Latinos in the Suburbs
Challenges & Opportunities
Overview of Findings

Faster Latino growth in Chicago suburbs than in any other place in Illinois

Without Latino population growth, the Chicago region would not be growing at all

Latinos make critical contributions to the region’s economic and cultural vitality

Source: US Census, 2020
Latino population is growing in every county of the Chicago region, whereas non-Latino population is largely shrinking.

Source: US Census, 2020
Overview of Findings

Growth of Latino population concentrated in both inner-ring, older suburbs, and exurbs

New patterns of dispersal:

Latino growth rates highest in municipalities that aren’t historical Latino population centers
Chart 1
Latinos in the Suburbs, 2010 and 2020

http://doi.org/10.18128/D0060.V17.0
Figure 2. Suburban Latinos Made Progress on Several Measures in the Last Decade

Education, Income, Homeownership, and Poverty all Improved

- Less Than HS
- At Least Bachelor’s
- Households Making 75k+
- Homeownership Rate
- Overcrowded Households
- Poverty Rate
- Childhood Poverty Rate

Source: ACS 2007-2011, ACS 2017-2021 5-Year Estimates • Created with Datawrapper

Figure 3. Gaps Between Suburban Latinos and Non-Latinos Still Persistent in 2021

- Less Than HS
- At Least a Bachelor’s
- Households Making 75k+
- Homeownership Rate
- Overcrowded Households
- Poverty Rate
- Childhood Poverty Rate

Source: ACS 2007-2011; 2017-2021 5-Year Estimates • Created with Datawrapper
Figure 19

Per-Capita Income White and Latino Populations, Select Suburban Counties, 2021

- **White Per Capita Income**
- **Latino Per Capita Income**

**DuPage**
- $57,889
- $26,898

**Kane**
- $52,820
- $21,965

**Kendall**
- $43,439
- $24,178

**Lake**
- $62,037
- $22,459

**McHenry**
- $47,256
- $24,114

**Will**
- $46,734
- $24,442

What is the Economic Hardship Index?

Indicators Contained in the Economic Hardship Index

- Unemployment (the civilian unemployment rate for individuals over age 16 years old).
- Education (individuals over age 25 years old without a high school diploma).
- Per capita income level.
- Poverty (households with income below the federal poverty in the past 12 months).
- Crowded housing (housing units with more than one person per room).
- Dependency (population under age 18 or over age 64).

Percentile and Hardship Category Ranks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentile Rank</th>
<th>Hardship Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Above the 80th</td>
<td>Very High Hardship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60th – 80th Percentile</td>
<td>High Hardship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40th – 60th Percentile</td>
<td>Moderate Hardship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th – 40th Percentile</td>
<td>Low Hardship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below the 20th Percentile</td>
<td>Very Low Hardship</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where are Latinos living by level of hardship?

Latino Growth by Level of Hardship from 2010 to 2020

- From 2010 to 2020, Latinos tended to move away from very high hardship suburbs, although still in suburbs with comparatively high hardship.
  - In 2010, very high hardship suburbs were the classifications where most Latinos lived (53%). However, in 2020, this figure dropped to 30% of Latinos who live in very high hardship suburbs.
  - In 2010, 19% of Latinos lived in high hardship suburbs. In 2021, Latinos that lived in high hardship suburbs increased to 34%.
  - The share of Latinos that lived in moderate hardship suburbs from 2010 to 2020 increased from 10% to 15%.
  - Overall, the share of Latinos that lived in high or very high hardship suburbs decreased from 72% in 2010 to 64% in 2020.
- While the Latino share that lived in combined high or very high hardship suburbs decreased from 2010 to 2020, there was a population increase of Latinos that lived in high or very high hardship suburbs.
  - In 2010, approximately 750,000 Latinos lived in high or very high hardship suburbs which then increased to approximately 800,000 in 2020.
  - Overall, while the Latino population increased in high and very high hardship suburbs from 2010 to 2020, the Latino population is slightly more distributed across very low, low and moderate hardship suburbs. Currently, the largest share of Latinos tend to live in high hardship suburbs.

Latino Share of the Population Living in Different Hardship Level Suburbs (2010 and 2020)

Where is the growth of Latinos by hardship level?

Location of Latino Growth by Level of Hardship

- From 2010 to 2020, 40% of Latino population growth occurred in moderate hardship suburbs.
- 29% of Latino population growth occurred in lower hardship suburbs.
- 23% of Latino population growth occurred in higher economic hardship areas.
- Despite changes in Latino population growth away from higher hardship areas, nearly a third of all suburban Latinos still live in very high hardship suburbs.

Overall, Latino population share, and population growth has occurred away from very high hardship suburbs in the past decade, but the largest concentration of Latinos still live in higher hardship places such as Melrose Park, Waukegan, and Burbank.

### Largest Latino Populations in High and Very High Hardship Suburbs (2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suburb</th>
<th>Total Latinos</th>
<th>High Hardship</th>
<th>Total Latinos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cicero</td>
<td>75,890</td>
<td>Aurora</td>
<td>74,981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waukegan</td>
<td>53,103</td>
<td>Elgin</td>
<td>54,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpentersville</td>
<td>21,371</td>
<td>Joliet</td>
<td>50,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melrose Park</td>
<td>18,519</td>
<td>Berwyn</td>
<td>36,726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hanover Park</td>
<td>15,561</td>
<td>Addison</td>
<td>16,285</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Transportation costs and commute times remain an area of concern, as Latino population continues to grow in farther out suburbs.