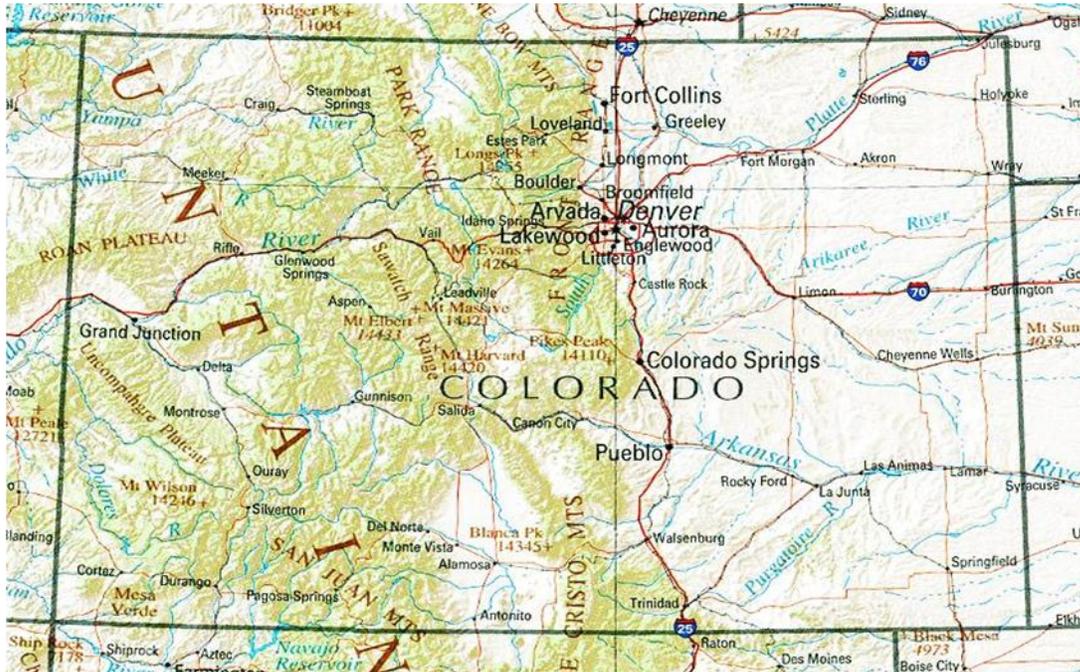




2012 SNAPSHOT OF COLORADO LATINOS



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INTRODUCTION

This report is intended to be a snapshot of the current state of the Latino community in Colorado, in relation to important policy areas including: criminal justice, economic development and housing, education, energy and environment, health and human services, immigration, LGBTQ, media, and voting rights. These policy issues were identified by the community as important and deserve solutions that will result in a positive impact on the quality of life of Latinos in Colorado.

By providing this information, the report aims to create awareness about the basic realities surrounding the issues that are pertinent to the Latino community in Colorado. This data is intended to be a baseline snapshot of the issues that need to be addressed for the Latino community in Colorado. This information provided herein forms a solid basis for social and political discourse for the years to come.

As Latinos continue to become a larger portion of the total population in Colorado, addressing the challenges that our community faces will not only benefit Latinos, but Coloradans as a whole. There has never been a better time for Latinos to become more engaged in the policy making process and ensure the success of Latinos and Colorado as a whole.

We strive for the day in which we will not have to advocate for issues as Latinos, but the reality is that there are measurable disparities among racial and ethnic classifications. Until we achieve parity among different racial and ethnic classifications, it is our responsibility to advocate on behalf of our communities.

DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

Nationally it is estimated that Latinos will make up 40% of the population growth in the United States of America from now until the year 2030¹.

In Colorado alone, the Latino population grew from 735,601 to 1,000,000 between the years 2000 to 2010. A year later, in 2011, the Latino population stood at 1,070,559 people; 21% of the population in Colorado is of Latino descent². Thirty one percent of all children in Colorado under the age of 18 are Latino³.

The Latino population that is eligible to vote is also rapidly increasing. The number of Latinos eligible to vote has increased in Colorado by 105% from the year 2004 to 2008.⁴ This type of rapid growth is exactly why it important to gain an understanding of the issues facing Latinos in Colorado. The future looks bright for Latinos and it is our responsibility to continue laying a strong foundation in order for growth to lead to success for all.

¹ "Colorado Latinos Play Key Role in State Population Growth." National Association of Latino Elected Officials. Published: February 24th, 2011.

