

¡AQUÍ ESTAMOS!

A Data Profile of Latinos in the Inland Empire

Compiled and Researched by:

In Partnership with:



September 2022





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About the CIELO Fund at the Inland Empire Community Foundation

Launched in 2022 at the Inland Empire Community Foundation, the Cultivating Inland Empire Latino Opportunity Fund, also known as the CIELO Fund, is dedicated to uplifting and investing in the Inland Empire’s Latino community. The CIELO Fund supports organizations, initiatives, and innovations that are led by – and serve – Latinos in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Learn more at iegives.org/cielofund.

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About The Inland Empire Community Foundation

Founded in 1941, the Inland Empire Community Foundation is the oldest and largest community foundation serving the Inland region. IECF has deep roots in the IE, and is committed to working with all who care passionately about improving our community. Working in collaboration, IECF’s staff and board come to the table with in-depth understanding of our communities and nonprofit sector, and extensive experience with diverse donors that can make a meaningful difference – now and in the future. For more information about how to help build a Culture of Philanthropy for the IE, please go to www.iegives.org, email info@iegives.org, or call 951-241-7777.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Inland Empire is one of the most diverse and fastest growing regions in California, and central to this growth is its vibrant Latino community. Latinos now comprise a majority of the region's population at 51.5% – an estimated 2.37 million people. Latino growth rates in the Inland Empire are significantly higher than the Southern California average. Despite this growth, the Latino community in Riverside and San Bernardino counties still face significant challenges in the areas of educational attainment, access to health care, economic mobility, and civic participation. For the Inland Empire to succeed, the Latino community must succeed and this Data Profile highlights some areas where added investment in nonprofit infrastructure and services can help this community thrive.

Key to economic mobility for countless Latino families, particularly those recently immigrated, is the aspiration of a college education for their children. While the Inland Empire has seen some growth in educational attainment among Latinos in recent years, it's still not where it needs to be. Only 11%

of Latinos in the IE have a bachelor's degree or higher, well below the state average (35%) and the national average (33%). Latinos in the IE are also nearly only a third as likely as non-Hispanic Whites in the region to hold a bachelor's degree or higher (11% versus 29%, respectively).

While Latino household incomes in the region have grown between 2010 and 2020 by nearly \$10,000, they still lag behind non-Hispanic whites by nearly \$14,000 per year as of 2020. This income gap is even more dramatic when adjusting for size of the household; Latino income per capita (\$22,700) is about half the per-capita income of White residents (\$44,250).

Poverty rates are also much higher among Latinos in the Inland Empire than among non-Hispanic Whites, and these gaps are even more stark when it comes to child poverty. Latino children in the Inland Empire are twice as likely as White children to live in poverty. This is a stark finding that suggests adverse and inequitable long-term consequences for the Latino community, absent investments in its successful future.



There are also some notable racial/ethnic gaps in health insurance and health outcomes. The proportion of IE Latinos without health insurance in 2020 (12%) was more than double the share among non-Hispanic White residents in the region (5%). Latino adults in the Inland Empire were also much less likely to have received a routine health check-up (60%) than White adults in the region (71%), and a higher proportion of Latinos expressed experiencing

significant mental distress in the prior year (13%) when compared to White residents in the IE (11%).

Homeownership is a relatively bright spot for Latinos in the region. In 2020, Latino homeownership was significantly higher in the Inland Empire (60%) than comparable figures for Latinos in Los Angeles County (42%) and in California more generally (46%). At the same time, Latino homeownership in the region lags homeownership among non-Hispanic Whites (73%),

Poverty rates are also much higher among Latinos in the Inland Empire than among non-Hispanic Whites, and these gaps are even more stark when it comes to child poverty. Latino children in the Inland Empire are twice as likely as White children to live in poverty. This is a stark finding that suggests adverse and inequitable long-term consequences for the Latino community, absent investments in its successful future.

and the region saw a decline in Latino homeownership from 64% in 2010 to 60% in 2020.

In terms of civic participation, Latinos lag significantly behind non-Hispanic Whites with respect to voting. These gaps are particularly consequential, as Latinos are a majority of the region's residents, but well below a majority when it comes to the electorate. In 2020, only 50% of eligible Latinos voted in the November election when compared to 68% of non-Hispanic Whites. Finally, the Inland Empire continues to grow its roster of Latino elected officials (197 officials, according to the latest count), although representation is still well below the Latino population's majority status in the region. The gaps are even more severe among Latina elected officials, and point to the need for significantly greater investments in Latino civic engagement and in Latino/Latina leadership development in the region.

Despite the many disparities outlined in this Data Profile, the Inland Empire's Latino community remains resilient. Hundreds of organizations throughout the region provide critical support and services daily to those in the region who need it most. Additional

efforts like the Cultivating Inland Empire Latino Opportunity, or CIELO, Fund at the Inland Empire Community Foundation are stepping up to raise resources to support these organizations through targeted grantmaking. The CIELO Fund seeks to uplift and invest specifically in organizations that are led by and serve Latinos and will fund organizations providing solutions to some of the disparities outlined in the pages that follow. We invite you to read this Data Profile to better understand the areas where racial and ethnic gaps continue to persist, and to begin identifying the pathways to opportunities to strengthen, empower and uplift Latinos – and all communities – who call the Inland Empire home.

Note: For purposes of this Data Profile, we use the term "Latino" when referring to the community also called "Latinx," "Hispanic," "Latine," and "Latin@," among others. The U.S. Census Bureau refers to the group as "Hispanic or Latino." We define the "Inland Empire" region as fully inclusive of the counties of Riverside and San Bernardino. This region is also sometimes referred to as "Inland Southern California."



DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Population Numbers and Population Growth

KEY FACTS:

1. Latinos now constitute a majority of the Inland Empire region (51.5%) or roughly 2.37 million people.
2. The Latino population growth rates in Riverside and San Bernardino counties are among the highest in Southern California.
3. Data show that the Mexican American share of the Latino population is larger in the Inland Empire (86.4%) than in Los Angeles County (75.2%).

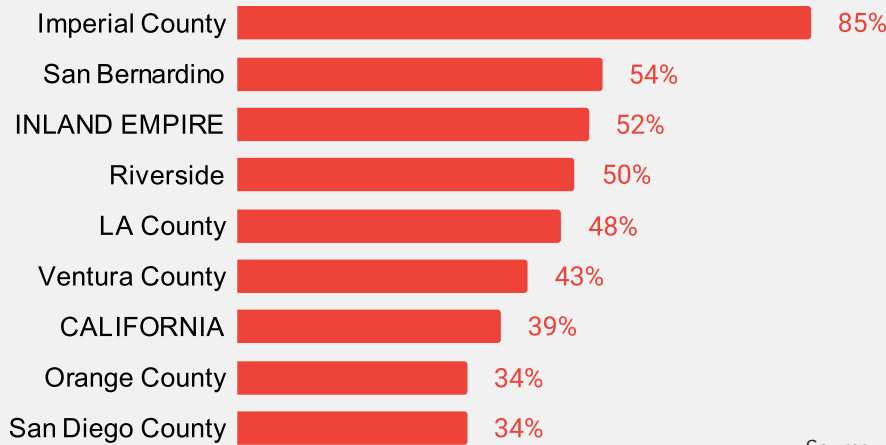
Latinos are now the largest racial/ethnic group in the Inland Empire, making up just over 51 percent of the region's population. While Imperial County has a higher share of Latinos in the 2020 Census,

the number of Latino residents in Riverside County (1.2 million) and San Bernardino County (1.16 million) are much larger than the 153,000 Latinos living in Imperial County.



