Ohio Hispanic Americans

Snapshot from the 2021 American Community Survey
Ohio Hispanic Americans

Ohio’s Hispanic community is comprised of more than 505,000 people, accounting for 4.2 percent of the state’s total population. According to the 2021 American Community Survey by the U.S. Census Bureau, Ohio’s Hispanic population more than doubled since 2000 and has more than tripled since 1980. For the United States, the Hispanic population is nearly 62.5 million, or 18.8 percent of the nation’s total population. Since 2000, the number of Hispanics within the U.S. has increased by 27.2 million, or 77 percent.

OVERVIEW
- 505,000 people – 4.2 percent of Ohio’s total population
- The Hispanic population has more than doubled since 2000
- 100,000 were born outside the U.S.
- 42 percent are of Mexican ancestry
- Median age of 26.5 years compared to 39.6 years for all Ohioans
- 128,700 enrolled in elementary and secondary schools
- Median household income: $52,100
- 2,200 Hispanic-owned businesses with paid employees

Note: People who identify their origin as Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino may be of any race. Hispanic, Latino, and Spanish refers to a person whose origins are from Spain, the Spanish-speaking countries of Central or South America, the Dominican Republic, or people identifying themselves generally as such. Origin can be viewed as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person’s parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States.

The Hispanic community makes up 4.2 percent of Ohio’s total population with significant growth occurring during the last two decades. Since 2000 the number of Hispanic Ohioans has more than doubled. In 1980 there were less than 120,000 Hispanics in Ohio, making up 1.1 percent of the state’s total population.

Most Hispanic Ohioans live in urban areas of the state. Thirty percent of Hispanic Ohioans live in one of the four cities of Columbus, Cleveland, Toledo, and Lorain. In Columbus, there are 62,600 Hispanic residents, in Cleveland there are 45,000, in Toledo there are 24,800, and in Lorain there are 17,700 Hispanic residents. Note the Hispanic population makes up a higher proportion of county populations in the north and northwest sections of Ohio, many of which are rural in nature.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hispanic Population by County: 2020</th>
<th>Total Hispanic Population</th>
<th>Percent of County Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>91,182</td>
<td>Lorain 10.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuyahoga</td>
<td>83,327</td>
<td>Defiance 10.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>36,250</td>
<td>Sandusky 10.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lorain</td>
<td>32,917</td>
<td>Fulton 8.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucas</td>
<td>32,167</td>
<td>Henry 7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butler</td>
<td>25,265</td>
<td>Lucas 7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery</td>
<td>21,179</td>
<td>Huron 7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahoning</td>
<td>14,093</td>
<td>Franklin 6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summit</td>
<td>13,206</td>
<td>Cuyahoga 6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake</td>
<td>11,362</td>
<td>Butler 6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stark</td>
<td>10,516</td>
<td>Putnam 6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood</td>
<td>8,280</td>
<td>Wood 6.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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The median income of Hispanic Ohioans is more than $10,000 lower than that of all Ohioans. The median household income for Hispanics is $52,100; for all Ohio households, the median household income is $62,300. The income for Hispanic immigrant households is $8,000 more than all Hispanic households. Immigrant households from Mexico have a median income of $61,300 while household income from Central America is $49,900.

Twenty percent of Hispanic Ohioans live below the poverty line. Of Ohio's 98,900 Hispanic family households, nineteen percent live in poverty. Thirty-eight percent of these households have children younger than 5 years of age. Twenty percent of Hispanic households received food stamps within the last 12 months.
There are nearly 2,200 Hispanic-owned businesses with paid employees in Ohio, according to the 2020 Annual Business Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. These businesses employ nearly 26,500 with annual payroll of more than $1.0 billion. Seventeen percent of the businesses with a payroll are in the construction sector but these businesses account for only 8 percent of the payroll employees. For the state, this sector accounts for 11 percent of the businesses and 4 percent of payroll employees.

