

# 2024 Raíces Report



Illinois  
Legislative  
Latino Caucus  
Foundation  
(ILLCF)



UIC Great Cities  
Institute (GCI)

**UIC** Great Cities  
Institute  
University of Illinois Chicago



## Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation

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**Great Cities Institute  
University of Illinois Chicago**

### **Authors:**

**Alex Linares, Great Cities Institute  
Kimberly Fair, ILLCF  
Elham Pilegar, Great Cities Institute  
Drake Materre, ILLCF**



**Illinois Legislative  
Latino Caucus  
Foundation (ILLCF)**

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Oswaldo Alvarez, Executive Director, ILLCF  
Elizabeth Gutierrez, Chief of Staff, ILLCF  
Kimberly Fair, Policy Manager, ILLCF  
Senator Omar Aquino (District 2), Co-Chair, ILLCF  
State Representative Norma Hernandez (77th District), Co-Chair, ILLCF

Illinois Latino Caucus Foundation  
320 S. Canal Street, Suite 3300  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
[info@illcfoundation.org](mailto:info@illcfoundation.org)



**UIC Great Cities  
Institute (GCI)**

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Teresa Córdova, Ph.D., Director, GCI  
Matt Wilson, Ph.D., Associate Director, Workforce and Economic Development, GCI

Great Cities Institute (MC 107)  
College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
412 South Peoria Street, Suite 400  
Chicago, Illinois 60607-7067  
312.996.8700  
[gcities@uic.edu](mailto:gcities@uic.edu)  
[greatcities.uic.edu](http://greatcities.uic.edu)

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation (ILLCF) would like to express deep gratitude to all the amazing community members and partners who attended the 2023 Raíces Public Policy Conference. Each conversation, comment, and lived experience helped craft this report. We are honored to be entrusted to capture your thoughts and present them in a way that reflects many of the needs and wants of our beautiful and diverse Latiné community.

Special thanks are due to the ILLCF Public Policy Committee – Representative Norma Hernandez, Senator Celina Villanueva, Senator Karina Villa, and Representative Dagmara Avelar – for providing great insight along the planning process. Their collective efforts enriched the conference and brought diverse perspectives to the “policy” table and helped make the Raíces Public Policy Conference possible.

Thank you to the Great Cities Institute at the University of Illinois Chicago for helping guide this process and assisting in breathing life into the vision of placing community at the center of policy conversations. Their generous guidance and insight have been pivotal in creating a statistical narrative reflective of Illinois, which highlighted opportunities that exist for Latinos throughout the state, and helped facilitate conversations from an asset-based perspective.

Lastly, a heartfelt thank you to the exceptional session and group facilitators. Each demonstrated remarkable skill in involving attendees, fostering meaningful discussion between elected officials and participants, and imparting invaluable knowledge and insight within their respective areas of expertise.

This work would not have been possible without the collaboration, guidance, and input of those mentioned above. Thank you for coming along with us on this journey.

See you next year!

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## The Purpose of the Raíces Report

The 2024 Races Report is the outcome of collaboration between the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation (ILLCF) and the Illinois Latino Caucus (ILLC), which features community feedback provided at the annual Raíces Public Policy Conference held at Malcolm X College in Chicago on September 28, 2023. This report also contains data on key indicators within the five policy pillars of the ILLCF: Health Equity, Latiné Representation, Economic Justice<sup>1</sup>, Education, and Immigration & Language Access. The Illinois Latino Legislators will use the contents of this report to inform their 2024 legislative initiatives and sponsored bills as they advocate to address the wants and needs of Latiné communities.<sup>2</sup>

## Goals of the Raíces Report and Conference

We value the voices of the Illinois Latino community. We, therefore, structured the Raíces Public Policy Conference to serve as a forum for community input and interactive dialogue by conducting breakout discussions on various indicators within each of our five policy pillars: Health Equity, Latiné Representation, Economic Justice, Education, and Immigrant and Language Access.

The Raíces Public Policy Conference serves as a platform for us to listen to the community and gather feedback that will help create practical policy solutions. It is our goal that the Raíces Report becomes a guide for community partners, philanthropy, leaders, and experts to reference. The feedback featured in this report, although not exhaustive, unveils opportunities for deeper community engagement and allows industry leaders, philanthropists, and experts to use this as a reference for accountability. This report also contains metrics that can help pinpoint areas where efforts can be strengthened to authentically address the needs of Latino communities. When discussing these metrics, it is important to highlight that the burden of acquiring knowledge/information about certain programs or enacted policies is oftentimes unfairly imposed on our communities, leading to a misguided emphasis on the need for “education.” Rather than adopting a top-down approach that assumes a deficit in knowledge and or ability, an effective approach involves actively engaging with the community and collaboratively developing plans that align with their unique needs and goals. This is how we intend to continue our work throughout 2024.

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<sup>1</sup> The Economic Justice pillar was previously known as Economic Justice for Latiné Workers, Families, and Business in the 2022 Raíces Report. The title of this pillar has been shortened in this report since matters on Latiné workers were discussed in the Latiné representation section.

<sup>2</sup> Please note: to be inclusive and to honor both the language and diverse identities of our communities, we use Latiné and Latino interchangeably throughout this report.

Featured below are two quotes from Joliet Junior College students, providing valuable insights into their experiences within education and offering thoughtful recommendations on addressing educational challenges. This type of firsthand input is interwoven throughout this report, placed under the themes that emerged from various discussions. By incorporating perspectives from the Raíces conference, the report showcases real-life narratives that contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the challenges faced by those within Latino communities.

*“When I was in high school, it would have been helpful to have more information about scholarships and funding. I didn’t know where to look and they were very hard to find. Although I grew up hearing that scholarships are easy to find, they weren’t and this was very discouraging. Also, I didn’t have time to participate in extracurricular activities after school because I had to go home and help take care of my family. I felt intimidated in applying for the scholarships I found because I felt like I didn’t have a lot to offer.”*

*-Education workshop attendee, College Student from Joliet Junior College*



*“There are a lot of barriers in accessing higher education. The biggest one is the financial cost, it’s just too expensive. My mom told me not to apply to a university because we couldn’t afford a university. Although I found the City Colleges of Chicago Star Scholarship, which helped me go to college, without that opportunity I wouldn’t have gone to college. Even now, going to college, I can’t take as many classes as I’d like because I can’t afford to. Trying to go to college can be intimidating. For instance, not having the support from family, so you need to figure that out. No one in your family knows how to apply or understand the system, so you need to figure that out. These are very intimidating things and serve as additional “rocks” to prevent Latinos from going to college.”*

*-Education workshop attendee, College Student from Joliet Junior College*

## Main Themes Across the Five Pillars

Input and feedback collected from participants during breakout sessions reveal reoccurring themes across each of the pillars. The following four overarching themes provide insight into community members' concerns around jobs, community engagement, economic mobility, and political representation.

### Workforce Development

This primary theme includes goals such as diversification of the Latiné workforce, targeting youth development, and instilling leadership, language, and cultural competency across multiple sectors.

Also under this theme, increasing representation in the workforce, promoting paid internships and community services to increase youth and community civic engagement, and promoting career opportunities outside of the college to career framework.

### Community Engagement

This secondary theme encompasses the request for ongoing intentional communication throughout the year with political leadership. Under this theme, participants also envision community education guided by their input and feedback. Opportunities such as community workshops about existing government services and general information on special topic areas, such as economic and financial literacy programs could be tailored specifically for owners of small enterprises and street vendors to scale businesses.

Also under this theme, participants called for utilizing asset-based approaches to engage community members around promoting and celebrating achievements and milestones within the community is an approach that allows movement beyond the statistical data showing deficits.

### Increase Political Representation and Coalition Building

This tertiary theme calls for increasing Latiné political and institutional representation at various levels of government, boardrooms, school boards, institutional leadership on boards, and within coalitions. Importance of state legislators addressing the needs of Latiné communities to build trust and increase engagement with advocates that represent people from the community.



### Funding

This final theme explores both the expansion of specific programs and the evaluation of current funding appropriations. It underscores the need for funding increases to programs such as bilingual services, mental health, and state healthcare coverage for immigrant adults and seniors.

Funding was also framed by participants as an equity issue. Participants were particularly concerned with the State of Illinois' Evidence-Based Funding model.



## Summary of Raices Conference Feedback

The following represents a summary of the feedback given by participants of the 2023 Raices Conference to ILLCF's five pillars. Each section includes the topic that generated the most comments and two suggested approaches to that topic. A more comprehensive listing is found in each section of the full report.

### Health Equity

*Among health-related topics, participants expressed Expansion of Healthcare Coverage and Funding as a priority.*

Approaches to addressing this topic include the following :

- Expansion of the Health Benefits Coverage for Immigrant Adults (HBIA) and the Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors (HBIS) state programs.
- Expansion of affordable and accessible mental health care.

### Latiné Representation

*Among representation-related topics, the participants expressed Community Engagement/Feedback/Community Education as a priority.*

Approaches to addressing this topic include the following:

- Legislators should be a constant presence, not just during election seasons, but become a part of the community fabric year-round.
- Community involvement should also be in the form of community education workshops, worker centers, and state agency partnerships aimed at upscaling community residents.

### Economic Justice

*The priority topic mentioned by participants was Education.*

Approaches to addressing this topic include the following:

- Improve communication and trust between government and communities.
- Create opportunities to forge partnerships with organizations possessing the knowledge and resources to offer workshops and educational support to emerging businesses.

### Education

*The participants' priority topic was Workforce Development & Representation.*

Approaches to addressing this topic include the following:

- Create additional resources, particularly for teachers and teacher recruitment.
- Increase workforce development to be more inclusive and representative of the populations being served.

### Immigration & Language Access

*The participants' priority topic was Language Access within Government.*

Approaches to addressing that topic include the following:

- Increase bilingual staff in state government agencies.
- Conduct a needs assessment on bilingual speakers needed to meet capacity within the state government and its agencies.



## Process

The ILLCF held weekly meetings with its Public Policy Committee and research partner, Great Cities Institute (GCI). During the initial meetings, the committee identified key indicators such as small business grants, migrant crisis data, and mental health to mention a few, under each of ILLCF's five pillars: Health Equity, Latiné Representation, Economic Justice, Education, and Immigration & Language Access. These pillars were designed to address critical areas of importance that significantly impact communities of color. By establishing these key indicators, our aim is to strategically address the unique challenges and opportunities within each pillar. Additionally, a set of policy priorities was established under each indicator, reflecting issues impacting Latinos throughout the state.

Based on these pillars and policy priorities, GCI developed a series of fact sheets with indicators corresponding to each of the five pillars. Several facilitator meetings were also held to review each of the fact sheets and allow facilitators to construct presentations of their work as it aligned with the indicators. Consequently, five roundtables were organized, each dedicated to discussing the fact sheets on the policy priorities of each pillar. Each roundtable was led by two Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus state legislators, two session facilitators (experts in their respective fields from coalition-based organizations), and a supporting cohort of group facilitators who led discussions and took notes in two rounds of smaller breakout groups within each roundtable.

### The goals of the workshops and breakout group discussion were to:

1. Gain insight (direct knowledge, experiences, and input) from the fact sheet data to help inform legislative priorities around community needs.
2. Create dialogue between attendees, community leaders, and legislators, exchange thoughts, and build upon one another's ideas.
3. Deepen knowledge on specific topic areas through conversations and fact sheets.
4. Identify practical solutions to address the issues highlighted within the data.

### Each roundtable presented the following three questions to generate dialogue:

1. How does this data and the presented advocacy work resonate with your lived experience?
2. What solution or approach would you suggest in addressing challenges in what was just stated? a. Example: High School: I think we can reduce Latinos with "no High School completion" as the highest educational attainment from 30% of the total to 20% in 10 years. I think we can increase after-school tutoring programs for middle school students to have more prepared students as they enter High School.
3. Referencing the approaches/solutions you mentioned, what are your top three priorities?

Conference participants had the opportunity to attend two roundtable discussions. In addition to the conference, an additional focus group was conducted at Joliet Junior College with students to supplement the feedback.



## Conclusion

The Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation has taken the initiative to strengthen the bridge between policy makers and community members. This bridge is intended to serve as a connection between the community, stakeholders, and legislators to convene around solutions and public policy opportunities for Latinos throughout the state. This interactive and inclusive approach ensures that we can capture the needs of communities, help promote policies that are grounded in the realities faced by Latinos, and ensure legislators have an opportunity to actively engage in dialogue with community members. As we embark upon this journey, we've started this year by reframing our Annual Conference and Raíces Report to inform policy through direct community input.

At this year's conference, we gathered over 200 comments from over 500 attendees. The contributions from community members, community partners, and stakeholders in reaction to the data presented within roundtables helped shape this report. Attendees reacted to the challenges highlighted in the data and offered strategies to tackle issues impacting them and their communities.

Again, as stated in the opening of this summary, it is important to note these solutions are not intended to be exhaustive policy recommendations. Instead, they represent initial steps toward the development of comprehensive input from the community that will eventually help shape practical public policy solutions. The proposed strategies serve as the foundation upon which we will build the interactive policy bridge between the community, stakeholders, and legislators.

## FIVE PILLARS FEEDBACK AND DATA FROM THE RAÍCES PUBLIC POLICY CONFERENCE

The following section includes the main themes that emerged from the roundtable discussions from participants of the 2023 Raíces Conference for each of the five pillars: Healthy Equity, Latiné Representation, Economic Justice, Education, and Immigration & Language Access. Each section begins with the main themes that emerged from each pillar's roundtable discussions which include the participants' suggestions for addressing that topic. The participants' comments and feedback are then followed by a select offering of the fact sheet data presented to the participants of the Raíces Conference prior to engaging in the roundtable discussions. A full offering of the data tables presented to participants is found in the appendix of this report.

# HEALTH EQUITY

● CONFERENCE FEEDBACK  
● HEALTH UNINSURED RATE  
● DISABILITY RATE  
● MENTAL HEALTH  
● AGE ADJUSTED DEATH RATE  
● LATINO SHARE OF CAUSE OF DEATH

The Health Equity sessions generated seven themes from the roundtables. Under each of these themes, participants provided their insight.

## Funding for the Expansion of Healthcare Coverage

This theme is directly related to expanding healthcare coverage or increasing funding to existing programs. The Expansion of Healthcare Coverage and Funding theme had the most comments in the Health Equity roundtables.

Comments from participants specifically outlined the need for healthcare expansion and funding overall. In the conversations, some participants framed this in terms of increasing access and equity, while others mentioned specific populations such as the undocumented and the LGBTQ populations. Other participants mentioned that some participants could not enroll their spouses or other family members in their private healthcare coverage since they were undocumented.



### Solutions and approaches mentioned include:

- Expand Health Benefits Coverage for Immigrant Adults (HBIA) and the Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors (HBIS) state programs.
- Expand Medicaid coverage to reduce medical debt.
- Develop a cost savings analysis and economic stimulus study around HBIA to assess concerns about the program's cost.
- Adjust the minimum income threshold requirements since most working-class families might not meet the minimum threshold to be eligible for healthcare coverage.
- Expand healthcare coverage at the state level as a path to push for healthcare expansion at the federal level.
- Expand affordable and accessible mental healthcare.
- Expand coverage to include long-Covid.

## Develop a Bilingual and Representative Health Industry Workforce

The theme “Develop a Bilingual and Representative Health Industry Workforce” is composed of feedback related to the diversification of the healthcare workforce, increasing community healthcare workers, and comments on healthcare worker practices. It was argued by some participants that a bilingual and representative workforce would be able to better serve migrants and the Latiné population overall due to both their language and cultural competency.

### Approaches that address a bilingual and representative health industry workforce include:

- Diversify the healthcare workforce via student recruitment within the United States and abroad.
- Expand resources to support students with college applications, scholarships, and mentoring resources.
- Expand the Community Healthcare Workers (*promotores*) program that includes the development of certifications as a career pathway, and across areas such as high schools, libraries, and community organizations.
- Develop certifications or licenses for healthcare workers and paraprofessionals.
- Change billing practices to include social workers.
- Identify practices for reducing burnout among mental health professionals.

## Investment in Preventative Care

The “Investment in Preventative Care” theme includes comments on integrated services, holistic services, and preventative care. Discussions mentioned that healthcare services can be disjointed and fragmented. As practice, participants stressed the need for food access, housing, and mental health services.



### Addressing preventative care included:

- Identify and provide long-term investment in preventative care models for specific populations, such as the use of doulas during pregnancy to reduce mortality rates for mothers and infants.
- Specifically target families and young mothers.
- Allow for Medicaid coverage for the undocumented population before they reach age 65.
- Develop cost analysis on investing in preventative care versus addressing long-term chronic health conditions in state budgets.
- Provide mobile mental health services and address the wait times to access Spanish-speaking mental health professionals in emergencies.
- Increase the utilization and access to physicals and screenings among the Latiné population to prevent health risks.
- Increase the availability of sick days from work.

## Access to Health Across Technology, Language, and Culture

The “Access to Health Across Technology, Language, and Culture” theme includes comments on how access to health services can be improved by addressing those three areas. Technological access was referenced in terms of people who do not have access to technology, especially among the older Latiné population, or are in rural areas.

Language access mentioned the need for more mental and physical health providers who speak Spanish to address miscommunication and misunderstanding of diagnoses. Participants indicated that the children of non-English speakers are often used as translators who might not be able to explain medical terminology. Participants also mentioned greater difficulty in accessing service providers who speak Spanish in rural areas and downstate.