FIGURE 1

Latino Share of Resident Population, 2020



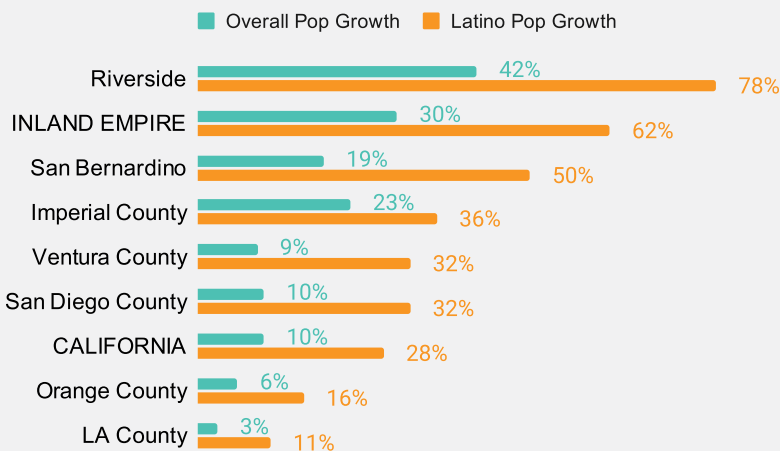
Source: Authors' analysis of 2020 Census data

Latino communities in the Inland Empire are also among the fastest growing population groups in Southern California. Between 2010 and 2020, the Latino population in the Inland Empire grew 29% in Riverside County and 21% during the same period in San Bernardino County. These population growth rates were much faster than the overall population

growth rates in the region, 11 points, and 13 points greater in Riverside and San Bernardino County, respectively. The Latino population growth rates in Riverside and San Bernardino counties are also faster than the Latino population growth rate in any other county in Southern California.

FIGURE 2

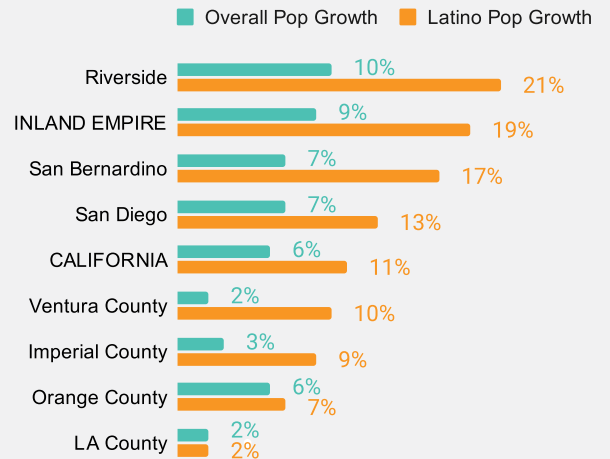
Population Growth Rates, 2000 to 2010



Source: Authors' analysis of 2000 Census and 2010 Census data

FIGURE 3

Population Growth Rates, 2010 to 2020



Source: Authors' analysis of 2010 Census and 2020 Census data

Largest Cities by Latino Population Size and Population Share

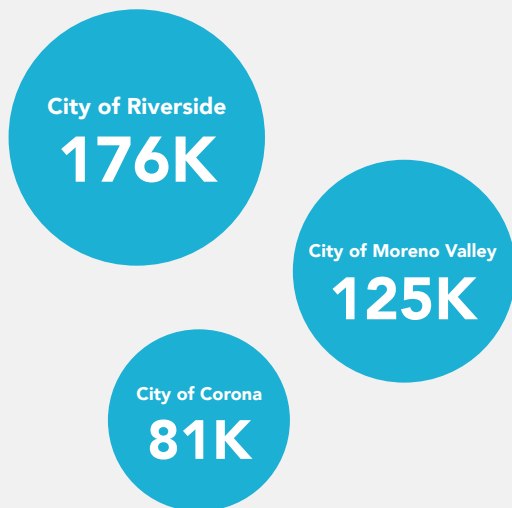
KEY FACTS:

1. The cities of Riverside, Moreno Valley, and Corona have the highest number of Latino residents (175,500, 124,800, and 80,500) in Riverside county.
2. The cities of Fontana, San Bernardino, and Ontario have the highest number of Latino residents (145,700, 143,600, and 124,800) in San Bernardino county
3. Riverside County cities with the highest share of Latino residents include Coachella, Jurupa Valley, and Perris, with shares being 96.7%, 80.2%, and 71.4%, respectively.
4. San Bernardino cities with the highest share of Latino residents include Rialto, Colton, and Ontario, with shares being 75.2%, 73.1%, and 70%, respectively.

Inland Empire Cities with the Highest Number of Latinos

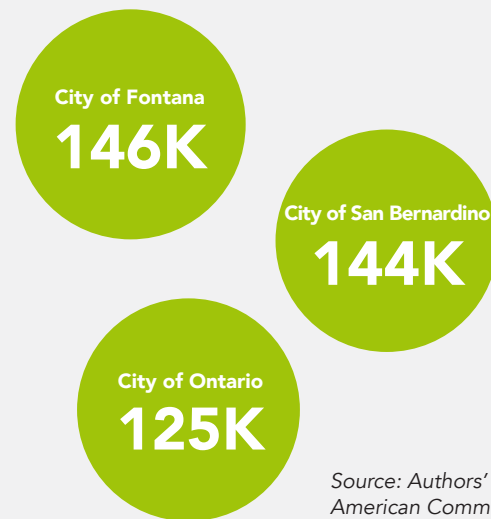
RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Top Three Cities with the Largest Number of Latinos



SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

Top Three Cities with the Largest Number of Latinos



Source: Authors' analysis of 2020 American Community Survey 5-year file

Inland Empire Cities with the Highest Share of Latino Residents

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Top Three Cities with the Highest Share of Latinos

Coachella.....	96.7%
Perris.....	80.2%
Jurupa.....	71.4%

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

Top Three Cities with the Highest Share of Latinos

Rialto.....	75.2%
Colton.....	73.1%
Ontario.....	70%

Source: Authors' analysis of 2020 Census data

Detailed Ethnicity of the Latino Population

Los Angeles is often thought of as the quintessential Mexican American region in Southern California. However, the data show that the Mexican American share of the Latino population is actually larger in the Inland Empire (86.4%) than in Los Angeles County (75.2%). Central Americans are the next largest group

of Latinos in the two-county region (5.6%), followed by South Americans (1.8%) and Puerto Ricans (1.6%). These figures are similar for other counties in Southern California, except for Los Angeles where Central Americans are a significantly larger share of the county's total Latino population.