² Author's own calculation based on ACS Census data, available at: http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_1YR_S0201&prodType=table

³ "Colorado Latinos Play Key Role in State Population Growth." National Association of Latino Elected Officials. Published: February 24th, 2011.

⁴ Evolution of the Latino Vote.

http://www.nclr.org/images/uploads/publications/Evolution_of_the_Latino_Vote.pdf

Demographics of Latinos in Colorado⁵

	Native Born Latinos	% of Total Latino Population	Foreign Born Latinos	% of Total Latino Population	Combined Native and Foreign Born Latinos	% of Total Latino Population
All	798,562	75%	271,997	25%	1,070,559	100%
Males	399,727	37%	147,877	14%	547,604	51%
Females	398,835	37%	124,120	12%	522,955	49%
Under 18	368,085	34%	24,762	2%	392,847	37%
Over 18	390,866	37%	247,235	23%	638,101	63%
U.S. Citizen	798,562	75%	54,291	5%	852,853	80%
Citizens over 18	442,149	41%	51,359	5%	493,508	46%
Non-Citizen	N/A	N/A	217,706	20%	217,706	20%
Undocumented⁶	N/A	N/A	180,000 of the number above	17%	180,000	17%

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

According to the U.S. Department of Justice⁷, a male born in 2001 faces the following odds of going to prison during his lifetime: 1 in 3 for African-Americans; 1 in 6 for Latinos; 1 in 17 for Caucasians.

Colorado's rate of incarceration for Hispanics is 1,042 per 100,000 Coloradans and for Whites that rate is 525 per 100,000 Coloradans.

⁵ Authors Calculations based off Census data available at: http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_1YR_B05003I&prodType=table

⁶ Unauthorized Immigrant Population, 2010. Pew Hispanic Center. Available at

<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2011/02/01/unauthorizedimmigrant-population-brnational-and-state-trends-2010/>

⁷ U.S. Dept. of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Prevalence of Imprisonment in the U.S. Population, 1974-2001," by Thomas Bonczar, NCJ 197976 (Washington, DC: GPO, 2003)

The ratio of Latino to White incarceration per 100,000 Coloradans is 2 times higher than the national average of 1.8; this Latino to White incarceration ratio ranks 14th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia⁸. Only 13 other states have a higher Latino to White incarceration rate than Colorado, these States in order are: Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, District of Columbia, New York, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, North Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Idaho, Utah.

Adult Inmate Population by Gender⁹				
	Adult Latino Males	Adult Latina Females	All Latino Coloradans	All Coloradans
	6,184	496	6,680	20,795
Percentage of Total Coloradans Incarcerated	30%	2%	32%	100%

Prison and Jail Incarceration Rates			
	Latino Coloradans	All Coloradans	Percentage
Youth Offender Population¹⁰	35	66	53%
Parole Population¹¹	3,671	10,410	35%
Dept. of Corrections Staff¹²	1,216	6,455	19%

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Recession of 2009 affected Americans and Coloradans were no exception, but Latinos and African-Americans were affected disproportionately. Considering the disparities that were already

⁸ *Uneven Justice: State Incarceration Rates by Race and Ethnicity*. Marc Mauer and Ryan S. King. The Sentencing Project. July 2007. http://www.sentencingproject.org/doc/publications/rd_stateratesofincbyraceandethnicity.pdf

⁹ Colorado Dept. of Corrections General Statistics, Colorado Inmate Population, available at: <http://www.doc.state.co.us/sites/default/files/opa/General%20Statistics%2006302012.pdf>

¹⁰ Youthful Offender System Annual Report 2010-2011, Clements, Hand, Hager, and O'Keefe. Available at: http://www.doc.state.co.us/sites/default/files/opa/YOS_FY11.pdf

¹¹ Colorado Dept. of Corrections, 2011 Fiscal Statistical Report. Barr, Gilbert, O'Keefe. May 2012, available at: http://www.doc.state.co.us/sites/default/files/opa/StatRprt_FY2011.pdf

¹² Colorado Dept. of Corrections, 2011 Fiscal Statistical Report. Barr, Gilbert, O'Keefe. May 2012, available at: http://www.doc.state.co.us/sites/default/files/opa/StatRprt_FY2011.pdf

present before the recession; with white household median wealth 20 times that of African-Americans and 18 times that of Latinos,¹³ it is important to take into consideration policies that will help these groups prosper and foster economic opportunity. By doing so, economic disparities can be reduced, benefitting Colorado as a whole.