### Comments from participants on how to address access include:

- Modify educational tools that tend to be overly academic and adapt them for broad audiences.
- Provide awareness of and build trust in vaccinations.
- Utilize and assist public schools to support mental health and maternal health for both parents and children.
- Provide culturally appropriate materials to specific populations such as people with disabilities, the indigenous, and the undocumented.
- Address rushed sessions with doctors who might have preconceived biases toward non-English speaking patients.
- Improve child care and transportation options to better access health services.
- Identify ways to streamline processes that connect people to resources.
- Address care after regular work hours via the expansion of telehealth.

## Health Education

“Health Education” was a theme that mentioned the need for more health education or workshops presented to the community and additional training for health workers. Participants in the roundtables discussed they would like to see more state-level data on other health indicators such as disabilities, addiction, drug use, and mental health providers. Other participants suggested obtaining disaggregated data based on age, gender, and profession.

### Approaches to health education mentioned include:

- Increase public awareness of existing programs by conducting workshops, public campaigns, and utilizing the news and media.
- Deploy more community health workers (*promotores*) to increase health literacy in the community.
- Assist in navigating the healthcare system.
- Provide additional training for translators on medical terminology, cultural context, and being trauma informed.
- Bring awareness and education on certain diseases through outreach (diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and the effects of long-Covid on the ability to work).
- Provide outreach to young adults on accessing healthcare services and insurance options.
- Provide more public awareness campaigns on existing services such as Illinois Welcoming Centers, Charity Care at hospitals, and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs).
- Provide health education to combat public misinformation and build trust in health service providers.
- Provide continued public education around masking during flu season.
- Provide a database that shows mental and health service availability for undocumented individuals in the area.

## Access to Mental Health

“Access to Mental Health” was referenced in terms of addressing stress, self-care, burnout, and the difficulty in accessing mental health services. Participants mentioned in the discussion that mental health is still a taboo subject in the Latiné community.

### Comments from participants on addressing mental health include:

- Expand mental health services.
- Increase Spanish-speaking mental health care workers (social workers, psychologists, counselors).
- Address suicide rates among the younger Latiné population and destigmatizing mental health overall.

## Political Representation and Coalitions

The theme of “Political Representation and Coalitions” includes comments that expressed a need to increase Latiné political representation in various levels of government and to work within coalitions or other partnerships.

### Forms of addressing political representation include:

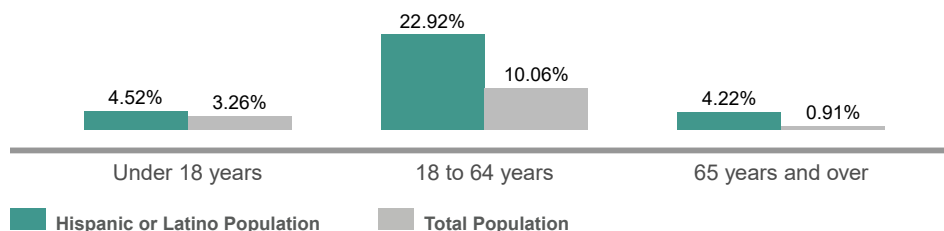
- Increase political representation across boards, state government, and municipal government.
- Allow opportunities for community-centered feedback in developing policy.
- Have nonprofits and advocates collaborate and share learning experiences from models such as Equal Hope, Alivio, Continuum of Care, and the navigation of Charity Care as hospitals.
- Model coalitions of other municipalities, such as Los Angeles and New York, that have worked to increase federal funding for preventative care.

## FACT SHEET DATA

The following are select data visualizations and maps presented at the roundtable discussions. Additional data tables are found in the appendix.

### Health Uninsured Rate

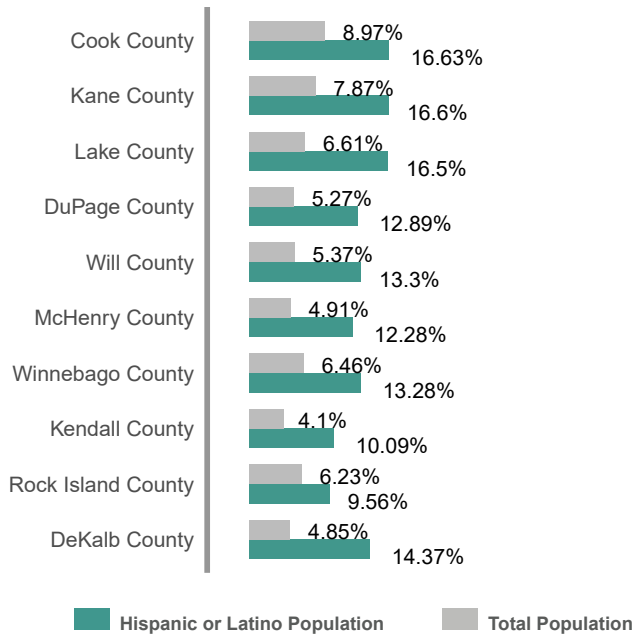
**Figure 1: Health Uninsured Rate for Total and Hispanic or Latino Population in Illinois (2017-2021)**



Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by the Great Cities Institute.

- Hispanic or Latinos age 18 to 64 had a larger uninsured rate compared to the total population, where 22.92% of Hispanic or Latino in that age group were uninsured compared to just 10.06% for the total population.

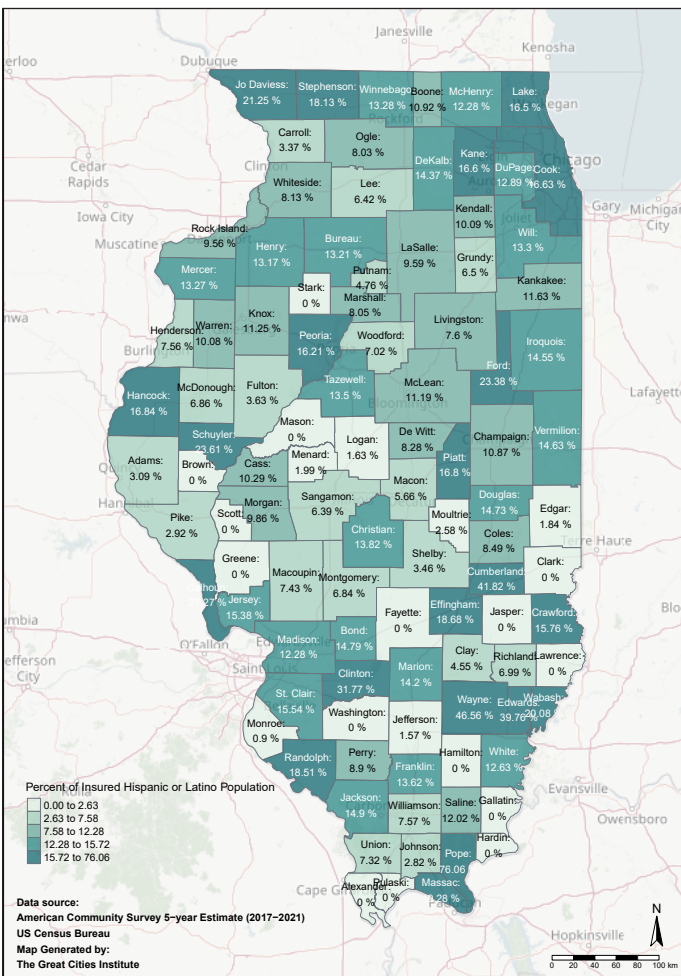
**Figure 2: Uninsured Rate in Top Ten Counties in Illinois with the Highest Health Uninsured Hispanic or Latino Population (2017-2021)**



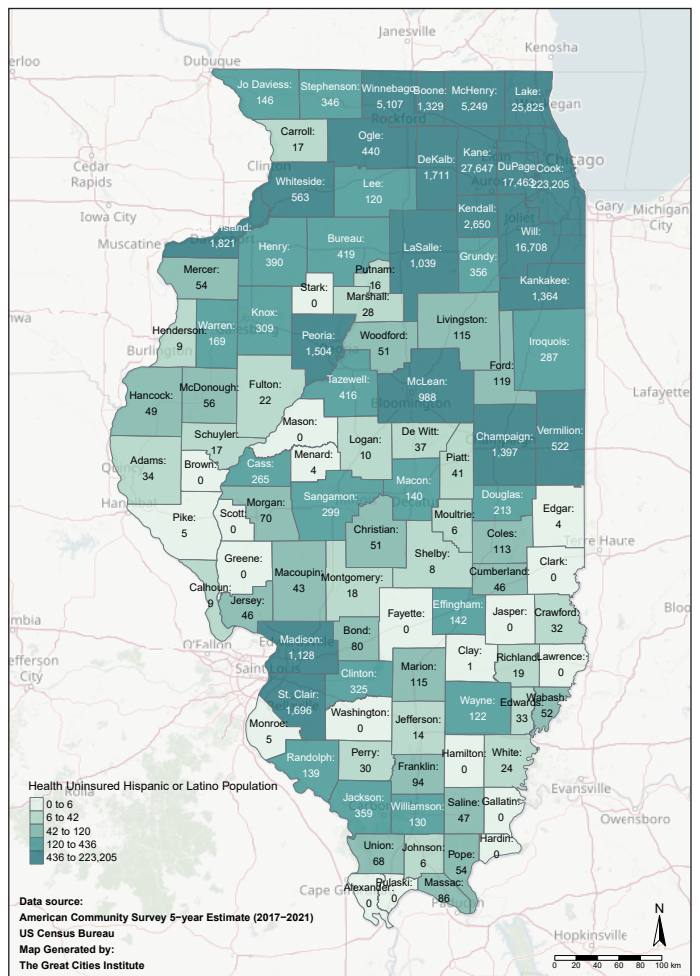
Ranked among the top ten counties in Illinois with the highest uninsured Hispanic or Latino population, Cook County takes the lead, boasting over 223,200 individuals lacking health insurance. Notably, Cook County, along with Kane County and Lake County, stands out with the highest uninsured rates, reaching approximately 16%

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by the Great Cities Institute.

**Map 1: Health Uninsured Rate for Hispanic or Latino Population in Illinois Counties (2017-2021)**

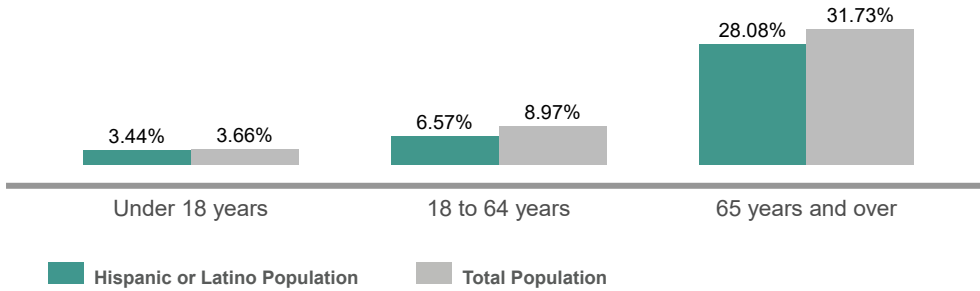


**Map 2: Health Uninsured Hispanic or Latino Population in Illinois Counties (2017-2021)**



# Disability Rate

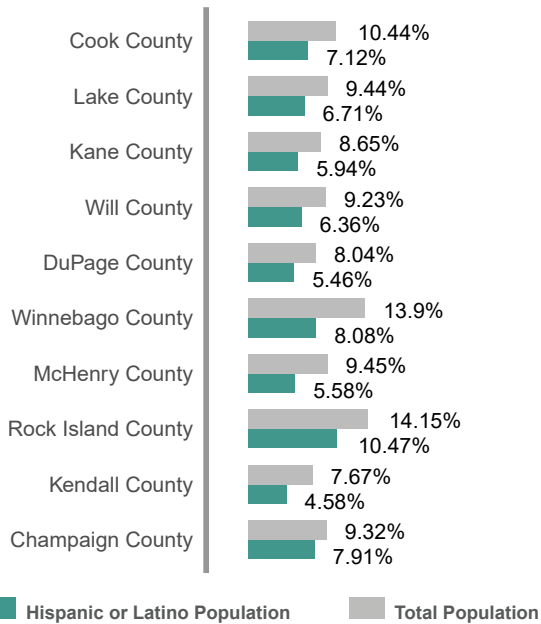
**Figure 3: Disability Rate for Total and Hispanic or Latino Population in Illinois (2017-2021)**



Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by the Great Cities Institute.

Among Hispanics or Latinos aged 65 years and over, there is a higher disability rate compared to other age groups, with 28.08% of Hispanic or Latino individuals and 31.73% of the total population in that age group reported as disabled.

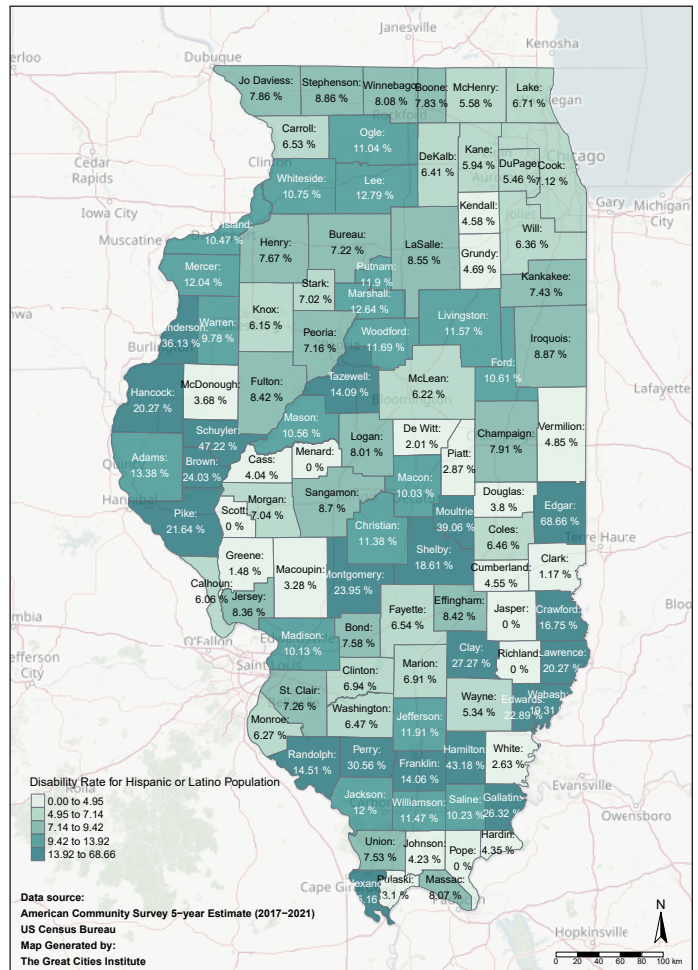
**Figure 4: Disability Rate in Top Ten Counties in Illinois with Highest Hispanic or Latino Population with Disability (2017-2021)**



Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by the Great Cities Institute.

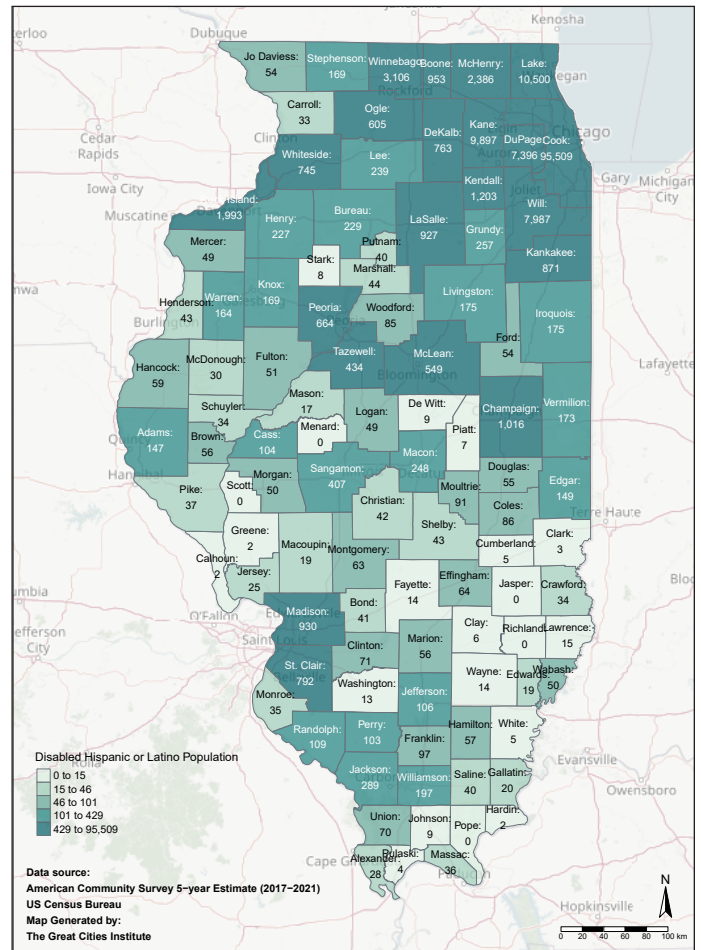
Among the top ten counties with the highest population of Hispanic or Latinos with disabilities, Rock Island County boasts the highest disability rate at approximately 10.47%, while Kendall County records the lowest rate at 4.58%.