Latino Share of Population by Detailed Origin Group

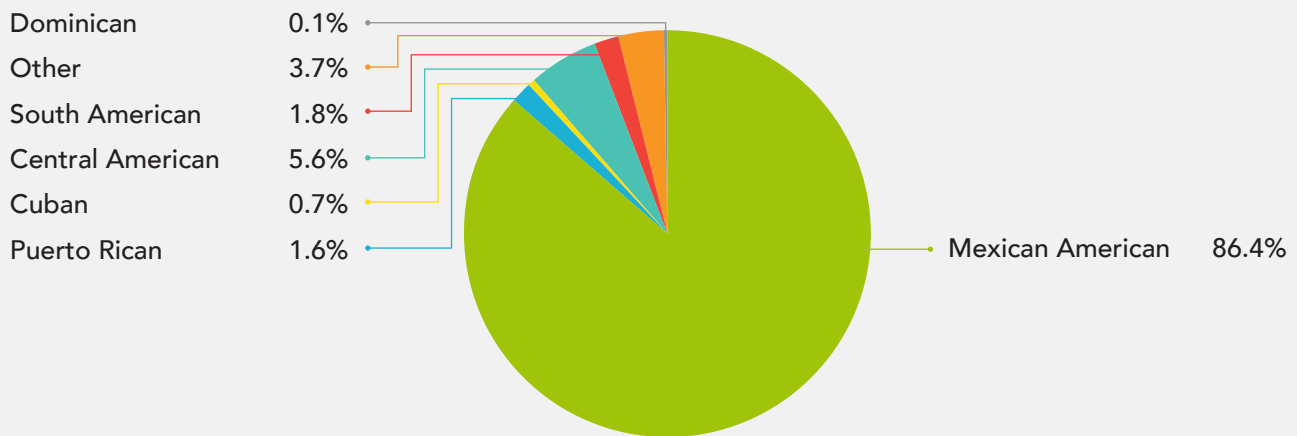


TABLE 1

Latino Share of Population by Detailed Origin Group

County	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Dominican	Central American	South American	Other
Riverside County	87.9%	1.5%	0.7%	0.1%	4.7%	1.9%	3.1%
San Bernardino County	84.9	1.6	0.7	0.1	6.6	1.8	4.3
INLAND EMPIRE	86.4	1.6	0.7	0.1	5.6	1.8	3.7
Los Angeles County	75.2	1.0	0.9	0.1	16.5	2.8	3.5
Orange County	84.9	1.2	0.9	0.1	6.0	3.5	3.5
Ventura County	88.8	1.0	0.6	0.1	4.1	2.3	3.2
San Diego County	87.8	2.2	0.6	0.2	3.0	2.4	3.6

Source: Authors' analysis of 2020 American Community Survey 5-year file

Immigrant Latinos

KEY FACTS:

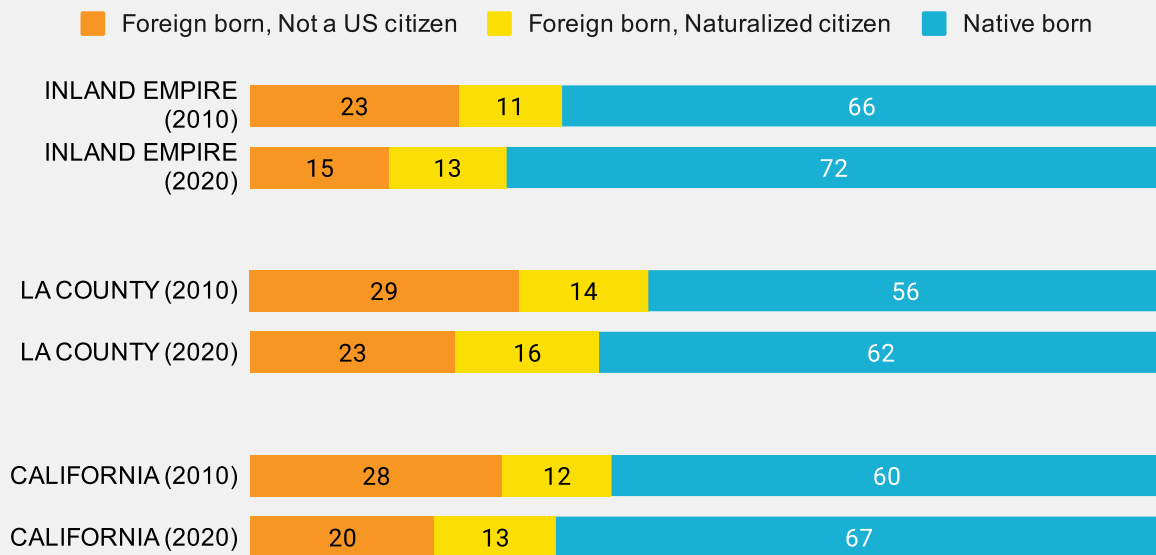
1. Latinos in the Inland Empire are much more likely to be native born than foreign born.
2. The native-born share of Latinos in the Inland Empire has grown by 6 percentage points since 2010, and is significantly higher than for comparable figures for Los Angeles and California as a whole.
3. Immigrant Latinos in the region are long-established, having lived in the United States for 20 years or more.

Latinos in the Inland Empire are much more likely to be native born (72%) than foreign born (29%). This runs counter to many notions of Latinos as a majority immigrant population. The native-born share of

Latinos in the Inland Empire has grown by 6 percentage points since 2010, and is significantly higher than for comparable figures for Los Angeles (61%) and California as a whole (67%).

FIGURE 4

Nativity of Latino Population, 2010 and 2020



Note: Figures are population shares in percentages.

Source: Authors' analysis of 2010 and 2020 American Community Survey 5-year file

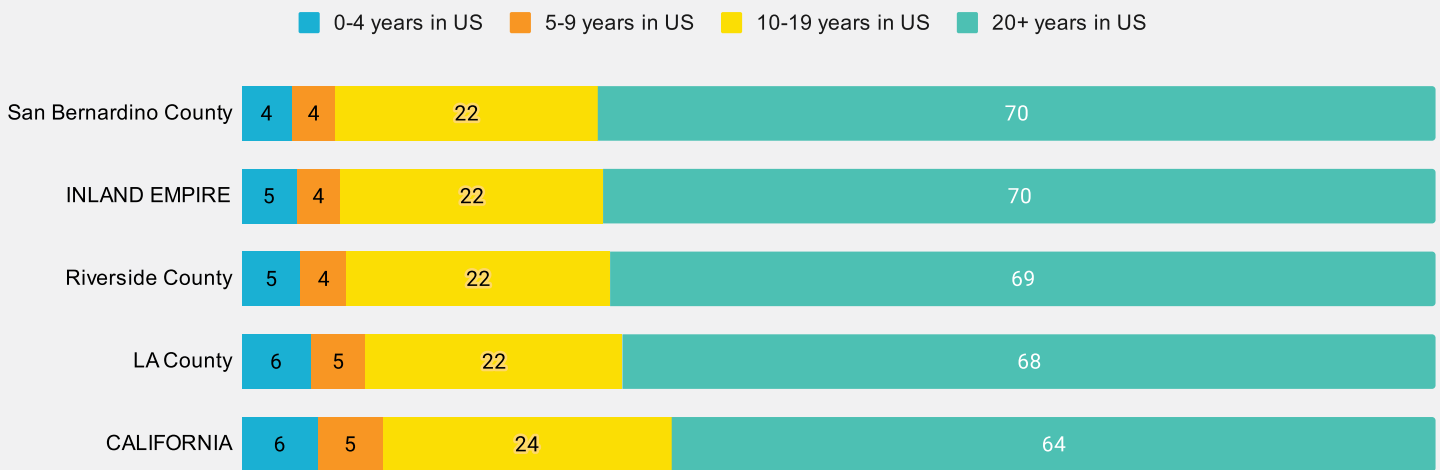
A Long-Established Latino Immigrant Population

Latino immigrants in the Inland Empire are also a long-established population. More than three in four Latino immigrants in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties have lived in the United States for 20 years or more. By contrast, fewer than 5 percent of Latino immigrants in the region have lived in the United States for less than five years.



