3	68.4
Never married	38.6	25.1	48.1	23.6
Divorced/separated/widowed	18.2	18.9	21.7	8.0
With child younger than 18 in home	31.0	24.3	23.0	35.3
Homeownership rate	50.9	80.5	46.7	79.0
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	21.8	12.3	25.8	7.9
\$30,000-\$49,999	16.2	11.5	17.2	8.4
\$50,000-\$74,999	18.5	15.1	18.9	11.3
\$75,000-\$99,999	14.5	14.2	13.8	12.6
\$100,000 or more	29.0	46.8	24.3	59.8

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, blacks and Asians 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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more (19% of each) than whites (38%) or Asians (62%).

- **Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters (51%) are more likely to live in owner-occupied homes than black eligible voters (47%) in New Jersey, but are less likely to live in owner-occupied homes than white (81%) or Asian (79%) eligible voters.