**Map 3: Disability Rate for Hispanic or Latino Population in Illinois Counties (2017-2021)**





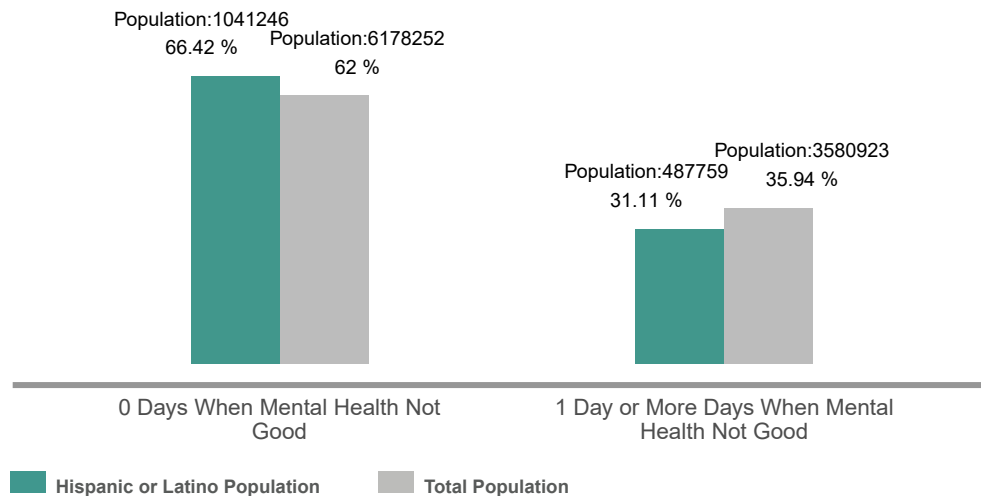
**Map 4: Hispanic or Latino Population with a Disability in Illinois Counties (2017-2021)**



- The northeastern region of Illinois, particularly in Cook County, Lake County, and Kane County, exhibits a higher concentration of Hispanic or Latino individuals with disabilities, comprising disability rates of 7.12%, 6.71%, and 5.94%, respectively.
- Conversely, counties with the highest disability rates are dispersed in the southern and western regions of Illinois. Edgar County leads with a striking 68.66% disability rate, followed by Schuyler County at 47.22%, and Alexander County at 45.16%.

**Mental Health**

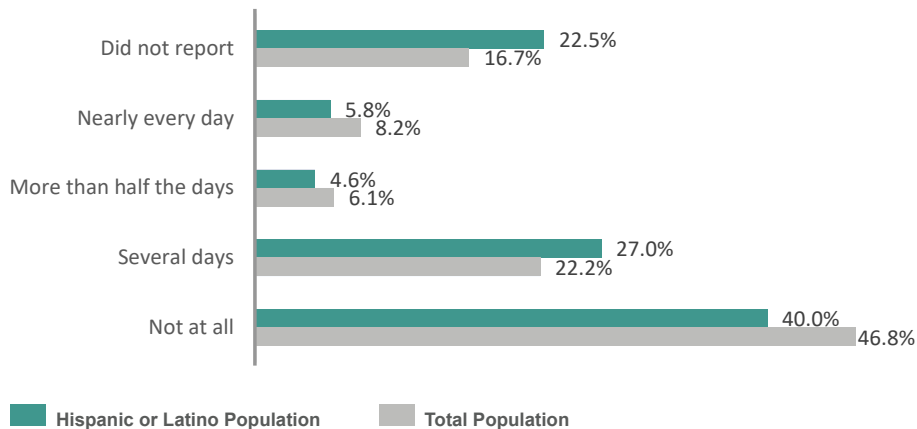
**Figure 5: Mental Health Status for Hispanic or Latino Population in Illinois (2022)**



Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by the Great Cities Institute.

- In 2022, around 66.42% of the Hispanic or Latino population reported not experiencing a mental health issue in the last four weeks. This percentage is slightly higher than the total population, where 62% acknowledged not facing mental health challenges during the same period.
- However, 31% of the Hispanic or Latino population and 35.95% of the total population in Illinois reported experiencing one day or more days when their mental health was not good during the same timeframe.

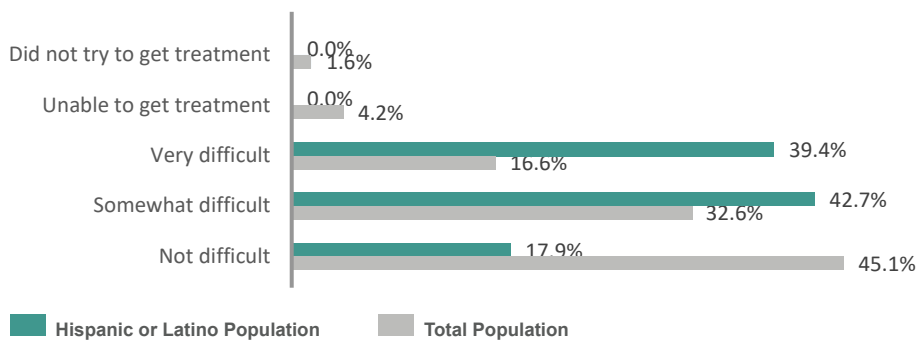
**Figure 6: Frequency of Feeling Down, Depressed, or Hopeless for Hispanic or Latinos in Illinois (2023)**



Source: U.S Census Bureau. Week 60 Household Pulse Survey: July 26 - August 7, 2023. Total Population 18 Years and Older. Tabulations by the Great Cities Institute.

- Among all adults over age 18, 40% report “not at all” on feeling down, depressed, or hopeless, which is slightly lower than the 47% reported by the total population.
- 27% of Latinos report feeling down, depressed, or hopeless for “several days,” slightly higher than the total population at 22%

**Figure 7: Difficulty Receiving Health Treatment in Illinois for Hispanic or Latino with Children who Needed Mental Health Treatment (2023)**

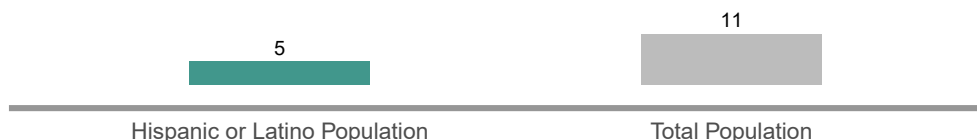


Source: U.S Census Bureau. Week 60 Household Pulse Survey: July 26 - August 7, 2023. Total Population 18 Years and Older in Households with Children who Needed Mental Health Treatment in the Past 4 Weeks. Tabulations by the Great Cities Institute

- Of those households that have children who needed mental health treatment, Latinos report more difficulty in receiving mental health services. 40% of Latino households with children who needed mental health treatment reported that it was very difficult to receive health treatment for their children compared to 17% of the total population.

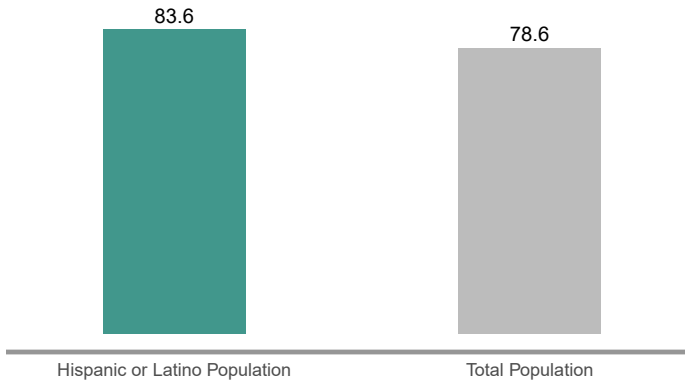
- 43% of Latino households that have children who needed mental health treatment reported it was somewhat difficult to obtain mental health treatment for children compared to 33% of the total population

**Figure 8: Suicide Rate for Hispanic or Latino Population in Illinois (2022)**



Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by the Great Cities Institute.

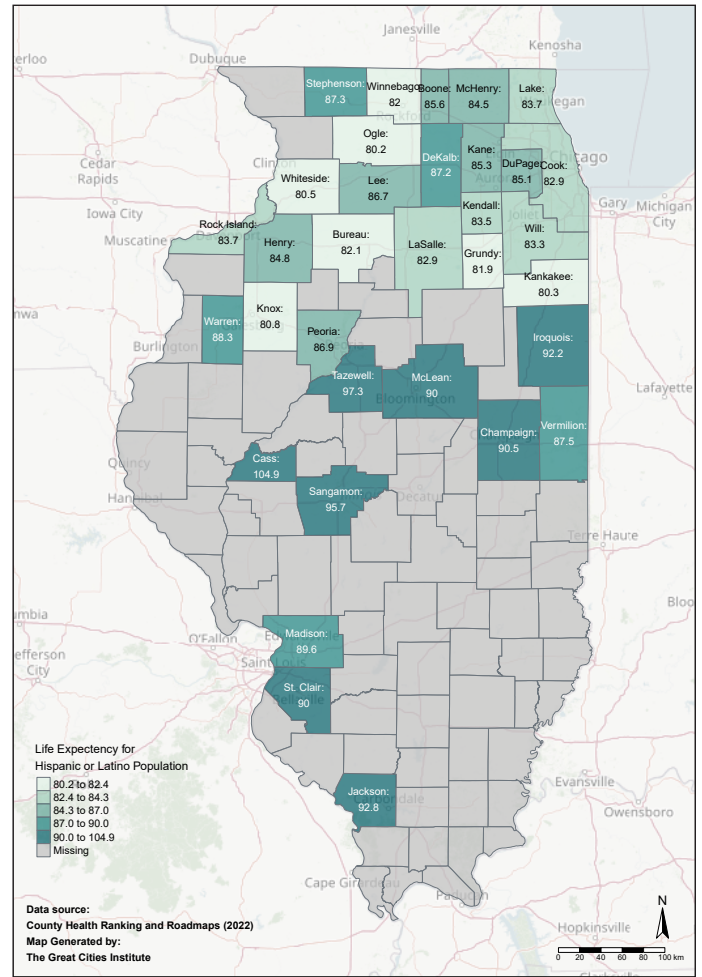
**Figure 9: Life Expectancy for Hispanic or Latino Population in Illinois (2022)**



Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by the Great Cities Institute.

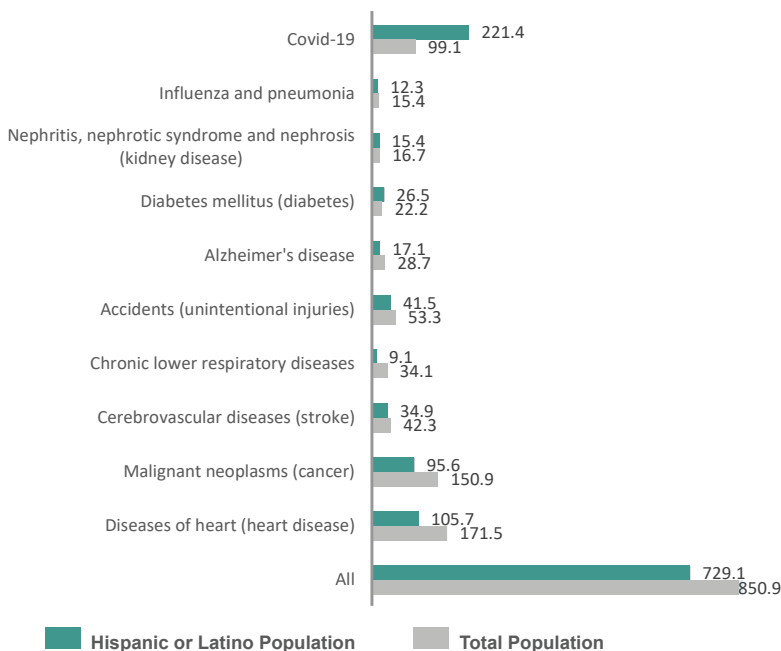
- The estimated average life expectancy for the Hispanic or Latino population in Illinois is 83.6, surpassing that of the total population, which is 78.6.
- While data on average life expectancy is not available for all counties, among those with available data, five counties report life expectancies over 90, with Cass County having the highest at 104.9.
- Notably, Ogle County, Kankakee County, Whiteside County, and Knox County have the lowest life expectancies among these counties, ranging between 80.2 and 80.8.

**Map 5: Life Expectancy for Hispanic or Latino Population in Illinois Counties (2017-2021)**



## Age Adjusted Death Rate

**Figure 10: Age Adjusted Rate per 100,000 in Illinois by Top 10 Causes of Death in Illinois (2020)**

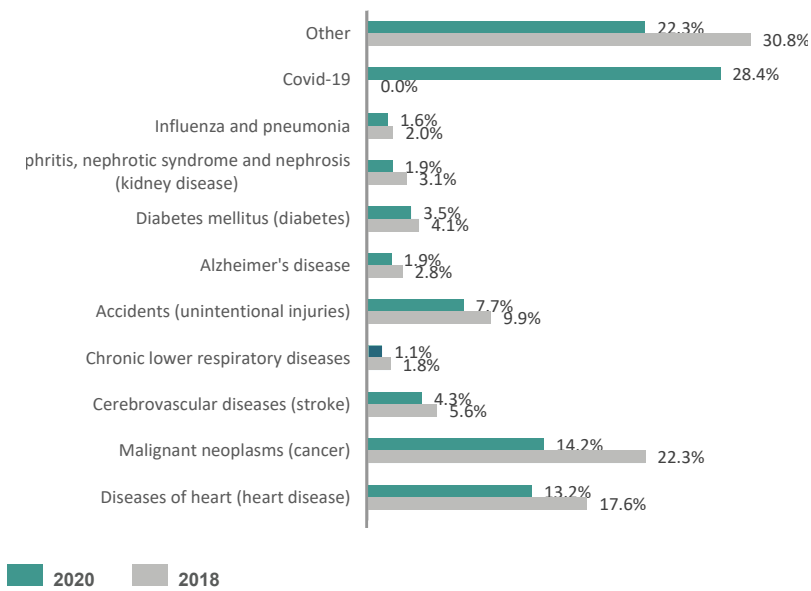


- The most recent available public data for the State of Illinois' morbidity rates is 2020, during the initial spread of COVID-19 in the state. In 2020, among the top 10 causes of death in Illinois, Latinos had more than double the death rate when compared to the total population and was the leading cause of death for Latinos.
- Among the top 10 causes of death in Illinois, Latinos second leading cause of death was heart disease at about 106 deaths per 100,000.
- While not the leading cause of death, Latinos had a higher death rate (27) of diabetes per 100,000 when compared to the total population (22)

Source: Illinois Department of Public Health Data Portal (2020). Tabulations by the Great Cities Institute.

## Latino Share of Cause of Death

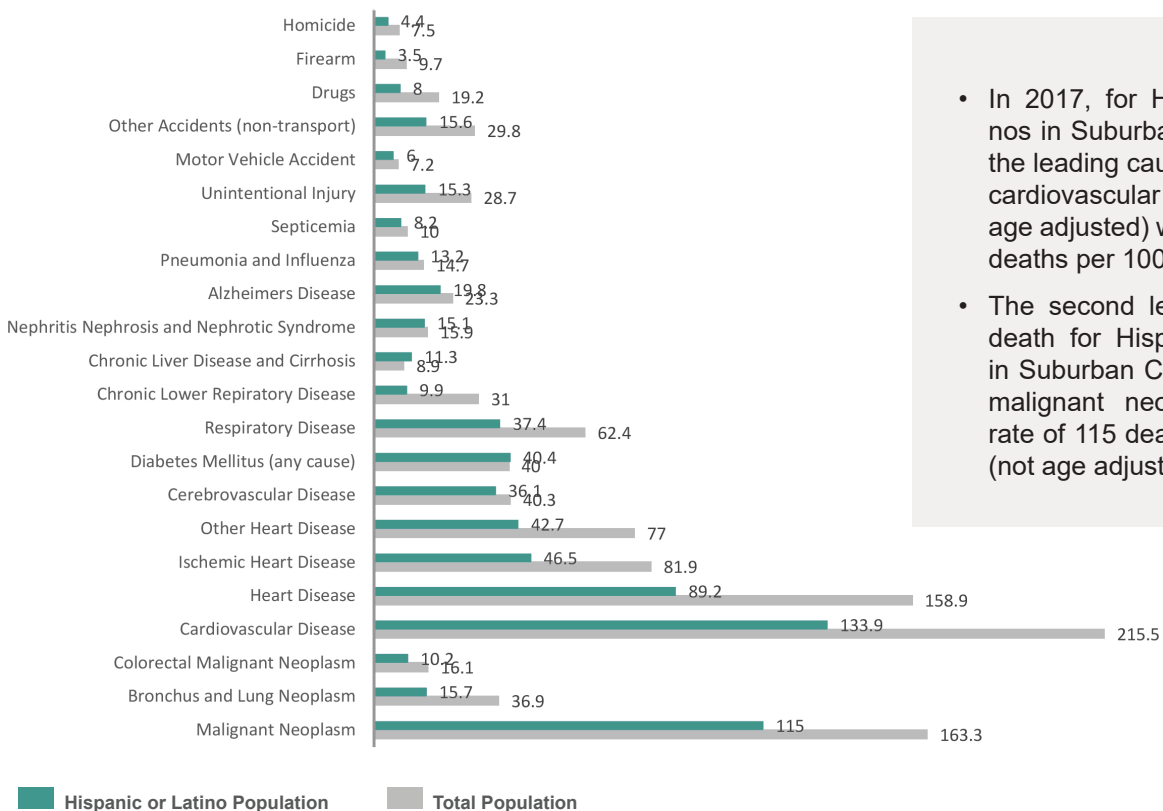
**Figure 11: Hispanic or Latino Share of Cause of Death by Top 10 Cause of Death in Illinois (2018 and 2020)**



- In 2018, prior to the onset of COVID-19, cancer was the leading cause of death (22% of deaths) for Latinos as categorized by the top 10 leading cause of death in Illinois.
- In 2018, all other deaths excluding the top 10 causes of death in Illinois represented 31% of deaths for Latinos. In 2020, this rate dropped to 23%.