FIGURE 5

Latino Immigrants by Years in the United States, 2020



Note: Figures are population shares in percentages.

Source: Authors' analysis of 2020 American Community Survey 5-year file

Age Distribution

KEY FACTS:

1. The Latino population in the Inland Empire is young relative to the White population in the region.
2. The average age of the Latino population in the Inland Empire has increased over the past decade.

The Latino population in the Inland Empire tends to be young relative to the region's non-Hispanic White population. In 2010, children accounted for about 30 percent of the region's Latino population but only 14.5 percent of the region's White population. By contrast, seniors age 65 and over accounted for over 26 percent of the Inland Empire's White population but only about 7 percent of the region's Latino population.

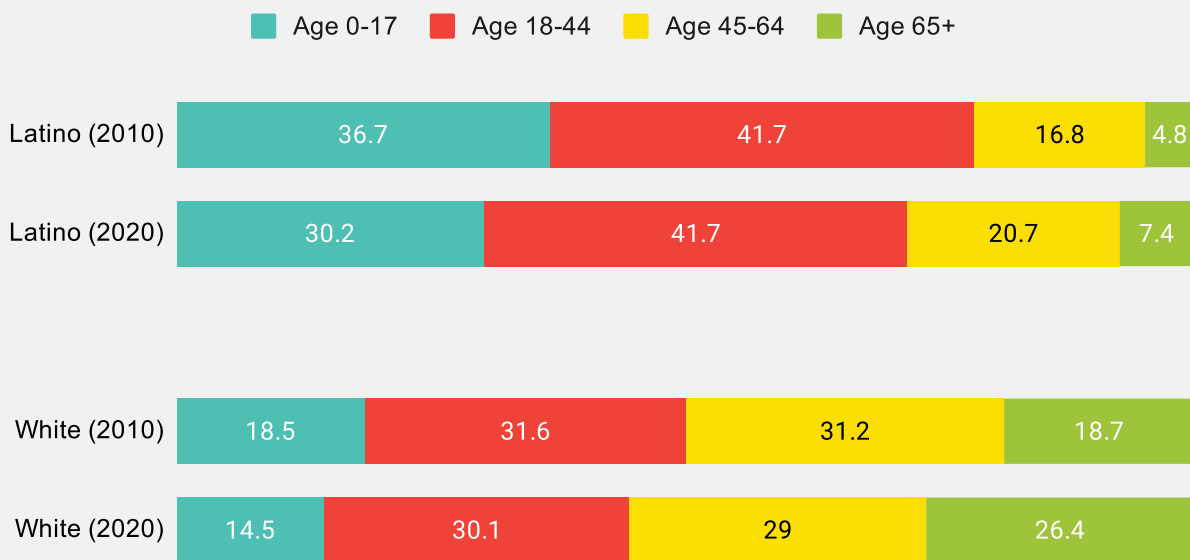
At the same time, the Latino population in the region is also getting older, with the proportion of children among Latino residents declining from about 37 percent in 2010 to about 30 percent in 2020. The share of younger adults (ages 18 to 44) among Latinos remained unchanged during the same period, while the

proportion of older adults (ages 45 to 64) and seniors (ages 65 and older) increased by 4 percentage points and 2.6 percent points, respectively.



FIGURE 6

Age Distribution of Inland Empire Residents, 2010 and 2020



Note: Figures are population shares in percentages.

Source: Authors' analysis of 2010 and 2020 American Community Survey 5-year file



Gender

KEY FACTS:

1. The share of Latino women in the Inland Empire is between 49.5% and 50%, and has remained relatively constant over time.

In addition to the misconceptions of Latinos being predominantly immigrant, when in reality Latinos in the Inland Empire are predominantly native born, we also often encounter the idea of Latino immigrants being predominantly male. The data reveal a very different reality: there are nearly as many women as men among Latinos in the Inland Empire. The share of Latino females in the Inland Empire is between 49.5% and 50%, and has remained relatively constant over time. It is at the same level as the state of California and is slightly higher than the national average, which is between 49.3% and 49.6%.

While Latinas and Latinos have relative parity when it comes to their population numbers, our results on



educational attainment reveal higher levels of bachelor's degree attainment among women, and our data on elected leadership indicate a higher proportion of Latino men among elected officials.

FIGURE 7

Female Share of Latino Residents, 2010 and 2020



Note: Figures are population shares in percentages.

Source: Authors' analysis of 2010 and 2020 American Community Survey 5-year file

English Language Proficiency

KEY FACTS:

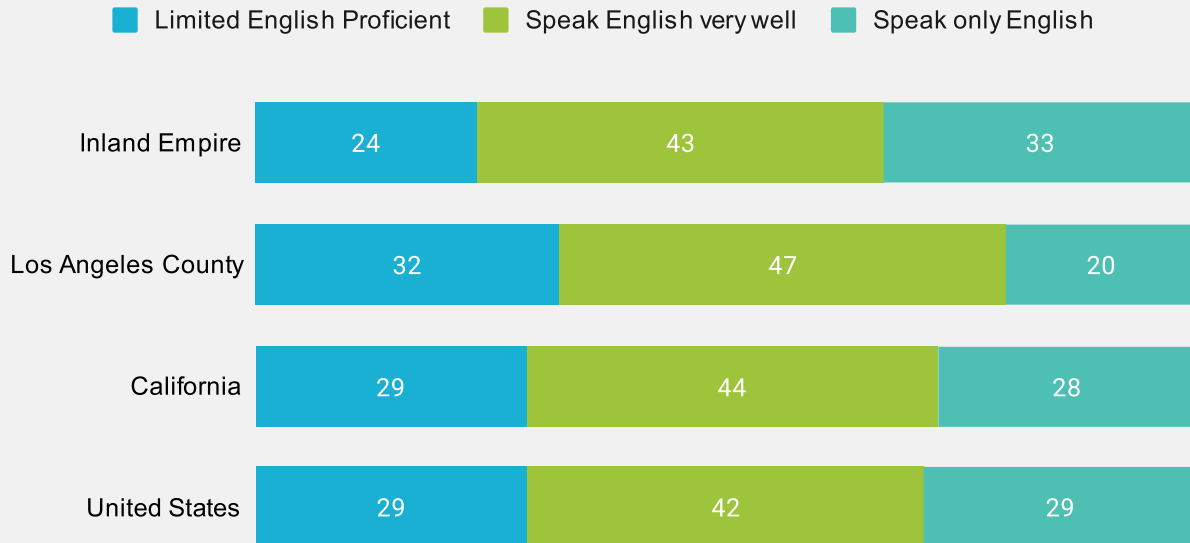
1. About three in four Latinos in the Inland Empire are English proficient, meaning that they either speak English very well or speak only English.
2. The proportion of Inland Empire Latinos who are Limited English Proficient Empire is lower than in Los Angeles County and statewide.

