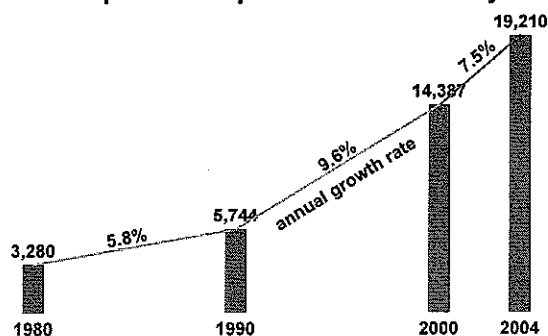


Hispanic People in Dane County

by Neil J. Gleason, Dane County Department of Human Services, 2005

Between 1990 and 2000, Dane County's Latino population grew 150%, with most of the increase coming toward the latter half of the decade. Since 2000, growth has averaged 1,200 people per year.

Hispanic People in Dane County



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

National Heritage

Dane County's Latin community is striking in its multi-national diversity, tracing its heritage to Mexico (63%), Puerto Rico (8%) and many Central and South American nations. During the 1990's, the Latino population grew by 8,600, most of which (6,000+) was people of Mexican descent. People of Puerto Rican descent increased by 500 and other nationalities by 2,000.

Hispanic People by Heritage

Heritage	1990	2000
Mexican	2,992	9,040
Puerto Rican	585	1,088
Cuban	251	294
Other	1,916	3,965
Total	5,744	14,387

Latinos tend to live in the Madison area: more than ¾ live in the city and town of Madison and rental neighborhoods on the northern edge of Fitchburg. Latinos have also formed small communities in northeastern Dane County, including Sun Prairie, Marshall and DeForest. The Latino population is anchored by long-time residents, but growing rapidly due to recent immigration.

Long-time Latino residents tend to be connected to the UW-Madison as graduates or employees, and are very well educated. In the 1990 Census, Hispanic adults were more likely to report a graduate degree than the general population: 20% vs. 13%.

Impact of Immigration

During the 1980's, political turbulence in Central America opened a steady trickle of immigrants from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

More recent immigrants during the late 1990's present a different social profile:

- They tend to be young adults and families of Mexican descent: 70% of Hispanic population growth during the past decade (6,000 of 8,600) reports Mexican heritage.
- They come from both urban and rural areas of Mexico, Texas and Southern California, having migrated north and east in search of better employment. Not uncommonly, they have paused elsewhere in the Midwest before arriving in Dane County.
- They are less well educated (in 2000, nearly 1 in 3 Hispanic adults had not completed high school, compared to only 17% in 1990), less fluent in English, and include a variety of resident status (U.S. citizens, non-citizen permanent residents and undocumented immigrants). Their children are likely to arrive with less formal education than their age peers.

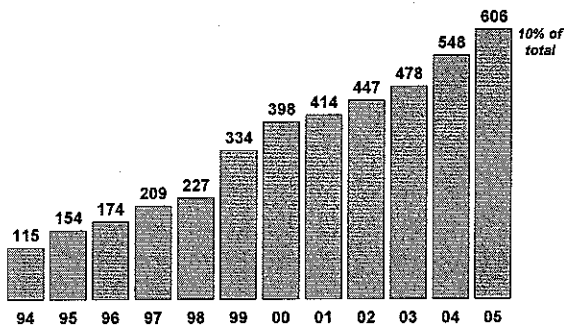
There is some evidence that the rapid rate of immigration of the late 1990's paused during 2002-03 in response to slowed employment growth in Dane County. However, the resumption of strong economic growth in 2004 is reflected by signs of a renewed pace of immigration.

Demographics

Dane County's Latino population has a substantially higher proportion of children and young adults. In 2000, nearly 1 in 3 (31%) Latinos were under age 18, compared to only 22% of non-Latinos.

The salient characteristic of a young population is the number of families with young children. During the past 11 years, as total births grew 25%, children born to Hispanic mothers increased 425%. The bulk of this growth has occurred since 1999.

Dane County
Live Births to Hispanic Mothers



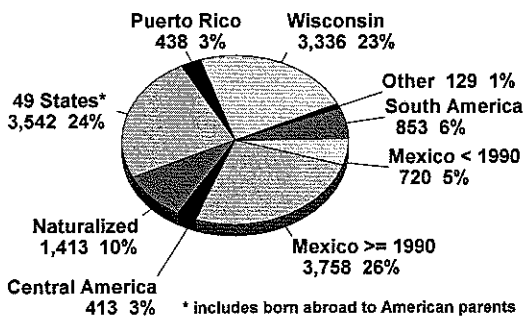
Source: Wisconsin Center for Health Statistics

The proportion of babies born to Hispanic mothers has similarly increased, from 2.4% in 1994 to 10.0% in 2005. Beginning in 2000, babies born to Hispanic mothers eclipsed the other ethnic minority groups.

Place of Birth and Citizenship

One-half of Dane County's 14,600 Latinos were born in the U.S. and 10% are naturalized citizens. Of the 40% non-citizens, most are Mexican (31% of total), of whom most (26% of total) entered the US in the 1990's.

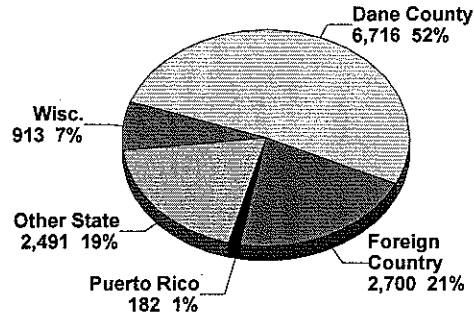
2000 Census: Latino People in Dane County
Place of Birth and Citizenship



Prior Residence

Reflecting their rapid growth, nearly 1/2 of Latino residents reported living outside Dane County five years earlier (1995): 7% lived elsewhere in the State, 20% elsewhere in the U.S. and 21% in a foreign country.

