



# DATA PROFILES OF IMMIGRANTS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## LATINO IMMIGRANTS

Demographics

Economic Opportunity

Education

Health

Housing

This is part of a data series on immigrants in the District of Columbia to help the Mayor's Office and its partners better understand and serve DC's immigrant community. The city's immigrant population has grown steadily, from 33,600 to 95,400 people between 1970 and 2012–16 estimates. Today, immigrants make up 15 percent of DC's population and have contributed to the demographic, economic, and cultural growth of our nation's capital. The series highlights four major groups, Latinos, Asians and Pacific Islanders (AAPI), Africans, and Caribbean Islanders, who collectively represent 3 out of 4 immigrants living in DC.

The main sources of data used in these fact sheets were microdata from the 2000 Decennial Census long form and 2012–16 American Community Survey, obtained from IPUMS-USA.<sup>1</sup> Immigrants are defined as people who were born outside of the US, excluding people born overseas to parents who were US citizens and people born in most US territories. Populations included in the analysis were determined by the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs according to places of origin that the offices felt aligned best with the populations they served. Latino immigrants include individuals born abroad in Mexico, Central America, and South America as well as Spanish-speaking countries in the Caribbean, including Cuba and Dominican Republic. Because Puerto Ricans in the District share many of the needs and characteristics of their Latino immigrant counterparts, Puerto Ricans have also been included in this analysis despite not being foreign born.

<sup>1</sup> Steven Ruggles, Katie Genadek, Ronald Goeken, Josiah Grover, and Matthew Sobek, *Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 7.0 [dataset]* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 2017), <https://doi.org/10.18128/D010.V7.0>.

# DEMOGRAPHICS

DECEMBER 2018

Between 2000 and 2012-16, the Latino immigrant population grew from 31,400 to 37,100, an increase of 18 percent.

Columbia Heights and Mt. Pleasant neighborhoods have been the center of the Latino community in DC for several decades. More recently, however, Latinos have moved into other parts of the city in increasing numbers.

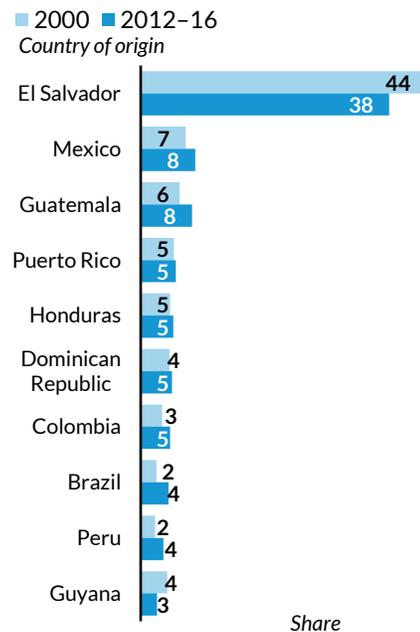
Consistent with DC's overall population, the largest share of Latino immigrants (26 percent) were between 25 and 34 years old in 2012-16. The share of children younger than 18 among Latino immigrants declined since 2000, falling from 10 to 7 percent, or from 3,200 to 2,400 children. Seniors 65 years and older represented a growing share of DC's Latino immigrant population, having risen from 6 to 9 percent, or from 1,900 to 3,500 persons.

Eighty percent of Latino immigrants speak Spanish at home. English proficiency increased from 2000 to 2011-15.

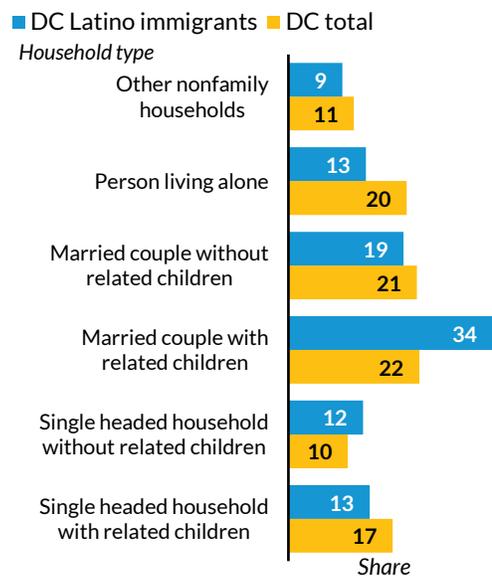
- 52 percent of Latino immigrants either speak English very well or only speak English, up from 40 percent in 2000.
- 48 percent of Latino immigrants are limited English proficient, meaning they report not speaking English, speaking English but not well, or speaking English well.