Just over 75 percent of Latinos in the Inland Empire are English proficient, meaning that they either speak English very well or speak only English. About a third speak only English, which is much higher than the Latino population in Los Angeles County that speaks only English (20%). The share of Latinos who are English proficient has risen since 2010, from 67% in 2010 to 76% in 2020.

There is still a significant proportion of Latino residents in the Inland Empire who are Limited English Proficient, or LEP (24%), meaning that they likely require language assistance for public and private services. However, the proportion of Latinos who are LEP is much lower than the figures for Latinos in Los Angeles County (32%), in California (29%), and nationwide (29%).

FIGURE 8

English Proficiency Among the Latino Population, 2020



Note: Figures are population shares in percentages, applied to the population ages 5 and older.

Source: Authors' analysis of 2020 American Community Survey 5-year file

Health Insurance Coverage

KEY FACTS:

1. Access to health insurance among Latinos in the Inland Empire increased significantly between 2010 and 2020, which can be attributed in large part to expansion and outreach connected to the Affordable Care Act.
2. The proportion of Inland Empire Latinos with access to health insurance is significantly higher than Latinos nationwide.
3. Racial gaps still remain, however. The proportion of Inland Empire Latinos without health insurance in 2020 was still more than double the share among non-Hispanic White residents in the region.

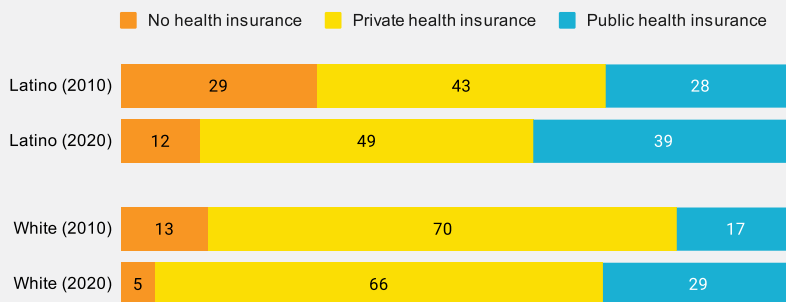
In 2010, nearly 29 percent of Latinos in the Inland Empire lacked access to health insurance, which was much higher than the proportion of non-Hispanic White residents lacking health insurance coverage. Thanks in large part to robust expansion and outreach on health insurance in California connected to the Affordable Care Act, the proportion of Latinos lacking health insurance decreased significantly, from 29 percent in 2010 to 12 percent in 2020. Still, the proportion of Inland Empire Latinos without health insurance in

2020 was still more than double the figure among non-Hispanic White residents in the region (5%).

The proportion of Inland Empire Latinos with access to health insurance is significantly higher than Latinos nationwide. This can also be largely attributed to greater expansion in coverage and outreach related to health care in California under the Affordable Care Act. Health insurance coverage among Inland Empire Latinos in 2020 is also on par with Latinos in LA County and statewide.

FIGURE 9

Access to Health Insurance Among Inland Empire Residents

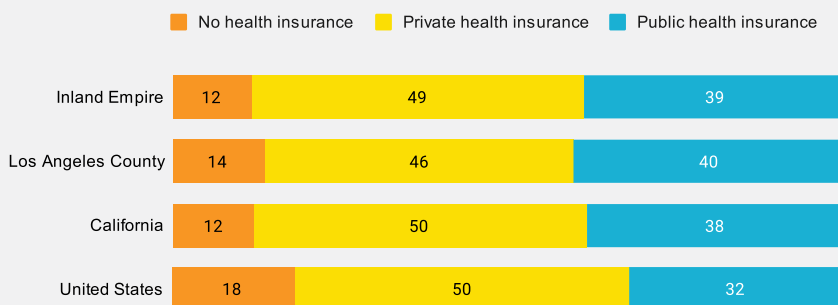


Note: Figures are population shares in percentages.

Source: Authors' analysis of 2020 American Community Survey 5-year file and 2010 American Community Survey 1-year file

FIGURE 10

Access to Health Insurance Among Latino Residents, 2020



Note: Figures are population shares in percentages.

Source: Authors' analysis of 2020 American Community Survey 5-year file

Health Outcomes

KEY FACTS:

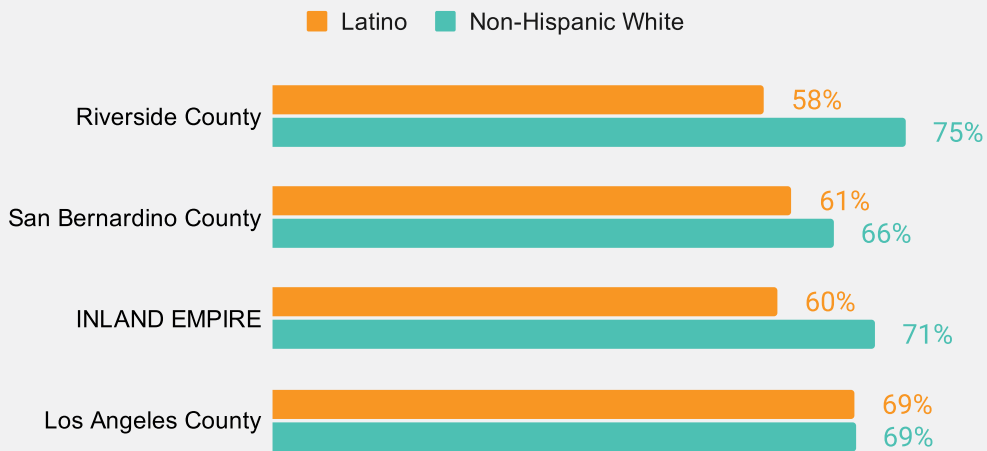
1. In 2020, Latino adults in the Inland Empire were much less likely to have received a routine health check-up (60%) than White adults in the region (71%). These racial/ethnic gaps were greatest in Riverside County, with only 58% of Latino adults having received a routine check-up when compared to 75% of White adults.
2. Mental health issues are another significant challenge facing Latinos in the Inland Empire. In 2020, 13% of Latinos in the Inland Empire reported that they likely experienced serious psychological distress in the past year.
3. About one third of Latino immigrant adults in San Bernardino County (34%), and over one quarter in Riverside County (28%) reported avoiding government benefits due to concerns about disqualification from obtaining green cards and/or U.S. citizenship.

Routine check-ups are essential for preventative medicine. They can help identify illness and disease risk early for individuals, can help slow the spread of disease in communities, and can save money on treatments and medication. Data from the California

Health Interview Survey indicate that Latinos in the Inland Empire were much less likely than their White counterparts to have a routine checkup in the prior 12 months.