Source: Illinois Department of Public Health Data Portal (2018, 2020). Tabulations by the Great Cities Institute

**Figure 12: Suburban Cook County Death Rate by Cause of Death for Hispanic or Latinos in (2017)**



- In 2017, for Hispanic or Latinos in Suburban Cook County, the leading cause of death was cardiovascular disease (not age adjusted) with a rate of 134 deaths per 100,000.
- The second leading cause of death for Hispanic or Latinos in Suburban Cook County was malignant neoplasms with a rate of 115 deaths per 100,000 (not age adjusted)

Source: Illinois Department of Public Health Data Portal (2017). Tabulations by the Great Cities Institute.

# LATINÉ REPRESENTATION

CONFERENCE FEEDBACK  
REGISTERED VOTERS  
BOARD MEMBERS IN ILLINOIS  
CORPORATIONS  
UNIONIZATION RATES

## Community Engagement/Feedback/Community Education

Participants stressed the importance of state legislators playing a pivotal role in addressing the needs of Latino communities.

### Responses mentioned solutions in the form of:

- Legislators should become a part of the community fabric year-round.
- Community involvement should also be in the form of community education workshops, worker centers, and state agency partnerships aimed at upskilling community residents.



## Leadership Development

The “Leadership Development” theme generated comments on fostering a stronger and more inclusive community that begins with placing more Latinos in administrative and decision-making positions within government. This would serve as a way to help combat the invisibility Latinos feel in certain sectors due to lack of representation.

### Approaches to address this and promote leadership development include:

- Generational mentorship.
- Collect additional data that provides details of Latinos in specific roles.
- Create pipelines, mentorship opportunities, and referral networks for informal learning.
- Warm handoffs through other points of contact at state and federal levels of government.



## Resources

Within the roundtables of Latiné Representation, participants mentioned identifying resources as a vital role in the pursuit of equity and justice.

### Comments from participants that identify resources include:

- Resources to help implement public policy that is reflective of the needs of the people.
- Have financial resources to help address the unique needs and challenges faced by the Latiné community and provide the appropriate tools and support.
- Funding equity is also a cornerstone of Latiné Representation, ensuring equitable distribution of resources, eliminating disparities, and bridging gaps that have historically hindered progress.

## Political Mobilization and Voting

For the “Political Mobilization and Voting” theme, participants indicated there is low political participation and connection with elected officials because more trust must be built. This is fueled by individuals feeling out of place due to the lack of Latiné Representation in political positions and some feeling out of place in predominantly White spaces.



### Mentioned solutions include:

- Building more trust between the community and government by meeting people where they are and using social media.
- Grassroots and institutional organizing.
- Creating training programs for young people to increase civic engagement.

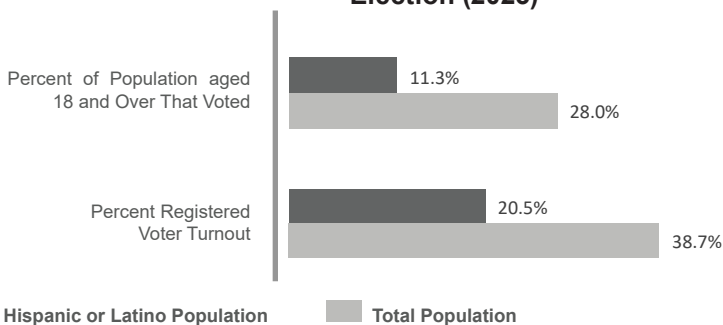


## FACT SHEET DATA

The following are select data visualizations and maps presented at the roundtable discussions. Additional data tables are found in the appendix.

## Registered Voters

**Figure 13: Estimates of Percent of Population Aged 18 that are Registered Voters and Voted in the Chicago Mayoral Run-off Election (2023)**

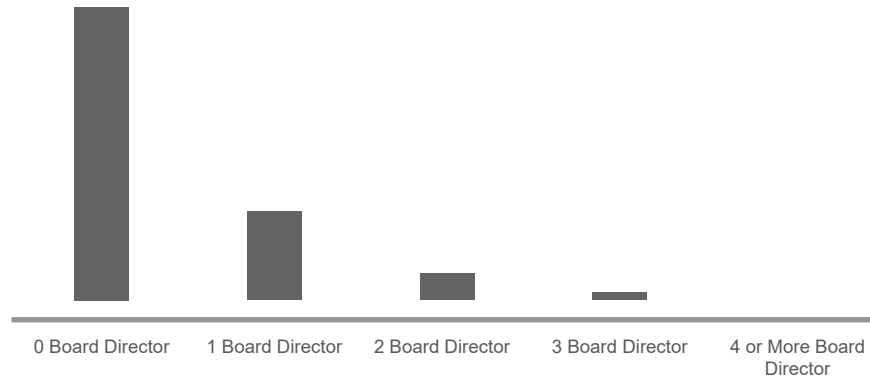


Source: Chicago Board of Election Commissioners (2023). Tabulations by the Great Cities Institute.

- During the most recent City of Chicago Mayoral Election run-off race between Mayor Brandon Johnson and Paul Vallas, the voter turnout rates for registered voters and for the population as a whole were much lower for Hispanic or Latinos than for the total population.
- An estimated 11.3% of all Hispanic or Latino over age 18 voted, less than half the rate for that of the total population.
- Of registered voters, only 20.5% of Hispanic or Latinos voted in the run-off race, an estimated 19 percentage points lower than for the total population.

## Board Members in Illinois Corporations

**Figure 14: Estimate of Number of Hispanic or Latino Board Members in Illinois Corporations (2022)**

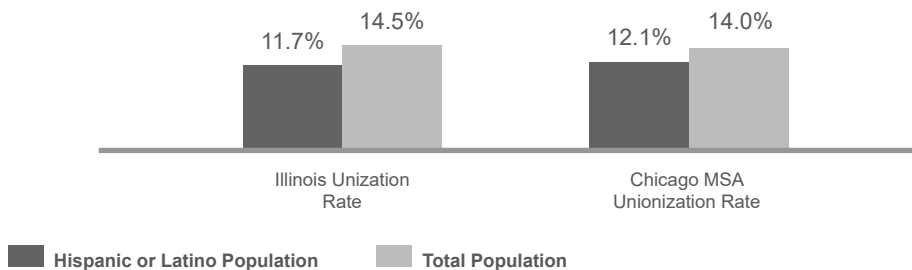


Source: The Office of the Illinois Secretary of State. Board Diversity Reporting (2022). Illinois Corporate Board Diversity, Inclusion, and Representation Report 2022

- Of all Illinois corporate firms reporting, the large majority (77%) had zero Hispanic or Latino Directors in their respective boards.
- Only 23% of Illinois corporate firms filed having at least one Hispanic or Latino Director in their Board for those firms that reported their diversity figures.

## Unionization Rates

**Figure 15: Unionization Rates for Hispanic or Latinos in Illinois and the Chicago Metropolitan Statistical Area (2021)**



Source: IPUMS-CPS database (2021). The State of the Unions, 2022. Illinois Economic Policy Institute.

- In 2021, rates of unionization are estimated to be slightly lower for Hispanic or Latinos (11.7%) in Illinois when compared to White not Hispanic or Latino (14.5%).
- Hispanic or Latino workers are estimated to have a slightly higher unionization rate in the Chicago Metropolitan Statistical area (12.1%) when compared to the State overall.

# ECONOMIC JUSTICE

CONFERENCE FEEDBACK  
OCCUPATION TYPE  
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE  
UNINCORPORATED SELF-EMPLOYED POPULATION  
EMPLOYED WORKERS WITH MULTIPLE JOBS  
WORK STATUS

## Education

During the Economic Justice<sup>1</sup> roundtable, participants' comments show a variety of areas around the theme of "Education" such as the need for more resources for educating youth on business development and opportunities for micro businesses to learn more about business, financing, compliance, and bookkeeping practices.

### Comments from participants that address the "Education" theme under this pillar include:

- A need for economic and financial literacy programs tailored specifically for small enterprises, street vendors (vendedores ambulantes), and micro-businesses.
- Using generational transition of knowledge and understanding; emphasizing the desire of the second generation to build upon the foundations established by their predecessors. As younger generations are inspired to create new enterprises, participants discussed the importance of resources being available to support them.
- Increase accessible and comprehensive information, resources for nonprofits, and Spanish-language guidance for women aspiring to embark on small business ventures.
- Create more support networks to engage youth in entrepreneurship.
- Improve communication and trust between government and communities.
- Create opportunities to forge partnerships with organizations possessing the knowledge and resources to offer workshops and educational support to emerging businesses.



<sup>1</sup> The Economic Justice pillar was previously known as Economic Justice for Latiné Workers, Families, and Business in the 2022 Raíces Report. The title of this pillar has been shortened in this report since matters on Latiné workers were discussed in the Latiné representation section.



## Advocacy/Promotions

The “Advocacy/Promotions” theme generated several comments during roundtable discussions. Participants recognized that the cultural landscape varies significantly across different locations, which necessitates the dismantling of cultural barriers to promote inclusivity and unity. Moreover, the discussions underscored the importance of celebrating achievements and milestones within the community, such as venerating businesses with decades of service. Another key point revolved around the balance between welcoming non-Latino individuals into Latino communities and ensuring that economic resources invested in these communities remain within, thus promoting coexistence and economic self-sufficiency.

### Approaches to address the theme of “Advocacy/Promotions” include:

- Foster communication and trust to create advocates for underrepresented communities.
- An increased role of local government in advocating for community support to bolster new businesses.
- Have a platform for business owners to voice their opinions as a collective community.
- Create more government funding sources for nonprofits, especially Latiné non-profits, foundations, and service work, and start-ups.

## Coalitions & Collaboration

Within the “Coalitions & Collaboration” theme, the comments highlight the importance of unity and collaboration among minority businesses, where they focus on working together rather than competing. Participants stressed the significance of having candid and sometimes uncomfortable conversations to devise better strategies for collective success.

Participants highlighted a few barriers to coalition building and collaboration, such as the cost of membership to join chambers of commerce. Participants also discussed cultural barriers that may hinder effective collaboration and understanding. Language barriers were identified as potential obstacles to cross-cultural cooperation, prompting discussions on strategies to bridge the linguistic divide.

Lastly, conversations revolved around the importance of welcoming individuals from outside the Latino community into their businesses and communities while also ensuring that the financial resources invested in Latino communities promote coexistence and economic sustainability.



### Suggestions to address the theme of “Coalition and Collaboration” include:

- Reduce or eliminate membership fees to help facilitate more collaboration amongst smaller groups.
- Foster alternative networks for business owners to support newcomers and underrepresented businesses.
- Economic coalition building across different partners from small/mid-sized businesses and public policy, and community partners.
- Create more funding to facilitate collaboration.

## Political Representation/Accountability

Participants' comments within the "Political Representation" theme suggested the importance of accountability to ensure that the experience and knowledge of those in positions of authority are harnessed for the benefit of the community. The participants also called for increased representation, and more data on Latiné businesses, especially woman owned businesses.

### Comments from participants that address the "Political Representation/Accountability" theme include:

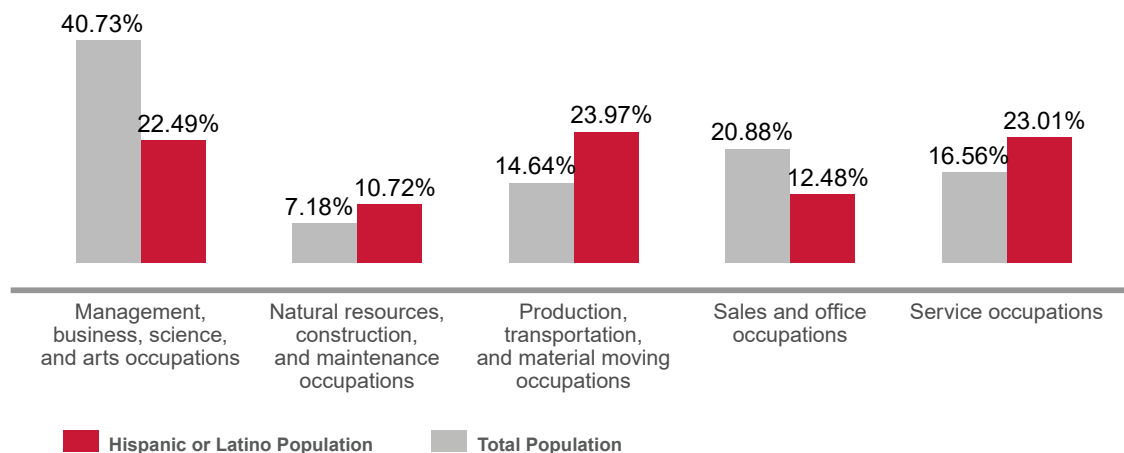
- Hold individuals in leadership positions who hold extensive experience accountable.
- Create better data/info collection on businesses.
- Have local government play a role in advocating for community support for new businesses.
- Identify systemic barriers.
- Create Latiné and African American coalitions to support those specific communities.

## FACT SHEET DATA

The following are select data visualizations and maps presented at the roundtable discussions. Additional data tables are found in the appendix.

## Occupation Type

Figure 16: Occupational %Share for Hispanic or Latinos in Illinois (2017-2021)



Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by the Great Cities Institute.

- Hispanic or Latinos occupations in Illinois are more evenly distributed when compared to the total population where an estimated 40.73% are employed in the Management, Business, Science and Arts occupations.
- Hispanic or Latino occupations in Illinois are highest in the service sector which employs an estimated 246,279 workers consisting of 23.01% of all Hispanic or Latino occupations.

# UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

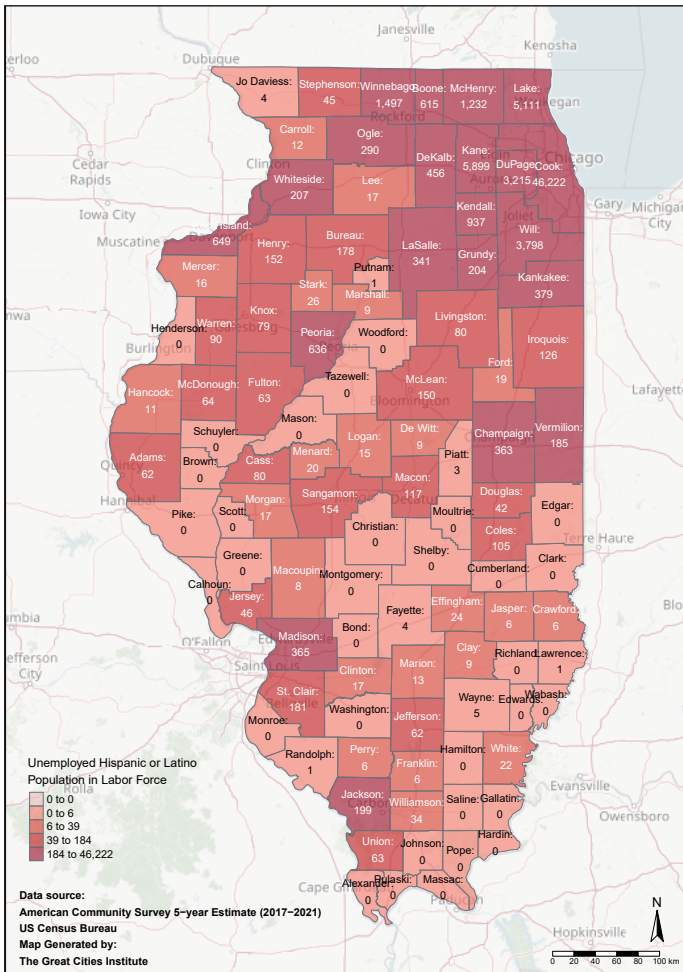
**Figure 17: Unemployment Rate for Hispanic or Latino Population in Illinois (2017-2021)**



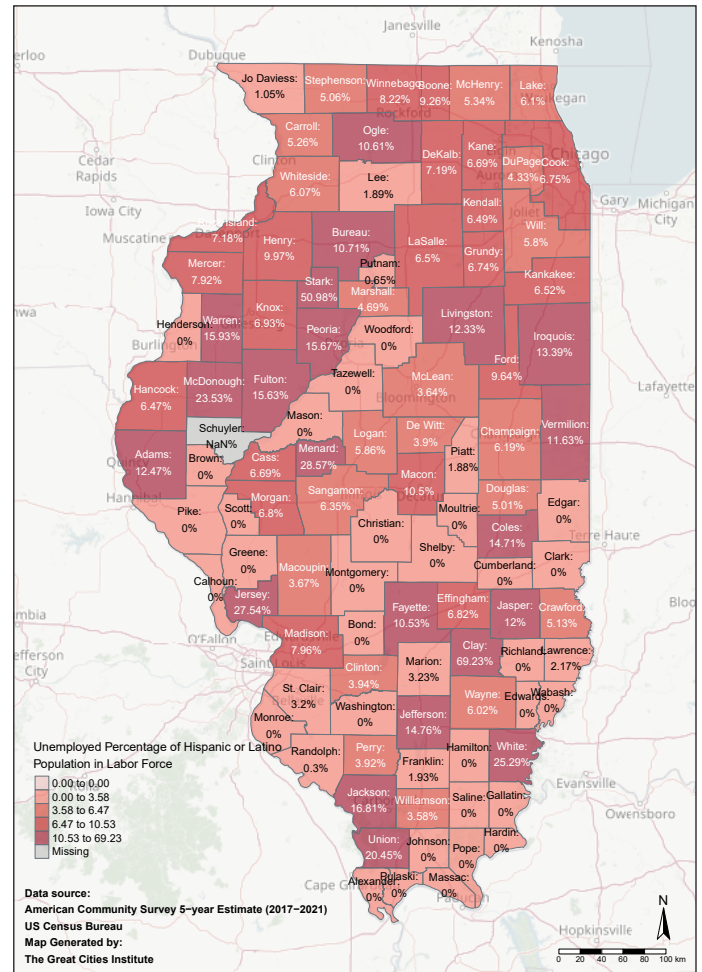
Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by the Great Cities Institute.