More than 500 Hispanic-owned businesses with payrolls have existed 16 or more years. This accounts for 23 percent of Hispanic businesses. For the state, 44 percent of the businesses have been around 16 or more years. Twenty-three percent, have $1 million or more in sales or revenues compared to 32 percent for Ohio. Fifty-one percent of Hispanic-owned businesses have less than five employees. The states comparable figure is 54 percent.

In addition to businesses with payrolls, there were approximately 20,000 nonemployer Hispanic-owned businesses according to the 2018 Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics of the Annual Business Statistics. Twenty percent of these businesses are in the construction sector.

The number of Hispanic Ohioans in the civilian labor force is 238,000. Hispanic Ohioans have an unemployment rate of 7.9 percent. The state figure is 5.4 percent. While the unemployment rate for all Hispanics is higher than the state figure, the unemployment rate for younger Hispanics aged 20 to 24 is 6.7 percent compared to 8.5 percent for all of Ohioans aged 20 to 24 years.

Employed Hispanics are heavily represented proportionally in the service occupations, especially in food preparation and serving occupations, compared to the state. Of the 219,500 employed, nearly 21,700, or 9.9 percent, are in food preparation occupations. For all Ohio workers, only 5.4 percent are in food preparation occupations. Production occupations and construction occupations also have higher concentrations of Hispanic workers compared to the whole workforce.

Ohio Hispanics have a median age of 26.5 with 30 percent of the population under the age of 15. For comparison, the median age of all Ohioans is 39.6 years.
In Ohio, nearly 57,000 marriages include at least one Hispanic spouse. Of these families, 56 percent have children living at home. For all married couples in Ohio, only 38 percent have children at home. More than 49 percent of Hispanic families with children consist of a single parent.

School Enrollment: 128,700

Mexican Heritage: 212,000

There are nearly 129,000 Hispanic students enrolled in Ohio’s elementary and secondary schools, making up 6.8 percent of Ohio’s total student body. There is a slight concentration of Hispanic children in the elementary grades as compared to all Ohio children.

The educational attainment level of the Hispanic community lags all of Ohio. Thirty-one percent of Hispanic Ohioans have obtained a post-secondary degree compared to 40 percent for all Ohioans. Correspondingly, 11 percent of Hispanics have less than a 9th grade education compared to 3 percent for the state. The educational attainment of recent Hispanic adult immigrants tends to be lower than the educational attainment of all Hispanic Ohioans.

Much of the recent increase in Ohio’s Hispanic population has occurred in the Mexican community which has more than doubled since 2000. The number of Hispanic Ohioans with an ancestral link to Mexico is 212,000; seventeen percent of these residents were born in Mexico. Migration from Mexico is an important factor in the growth in Ohio’s Hispanic community with nearly 12,000 people arriving from Mexico since 2010. Men make up two-thirds of the recent Mexican migrants.

While the number of Ohio residents with Puerto Rican heritage has grown in recent decades, its portion of the Hispanic community has held steady.

While Ohio residents with Mexican and Puerto Rican heritage make up a majority of Ohio’s Hispanic community, Central America is becoming a more common point of origin. Hispanic Ohioans with ancestors in Central America have grown to 48,000, with a large portion having ties to Guatemala or El
Salvador. Nearly two-thirds of Guatemalans and Salvadorans in Ohio are foreign-born.

One-fifth, or more than 100,000, of Hispanic Ohioans are foreign born; 39,000 of these residents have arrived since 2010. Since coming to the United States, thirty-three percent of foreign-born Hispanics have become naturalized citizens. The figure for Mexican migrants is slightly lower at approximately 29 percent. This may be because of the higher proportion of recent arrivals.

Half of Hispanics speak only English at home. Eighty-two percent of Hispanics speak only English or report speaking English “very well”. Nine out of ten foreign-born Hispanics speak Spanish at home. These figures do not account for how long the person has lived in the United States.

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The statistical source of this profile is the 2010 Census of Population and Housing and the Census Bureau’s 2021 American Community Survey 1-year Estimates. Business data came from the Census Bureau’s 2020 Annual Business Survey and the 2018 Nonemployers Statistics by Demographics. Although the census is the most comprehensive set of socio-economic data available, the estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling error that may result in some over- or under-estimation of actual population characteristics.