2000 Census: Latino People in Dane County
Residence in 1995 for People Age 5+

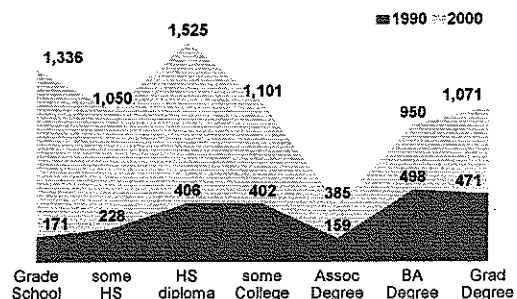


More than one-third of Dane County's Latino residents (5,200) entered the U.S. during the 1990's. Mexico accounted for 4,000 of these new arrivals. The lure of employment for Mexican immigrants is apparent from the 5:3 over-representation of men, many of whom remit part of their earnings to support families back home.

Educational Level

Latino adults who settled in Dane County during the 1990's were less well educated than the community they joined. This reflects the rural origins of many of the new immigrants. In 1990, 17% of Latino adults had not completed high school. During the 1990's, nearly 40% of newly added adults lacked a HS diploma. By 2000, adults without a diploma had risen to 32% of the Latino population.

2000 Census: Latino People in Dane County
Educational Level of Latino Adults Age 25+



National data indicate that the educational attainment of Latino adults increases markedly between the immigrant generation and subsequent, native-born generations.

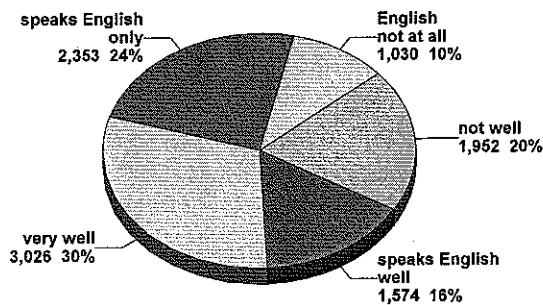
“Over half (55%) of foreign-born Latinos have less than a high school education compared to fewer than a quarter (23%) of native-born Latinos. Native-born Latinos are more likely than foreign-born Latinos to have completed high school (35% vs. 29%), have some college (29% vs. 9%), or to have graduated from college or received a degree after college (13% vs. 7%).”

2002 National Survey of Latinos by the Pew Hispanic Center and the Kaiser Family Foundation

Language Proficiency

Reflecting their relatively recent arrival in the U.S., 10% of Latino adults (ages 18-64) report that they don't speak any English and another 20% report only limited speaking proficiency. By contrast, only 13% of children (ages 5-17) report little or no proficiency in spoken English.

2000 Census: Latino People in Dane County
English Proficiency of Adults, Age 18-64



Language proficiency evolves rapidly from generation to generation. Based on national data, Spanish is used by most in the first generation, but the second generation is substantially bilingual, while the third and later generations speak primarily English.

Primary Language Among Latino Adults in the U.S.

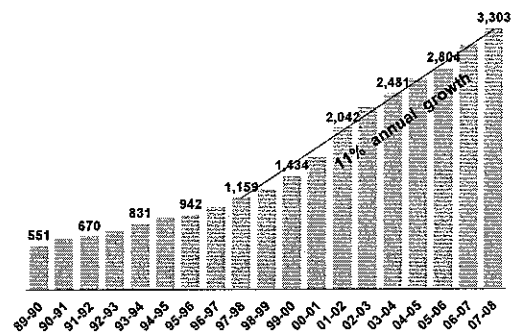
Generation	Spanish-dominant	Bilingual	English-dominant
1 st	72%	24%	4%
2 nd	7%	47%	46%
3 rd +	0%	22%	78%

Education of Children

The future of young Latino immigrant families hinges on their children's success in mastering English and completing their education.

In Dane County, the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) enrolls a substantial majority of Dane County's Hispanic students and provides a bellwether for measuring academic progress. During the past 10 years, MMSD's Hispanic enrollment has increased at an annual rate of 11%.

Madison Metropolitan School District
Enrollment of Hispanic Students

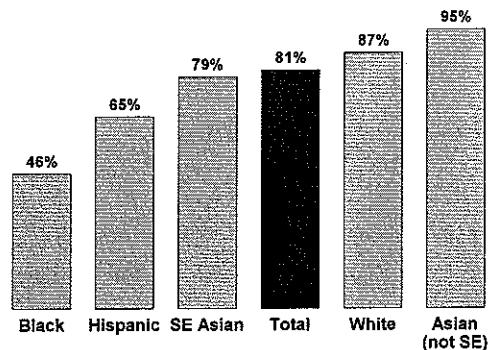


Source: MMSD website (www.madison.k12.us)

Hispanic students skew young: they comprise 17% of MMSD 1st graders but only 11% of high schoolers.

During the 1990's, only about 65% of MMSD Hispanic high school students completed their education and received a diploma. This estimate is based on unpublished data tracking a 4-year cohort of entering high school freshmen from the early 1990's. It is consistent with published dropout data for the 1997 freshman cohort.

Estimated MMSD 4-Year Graduation Rate, 1995-1998



Based on 4 cohorts of new freshmen (91-92, 92-93, 93-94, 94-95).