- employment rate for Hispanic or Latinos in Illinois at 6.54% was estimated to be similar when compared to the total population (6%).

**Map 6: Unemployed Hispanic or Latino Population in Illinois Counties (2017-2021)**



**Map 7: Unemployment Rate for Hispanic or Latino Population in Illinois Counties (2017-2021)**



- When comparing the unemployment rate by the counties with the largest Hispanic or Latino labor force, the highest unemployment for Hispanic or Latinos is in Boone County (9.26%).
- Winnebago County had the second highest unemployment rate (8.22%) followed by Rock Island County (7.18%).
- DuPage County is estimated to have the lowest unemployment rate (4.33%) among counties with the largest Hispanic or Latino labor force, followed by McHenry County (5.34%) and Will County (5.8%).

## Unincorporated Self-employed Population

Figure 18: Unincorporated Self-employed Population in Illinois (2022)

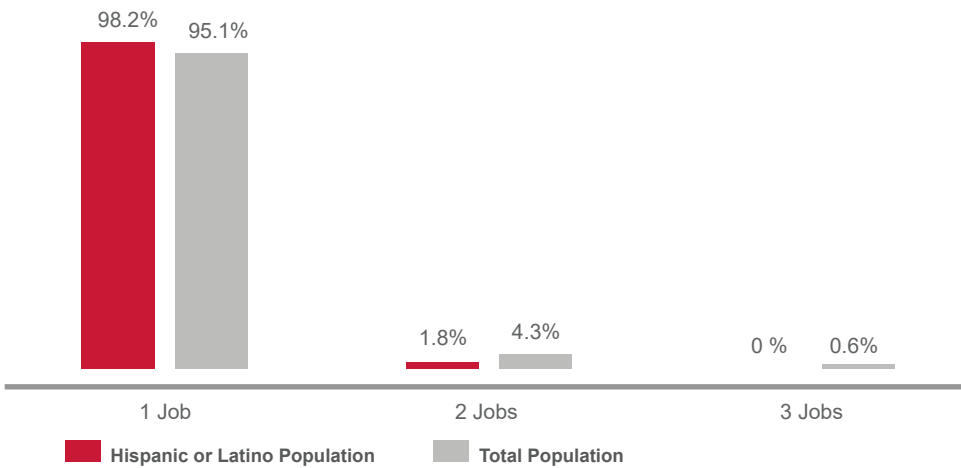


Source: IPUMS-CPS database (ASEC 2022). Tabulations by the Great Cities Institute.

- The estimated unincorporated self-employed population is one indicator for gig economy workers. In Illinois, an estimated 31,676 Hispanic or Latinos in 2022 were unincorporated self-employed workers or 3.02% of those employed.

## Employed Workers with Multiple Jobs

Figure 19: Employed Workers with Multiple Jobs (2022)

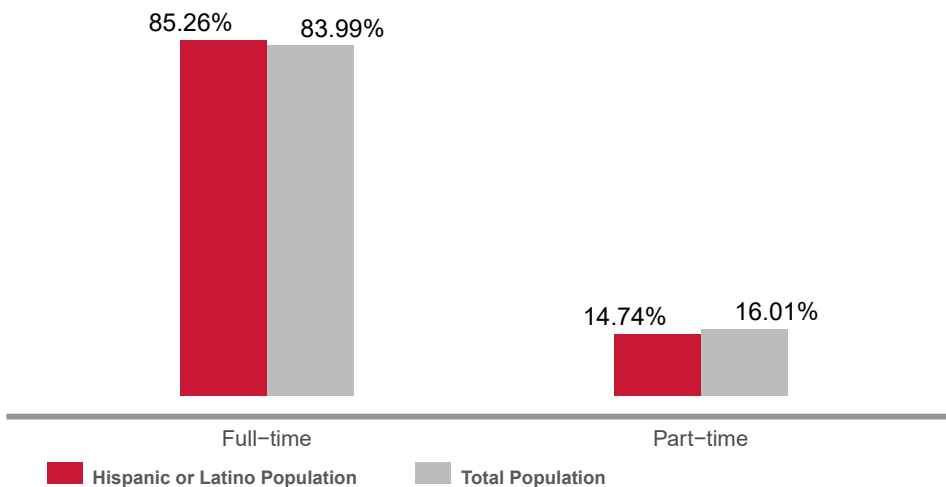


Source: IPUMS-CPS database (Basic Monthly 2022). Tabulations by the Great Cities Institute.

- Hispanic or Latinos workers are estimated to have slightly lower rates (1.8%) of multiple jobs when compared to the total population (4.3%).

## Work Status

Figure 20: Hispanic or Latino Work Status (Full-time vs. Part-time Jobs) in Illinois, 2022



Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by the Great Cities Institute.

- The share of part-time workers to the employed labor force is near parity between Hispanic or Latinos (14.74%) when compared to the total population (16.01%).

# EDUCATION

CONFERENCE FEEDBACK

FIELD OF BACHELOR'S DEGREE FOR  
FIRST MAJOR

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

PRE-SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

## Workforce Development and Representation

Participants discussed intersections between general workforce development for K-12 staff and in higher education for professionals and students. Participants also made connections between workforce development and the importance of representation.



Comments from participants under the “Workforce Development and Representation” theme include:

- Establish pathways to enhance Latiné Representation.
- Create additional resources particularly for teachers and teacher recruitment.
- Increase workforce development to be more inclusive and representative of the populations being served.
- Make leadership development culturally relevant and inclusive.

## Funding/Funding Formula

The “Funding/Funding Formula” theme generated a variety of comments regarding how education is funded. Participants widely discussed the State’s Evidence-Based Funding Model and how more funds need to be allocated towards the program using an enhanced school formula funding model.



Suggestions around the “Funding/Funding Formula” theme included:

- Encourage Latiné giving communities to invest more in education, especially in communities where they are from or have some familial connection.
- Ensure financial resources continue to be allocated toward education.
- Increase funding for school programs in underserved communities.

## Workforce Development

Although the “Workforce Development” theme was not in the top three comments discussed by participants, it is a meta-theme across all pillars. Discussions in this area were around general workforce issues, paid internships, and the normalization of fields outside the college to career framework.

### Suggestions that arose mention:

- Compensate students for internships.
- Expose students to various job/careers related opportunities.

## Engagement

Comments around the “Engagement” theme highlight the importance of family engagement within education. Additionally, family resources were named as an important piece of engagement. Similar to the priorities mentioned under the “Funding” theme, participants also noted the need to engage philanthropists and philanthropic organizations to support education within communities.

### Suggestions in the “Engagement” theme include:

- Reframe the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) model to be more inclusive and reflective of the culture within their communities.
- Create a bridge between black and brown communities to collaborate on advocacy.
- Work with parents to help navigate the education system and get them civically engaged.



## Higher Education

There were several items discussed under the “Higher Education” theme. Comments varied from language access, the Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) framework, and university costs within higher education.

### Comments from participants in the “Higher Education” theme include:

- Rework the (HSIs) at the federal level.
- Create more clarity on HSIs from universities, particularly on how the title of HSIs can be or should be used and how that relates to opportunities that may exist for Latino students.
- Create policy solutions allowing students to attend state colleges & universities for free if entering public service.



## Philanthropy and Civic Engagement/Political Representation

The “Philanthropy and Civic Engagement/Political Representation” theme had limited feedback but was a recurring topic in the discussion of education. Participants overwhelmingly stated that it is essential to engage philanthropic organizations and involve them more.

### Comments from participants in this area center on:

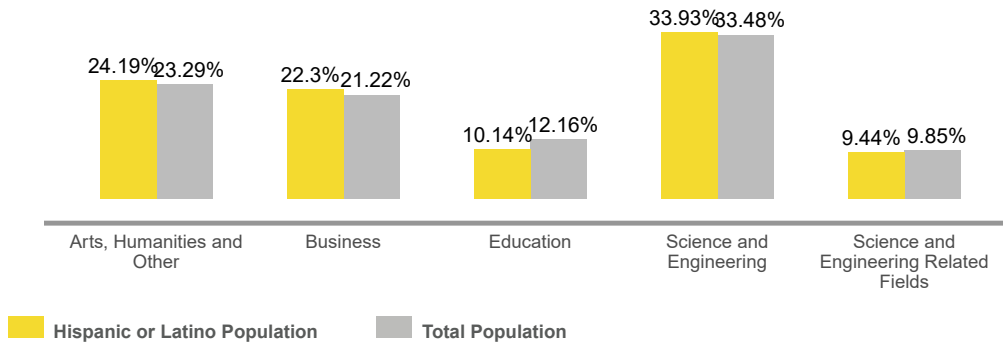
- Provide more opportunities to civically engage youth as a way of assisting them in being more involved in policy.

## FACT SHEET DATA

The following are select data visualizations and maps presented at the roundtable discussions. Additional data tables are found in the appendix.

### Field Of Bachelor’s Degree For First Major

**Figure 21: Field of Bachelor’s Degree for First Major for Hispanic or Latino Population in Illinois (2017-2021)**

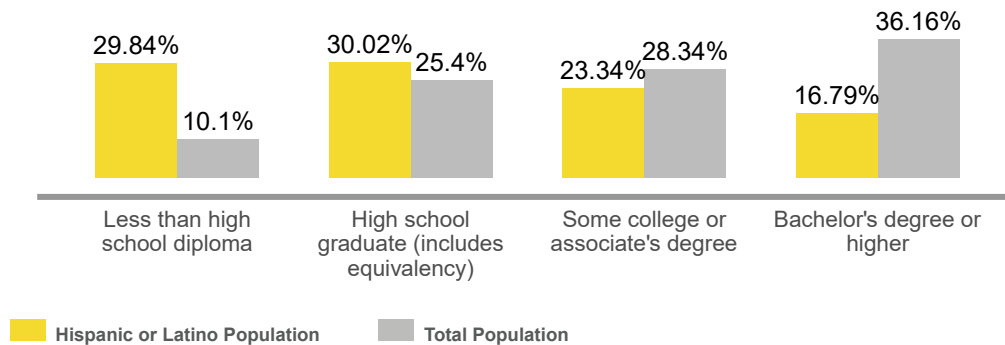


Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by the Great Cities Institute.

- Comparing the field of degree for the total population and Hispanic or Latino population with a bachelor’s degree in 2017-2021, no field had larger than a 2.02 percentage point gap between the two groups.
- For the population with a bachelor’s degree in 2017-2021, the largest gap in the share of a population’s field of bachelor’s degree was in the education field, where 12.16% of the total population had a degree compared to 10.14% of the Hispanic or Latino population.

## Educational Attainment

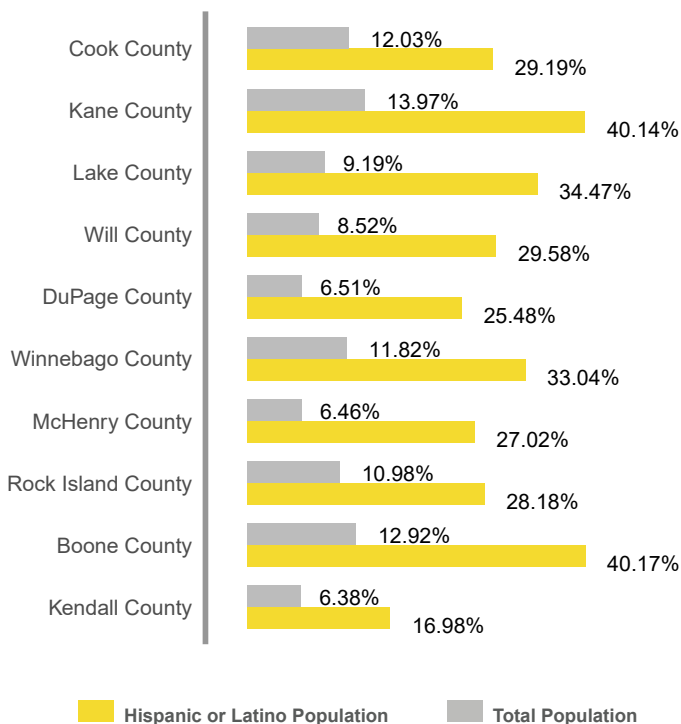
**Figure 22: Educational Attainment in Illinois For Total and Hispanic or Latino Population Aged 25 Years and Over (2017-2021)**



Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by the Great Cities Institute.

- 29.84% of the Hispanic or Latino population aged 25 and over in Illinois had less than a high school diploma as their highest level of educational attainment in 2017-2021 compared to 10.10% for the total population, a gap of 19.74 percentage points.
- 16.79% of the Hispanic or Latino population aged 25 and over in Illinois had a bachelor's degree or higher level of educational attainment in 2017-2021 compared to 36.16% for the total population, a gap of 19.37 percentage points.

**Figure 23: Percent of Hispanic or Latino Population Aged 25 and Over with Less than a High School Degree (Ranked by the Top 10 Counties with the Largest Count with Less than High School Completion, 2017-2021)**

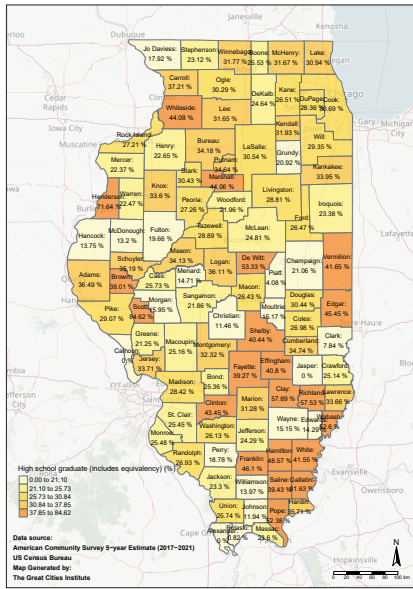


Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by the Great Cities Institute.

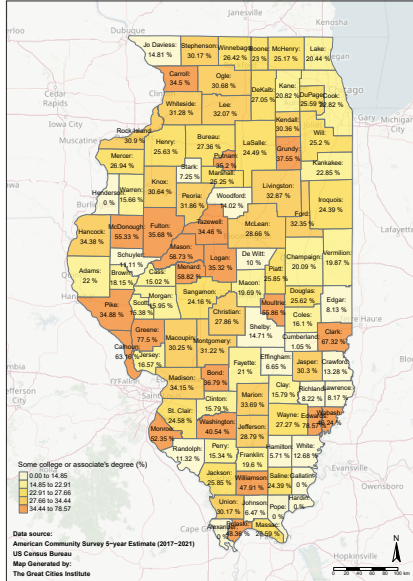
- Among the top 10 counties in Illinois with the highest number of Hispanic or Latino population with less than a high school diploma as their highest level of educational attainment in 2017-2021, four counties had a higher share of population with less than a high school diploma compared to Cook County including Boone (40.17%), Kane (40.14%), Lake (34.47%), and Winnebago (33.04%) Counties.
- The largest gaps in the share of population with less than a high school diploma amongst the top 10 counties in Illinois with the highest number of Hispanic or Latino population with less than a high school diploma in 2017-2021 were in Boone (27.25 percentage points), Kane (26.17), Lake (25.28), Winnebago (21.22), Will (21.06) and McHenry (20.56) Counties.



