The official 2010 Census numbers are out, revealing a detailed picture of Latinos in Illinois and their impact on the state over the last decade. This data brief sheds light on that data, affirming the contributions Latinos have made to the vitality, growth, and social fabric of Illinois—and calling on Illinois to embrace the demographic shifts revealed in census data, translating change into continued progress.

The 2010 Census drew official attention to the phenomenon, but it had been a reality since 2004: Latinos are the second largest racial/ethnic group in Illinois. They now account for nearly 16 percent of the total population, up from 12 percent in 2000 (Table 1). The state’s Latino population growth of nearly half a million people was greater than the state’s overall population growth of 411,339.
BY THE NUMBERS

With time, Latinos are poised to be a majority in Illinois: The state’s Latino population growth of nearly half a million people was greater than the state’s overall population growth of 411,339 (Table 2). Put another way, Latino growth was equal to 121 percent of state growth since 2000. Without Latino population gains during this decade, the Illinois population would have decreased by almost 86,000 because of corresponding decreases in White populations.

While grouped under one name, this population is a diverse one—79 percent of Illinois Latinos are of Mexican origin, while Puerto Ricans, Central Americans, and South American groups make up sizeable communities (Table 3). The population, notably, is also young: One-in-four children across Illinois is now Latino. For children under age five, that number rises to over 25 percent. By comparison, while the Latino youth population has surged by over 30 percent, the non-Latino child population decreased by over 10 percent.3

For all the much-touted Latino population growth over the last decade, the story extends beyond sheer numbers. Latino population growth isn’t making Illinois’ Latino communities larger; instead, it’s making all of Illinois more Latino. The nuance is significant, and our ability to embrace emerging diversity in once-homogenous commu-
nities will determine the quality of our shared future as one Illinois.

**LATINO SUBURBANIZATION**
Illinois’ Latino population has traditionally been synonymous with—and concentrated in—the City of Chicago, a point of entry for immigrants from Latin American countries for generations. But the communities that Latinos chose to call home, much like the demographics of the entire state, are changing dramatically: The seven-county Chicago metro area (including the City of Chicago) remains the home of the vast majority of Illinois Latinos—they’re 22 percent of the regional population—although the 2010 Census reveals some significant shifts in where they reside.

While Latinos account for nearly 30 percent of the population of the City of Chicago (Table 4), the 2010 Census affirmed the trend noted in 2004: Latinos are more likely to live outside of Chicago than within the city itself (Table 5). Six in every 10 Illinois Latinos now live outside of Chicago, with more than 50 percent living in suburban communities within Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties. Growth within Chicago’s suburbs has been so significant that Latinos now account for more than 60 percent of Illinois Latinos live outside Chicago.
one-in-five suburban residents, and over 80 percent of total population growth in the suburbs.

Suburban population gains, to an extent, are Chicago’s population loss: The city’s overall population has decreased almost seven percent over the last decade. At a relatively small three percent growth, Latino population gains represented one of Chicago’s only increases. This modest growth far outpaced the African American and White change in Chicago—the populations of both communities declined.

Despite overall population decreases, Chicago remains home to a significant proportion of the state’s Latinos, as well as a center for their political, cultural, and economic strength. A full 38 percent of Illinois Latinos live in Chicago, and several Latino-majority community areas are among the largest and fastest growing in the city. After the 2000 Census, there were 12 Latino-majority community areas; today, a decade later, there are 16. Although most community areas lost population, Latino growth and mobility contributed to the vitality of both traditional urban Latino communities and fast growing areas on the city’s edges. Current trends suggest that Chicago’s status as a global city in the 21st century will be closely intertwined with its growing Latino population.

However, current suburban population patterns best forecast the
future of Illinois. The proportion of Latino suburban residents has risen dramatically (Table 6: Latino proportion and growth in the Chicago region), to the extent that a majority (52 percent) now resides in the seven-county metro region outside of Chicago. The Chicago metro area ranks sixth in the nation in terms of the size of its Latino population5 (Table 7). Fifteen municipalities in Illinois have majority-Latino populations, including Cicero and Waukegan, which are among the state’s 10 largest cities overall (Table 8). Fifty-one Illinois municipalities have either 10,000-plus Latinos or have populations in which Latinos make up at least 30 percent of the community. See Appendices 1 and 2 for a visual representation of the growing Latino community across Chicago and its seven-county metropolitan region.

