An overview of the Latinx* community in Dane County

*Latinx (pronounced “La-TEEN-ex”) is a gender-neutral pronoun that is inclusive to all people of Latin-American descent.

Demographic Profile

- Latinx are the largest non-white racial/ethnic group in Dane County, making up 6.1% of the Dane County population (30,662). Close to 70% live in Madison and Fitchburg.

- The growth of this community is not just a result of migration; 44% of Latinx are born in Wisconsin.

- The unemployment rate for the Latinx community has grown from 3.7% in 2009 to 6.9% in 2014.

- The poverty rate among Latinx increased 59% between 2009 and 2014 (from 17.6% to just under 28%) with even greater increases in Madison and Fitchburg.

- With increased poverty comes increased instability. Notably, home ownership among Latinx has dropped by 23% from 2009 to 2014. The percentage of Latinx renters has increased across Dane County from 63.5% in 2009 to 70.2% in 2014. This is the largest increase among all major racial groups.

- The poverty rate among Latinx increased 59% between 2009 and 2014 (from 17.6% to just under 28%) with even greater increases in Madison and Fitchburg.

- Current immigration policies force the Latinx community to live in the shadows. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Dane County hold individuals without due process, and in many cases, without pending charges or probable cause. Across Wisconsin, ICE detainers decreased more than 25% between November 2014 and October 2015. Yet in Dane County during the same period of time, the number of detainees more than doubled.

- Between 2009 and 2014, there was a 24.3% increase in overcrowded households. Latinx overcrowding has been consistently twice the rate of the next most overcrowded racial group, and is growing.

1 in 5 MMSD students are Latinx

Less than 70% graduate from high school.
Latinx households earn 46% less than white households

Difference between Latinx and White median household income in Dane County 2014

Call for Action

We are in a critical time for investment in the Latinx community. Please join us in making the greatest impact in our community by giving, advocating and volunteering.

The Latino Consortium for Action (LCA) is made up of organizations that understand the daily lives of our community because of their work within the community—they are culturally and linguistically embedded in the Dane County Latinx community. They are: Centro Hispano of Dane County, the Latino Chamber of Commerce, the Latino Academy of Workforce Development, the Latino Support Network, the Latino Education Council, the Latino Health Council, the Latino Children and Families’ Council, the Latino Professionals Association, LUCES, Omega School and UNIDOS.

United Way of Dane County uses our leadership, vision and expansive relationships to bring the community together in multiple convening roles. Ten years ago, we were proud to be steadfast partners with the Latinx community in the facilitation of the Cuéntame report. A decade later that has not changed and we are committed to creating more positive change in the Latinx Community by facilitating the production of this next generation report.