

Socioeconomic Profile of Michigan's Latino/Hispanic Population

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ABSTRACT

Latinos have less access to valued resources and rank low on many socioeconomic indicators when compared to non-Latino population. This report draws on data from the 2000 U.S. Decennial Census and the intercensal Current Population Surveys (CPS) and examines key socioeconomic indicators of the Latino population in Michigan. We found that Latinos ages 25 years and older in Michigan have relatively lower education levels than non-Latino Whites. The poverty rate for Latino families was more than three times the poverty rate for non-Latino Whites. Among female-headed families with children under 18 years of age, the poverty rate for Latinos was almost three times that of Latino married-couple families with children. The unemployment rate for Latino men was higher than that of Latina women. Latino men were less likely to be employed in managerial, professional, and related occupations, but more likely to be employed in farming, fishing, and forestry occupations than non-Latino White men. Policy and programs aimed at reducing poverty among Latinos should target places that experienced economic restructuring and provide special assistance to persons in financial need. In addition, policies should target and support job creation at the local community level; jobs that respond to community needs, particularly those that include the needs of Latinos. Finally, improving the education of Latinos is a critical path to increased economic well-being. In today's economy, a college degree (at least a bachelor's degree) is critical for greater economic stability.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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