**Table 6: Latino Proportion and Growth in the Chicago Region, 2000 and 2010**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook County</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DuPage County</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kane County</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kendall County</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake County</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McHenry County</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will County</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 and 2010 Data Sets, analyzed by the Latino Policy Forum

**LATINOS IN ILLINOIS REPRESENT $44 BILLION IN PURCHASING POWER.**

MOVING FORWARD

Sheer population growth aside, Latinos’ contributions to the social, political and economic life of the state is more significant than ever. On the electoral level, Illinois would have lost two congressional seats instead of one if not for Latino growth, offsetting population losses in White and African American communities since 2000.6 And at 14 percent of the state’s labor force,7 Latinos are an economic engine: To date, it is estimated that Latinos in Illinois represent $44 billion in purchasing power,8 a number that will only rise as young Latinos enter the workforce in growing numbers.
Latinos’ suburbanization offers a boon to the entire region: Emerging Latino populations contribute greatly to the economic and cultural vitality of their new communities by starting new businesses, increasing the tax base, engaging in the labor market, and buying homes. As large numbers of Latinos have moved west, north, and south, away from core urban neighborhoods, communities such as Carpentersville, Waukegan, Aurora, and Elgin have become important centers of Latino settlement.

But rapid suburbanization also presents challenges, and not just to the health and vitality of the urban core. Suburban institutions accustomed to serving a less diverse community must strategically consider Latinos as they address issues of education, poverty, housing, health, labor, and transportation in their municipalities. As demographic and geo-

### Table 7: Largest Latino Metro Areas, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size Rank</th>
<th>Metro area name</th>
<th>Latinos, 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
<td>5,700,862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
<td>4,327,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Miami, FL</td>
<td>2,312,929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
<td>2,099,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Riverside, CA</td>
<td>1,996,402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>1,957,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Dallas, TX</td>
<td>1,752,166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Phoenix, AZ</td>
<td>1,235,718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>San Antonio, TX</td>
<td>1,158,148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
<td>991,348</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: The Brookings Institution® and U.S. Census Bureau, Data Set 2010, analyzed by the Latino Policy Forum

### A WORD ON THE CENSUS

Understanding how and what the 2010 Census measures is key to understanding the analysis and graphics contained in this brief. The decennial census has long been used to quantify and understand the ever-changing population of the United States. With an aim to count every person in the country, the census collects basic information such as number of people per household, age, race, ethnicity, and housing tenure.

However, 2010 marked an important change in the way the census was administered, with an abbreviated 10-question short form (see Appendix 3) used instead of the traditional longer form used in 2000 and in previous years.

Over the last decade, questions found in the longer form have been replaced by an annual American Community Survey (ACS), a nationwide, continuous survey designed to provide current and reliable demographic, housing, social, and economic information every year. The ACS has become the primary source for current, in-depth demographic information as it measures a wide range of indicators in shorter time intervals. The number of people surveyed, however, is much smaller than the decennial census, which draws its data from the entire U.S. population.

Although the ACS has produced much important data about the socioeconomic and other demographic characteristics of the Latino population, the 2010 Census is crucial. As was detailed in this brief, the decennial census continues to provide a guidepost by which to measure trends within a single or across several decades, the best measure of change—and opportunities for progress—in the United States.
graphical shifts continue, the state will depend increasingly on the economic health and social integration of Latinos. Investment in these areas will contribute to strength and growth in our state that will benefit all Illinoisans.

WHAT’S NEXT
New, compelling Census data provide an eye-opening picture of current and future trends for Illinois. This new data is useless, however, unless it is translated into concrete policy changes that support the success of Latino families. Illinois policymakers would be remiss not to recognize that now more than ever, the future of Illinois is intertwined with the future of its growing Latino population. But Latinos must be equally invested in shaping a shared future—beyond the data, the embrace of change for progress must be mutual to be effective.