The economic recovery has started to take hold nationally. Unfortunately, for Latinos in Colorado, it has not been strong enough to see a significant improvement for those living in poverty. Latinos in Colorado have a median household income that is \$15,798 less than that of Coloradans as a whole.

Income and Poverty Levels:			
	Latino Coloradans	All Coloradans	Difference
Median Household Income¹⁴	\$39,589	\$55,387	\$15,798
Percentage of People Living Under the Poverty Level¹⁵	24.30%	13.50%	10.8%
Percentage of Children Living Under the Poverty Level¹⁶	31%	17.40%	13.6% Higher

Children in Poverty

The percentage of children living under the poverty line has decreased from 34% in 2011 to 31%.¹⁷ We should be encouraged that the poverty rate is going down, but this should also motivate us to push for policies that will help alleviate poverty in our community.

Immigrant Children in Poverty

Children living in immigrant homes are twice as likely to live below the poverty line as children that are born to US-born parents.¹⁸ Factors that lead to this disparity include language barriers, lack of a quality education, and lack of training.¹⁹

¹³ Wealth Gaps Rise to Record Highs Between Whites, Blacks and Hispanics .
http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/files/2011/07/SDT-Wealth-Report_7-26-11_FINAL.pdf

¹⁴ US Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey
[.http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_1YR_DP03&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_1YR_DP03&prodType=table)

¹⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey. Available at
http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_1YR_B17001I&prodType=table

¹⁶ Kids Count in Colorado! 2012 Report. Pg. 16 & 17. Available at:
<http://www.coloradokids.org/data/publications/2012kidscount.html>

¹⁷ Id.

EDUCATION

In a landmark case regarding education finance, a Denver District Court ruled for the plaintiff in the *Lobato vs. State of Colorado*. The ruling found that Colorado’s system for funding public schools is “irrational, arbitrary, and severely underfunded,” and therefore violates the Colorado Constitution. This decision was appealed by the State of Colorado. The outcome of this decision will have wide spread impact on the funding formula for Colorado’s children. Highlighted below are rankings provided by Greater Education Colorado regarding Colorado’s funding statistics:

- **Ranked 42nd** in students enrolled per teacher in K-12
- **Ranked 40th** in technology in our schools
- **Ranked 51st** in Special Education funding
- **Ranked 39th** in ratio of school nurses to students (1:1982)
- **Ranked 48th** in higher education spending per capita

In 2011, Colorado had a total graduation rate of 73.9%. Latinos had a 60.1 graduation rate. That is almost a 5% increase from 2010’s graduation rate of 55.5% and is the highest graduation rate for Latinos in Colorado since 2005 when the graduation rate was 63.7%.²⁰

Educational Attainment			
	Latino Coloradans	All Coloradans	Latino Difference or Percentage of Total
High School Graduation Rate (%)²¹	60.1	73.9	-13.8% Less
Total Public College Enrollment²²	34,851	276,116	12.6% of Total
Total Bachelor Degrees Granted²³	1,807	22,918	7.9% of Total
Total Graduate Degrees Granted²⁴	378	6,600	5.7% of Total
Total Doctoral Degrees Granted²⁵	66	1,554	4.2% of Total

¹⁸ Kids Count in Colorado! 2012 Report. Pg. 10. Available at:

<http://www.coloradokids.org/data/publications/2012kidscount.html>

¹⁹ Id.

²⁰ Class of 2011 Graduation Data, Apr. 10.2012. Copyright 1999-2008 Colorado Department of Education. All rights reserved. <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdereval/rv2011GradLinks.htm>

²¹ Class of 2011 Graduation Data, Apr. 10.2012. Copyright 1999-2008 Colorado Department of Education. All rights reserved. <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdereval/rv2011GradLinks.htm>

²² Summary of IPEDS Race/Ethnicity Changes. Colorado Dept. of Higher Education.

http://highered.colorado.gov/Publications/Reports/Enrollment/FY2011/201011_Ethnicity_Summary.pdf

²³ Graduate Counts by Colorado Public Institutions by Level by Race/Ethnicity and Gender. Co. Dept. of Higher Ed. Available at http://highered.colorado.gov/Publications/Reports/Degree/fy2011/fy0711_race.pdf

²⁴ Interactive Institutional Information for 2011. At <http://highered.colorado.gov/i3/Search.aspx>

²⁵ Id.