FIGURE 11

Preventive Care - Had a Routine Check-Up in Past 12 Months



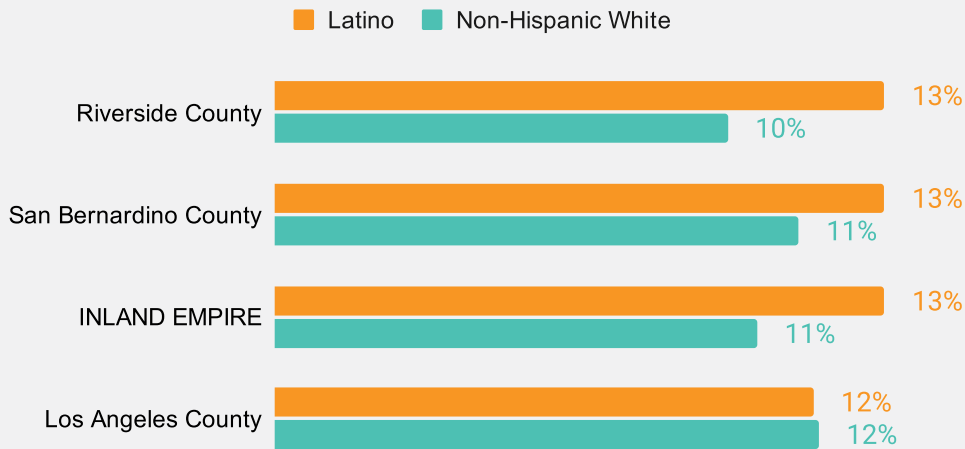
Source: Authors' analysis of 2020 California Health Interview Survey data

Mental health issues are another significant challenge facing Latinos in the Inland Empire. In 2020, 13% of Latinos in the Inland Empire reported that they likely experienced serious psychological distress in the

past year, when compared to 11% of White adults in the region. The proportion of Latino adults reporting serious psychological distress was also slightly higher in the Inland Empire than in Los Angeles County.

FIGURE 12

Serious Psychological Distress During the Past Year



Source: Authors' analysis of 2020 California Health Interview Survey data

Another issue of concern is immigrant utilization of social services. In September 2018, the Trump administration proposed changes to the “public charge” rule, by counting several state-government social service benefits against immigrants when applying for permanent residency and naturalization. The rule went into effect in February 2020 and the Biden administration stopped enforcing the rule in March 2022. We see evidence of the chilling effects

of the rule on immigrant Latino access to government services. In 2020, about one third of Latino immigrant adults in San Bernardino County (34%) reported avoiding government benefits due to concerns about disqualification from obtaining green cards and/or U.S. citizenship. This proportion was higher than the proportion for Latino immigrant adults in Los Angeles County (29%).

FIGURE 13

Avoided Government Benefits Due to Concerns About Green Card/Naturalization



Source: Authors' analysis of Latino immigrants using 2020 California Health Interview Survey data

Education

KEY FACTS:

1. Latino educational attainment in the Inland Empire has increased in the last decade, with significant gains in high school completion and more modest gains in college and graduate degree completion.
2. Despite this progress, Latinos in the Inland Empire remain far behind in their educational attainment when compared to non-Hispanic Whites in the region. This applies across all educational indicators, from high school attainment to bachelor's degrees and graduate degrees.

Latino educational attainment has increased in the last decade. In the Inland Empire, the share of Latinos with less than high school education decreased by 10 percentage points from 41% in 2010 to 31% in 2020. During the same period, Latinos who had received a four-year degree or higher increased, from 8% in 2010 (6% bachelor's, 2% graduate degree) to 11% in 2020 (8% bachelor's, 3% graduate degree).

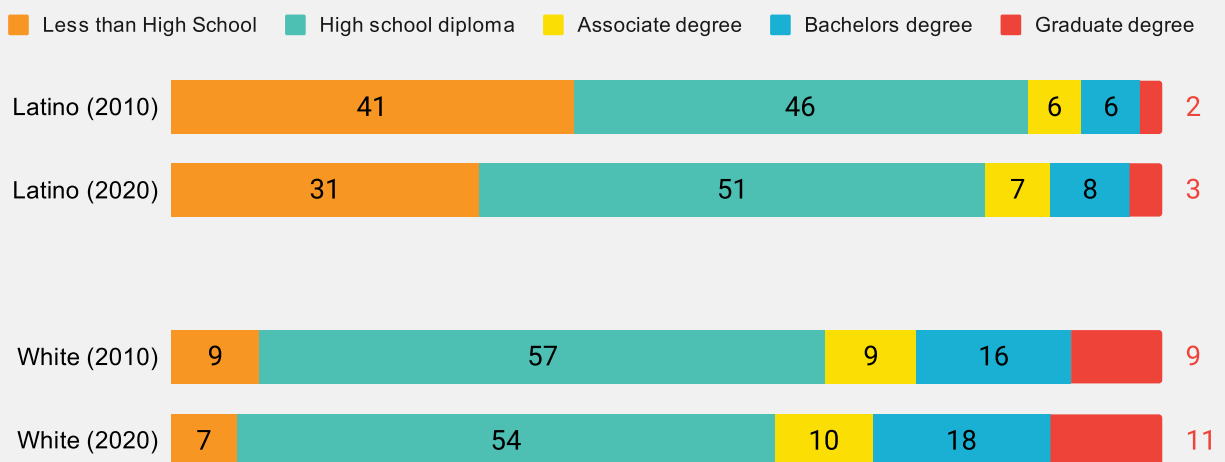
At the same time, Latinos in the region continue to lag far behind non-Hispanic White residents in their educational attainment. Latinos are more than four times as likely as White residents in the region to lack a high school diploma, and are less than half as likely to have obtained a bachelor's degree or graduate degree.

Finally, we also find a slight gender gap in bachelors and higher degree attainment among Latinas (12.4%) and Latino men (10.5%) and associate degree attainment (7.2% for Latinas, 5.8% for Latino men).



FIGURE 14

Educational Attainment in the Inland Empire



Source: Authors' analysis of 2020 American Community Survey 5-year file



Income and Poverty

KEY FACTS:

1. Latino household income is roughly \$68,800 in the Inland Empire, lagging behind non-Hispanic whites at \$82,700.
2. The income gaps are even more dramatic when adjusting for size of the household; Latino income per capita (\$22,700) is about half the per-capita income of White residents (\$44,250).
3. Gaps in poverty are also significant, with 41% of Latinos living in poverty (at 200% the Federal Poverty Level) when compared to 24% of non-Hispanic Whites.
4. The racial/ethnic gaps are even starker when it comes to child poverty, as Latino children as twice as likely as White children in the region to live in poverty.
5. Senior poverty is also much higher among Latinos (41%) than among non-Hispanic Whites in the region (26%).

As with other indicators, Latino household income in the Inland Empire saw meaningful gains between 2010 and 2020, but still lags significantly behind non-Hispanic White residents in the region. Median household income for Latinos increased by about \$9,500 during the decade, from \$59,317 to \$68,800 while income for White households increased by about \$11,500 from \$71,180 to \$82,700.