Despite increased English proficiency, about 30 percent of Latino immigrants live in linguistically isolated households, in which no one age 14 or older in the home speaks English at least very well. People in linguistically isolated households may face significant challenges accessing essential services and resources in their communities, without additional language support.

## Latino Immigrants Hail from across the Region, but Nearly 40 Percent Were Born in El Salvador



## One-Third of Latino Immigrants Lived in Married-Couple Families with Children



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# ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

DECEMBER 2018

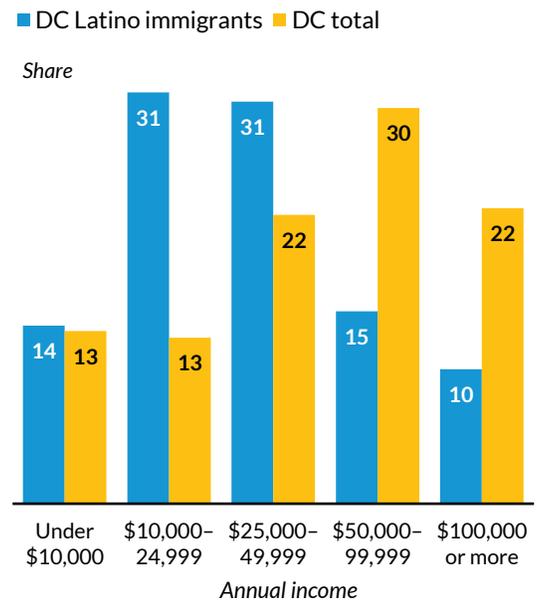
Latino immigrants made up 26,700 of the 381,500 members of DC's labor force in 2012–16. The unemployment rate for Latino workers ages 16 and older was 6.5 percent, lower than DC's overall rate of 8.7 percent. Many Latino immigrants work in low-wage jobs, specifically in the service and maintenance industries.

- 23 percent were in building and grounds keeping and maintenance.
- 17 percent were in food preparation and serving.
- 12 percent were in construction and extraction.
- 9 percent were in management, business, science and arts.

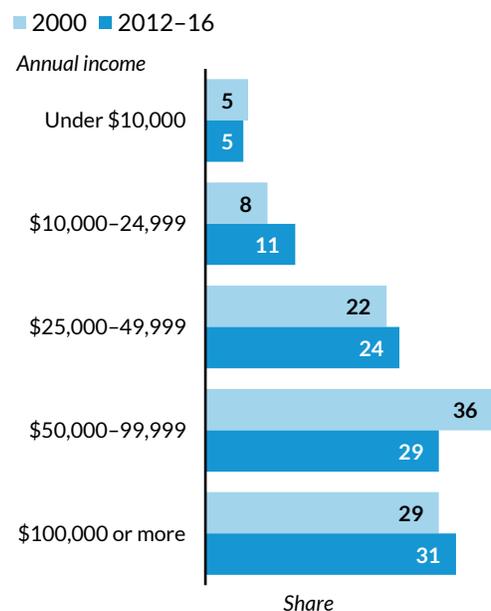
The high share of Latino immigrant workers in certain occupations is reflected in lower overall wages. Most Latino immigrant workers (76 percent) earned below \$50,000 annually in 2012–16, compared with 48 percent of DC workers overall.

Household incomes for Latino immigrants have not risen in the past 10 to 15 years. Roughly the same share of Latino immigrants were living in households with annual income under \$10,000 in 2000 as were in 2012–16. Forty percent of Latino immigrants were in households with incomes below \$50,000 a year in 2012–16, compared with 35 percent in 2000.

Wages for Latino Immigrant Workers Tended to Be Lower than DC Workers Overall



Household Incomes for Latino Immigrants Have Not Risen over the Past 10 to 15 Years



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# EDUCATION

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The Washington region is one of the most highly educated in the country, and many well-paying jobs with good benefits require a level of education beyond a high school diploma. The share of Latino immigrants with a four-year college education or better improved between 2000 and 2012–16 from 17 percent to 31 percent. However, it was still below the 51 percent of all DC adults who have at least a bachelor’s degree.