Graduation Rate by Race/Ethnicity-10 Year Trend

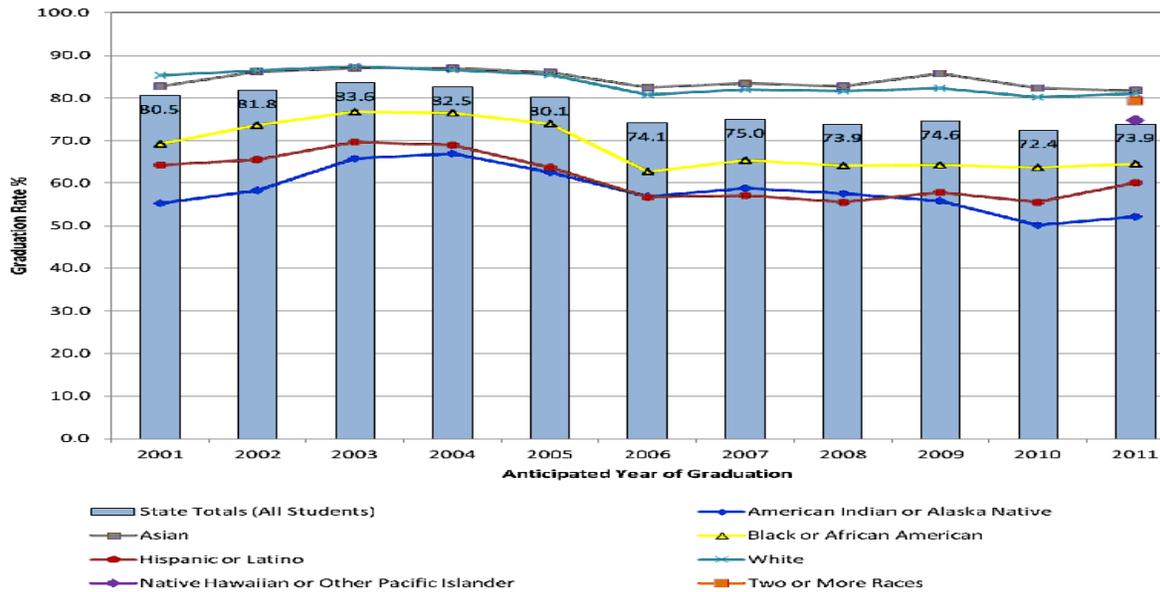


Table from Colorado Department of Education Class of 2011 Graduation Data Report²⁶

Proficiency ²⁷			
	Latino Coloradans	All Coloradans	Difference
TCAP Grade 3 Math	40% Proficient	40% Proficient	0%
	15% Advanced	31% Advanced	-16%
TCAP Grade 3 Reading	56% Proficient	67% Proficient	-11%
	3% Advanced	7% Advanced	-4%
TCAP Grade 10 Math	14% Proficient	26% Proficient	-12%
	2% Advanced	6% Advanced	-4%
TCAP Grade 10 Reading	49% Proficient	60% Proficient	-11%
	3% Advanced	8% Advanced	-5%

²⁶ Class of 2011 Graduation Data, Apr. 10.2012. Copyright 1999-2008 Colorado Department of Education. All rights reserved. <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdereval/rv2011GradLinks.htm>

²⁷ CSAP/TCAP State Summary Results. Colorado Department of Education. Copyright © 1999-2008 Colorado Department of Education. All rights reserved. <http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/CoAssess-DataAndResults.asp>

Fifteen percent of Latino Coloradan 3rd graders are considered “Advanced” in Math according to TCAP results, compared to 31% of all Colorado 3rd graders considered “Advanced” in Math.

Sixty seven percent of all Colorado 3rd graders are considered “Proficient” in Reading while only 56% of Latino 3rd graders are considered “Proficient.”

Fourteen percent of Colorado Latino 10th graders are “Proficient” in Math, that’s 12% less than all Colorado 10th graders and 49% of Latino 10th graders are “Proficient” in reading; 11% less than all 10th grade Coloradans.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

A recent poll conducted nationally by The Sierra Club and The National Council of La Raza found that 92% of Latinos agreed with the statement that they “have a moral responsibility to take care of God’s creations on this earth - the wilderness and forests, the oceans, lakes and rivers.”

