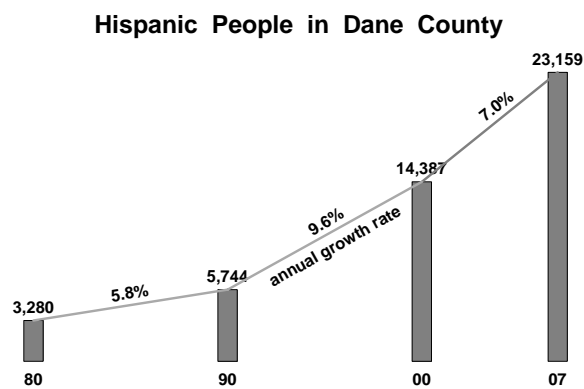


## Hispanic People in Dane County

by Neil J. Gleason, Dane County Department of Human Services, 2008

Between 1990 and 2000, Dane County's Latino population grew 150%, with most of the increase coming in the latter half of the decade. Since 2000, annual growth has averaged about 1,250 people (7%) per year. By 2007, Latinos comprised 4.9% of Dane County's population.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### National Heritage

Dane County's Latin community is striking in its multi-national diversity, tracing its heritage to Mexico (62%), Puerto Rico (7%) and many Central and South American nations. Since 2000, the Latino population has grown by about 8,700, 60% of whom (5,200) are of Mexican descent. People of Puerto Rican descent increased by nearly 500 and all other nationalities by 3,100.

### Hispanic People by Heritage

Heritage	1990	2000	2007
Mexican	2,992	9,040	14,278
Puerto Rican	585	1,088	1,556
Other	2,167	4,259	7,325
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,744</b>	<b>14,387</b>	<b>23,159</b>

Latinos tend to live in the urban center: 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 who 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, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Honduras.

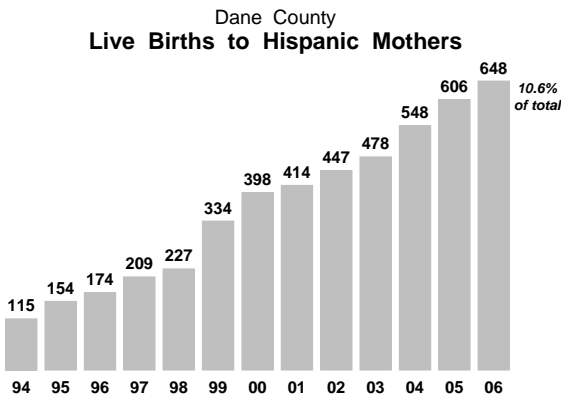
Since the late 1990's, however, Latino immigrants have presented a different social profile:

- They tend to be young adults and families of Mexican descent: 60% of Hispanic population growth since 2000 reports Mexican heritage.
- They come from rural Mexico, as well as Texas and Southern California, migrating 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 residency 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.

Growth of the Latino population increased sharply during the late 1990's and has remained high for the past decade. The potential impact of toughened immigration enforcement in the Midwest is still too recent to be reflected in official population data. Regardless of future immigration levels, however, the youthfulness of Dane County's Latino families guarantees steady population growth for the foreseeable future.

## Demographics

Dane County's Latino community has a substantially higher proportion of children and young adults than the general population. During the past 12 years, as total births increased by 26%, children born to Hispanic mothers grew 463%. The bulk of this growth has occurred since 1998.



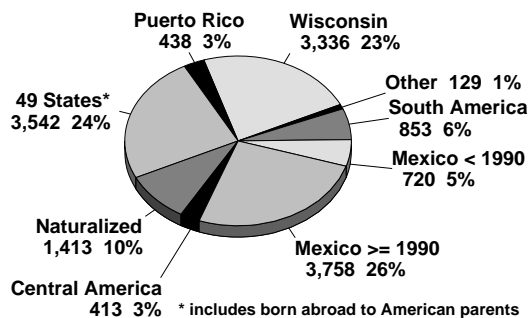
Source: Wisconsin Center for Health Statistics

The proportion of babies born to Hispanic mothers has similarly increased, from 2.4% in 1994 to 10.6% in 2006. Beginning in 2000, babies born to Hispanic mothers eclipsed the other ethnic minority groups.

## Place of Birth and Citizenship

As of the 2000 Census, one-half of Dane County's 14,600 Latinos were born in the U.S. and 10% were naturalized citizens. Of the 40% non-citizens, most were Mexican (31% of total), of whom most had (26% of total) entered the US during the 1990's.