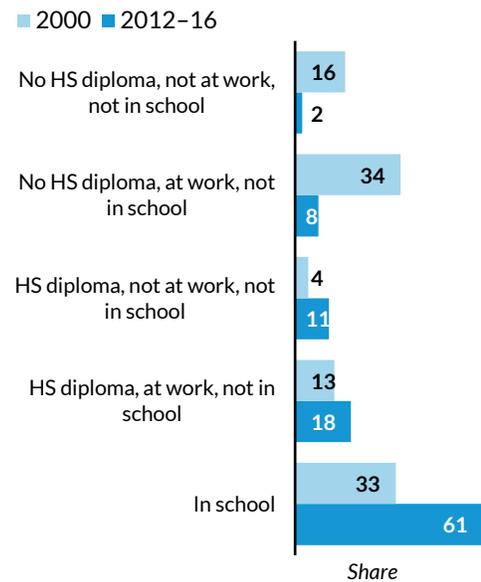
Children 3 to 17 years old born in Latin America and children 3 to 17 years old born to and living with their Latino-immigrant parents are most represented in first through fourth grade. One in ten Latino immigrant youth were not in school, though most of these youth were younger than 5 (79 percent).

Latino immigrant young adults (ages 16 to 24) are more connected to school settings than they were in 2000.

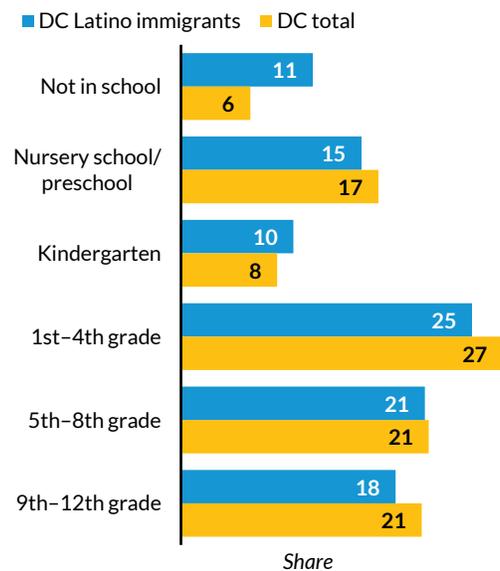
- Two thirds of young adult Latino immigrants were in school, almost twice the rate in 2000.
- Another 18 percent had earned a high school diploma and were working, but were not currently in school.

Nevertheless, youth disconnection—young adults both not in school and not working—is a challenge for a small number of Latino immigrants ages 16 to 24. Eleven percent had completed high school but were neither at work or school. The most disconnected group of Latino young adults were the 2 percent who had not completed high school, were not working, and not in school.

## More Latino Immigrant Young Adults Ages 16 to 24 Were Staying in School



## School-Age Latino Immigrants and Latino Children of Immigrants Were Most Represented in Earlier Grades in 2012–16



**Note:** Includes native-born children of Latino immigrants ages 3 to 17 who live with their parents.

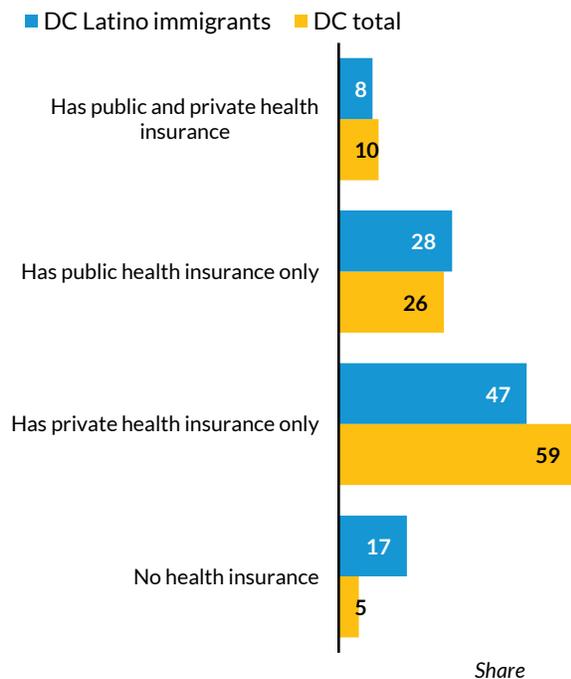
# HEALTH

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DC’s health insurance marketplace, DC Health Link, has helped increase the rates of health insurance coverage for the city’s residents. Eight in ten Latino immigrants (83 percent) had some form of health insurance in 2012–16.