In the same study, another 83% of respondents agreed with the statement “coal plants and oil refineries are a thing of the past. We need to look toward the future and use more energy from clean sources.” They also found that 87% of Latinos stated that they would prefer to work in clean energy industries instead of traditional energy industries given that wages and benefits were equal.²⁸

These numbers indicate that Latinos understand environmental issues and understand the potential of the green economy. Latinos recognize that the green economy can bring much needed jobs to their community while also helping push out traditional energy sources that disproportionately harm urban areas.²⁹ Now is the time to seize this support and build coalitions around this issue to ensure we have a planet that is habitable and sustainable for generations to come.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Nationally, 1 in 3 Latinos are uninsured (an estimated 15 million people).³⁰ The Affordable Care Act was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama in 2010. Because of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), it is estimated that 9 million Latinos will be insured that would not have been able to afford coverage before the ACA.³¹ Colorado is now on track to create the

²⁸ 2012 national Latinos and the Environment survey executive summary. Sierra Club, National Council of La Raza http://www.sierraclub.org/ecocentro/survey/2012%20Latinos%20and%20the%20Environment%20Survey_Exec%20Summary_English.pdf

²⁹ Hidden Dangers, Environmental Health Threats in Latino Communities. Oct. 2004. Quintero-Somainsi & Quirindongo National Resource Defense Council. Available at http://www.nrdc.org/health/effects/latino/english/latino_en.pdf

³⁰ “The Health Care Law and You”. Available at: http://lulac.org/assets/pdfs/The_Health_Care_Law_and_You.pdf

³¹ Id.

“Colorado Health Benefit Exchange” by late 2013 designed to make health insurance more affordable for all Coloradans.³²

Obesity is a national epidemic and that is especially true for the Latino and African-American communities. Compared to whites, Latinos are 21% more likely to be obese.³⁵

Colorado Obesity Rates by Ethnicity/Race:			
	White	African-American	Latino
Adults ³³	16.2%	26.2%	25.1%
Children ³⁴	11.5%	27.4%	22.0

Food Security

Colorado has a reputation of being one of the healthiest states in the country, but there are still disparities when it comes to obesity rates. Latino adults and children are more likely to be obese than white adults and children in Colorado. One of the leading causes for higher obesity rates among Latinos and African-Americans is lack of access to fresh food and grocery retailers in urban areas; these are referred to as “Food Deserts”. Lack of transportation and affordability are a couple of factors that exacerbate the problem of “Food Deserts” for lower income Latinos in Colorado. Nationally, 29.4% of Latinos lack access to healthy foods. There are 17 million U.S. households that lack access to healthy foods, and Latinos make up 21.2% of those households.³⁶

Access to Health Care

Latinos in Colorado feel very strongly when it comes to access to health care. A recent survey by impreMedia and Latino Decisions found that 70% of Latinos in Colorado believed that the government should play a role in ensuring that all people have access to health care; 20% of Latinos believed that people should be responsible for their own health care, while the remaining 10% did not know, or wanted another choice.³⁷ In the same survey, 72% of Latinos in Colorado believed that the Affordable Care Act should be left to stand as law. 12% of Latinos in Colorado believed that it should be repealed, 14% did not know, 1% wanted something else, and the

³² Colorado Health Benefit Exchange. <http://www.getcoveredco.org/History>

³³ Center for Disease Control & Prevention.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5827a2.htm#tab1>

³⁴ Healthy Food for All: Encouraging Grocery Investment in Colorado. Available at:

<http://www.coloradohealth.org/studies.aspx>

³⁵ Center for Disease Control & Prevention. <http://www.cdc.gov/features/dsobesityadults/index.html>

³⁶ Profiles of Latino Health: A Closer Look at Latino Child Nutrition.

http://www.nclr.org/images/uploads/pages/Issue_1_Latino%20child%20nutrition_2010.pdf

³⁷ ImpreMedia-LatinoDecisions Election Eve Poll

http://www.latinodecisions.com/files/7613/5234/2212/Latino_Election_Eve_Poll_-_By_state.pdf

remaining 1% chose none of the available options. This is significant because as stated above, an estimated 9 million additional Latinos will now have access to health care under the Affordable Care Act.