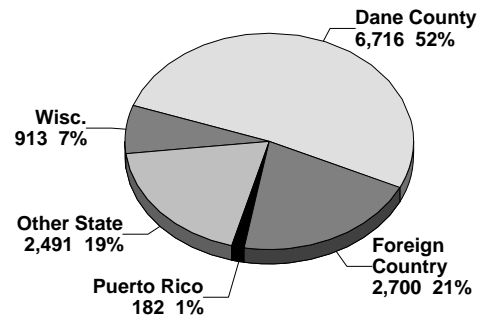
2000 Census: Latino People in Dane County  
**Place of Birth and Citizenship**



## Prior Residence

Reflecting their rapid growth, nearly 1/2 of Latino residents in 2000 reported living outside Dane County five years earlier: 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+**

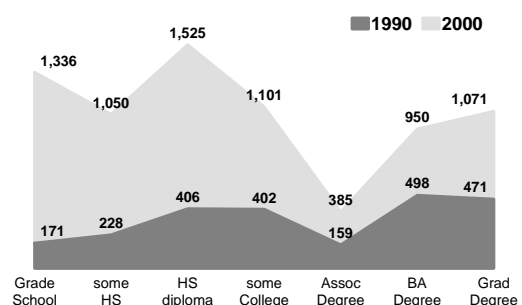


More than one-third of Dane County's Latino residents (5,200) entered the U.S. during the 1990's. Mexico accounted for 4,000 of these new arrivals. The lure of employment for Mexican immigrants is apparent from the 5:3 over-representation of adult men, many of whom remit part of their earnings to support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

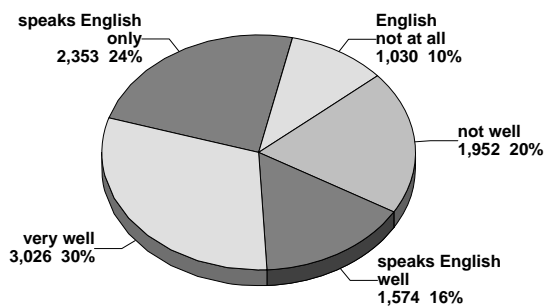
“Over half (55%) of foreign-born Latinos have less than a high school education compared to fewer than a quarter (23%) of native-born Latinos. Native-born Latinos are more likely than foreign-born Latinos to have completed high school (35% vs. 29%), have some college (29% vs. 9%), or to have graduated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

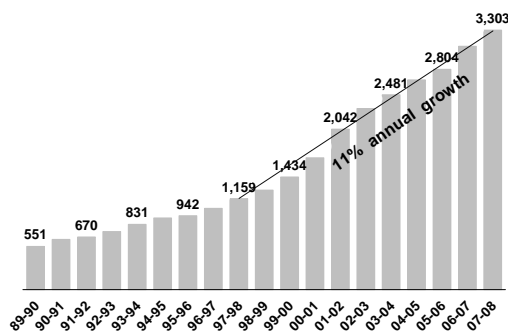
Gener-ation	Spanish-dominant	Bilingual	English-dominant
1 <sup>st</sup>	72%	24%	4%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	7%	47%	46%
3 <sup>rd</sup> +	0%	22%	78%

### 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 serves as a bellwether for measuring academic progress. During the past decade, MMSD's Hispanic enrollment has increased at an annual rate of 11%.

Madison Metropolitan School District  
Enrollment of Hispanic Students

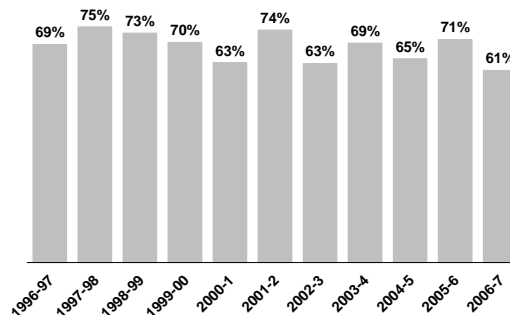


Source: MMSD website ([www.madison.k12.us](http://www.madison.k12.us))

Hispanic students skew young: they comprise 17% of MMSD 1<sup>st</sup> graders but only 11% of high schoolers. As a result, their numbers will grow over time.

Since the mid-1990's, only 2/3 of MMSD Hispanic high school students have earned a regular diploma (versus 83% overall).

Madison Metropolitan School District  
High School Completion (Regular Diploma) by Hispanic Students



Source: Wis. Dept of Public Instruction (<http://data.dpi.state.wi.us/data>)

These published DPI completion rates are consistent with unpublished MMSD data tracking a 4-year cohort of entering high school freshmen from the early 1990's.