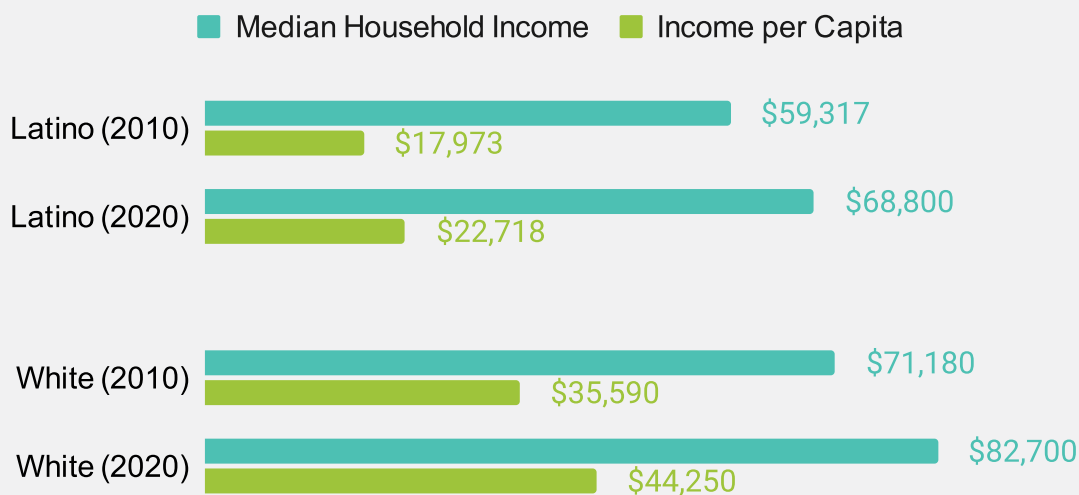
Latino income lags even further behind White residents in the Inland Empire when we consider household size. Since Latino households are, on average,

larger than White households in the region, the per-capita income of Latinos in the Inland Empire is only about half the income of White residents.



FIGURE 15

Household Income in the Inland Empire



Source: Authors' analysis of 2020 American Community Survey 5-year file

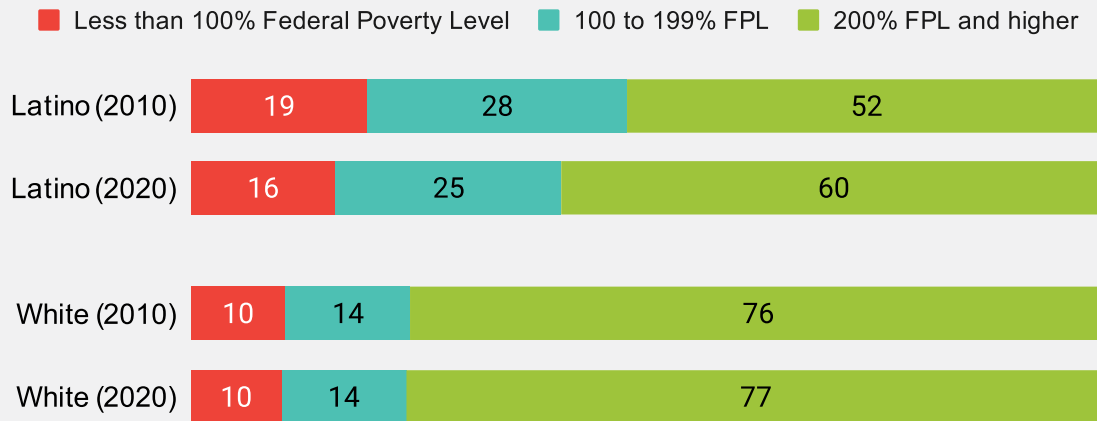
Poverty

Latinos lag significantly behind non-Hispanic Whites in the region with respect to poverty. 41% of Latinos were living in poverty in 2020, as measured by households at 200% of the Federal Poverty Level when

compared to 24% of non-Hispanic Whites (the 200% FPL threshold is often used to determine eligibility for income-based government benefits such as food stamps).

FIGURE 16

Poverty Status Among Inland Empire Residents



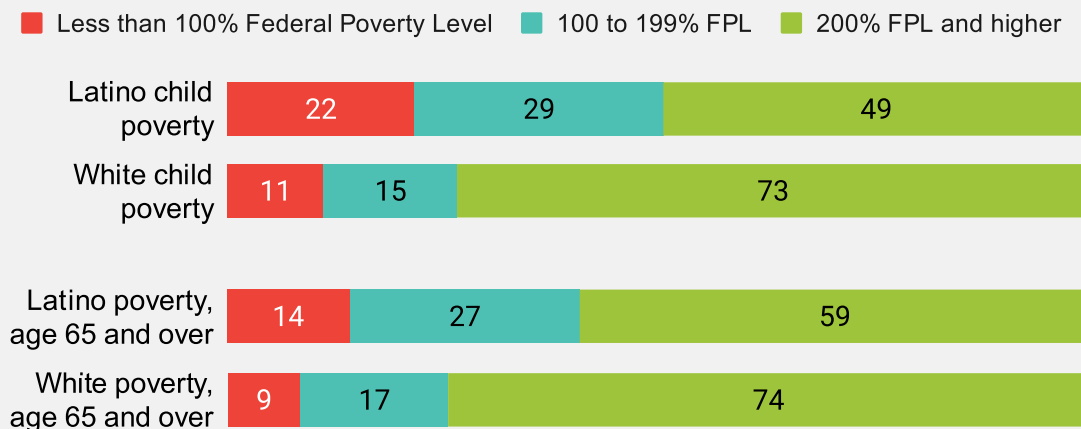
Source: Authors' analysis of 2020 American Community Survey 5-year file

The poverty gap between Latino and White residents in the Inland Empire is even starker among children, as Latino children in 2020 were twice as likely as White children to live below the Federal Poverty Level (at 22% and 11%, respectively). The gaps were similar

for children living below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Latino seniors in the Inland Empire (41%) are also much more likely than White seniors (26%) to live below the 200% Federal Poverty Level.

FIGURE 17

Poverty Status Among Inland Empire Children and Seniors, 2020



Source: Authors' analysis of 2020 American Community Survey 5-year file



Homeownership

KEY FACTS:

1. Homeownership rates declined among Latinos as well as non-Hispanic Whites in the Inland Empire between 2010 and 2020.
2. In 2020, Latino households were much more likely to rent (40%) than White households in the region (28%).
3. Latino homeownership is still significantly higher in the Inland Empire (60%) than Latino homeownership in Los Angeles County (42%) and California (46%).

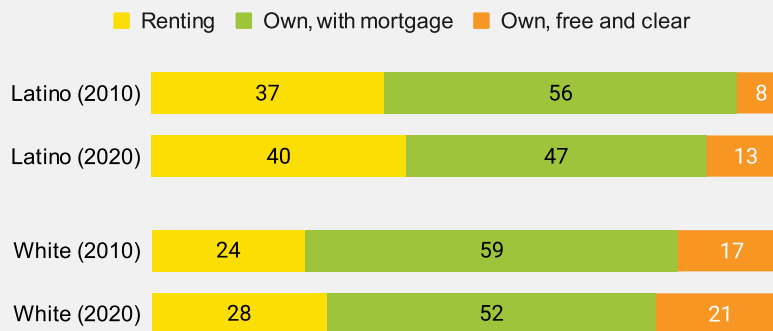
Homeownership rates in the Inland Empire declined between 2010 and 2020 among Latinos as well as non-Hispanic Whites, which is likely the result of scarcity in housing supply and the rise of investor-owned properties in the region between 2010 and 2020. Latino households were much more likely to be renters (40% in 2020) when compared to White households (28% in 2020). Sixty percent of Latino households in the region owned a home in 2020, with 47% having a mortgage and 13% owning the home outright. These figures lag

behind non-Hispanic Whites in the region, who have a 73% rate of homeownership.