Top 10 Leading Causes of Death	
Latino Coloradans	All Coloradans
1.Cancer	1.Heart Disease
2.Heart Disease	2.Cancer
3.Stroke	3.Chronic Respiratory Diseases
4.Unintentional Injuries	4.Stroke
5.Diabetes	5.Unintentional Injuries
6.Chronic Respiratory Diseases	6.Alzheimer's Disease
7.Alzheimer's Disease	7.Flu and Pneumonia
8.Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	8.Diabetes
9.Flu and Pneumonia	9.Suicide
10.Kidney Disease	10.Atherosclerosis (Hardening of the arteries)

HOUSING

While the housing bubble that burst during the Economic Recession of 2009 affected all Americans, the economic downturn disproportionately affected Latinos.³⁸ The percentage of households occupied by Latinos owners slightly fell from 11.3% in 2010 to 11.2% in 2011. While this is only a marginal decline, it is evident that after years of progress of increasing Latinos home ownership,³⁹ that progress has been temporarily halted. It is important to note that the percentage of Latino renters also went up.⁴⁰

³⁸ Wealth Gap, see above

³⁹ Through Boom and Bust: Minorities, Immigrants and Homeownership. Pew Hispanic Center. May 12th, 2009. <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1220/home-ownership-trends-blacks-hispanics>

⁴⁰ Through Boom and Bust: Minorities, Immigrants and Homeownership. Pew Hispanic Center. May 12th, 2009. <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1220/home-ownership-trends-blacks-hispanics>

Owner/Renter Households:			
	Latino Coloradans	All Coloradans	Percentage of Total
Owner Occupied Households⁴¹	142,442	1,271,804	11.20%
Renter Occupied Households⁴²	161,120	703,584	22.90%

IMMIGRATION

The Economic Recession of 2009 reverberated across the American economy and one of the effects of the downturn was the drop in unauthorized border crossings. According to the Pew Hispanic Center, net migration from the largest country of origin for undocumented people to this country, Mexico, fell to zero, and might even be negative.⁴³ As of 2011, there are 271,997⁴⁴ immigrants living in Colorado. As shown by the table below, proficiency in English drastically improves from foreign born Latinos to Native born Latinos. There is no indication of that trend changing.

Language Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English⁴⁵:		
	Native Born Latinos	Foreign Born Latinos
Speak Only English	62.90%	4.50%
Speak Another Language	37%	95.50%
Speak English “Very Well”	83%	32.50%
Speak English “Less than Well”	16.50%	67.50%

⁴¹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey. Available at http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_1YR_S2502&prodType=table

⁴² Id.

⁴³ Net Migration from Mexico Falls to Zero—and Perhaps Less. Jeffrey Passel, D’Vera Cohn and Ana Gonzalez-Barrera. April 23, 2012. <http://www.pewhispanic.org/2012/04/23/net-migration-from-mexico-falls-to-zero-and-perhaps-less/>

⁴⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey. Available at http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_1YR_B06004I&prodType=table

⁴⁵ Author’s calculations based on 2011 ACS US Census data. Available at http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_1YR_B16005I&prodType=table

Detention and Removal

The Department of Homeland Security has come out and publicly stated that immigration policy would prioritize removing immigrants that have criminal records. The Department of Homeland Security removed 409,849 individuals from the United States in 2012; 55% of these individuals, 225,390, were convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor. That is double the amount of individuals convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor removed from the U.S. in 2008.⁴⁶

Secure Communities

The Federal program “Secure Communities” went into effect in Colorado for all 64 Colorado counties in May of 2012. Secure Communities is a partnership between the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI). ICE and the FBI share information on suspected unauthorized residents of the U.S. and run an individual’s fingerprint through a criminal database in an effort to check for a criminal history.⁴⁷ As of August 2012, 934 convicted criminals that were unauthorized to be in this country were apprehended and removed from Colorado and the United States as part of “Secure Communities”.⁴⁸

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

On June 15th, 2012, President Obama signed a memo calling for deferred action (DACA) on certain undocumented young people residing in the United States. As of December 2012, 367,903 people have applied for the deferred action. 355,889 of the applications have been approved and 12,014 have been rejected. Colorado (7,124) ranks 10th among states of origin for applicants for deferred action. Mexico is the top country of origin for young people applying (258,708), followed by El Salvador (15,697), Honduras (9,998), Guatemala (8,960), and Peru (5,607).⁴⁹

LGBTQ

In May, 2012, the Colorado Legislature failed to act on a bill dealing with Civil Unions for same sex couples. The bill failed to get out of committee and reach the House floor for a vote.⁵⁰ Sixty

⁴⁶FY 2012: ICE announces year-end removal numbers, highlights focus on key priorities and issues new national detainer guidance to further focus resources. Available at:

<http://www.ice.gov/news/releases/1212/121221washingtondc2.htm>

⁴⁷ Secure Communities. http://www.ice.gov/secure_communities/

⁴⁸ Activated Jurisdictions. Immigration and Custom Enforcement. Available at: <http://www.ice.gov/doclib/secure-communities/pdf/sc-activated.pdf>

⁴⁹ Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Process. Available at:

<http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Resources/Reports%20and%20Studies/Immigration%20Forms%20Data/All%20Form%20Types/DACA/DACA%20MonthlyDtoEC%20Report%20PDF.pdf.pdf>

⁵⁰ Colorado civil unions bill killed before reaching House floor. May 15, 2012. Denver Post.

http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_20624090/colorado-civil-unions-bill-killed-before-reaching-house

four percent of Coloradans believe that same-sex couples should enjoy the same legal rights as heterosexual married couples.⁵¹

LGBTQ Households⁵²:			
	Latino Coloradans	All Coloradans	LGBTQ Households as a Percentage of Total Colorado Households
Male Partners	Data Gap	5,564	0.28%
Female Partners	Data Gap	6,901	0.35%

Our partners at One Colorado⁵³ surveyed 381 GLBT Latinos/as who comprised 8% of the total 4,619 GLBT Coloradans in the survey that was conducted over a one-month period in 2011. 72% were men, 25% were women and 2% were transgender.

Among those respondents, the survey found:

- 67% have lived in Colorado for more than ten years;
- 71% were raised Catholic (but only 19% of them are currently Catholic);
- 32% have no health insurance;
- 24% have experienced job discrimination;
- 52% have been harassed at school;
- 12% have experienced police harassment;
- 83% have never been victims of physical violence due to their sexual orientation.

The survey also found that the statistical mean age at which Latinos come out to one's self is age 16, which is younger than the statistical mean age of 19 for the overall surveyed population. Of all Latinos in the survey, the overwhelming majority (58%) was between the ages of 18 and 34. On the issue of self-identity, the One Colorado survey found: 68% identify as gay; 16% identify as lesbian; 8% identify as bisexual; and 4% identify as queer.

There is currently a lack of good statistical data about members of our community that identify as LGBTQ. This makes it difficult to fully understand the needs of those in our community that identify as LGBTQ. To its credit, the Census has begun to track LGBTQ households but they fail

⁵¹ Survey of Colorado Latino LGBTQ Voters. Available at: <http://www.one-colorado.org/news/did-you-miss-our-lgbt-latinoa-community-meeting-check-out-this-recap-from-la-gente-unida/>

⁵² Authors Calculation of Census data. Available at: http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_1YR_B11009&prodType=table
Colorado

⁵³ Survey of Colorado Latino LGBTQ Voters. Available at: <http://www.one-colorado.org/news/did-you-miss-our-lgbt-latinoa-community-meeting-check-out-this-recap-from-la-gente-unida/>

to capture those households by ethnicity. CLLARO will continue to work to ensure that we are a reliable resource for our LGBTQ friends and community members.

MEDIA

The way the media and television networks portray Latinos is important because sometimes that is the only type of introduction that neighbors have to Latinos. It is also important that Latinos are represented positively and realistically to serve as role models for younger Latinos.

Historically, there has been a lack of diversity in writers, producers, and directors in Hollywood. The National Latino Media Council (NLMC) is quick to point out these shortcomings, but acknowledges the changes networks have made and the diverse programs they have in place to try and recruit and develop more diverse writers, directors, and producers.

2010 National Latino Media Council “Report Card” on Television Diversity⁵⁴ :				
Category:	ABC	NBC	FOX	CBS
Actors: On-air Primetime Scripted Shows	B	D-	D-	B+
Actors: On-air Primetime Reality Shows	C	A	A	B+
Writers and Producers: Primetime	A	C+	A	B
Directors: Primetime	D+	C-	C	B
Program Development	A	A	B	A
Procurement	A	B	F	A
Entertainment Creative Executives	F	A	A	A
Network Commitment to Diversity Initiatives and Submission of Data	A	B	C	A
Overall Grade For 2010	B-	B-	C+	B+

⁵⁴2010 NLMC Network Diversity Report Card. Available at http://www.nhmc.org/sites/default/files/FINAL%202010%20NLMC%20Network%20Diversity%20Report%20Card%20Narrative_0.pdf

The National Hispanic Media Coalition (NHMC), in partnership with Latino Decisions conducted a poll on attitudes and stereotypes that non-Latinos hold about Latinos.⁵⁵ They found that people that were exposed to positive news or entertainment stories about Latinos and/or Immigrants hold the most favorable views on both groups. Negative portrayals of Latinos and immigrants are pervasive in news and entertainment media.