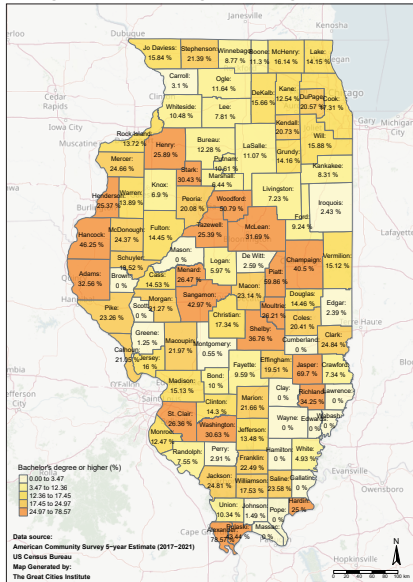
**Map 8: Hispanic or Latino Education Attainment: High School Graduate (Over Age 25, 2017-2021)**



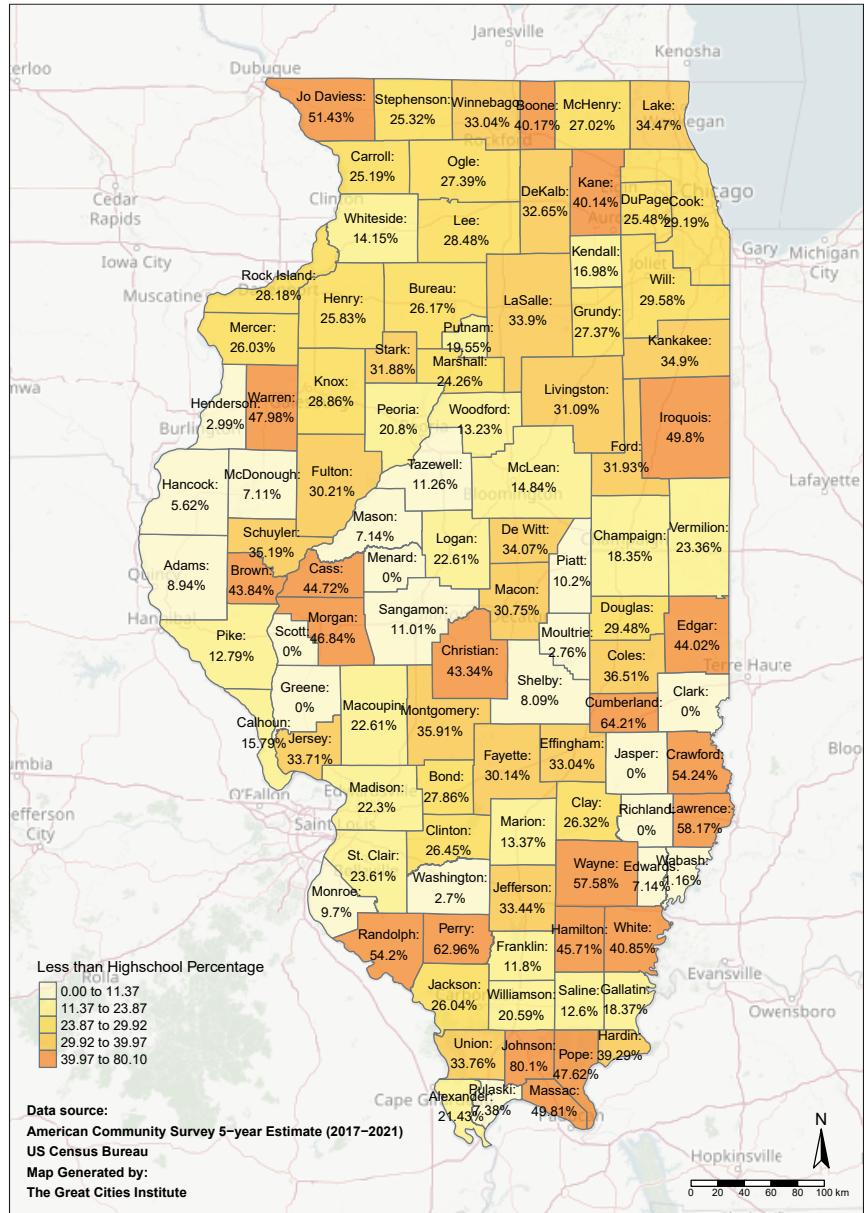
**Map 9: Hispanic or Latino Education Attainment: Some College or Associate's Degree (Over Age 25, 2017-2021)**



**Map 10: Hispanic or Latino Education Attainment: Some College or Associate's Degree (Over Age 25, 2017-2021)**



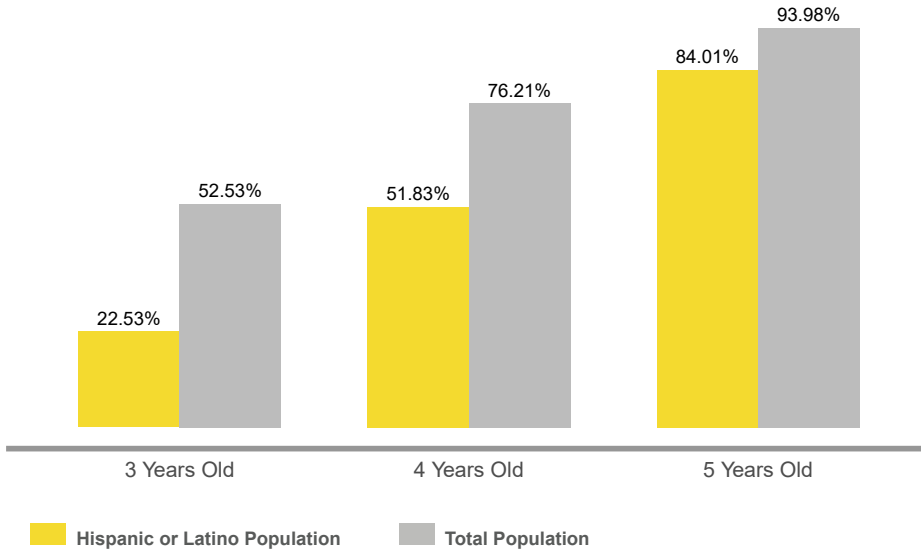
**Map 11: Hispanic or Latino Education Attainment: Less Than High School Diploma (Over Age 25, 2017-2021)**



- 29.19% of the Hispanic or Latino population aged 25 and over in Cook County has less than a high school diploma as their highest level of educational attainment in 2017-2021.
- Alexander County leads among other Illinois counties with the highest percentage of Hispanic or Latino individuals aged 25 and over holding a bachelor's degree or higher, boasting an impressive 78.57%. Following closely are Jasper County at 69.7%, Piatt County at 59.86%, and Hancock County at 46.25%.
- In contrast, several counties, namely Clay County, Wayne County, Hamilton County, Edwards County, Gallatin County, Pope County, Massac County, Mason County, and Brown County, report a 0% rate in this educational attainment category among the Hispanic or Latino population aged 25 and over.

## Pre-school Enrollment

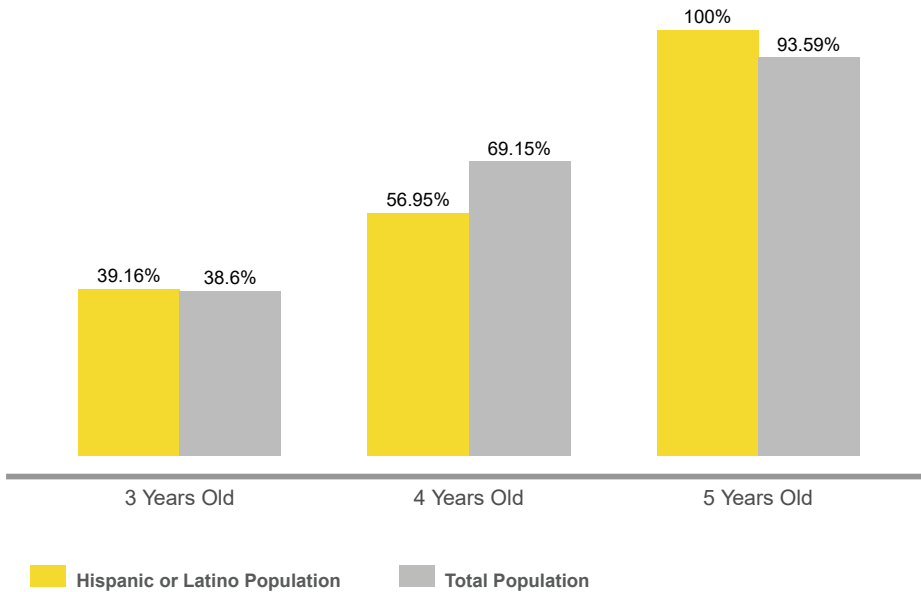
**Figure 24: School Enrollment Percentage of the 3-to-5-year-old Population for Hispanic or Latino Population (2021)**



Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021).  
 Tabulations by the Great Cities Institute.

- In 2019, school enrollment rates for Hispanic or Latino children ages 3-to-5 (67.48%) were slightly lower compared to those of the total population (70.13%).
- Hispanic or Latino school enrollment rates for 3-year olds was 39.16% in 2019, slightly higher than that for the total population (38.6%).
- School enrollment rates for Hispanic or Latino 4 years olds were lower for 4-year olds (56.95%) compared to the total population (69.15%).
- Hispanic or Latino 5 years olds were estimated to have higher school enrollment rates compared to the total population.

**Figure 25: School Enrollment Percentage of the 3-to-5-year-old Population for Hispanic or Latino Population (2019)**



Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021).  
 Tabulations by the Great Cities Institute.

- School enrollment rates for Hispanic or Latino children ages 3-to-5 (45.89%) were lower compared to those of the total population (73.25%) in 2021.
- In 2021, it was estimated that 22.53% of Hispanic or Latino 3-year olds were enrolled in school, less than half the rate compared to the total population (52.53%).
- The school enrollment for Hispanic or Latino 4-year-olds was 53.83% in 2021, much lower than the 76.21% enrollment rate for the total population

# IMMIGRATION AND LANGUAGE ACCESS

CONFERENCE FEEDBACK

HISPANIC OR LATINO FOREIGN-BORN  
POPULATION

ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH FOR  
HISPANIC OR LATINO FOREIGN-BORN  
POPULATION

ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH FOR  
SPANISH-SPEAKING POPULATION

The Immigration & Language Access roundtables generated seven main themes.

## Language Access within Government

The “Language Access within Government” theme includes all the comments about increasing language access for government services and bilingual workers. This theme generated the most comments in terms of prioritization. In the roundtable discussions, participants spoke about the lack of bilingual and bicultural employees in state service overall, and how one’s zip code can determine their level of access to bilingual information. Some participants related anecdotes of how they had to go to the city to have language access for services since there is a lack of translation service and translated materials outside Chicago in areas such as Kane County, rural Illinois, downstate Illinois, and Springfield. Participants commented on how younger children are still relied on to provide translation for their parents in multiple areas such as school and work. Participants discussed how informal translation service does not provide the same level of translation quality across the community. Some of these services with a particular need for language access include mental health, medical services, public assistance access, workplace issues, translation in emergencies (such as the flooding that occurred in the western Chicago suburbs), and the need for translation in follow-up processes beyond initial intakes.

Participants discussed the topic of language access in terms of having government and general information on social services available in bilingual or multiple languages. This was framed by participants as agencies and institutions being more sensitive to multiple languages and having an intersectional lens to assist those with limited English Proficiency (LEPs), where language usage does not need to be too academic.



### Some solutions presented by participants were:

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- Increase bilingual staff in state government agencies.
- Translation of materials and services beyond initial or introductory documents.
- Use different modes of translation services including technology or text messages.
- Conduct a needs assessment on bilingual speakers needed to meet capacity within the state government and its agencies.
- Provide standardization, training, and incentives for agencies to adopt best practices in providing culturally responsive service and language services.
- Update the State Services Assurance Act while also holding state agencies accountable for implementing language access plans.
- Develop legislation for mandating a specific percentage of staff available to serve non-English speaking populations in state service agencies that include Spanish and other languages to accommodate diverse populations.
- Use a regional approach to solutions since needs can vary across local levels.

## Community Engagement

The theme of “Community Engagement” generated several comments, including the need for leaders to circulate information and increase communication, approaches to community feedback, and the use of outreach for community education. Participants discussed the benefit of access to public data overall and that it can be an important element for outreach. Also mentioned that diversity within the Latino community, such as generational and cultural differences, need to be acknowledged. Improving general mass education, and helping the community know their rights were specific comments on what community outreach should target.



### Solutions for addressing the “Community Engagement” theme include:

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- Conduct engagement during evenings (past 5 pm).
- Outsource outreach to other organizations to build these ideas together and draw upon existing networks.
- Conduct outreach in culturally appropriate areas and where they already are.
- Use the community health worker (promotores) model in public health to other sectors.
- Create roundtables for analysis so families can be included in decisions as well as present proposals.
- Use data to educate communities and decision-makers on language access.
- Develop a single website where all networks and organizations can identify their resources and services for immigrants to learn about their rights in their language.
- Conduct outreach to promote existing state programs that are available to limited English speakers.
- Conduct outreach to educate the community when policy changes occur.
- Increase the use of social media to reach the community.

## Political Representation and Leadership

The theme of “Political Representation and Leadership” includes all comments related to increasing Latiné political representation. Some participants discussed how communities cannot stay stagnant and there is a need for communities to express their voices. Participants also mentioned the importance of elected officials to act sincerely and have empathy for the Latiné community so they can fight for policy that affects them.

### Approaches to addressing this mention:

- Recruit Latiné leaders into state representative positions.
- Hold elected officials accountable and have them provide transparency.
- Hiring to lead to more Latiné representation in state agencies overall.
- Increase school board representation and in positions of leadership and decision-making.
- Develop a task force to create an agenda to serve people with limited English proficiency and present concrete proposals that include them in that process.

## Funding and Taxes

The “Funding and Taxes” theme includes comments for increasing funding for bilingual services as well as increasing tax benefits for immigrants. These comments framed funding as an equity topic, where undocumented immigrants are not taken into account in how they contribute to the economy.



### Approaches to address “Funding and Taxes” include:

- Increase funding for language access program expansion.
- Expand the Child Tax Credits.
- Provide Social Security benefits for immigrants who pay into the tax system but do not see those benefits.

## Workforce Development

The theme of “Workforce Development” includes comments for increasing the bilingual workforce across several sectors.

### Approaches to the “Workforce Development” theme include:

- Increase English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers.
- Increase bilingual staff in government and across different sectors.
- Advocate for state-based workforce authorization for new arrivals.
- Develop incentives for employees to hire bilingual or bicultural staff generally.
- Provide for standardization of staff eligible for state-level administrative hiring that receives a 5% salary increase for being bilingual.
- Identify pathways to higher paying jobs.

## Immigration Reform and Work Permits

The theme “Immigration Reform and Work Permits” are framed in terms of either comprehensive immigration reform or state-level reform to allow work permits for undocumented workers. Participants’ discussed in the roundtables that there are skilled workers who are unable to enter positions of power because they are undocumented. Participants mentioned that there is still a big fear in the community of family separation from arrests and deportation and that it remains an urgent topic.

### Suggested approaches to the “Immigration Reform and Work Permits” theme include:

- Allow state-level work permits.
- Allow for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for the Latiné populations.
- Create education programs to allow migrant workers to transfer their existing skills to the state.
- Advocate for immigration reform overall which remains urgent.

## Education and Language Programs

The “Education and Language Programs” theme includes comments that called for expanding English as a Second Language programs or increasing funding to support those programs. Participants mentioned the relationship between low-wage jobs and limited English proficiency, and how education in general serves as a pathway out of poverty.

### Approaches to address the “Education and Language Programs” theme include:

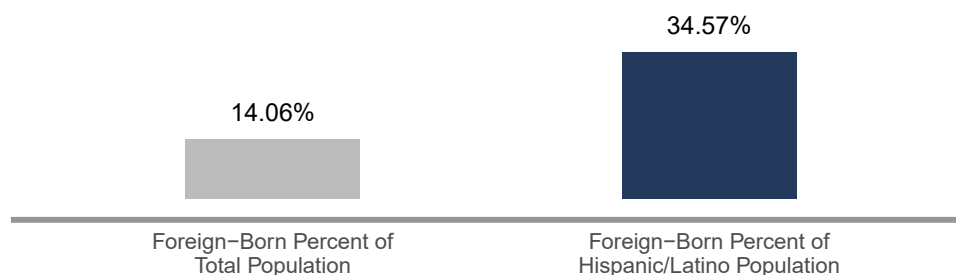
- The need for schools and centers to assist in continued English language skill development.
- Increase more English language learning centers overall.
- Provide general education on navigating government systems.

Other comments made by participants at the Immigration & Language Access roundtables were to expand healthcare coverage for migrants, open more Welcoming Centers across the state, and incorporate housing protections in revitalization projects.

## FACT SHEET DATA

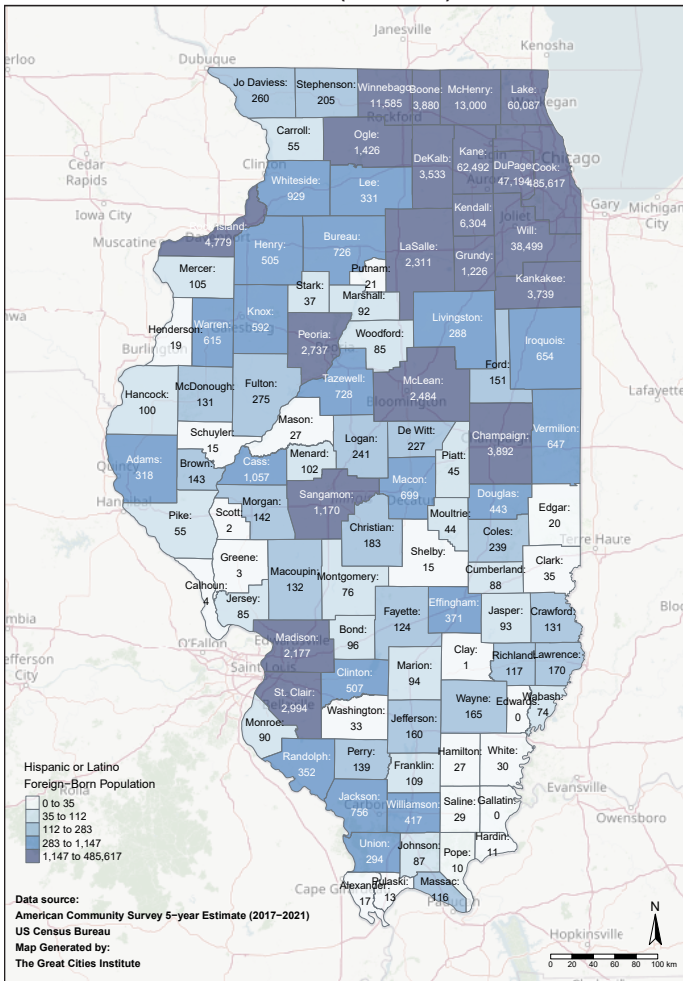
The following are select data visualizations and maps presented at the roundtable discussions. Additional data tables are found in the appendix.