The most common source was private insurance, which 47 percent of Latinos immigrants held. Another 28 percent had public insurance, and 8 percent had some combination of public and private coverage. Nevertheless, 17 percent of Latino immigrants had no health insurance at all, three times higher than in DC overall, where only 5 percent of people lack coverage.

## The Most Common Insurance Source for Latino Immigrants Was Private Insurance in 2012–16



## 83 percent of Latino immigrants had some form of health insurance.

Health insurance coverage for Latino immigrants is not evenly distributed across demographics and socioeconomic status.

- 23 percent of male Latino immigrants are uncovered, compared with 10 percent of female Latino immigrants.
- Latino immigrants ages 25 to 34 had the lowest rates of coverage, with only 77 percent having some form of health insurance, compared with 83 percent of Latino immigrants overall.

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# HOUSING

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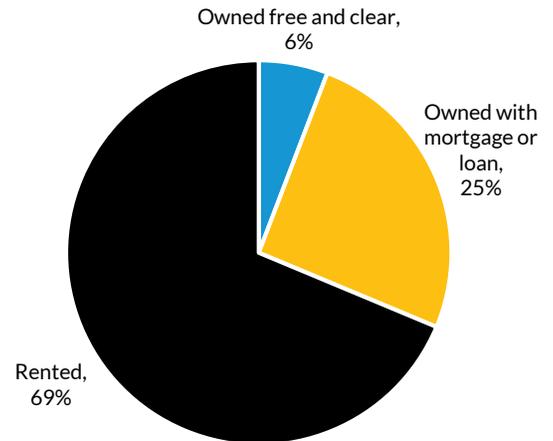
In 2012–16, approximately two-thirds of Latino immigrants rented and one-third owned their home. Of the 31 percent who owned their home, only 6 percent did so without a loan or mortgage. More Latino immigrants are renters compared with the city average (57 percent). There was very little change in rates of home ownership for Latino immigrants between 2000 and 2012–16.

Latino immigrants were decreasingly rent burdened between 2005–09 and 2012–16.

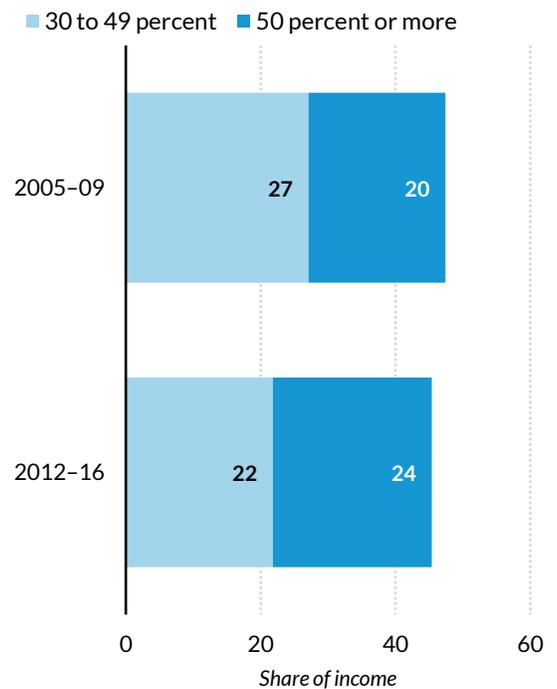
- In 2012–16, nearly half of Latino immigrant renters (46 percent) were rent burdened (spending 30 percent or more of their income on housing), and 24 percent spent more than half of their income on housing.
- Though the overall share of rent-burdened people went down slightly (1 percent), the share of renters who spent more than half of their income on housing increased 4 percent.

However, the rates of Latino immigrants who experienced rent burden were on par with DC residents overall. Forty-six percent of DC residents spent 30 percent or more of their income on rent, and 25 percent spent 50 percent or more.

Most Latino Immigrants Were Renters in 2012–16



Rent Burden for Latino Immigrants Increased between 2005–09 and 2012–16



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