At the same time, Latino homeownership in the Inland Empire (60%) is much higher than Latino homeownership in Los Angeles County (42%) and statewide in California (46%). There are also sizable gaps in homeownership between the two Inland Empire counties, with Latinos in Riverside more likely to own a home (63%) than Latinos in San Bernardino County (57%).

FIGURE 18

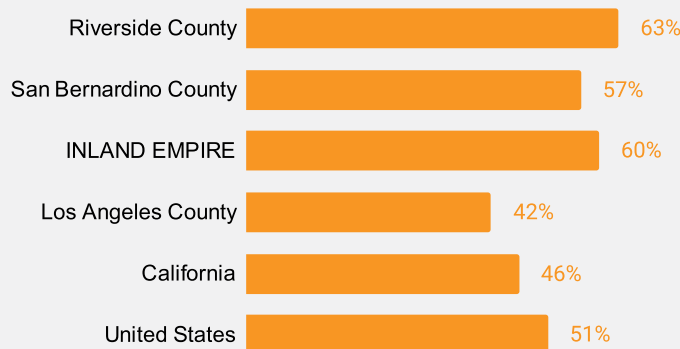
Homeownership in the Inland Empire



Source: Authors' analysis of 2020 American Community Survey 5-year file

FIGURE 19

Homeownership Rate Among Latinos, 2020



Source: Authors' analysis of 2020 American Community Survey 5-year file

Civic Engagement

KEY FACTS:

1. In 2020, 56% of Latino adult citizens were registered to vote and 50% cast ballots in the November election. This is lower than the levels of participation for non-Hispanic whites who were registered at 74% and voted at 68%.
2. Out of all government offices, Latinos have the greatest representation by numbers at the municipal and education/school board level in both Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Voter registration and voting among eligible Latino voters in the Inland Empire lags significantly behind registration and turnout among non-Hispanic Whites. In 2020, only 56% of Latinos were registered to vote in the Inland Empire, when compared to 74% of non-Hispanic Whites. Voter turnout in 2020 was also significantly lower for Latinos (50%) versus turnout among non-Hispanic Whites (68%).

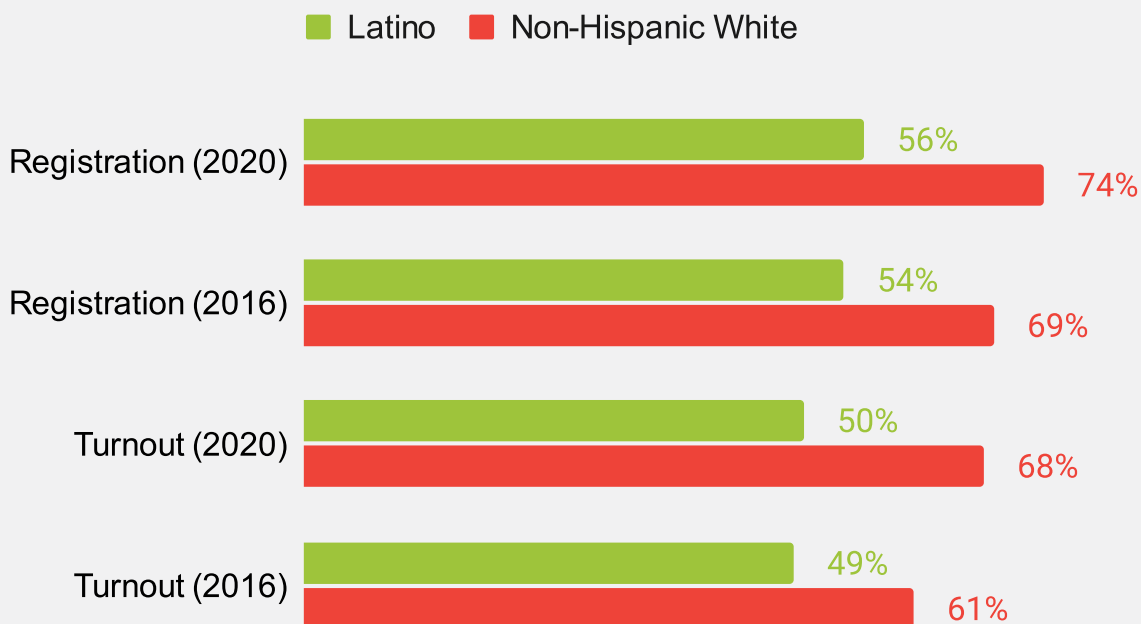
Voter registration and turnout among White residents in the Inland Empire increased significantly between 2016 and 2020, by 5 percentage points and

7 percentage points, respectively. The same was not true, however, among Latinos in the region, who saw only marginal gains in voter registration (from 54% to 56%) and in voter turnout (from 49% to 50%).

Past research suggests that socioeconomic barriers to civic engagement, lack of outreach by parties and candidates, and underinvestments in outreach by labor organizations and other grassroots mobilization efforts likely all play a role in contributing to the Latino-White voter gap.

FIGURE 20

Voter Registration and Turnout in the Inland Empire



Source: Authors' analysis of 2020 American Community Survey 5-year file

Even as Latino turnout lags significantly behind non-Hispanic White turnout in the region, the Inland Empire continues to grow its roster of Latino elected officials. According to the NALEO Educational Fund, National Directory of Latino Elected Officials, California has a total of 1,833 Latinos who are elected to Federal, State, and Local Offices. Specific to the Inland Empire, in 2021, there were 197 Latinos serving in elected positions in federal, state, and local offices out of more than 800 offices total in the region, or less than 25%.

While these numbers are significant, they are well below the 50% level that one might expect in the region given its majority-Latino status. In addition, there are sizable gender gaps in representation. In most instances, there were more men than women serving in elected offices, mirroring patterns elsewhere in the country among Latino and non-Latino elected officials alike. Both of these patterns (under-representation of Latinos and under-representation among Latinas) point to the need for significantly greater investments in Latino and Latina leadership development in the region.

TABLE 2

Latino Elected Officials in Inland Empire by Office Category

	Inland Empire			Riverside County			San Bernardino County		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
US Representative	2	1	3	1	0	1	1	1	2
State Senator	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
State Assembly	4	2	6	2	1	3	2	1	3
County Official	4	0	4	3	0	3	1	0	1
Municipal Official	46	21	67	17	12	29	29	9	38
Judicial/Law Enforcement Official	8	1	9	8	1	9	0	0	0
Education/School Board Official	37	46	83	19	23	42	18	23	41
Special District Official	19	5	24	11	4	15	8	1	9
Total	120	77	197	61	41	102	59	36	95

Source: 2021 data from NALEO

Note: County Official includes Assessor-County, Clerk-Recorder, and Supervisor.

Municipal Official includes Councilmember, Mayor, and Mayor Pro-Tem, and City Clerk.

Judicial/Law Enforcement Official includes Superior Court Judge, Court of Appeals Justice, and District Attorney.

Special District Official includes Board Member, Board Director, Board Vice President, and Board President of Water, Conservation, etc.





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