### Hispanic or Latino Foreign-Born Population

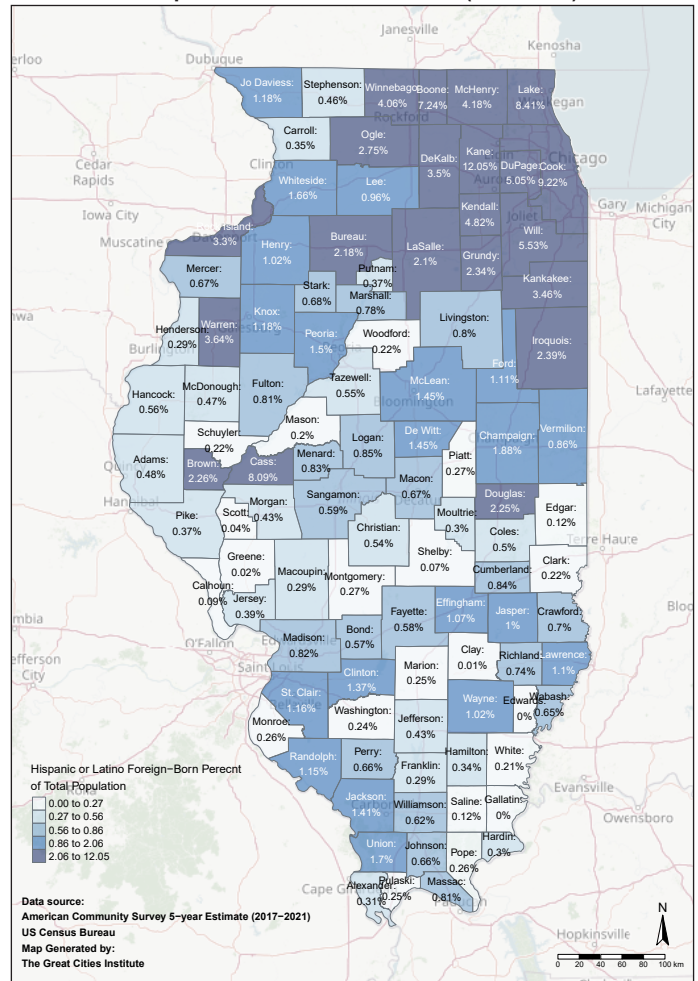


Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by the Great Cities Institute.

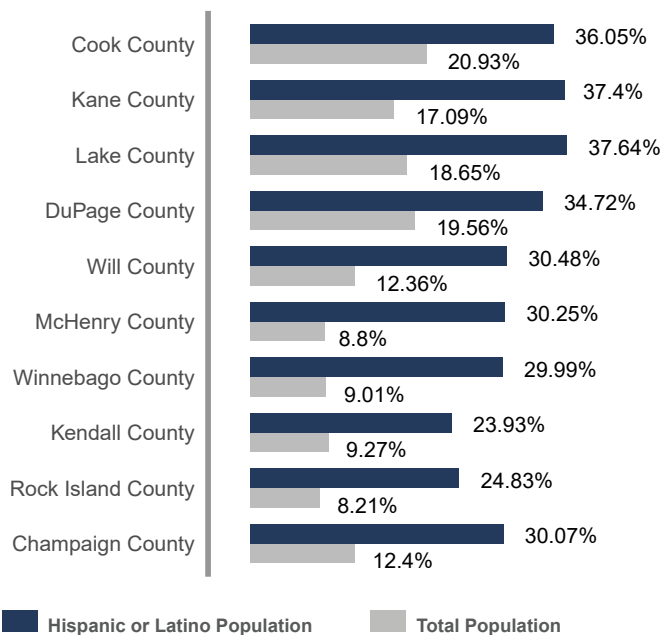
**Map 12: Hispanic or Latino Foreign-Born Population in Illinois Counties (2017-2021)**



**Map 13: Hispanic or Latino Foreign-Born Percentage of Total Population in Illinois Counties (2017-2021)**



**Figure 26: Percent of Foreign-Born Population in Top Ten Counties with the Highest Hispanic or Latino Foreign-Born Population (2017-2021)**

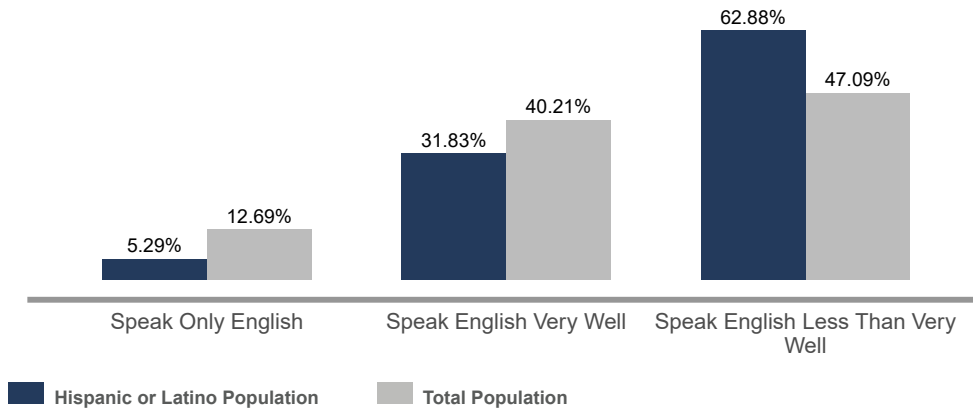


- 36.05% of Cook County’s Hispanic or Latino population was foreign-born in 2017-2021.
- Kane (37.4%) and Lake (37.64%) counties had a larger share of their Hispanic or Latino population that was foreign-born compared to Cook County (36.05%) while DuPage County had just a 1.33 percentage points lower share.
- As a percent of the total county population, Kane County had the largest share of foreign-born Hispanic or Latinos (12.05%) in 2017-2021, followed by Cook County (9.22%) and Lake County (8.41%).

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by the Great Cities Institute.

# Ability to Speak English For Hispanic Or Latino Foreign-Born Population

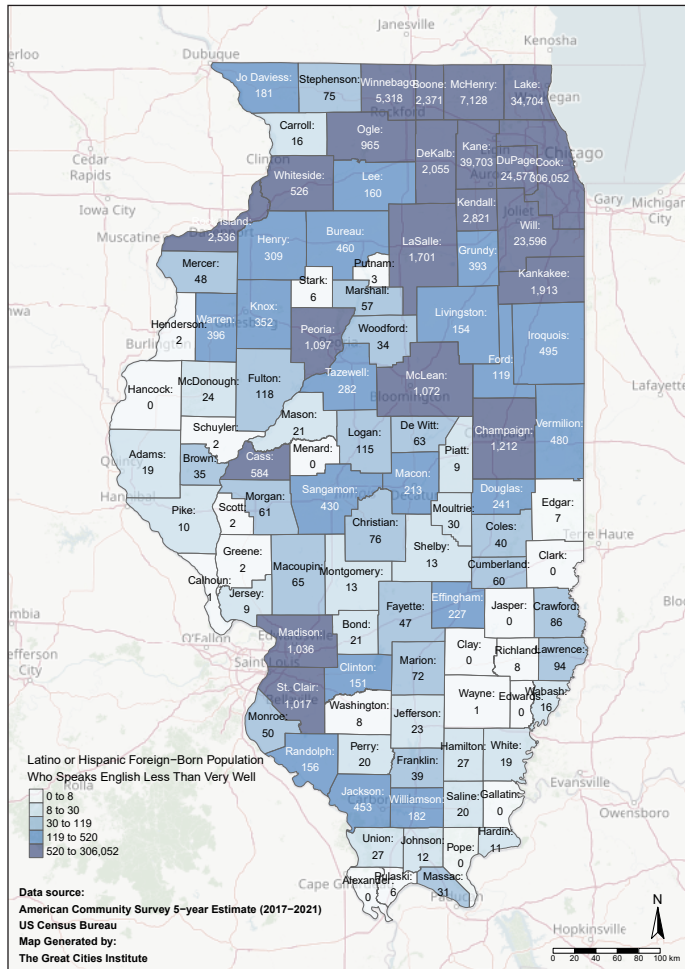
Figure 27: Ability to Speak English for Hispanic or Latino Foreign-Born Population % Year and Over (2017-2021)



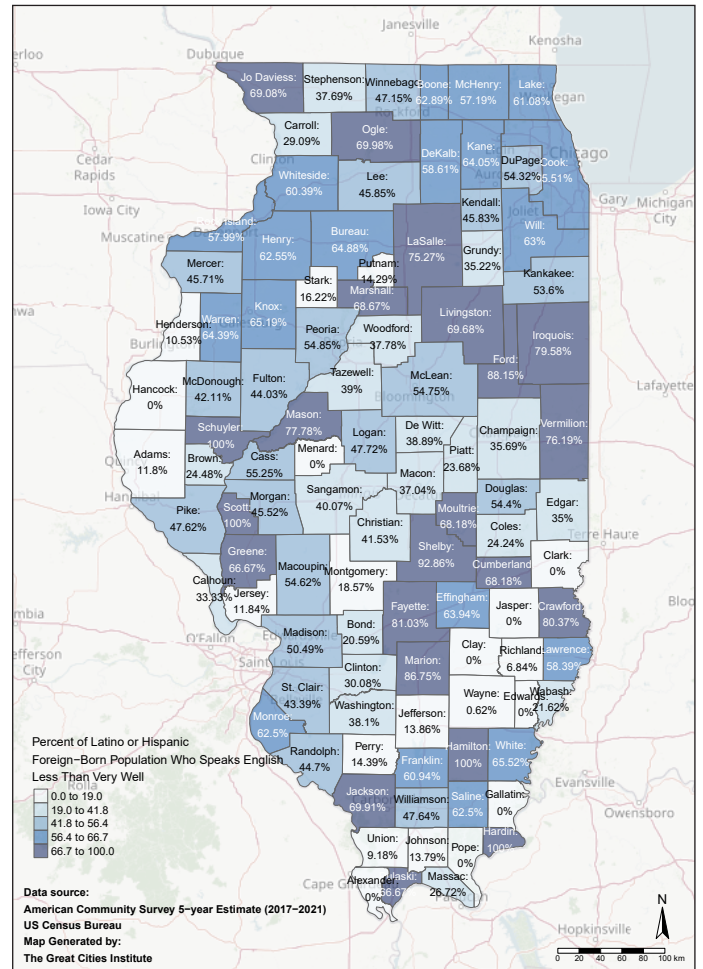
Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by the Great Cities Institute.

- For the foreign-born population aged 5 years old and over in 2017-2021, 47.09% spoke English less than very well, 40.21% spoke English very well, and 12.69% only spoke English.
- For the Hispanic or Latino foreign-born population aged 5 years old and over in 2017-2021, 62.88% spoke English less than very well, 31.83% spoke English very well, and 5.29% only spoke English.

Map 14: Hispanic or Latino Foreign-Born Population Who Speaks English Less Than Very Well in Illinois Counties (2017-2021)



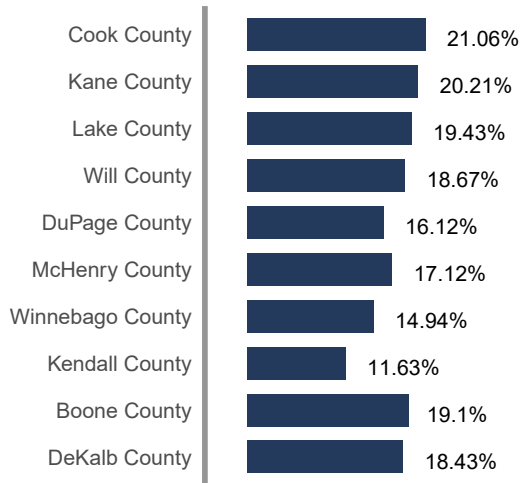
Map 15: Percentage of Hispanic or Latino Foreign-Born Population Who Speaks English Less Than Very Well in Illinois Counties (2017-2021)





# Ability To Speak English For Spanish-Speaking Population

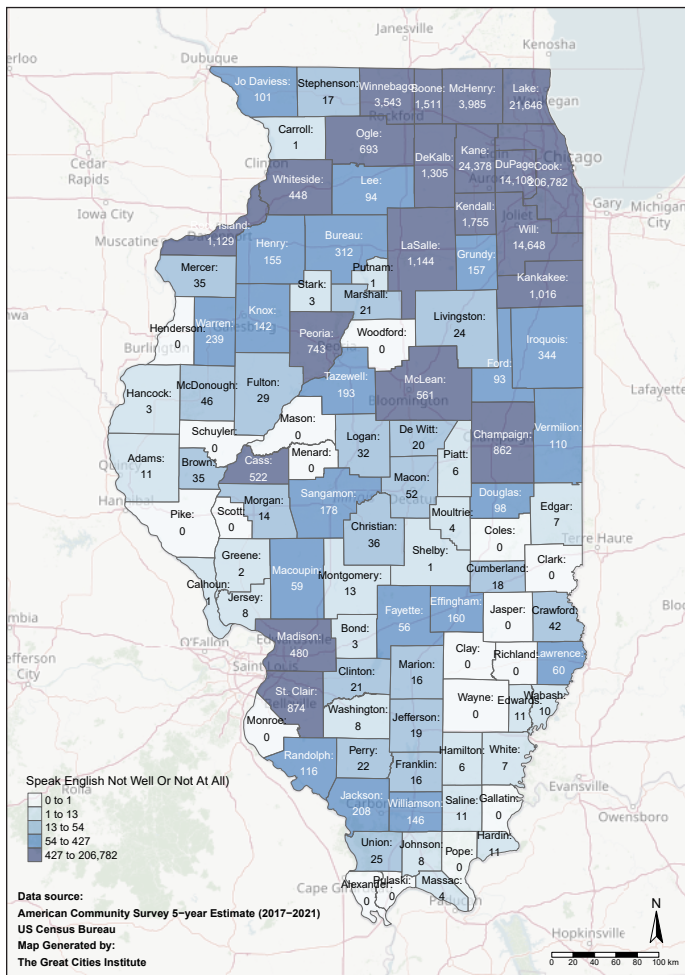
**Figure 28: Percent of Spanish-Speaking Hispanic or Latino with Limited Language Proficiency in Top Ten Counties**



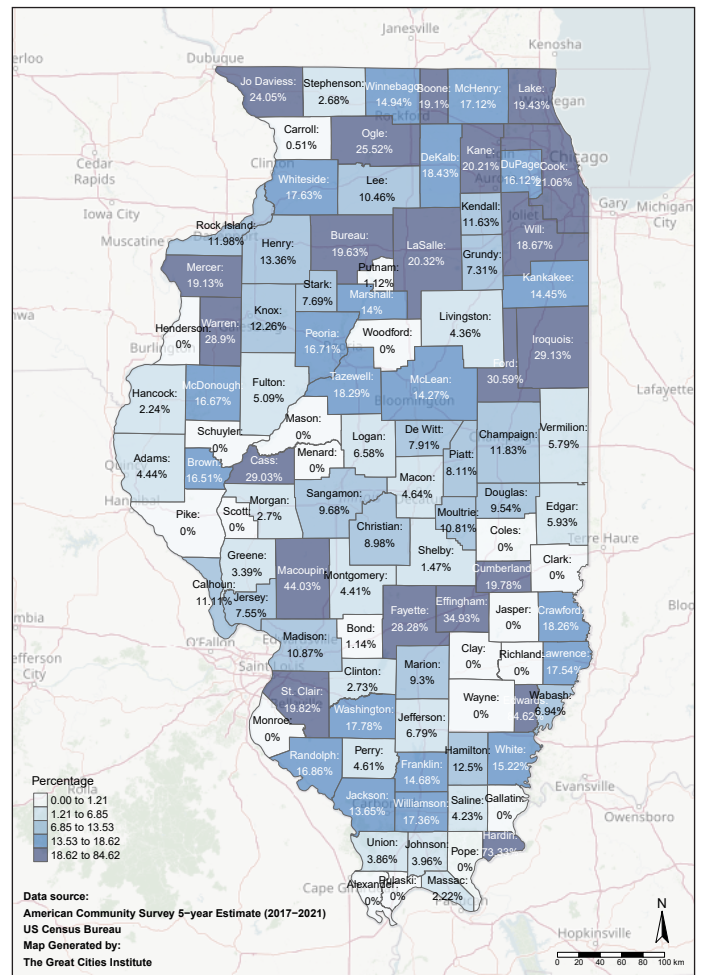
Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021).  
Tabulations by the Great Cities Institute.

- Of the Spanish speaking Hispanic or Latino population in Illinois, 19.83% spoke English not well or not at all in 2017-2021.
- Of the top 10 counties in Illinois with the largest Spanish speaking Hispanic or Latino population who speak English not well or not at all, Cook County had the largest number (206,782) and percent (21.06%) of the population in 2017-2021.
- Kane County and Lake County had similar shares to Cook County of their Spanish speaking population that spoke English not well or not at all in 2017-2021, 20.21% and 19.43% respectively, but each had less than an eighth of the number of people that spoke English not well or not at all (24,378 in Kane and 21,646 in Lake County).

**Map 16: Spanish-Speaking Hispanic or Latino Population in Illinois with Limited English Proficiency (Speak English Not Well or Not At All, 2017-2021)**



**Map 17: Percentage of the Spanish-Speaking Hispanic or Latino Population in Illinois with Limited English Proficiency (Speak English Not Well or Not At All, 2017-2021)**



# APPENDIX

The appendix features additional data tables presented as fact sheets at the 2023 Raíces Public Policy Conference. Data tables for each of the five pillars are included.