CITATIONS
1. All data comes from the U.S. Census Bureau. Data Set: 2010 Census unless otherwise noted. References to Latino population growth are drawn from both the U.S. Census Bureau. Data Set: 2000 Census and U.S. Census Bureau. Data Set: 2010 Census unless otherwise noted.
3. In comparisons between Latino and non-Latino ethnic and racial groups, “Latino” refers to Hispanic or Latino of any race, while White, Black (or African-American), and Asian refer to Non-Hispanic White, Black, and Asian.
4. See Citation 2.
7. U.S. Bureau of the Census. 2009 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimate
Appendix 1: Latino Population in Chicago Community Areas, 2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Data Set 2010. Map created by Ioan Pop & Dorian Pliszka.
Appendix 3: U.S. Census Bureau 2010 Census Short Form

Use a blue or black pen.

Start here

The Census must count every person living in the United States on April 1, 2010.

Before you answer Question 1, count the people living in this house, apartment, or mobile home using our guidelines:

- Count all people, including babies, who live and sleep here most of the time.
- The Census Bureau also conducts counts in institutions and other places, so:
  - Do not count anyone living away either at college or in the Armed Forces.
  - Do not count anyone in a nursing home, jail, prison, detention facility, etc., on April 1, 2010.
  - Leave these people off your form, even if they will return to live here after they leave college, the nursing home, the military, jail, etc. Otherwise, they may be counted twice.

The Census must also include people without a permanent place to stay, so:

- If someone who has no permanent place to stay is staying here on April 1, 2010, count that person. Otherwise, he or she may be missed in the census.

1. How many people were living or staying in this house, apartment, or mobile home on April 1, 2010?

Number of people =

2. Were there any additional people staying here April 1, 2010 that you did not include in Question 1?

Mark X all that apply.

- Children, such as new born babies or foster children
- Relatives, such as adult children, grandchildren, or in-laws
- Nonrelatives, such as roommates or live-in baby sitters
- People staying here temporarily
- No additional people

3. Is this house, apartment, or mobile home — Mark X ONE box.

- Owned by you or someone in this household with a mortgage or loan. Include home equity loans.
- Owned by you or someone in this household free and clear (without a mortgage or loan).
- Rented
- Occupied without payment of rent

4. What is your telephone number? We may call if we don’t understand an answer.

Area Code + Number

OMB No. 0607-0191 Approval Expires 12/31/2011.

Part D-61 (1-5-2010)

5. Please provide information for each person living here. Start with a person living here who owns or rents this house, apartment, or mobile home. If the owner or renter lives somewhere else, start with any adult living here. This will be Person 1.

What is Person 1’s name? Print name below.

Last Name

First Name

6. What is Person 1’s sex? Mark X ONE box.

- Male
- Female

7. What is Person 1’s age and what is Person 1’s date of birth?

Please report babies as age 0 when the child is less than 1 year old.

Print numbers in boxes.

Age on April 1, 2010

Month

Day

Year of birth

NOTE: Please answer BOTH Question 8 about Hispanic origin and Question 9 about race. For this census, Hispanic origins and race are races.

8. Is Person 1 of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

- No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
- Yes, Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano
- Yes, Puerto Rican
- Yes, Cuban
- Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin — Print right for example, Argentinian, Colombian, Dominican, Mexican, Salvadorian, Spanish, and so on.

9. What is Person 1’s race? Mark X one or more boxes.

- White
- Black, African American, or Negro
- American Indian or Alaska Native — Print name or another origin if you prefer.
- Asian Indian
- Chinese
- Japanese
- Korean
- Filipino
- Vietnamese
- Other Asian — Print race for example, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Vietnamese, Cambodian, and so on
- Some other race — Print race

10. Does Person 1 sometimes live or stay somewhere else?

- No
- Yes — Mark X all that apply

- In college housing
- In the military
- At a seasonal or summer residence
- In a nursing home
- For child custody
- In jail or prison
- In a residential treatment program
- For another reason

If more people were counted in Question 1, continue with Person 2.