Consequently, non-Latinos commonly believe many negative stereotypes about these groups are true. Even those most disposed to positive opinions about Latinos (e.g. younger age cohorts, those more familiar with Latinos, etc.) have less favorable opinions when exposed to negative entertainment or news media narratives.

VOTING RIGHTS

2012 was a Presidential election year. This election saw record Latino voter turnout. The Pew Hispanic Center estimates that out of the eligible 23.7 million Latino voters, 53% or 12.3 Million Latinos cast a vote on November 7, 2012.⁵⁶ This election also saw the increase in efforts to propose and implement restrictions on early voting, registration efforts, and increase photo identification and voter identification laws. These restrictions and photo identification laws disproportionately affect Latinos, Elderly and Disabled communities, making it harder for eligible voters to cast their ballots and have their voices heard.

Voter Turnout

Nationally, the Latino population is the fastest growing segment of the voting age population. From 2000 to 2010, the Latino population eligible to vote (citizens over the age of 18) has increased by 62 percent, compared to only 9 percent for the non-Latino population.⁵⁷

The number of Latinos eligible to vote (citizens over the age of 18) in Colorado increased by 105% from the years 2004 to 2008.⁵⁸

The number of Latinos eligible to vote in Colorado is estimated to have been 400,000 in 2012. 237,000 of those Latinos were actually registered to vote, and an estimated 200,000 cast a ballot in the 2012 elections.⁵⁹

Latinos in Colorado were more likely to vote in the 2012 election than Latinos nationally. Colorado was a state that could have gone for either party in the Presidential election and was

⁵⁵ The Impact of Media Stereotypes on Opinions and Attitudes Towards Latinos. National Hispanic Media Association. September 2012. Available at:

<http://www.nhmc.org/sites/default/files/LD%20NHMC%20Poll%20Results%20Sept.2012.pdf>

⁵⁶ An Awakened Giant: The Hispanic Electorate is Likely to Double by 2030

<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2012/11/14/an-awakened-giant-the-hispanic-electorate-is-likely-to-double-by-2030/>

⁵⁷ Evolution of the Latino Vote.

http://www.nclr.org/images/uploads/publications/Evolution_of_the_Latino_Vote.pdf

⁵⁸ Id.

⁵⁹ Id.

heavily contested between the two parties. This may be a factor as to why we see Colorado having a higher voter turnout as more resources were spent in Colorado to educate voters and get them to the polls. In an election-eve poll conducted by Latino Decisions, they found that Latinos in Colorado had a 75% turnout.

Latino Voter Turnout-2012 Election-eve Polling ⁶⁰		
	Nationally	Colorado
Voted	43%	75%
Did not Vote	57%	25%

Voter Restrictions and Proposed Identification Laws

There were 41 states that introduced and proposed 180 new laws restricting voting leading up to the 2012 election. The restrictions included shortening the early voting period, requiring proof of citizenship, and making it harder to register.

In Colorado, there were laws introduced in the legislature that would have required voters to show proof of citizenship. Another proposed bill would have required voters to show identification at the polls.⁶¹ Both bills did not become law and were not in place for the election, but we should remain vigilant in our efforts to ensure that all eligible voters have the opportunity to vote for who they want to represent them.

CONCLUSION

It is apparent that there are serious disparities that exist within the Latino community in Colorado. While there has been progress made and glimmers of hope, the statistics show that progress for Colorado Latinos is very slow to develop. We must not get discouraged, but instead be reinvigorated to work even harder for policies that will help our families and communities, and Colorado as a whole.

In future reports, CLLARO will continue include more indicators of Latino progress in Colorado. As well as more in-depth analysis of those indicators, outlines for sound policy proposals based on the data, and community input. We hope that by compiling data from each of CLLARO's policy focus areas, the solutions to our problems will become clearer. We invite you to join us as we continue our work.

⁶⁰ ImpreMedia-LatinoDecisions Election Eve Poll 2012.

[http://www.latinodecisions.com/files/7613/5234/2212/Latino Election Eve Poll - By state.pdf](http://www.latinodecisions.com/files/7613/5234/2212/Latino_Election_Eve_Poll_-_By_state.pdf)

⁶¹ Election 2012: Voting Laws Roundup

http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/2012_summary_of_voting_law_changes/

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