## HEALTH EQUITY

Table 1: Health Uninsured Rate for Total and Hispanic or Latino Population in Illinois (2017-2021)

Age Group	Total Population			Hispanic or Latino Population		
	No health insurance coverage	Total Population	Percent of Uninsured	No health insurance coverage	Total Population	Percent of Uninsured
Under 18 years	99,592	3,058,274	3.26 %	34,076	753,584	4.52 %
18 to 64 years	768,501	7,636,890	10.06 %	306,189	1,335,663	22.92 %
65 years and over	17,727	1,951,693	0.91 %	6,041	143,066	4.22 %
Total	885,820	12,646,857	7 %	346,306	2,232,313	15.51 %

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Table 2: Top Ten Counties in Illinois with the Highest Health Uninsured Hispanic or Latino Population (2017-2021)

County	Total Population			Hispanic or Latino Population		
	No health insurance coverage	Total Population	Percent of Uninsured	No health insurance coverage	Total Population	Percent of Uninsured
Cook	468,085	5,219,835	8.97 %	<b>223,205</b>	1,342,014	16.63 %
Kane	40,545	515,162	7.87 %	<b>27,647</b>	166,572	16.6 %
Lake	46,089	697,404	6.61 %	<b>25,825</b>	156,550	16.5 %
DuPage	48,915	927,909	5.27 %	<b>17,463</b>	135,522	12.89 %
Will	37,036	689,493	5.37 %	<b>16,708</b>	125,581	13.3 %
McHenry	15,190	309,295	4.91 %	<b>5,249</b>	42,757	12.28 %
Winnebago	18,252	282,411	6.46 %	<b>5,107</b>	38,458	13.28 %
Kendall	5,347	130,421	4.1 %	<b>2,650</b>	26,272	10.09 %
Rock Island	8,851	142,036	6.23 %	<b>1,821</b>	19,042	9.56 %
DeKalb	4,863	100,222	4.85 %	<b>1,711</b>	11,904	14.37 %

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Table 3: Top Ten Counties in Illinois with the Highest Uninsured Percentage for Hispanic or Latino Population (2017-2021)

County	Total Population			Hispanic or Latino Population		
	No health insurance coverage	Total Population	Percent of Uninsured	No health insurance coverage	Total Population	Percent of Uninsured
Pope	138	3,680	3.75 %	54	71	<b>76.06 %</b>
Wayne	1,845	16,197	11.39 %	122	262	<b>46.56 %</b>
Cumberland	653	10,412	6.27 %	46	110	<b>41.82 %</b>
Edwards	429	6,209	6.91 %	33	83	<b>39.76 %</b>
Clinton	1,736	34,990	4.96 %	325	1,023	<b>31.77 %</b>
Calhoun	57	4,462	1.28 %	9	33	<b>27.27 %</b>
Schuyler	436	6,884	6.33 %	17	72	<b>23.61 %</b>
Ford	848	13,213	6.42 %	119	509	<b>23.38 %</b>
Jo Daviess	1,154	21,855	5.28 %	146	687	<b>21.25 %</b>
Wabash	661	11,335	5.83 %	52	259	<b>20.08 %</b>

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Table 4: Disability Rate for Total and Hispanic or Latino Population in Illinois (2017-2021)

Age Group	Total Population			Hispanic or Latino Population		
	People with a Disability	Total Population	Percent of Disability	People with a Disability	Total Population	Percent of Disability
Under 18 years	105,655	2,883,610	3.66 %	24,454	711,117	3.44 %
18 to 64 years	700,483	7,811,554	8.97 %	90,480	1,378,130	6.57 %
65 years and over	619,326	1,951,693	31.73 %	40,173	143,066	28.08 %
Total	1,425,464	12,646,857	11.27 %	155,107	2,232,313	6.95 %

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Table 5: Top Ten Counties in Illinois with the Highest Hispanic or Latino Population with a Disability (2017-2021)

County	Total Population			Hispanic or Latino Population		
	People with a Disability	Total Population	Percent of Disability	People with a Disability	Total Population	Percent of Disability
Cook	544,690	5,219,835	10.44 %	<b>95,509</b>	1,342,014	7.12 %
Lake	65,809	697,404	9.44 %	<b>10,500</b>	156,550	6.71 %
Kane	44,557	515,162	8.65 %	<b>9,897</b>	166,572	5.94 %
Will	63,650	689,493	9.23 %	<b>7,987</b>	125,581	6.36 %
DuPage	74,641	927,909	8.04 %	<b>7,396</b>	135,522	5.46 %
Winnebago	39,254	282,411	13.9 %	<b>3,106</b>	38,458	8.08 %
McHenry	29,216	309,295	9.45 %	<b>2,386</b>	42,757	5.58 %
Rock Island	20,100	142,036	14.15 %	<b>1,993</b>	19,042	10.47 %
Kendall	10,006	130,421	7.67 %	<b>1,203</b>	26,272	4.58 %
Champaign	19,101	205,047	9.32 %	<b>1,016</b>	12,850	7.91 %

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Table 6: Top Ten Counties in Illinois with the Highest Hispanic or Latino Disability Rate (2017-2021)

County	Total Population			Hispanic or Latino Population		
	People With Disability	Total Population	Percent of Disability	People With Disability	Total Population	Percent of Disability
Edgar	2,937	16,685	17.6 %	149	217	<b>68.66 %</b>
Schuyler	1,473	6,884	21.4 %	34	72	<b>47.22 %</b>
Alexander	1,200	5,384	22.29 %	28	62	<b>45.16 %</b>
Hamilton	1,529	7,958	19.21 %	57	132	<b>43.18 %</b>
Moultrie	1,941	14,356	13.52 %	91	233	<b>39.06 %</b>
Henderson	1,171	6,435	18.2 %	43	119	<b>36.13 %</b>
Perry	3,913	18,606	21.03 %	103	337	<b>30.56 %</b>
Clay	2,508	13,158	19.06 %	6	22	<b>27.27 %</b>
Gallatin	1,145	5,038	22.73 %	20	76	<b>26.32 %</b>
Brown	863	4,469	19.31 %	56	233	<b>24.03 %</b>

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Table 1: Unemployment Rate for Hispanic and Latino Population in Illinois (2017-2021)

Total Population			Hispanic or Latino Population		
Unemployed Population	Population In Labor Force	Unemployed % of Population In Labor Force	Unemployed Population	Population In Labor Force	Unemployed % of Population In Labor Force
383,382	6,393,165	6 %	75,080	1,148,385	6.54 %

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Table 2: Unemployment Rate by the Top Ten Counties in Illinois with the Highest Hispanic or Latino Labor Force (2017-2021)

County	Total Population			Hispanic or Latino Population		
	Unemployed	Total in Labor Force	Percent of Unemployed	Unemployed	Total in Labor Force	Percent of Unemployed
Cook	189,460	2,688,952	7.05 %	46,222	<b>684,308</b>	6.75 %
Kane	13,406	267,448	5.01 %	5,899	<b>88,179</b>	6.69 %
Lake	19,052	367,996	5.18 %	5,111	<b>83,842</b>	6.1 %
DuPage	22,749	489,671	4.65 %	3,215	<b>74,325</b>	4.33 %
Will	18,095	358,270	5.05 %	3,798	<b>65,514</b>	5.8 %
McHenry	7,829	164,763	4.75 %	1,232	<b>23,079</b>	5.34 %
Winnebago	10,288	135,678	7.58 %	1,497	<b>18,218</b>	8.22 %
Kendall	2,630	68,171	3.86 %	937	<b>14,430</b>	6.49 %
Rock Island	4,417	68,142	6.48 %	649	<b>9,040</b>	7.18 %
Boone	2,223	26,801	8.29 %	615	<b>6,643</b>	9.26 %

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Table 3: Unemployment Rate by the Top Ten Counties in Illinois with the Highest Hispanic or Latino Unemployment Rate (2017-2021)

County	Total Population			Hispanic or Latino Population		
	Unemployed	Total In Labor Force	Percent of Unemployed	Unemployed	Total In Labor Force	Percent of Unemployed
Clay	331	5,972	5.54 %	9	13	<b>69.23 %</b>
Stark	77	2,408	3.2 %	26	51	<b>50.98 %</b>
Menard	309	6,073	5.09 %	20	70	<b>28.57 %</b>
Jersey	460	10,327	4.45 %	46	167	<b>27.54 %</b>
White	199	6,003	3.32 %	22	87	<b>25.29 %</b>
McDonough	1,192	13,674	8.72 %	64	272	<b>23.53 %</b>
Union	477	7,121	6.7 %	63	308	<b>20.45 %</b>
Jackson	2,038	24,066	8.47 %	199	1,184	<b>16.81 %</b>
Warren	646	7,944	8.13 %	90	565	<b>15.93 %</b>
Peoria	5,871	83,811	7.01 %	636	4,060	<b>15.67 %</b>

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Table 4: Unincorporated Self-Employed population in Illinois, 2022

Total Population			Hispanic or Latino Population		
Unincorporated Self_Employed	Estimate Employed	Percent of Self_Employed	Unincorporated Self_Employed	Estimate Employed	Percent of Self_Employed
257,177.9	6,113,685	4.21 %	31,675.93	1,047,215	3.02 %

Source: IPUMS-CPS database (ASEC 2022). Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Table 5: Employed Workers with Multiple Jobs (2022)

Job Number	Total Population		Hispanic or Latino Population	
	Estimate of Work Type	Percent of Employed	Estimate of Work Type	Percent of Employed
1 job	5,630,045	95.08%	946,036	98.19%
2 jobs	254,288	4.29%	17,417	1.81%
3 jobs	33,233	0.56%	0	0%
4 or more jobs	4,046	0.07%	0	0%
Total	5,921,612	100%	963,453	100%

Source: IPUMS-CPS database (Basic Monthly 2022). Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Table 6: Work Status (Part-time Jobs) for Hispanic or Latinos in Illinois (2022)

Total Population			Hispanic or Latino Population		
Estimate Employed	Part-time Workforce	Percent of Part-time	Estimate Employed	Part-time Workforce	Percent of Part-time
6,113,685	978,778	16.01%	1,047,215	154,322.8	14.74%

Source: IPUMS-CPS database (ASEC 2022). Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Table 7: Hispanic or Latino Part-time Workforce for Economic Reasons in Illinois, 2022

Total Population			Hispanic or Latino Population		
Part-time Employment for Economic Reason	Estimate Total Part-time Employment	% of Total Part-time Employment	Part-time Employment for Economic Reason	Estimate Total Part-time Employment	% of Total Part-time Employment
125,742.4	978,778	12.85 %	20,387.38	154,322.8	13.21 %

Source: IPUMS-CPS database (ASEC 2022). Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Table 8: Occupations for Hispanic or Latinos in Illinois (2017-2021)

Occupation Type	Foreign-Born Population +16		Hispanic or Latino Foreign-Born Population +16	
	Estimate Employment	% Share of Employed	Estimate Employment	% Share of Employed
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	2,555,193	40.73%	240,665	22.49%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	450,520	7.18%	114,782	10.72%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	918,663	14.64%	256,551	23.97%
Sales and office occupations	1,310,129	20.88%	133,614	12.48%
Service occupations	1,038,968	16.56%	246,279	23.01%

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

## Education

Table 1: Educational Attainment for the Adult Hispanic or Latino Population (Age 25 and Over) in Illinois (2017-2021)

Education Level	Total Population +25		Hispanic/Latino Population +25	
	Population	Percent	Population	Percent
Less than high school diploma	885,321	10.1 %	379,996	29.84 %
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	2,226,182	25.4 %	382,360	30.02 %
Some college or associate's degree	2,483,806	28.34 %	297,265	23.34 %
Bachelor's degree or higher	3,169,569	36.16 %	213,864	16.79 %
Total	8,764,878	100 %	1,273,485	99.99 %

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Table 2: Top 10 Illinois Counties with the Highest Hispanic or Latino Population Aged 25 Years and Over Holding Less than a High School Diploma (2017-2021)

County	Total Population Over Age 25			Hispanic or Latino Population Over Age 25		
	Total Pop Over 25	Less than Highschool Diploma	Percentage	Total Pop Over 25	Less than Highschool Diploma	Percentage
Cook	3,656,393	439,740	12.03 %	794,337	<b>231,841</b>	29.19 %
Kane	340,859	47,621	13.97 %	90,107	<b>36,165</b>	40.14 %
Lake	469,459	43,130	9.19 %	84,024	<b>28,964</b>	34.47 %
Will	460,589	39,246	8.52 %	68,179	<b>20,167</b>	29.58 %
DuPage	642,165	41,827	6.51 %	75,198	<b>19,162</b>	25.48 %
Winnebago	194,472	22,994	11.82 %	19,275	<b>6,369</b>	33.04 %
McHenry	212,180	13,717	6.46 %	22,648	<b>6,120</b>	27.02 %
Rock Island	99,470	10,918	10.98 %	10,204	<b>2,875</b>	28.18 %
Boone	35,413	4,575	12.92 %	6,223	<b>2,500</b>	40.17 %
Kendall	83,167	5,307	6.38 %	14,227	<b>2,416</b>	16.98 %

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Table 3: Field Of Bachelor'S Degree For First Major For Hispanic or Latino Population in Illinois (2017-2021)

Field of Bachelor'S Degree	Total Population Over Age 25		Hispanic or Latino Population Over Age 25	
	Population with Bachelor'S Degree or Higher	Percentage	Population with Bachelor'S Degree or Higher	Percentage
Arts, Humanities and Other	738,102	23.29 %	51,724	24.19 %
Business	672,717	21.22 %	47,696	22.3 %
Education	385,281	12.16 %	21,686	10.14 %
Science and Engineering	1,061,288	33.48 %	72,566	33.93 %
Science and Engineering Related Fields	312,181	9.85 %	20,192	9.44 %

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Table 4: Pre-School Enrollment for Hispanic or Latino Population in Illinois (2017-2021)

School Enrollment	Total Population		Hispanic or Latino Population	
	Population	Percentage	Population	Percentage
Enrolled in nursery school, preschool	207,835	1.68%	41,107	1.91%
Enrolled in kindergarten	150,935	1.22%	38,443	1.79%
Enrolled in school	3,182,797	25.7%	736,537	34.27%
Population 3 years and over	12,385,096	100%	2,148,923	100%

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Table 5: School Enrollment for Total and Hispanic or Latino 3-to-5-Year-Old Population in Illinois, 2021

Age Group	Total Population			Hispanic or Latino Population		
	Total Population	Enrolled	Percent of Enrolled	Total Population	Enrolled	Percent of Enrolled
3 Years Old	176,013	92,461	52.53%	49,362	11,120	22.53%
4 Years Old	175,784	133,968	76.21%	17,050	8,837	51.83%
5 Years Old	150,737	141,662	93.98%	27,587	23,177	84.01%
Total	502,534	368,091	73.25%	93,999	43,134	45.89%

Source: IPUMS-CPS database (Oct 2021). Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Table 6: School Enrollment for Total and Hispanic or Latino 3-to-5-Year-Old Population in Illinois, 2019

Age Group	Total Population			Hispanic or Latino Population		
	Total Population	Enrolled	Percent of Enrolled	Total Population	Enrolled	Percent of Enrolled
3 Years Old	106,922	41,277	38.6%	17,775	6,961	39.16%
4 Years Old	147,145	101,746	69.15%	42,536	24,224	56.95%
5 Years Old	149,943	140,327	93.59%	29,244	29,244	100%
Total	404,010	283,350	70.13%	89,555	60,429	67.48%

Source: IPUMS-CPS database (Oct 2019). Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Table 7: K-12 School Enrollment and Percentage Share for the Hispanic or Latino Population in Illinois, 2021

Age Group	Total Population		Hispanic or Latino Population	
	Total Enrolled	Percent	Total Enrolled	Percent
Kindergarten	169,503	8.89%	30,515	6.06%
1st Grade	226,751	11.89%	34,826	6.92%
2nd Grade	129,240	6.78%	23,129	4.59%
3rd Grade	173,006	9.07%	31,581	6.27%
4th Grade	139,940	7.34%	32,424	6.44%
5th Grade	148,282	7.78%	41,162	8.18%
6th Grade	123,445	6.47%	26,120	5.19%
7th Grade	121,182	6.36%	52,403	10.41%
8th Grade	103,725	5.44%	47,063	9.35%
9th Grade	129,585	6.8%	41,418	8.23%
10th Grade	108,231	5.68%	38,112	7.57%
11th Grade	177,752	9.32%	38,757	7.7%
12th Grade	156,068	8.19%	65,962	13.1%
Total	1,906,710	100.01%	503,472	100.01%

Source: IPUMS-CPS database (Oct2021). Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Table 8: K-12 School Enrollment and Percentage Share for the Hispanic or Latino Population in Illinois, 2019

Age Group	Total Population		Hispanic or Latino Population	
	Total Enrolled	Percent	Total Enrolled	Percent
Kindergarten	128,132	5.97%	21,060	3.48%
1st Grade	167,313	7.8%	62,405	10.32%
2nd Grade	178,368	8.31%	47,873	7.92%
3rd Grade	188,573	8.79%	58,961	9.75%
4th Grade	170,245	7.93%	43,707	7.23%
5th Grade	176,564	8.23%	58,242	9.63%
6th Grade	179,575	8.37%	47,955	7.93%
7th Grade	117,881	5.49%	30,866	5.1%
8th Grade	171,327	7.98%	67,521	11.16%
9th Grade	144,868	6.75%	40,811	6.75%
10th Grade	158,900	7.4%	45,357	7.5%
11th Grade	170,438	7.94%	37,744	6.24%
12th Grade	193,960	9.04%	42,308	7%
Total	2,146,144	100%	604,810	100.01%

Source: IPUMS-CPS database (Oct 2019). Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

## Immigration and Language Access

Table 1: Hispanic or Latino Foreign-Born Population in Illinois (2017-2021)

Total Population	Total Population		Hispanic or Latino Population		
	Foreign-Born Population	Foreign-Born (%)	Hispanic or Latino Population	Foreign-Born Population	Foreign-Born (%)
12,821,813	1,803,334	14.06%	2,250,076	777,750	34.57%

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Table 2: Top Ten Counties in Illinois with the Highest Hispanic or Latino Foreign-Born Population (2017-2021)

County	Total Population			Hispanic or Latino Population		
	Total Population	Foreign-Born Population	Foreign-Born (%)	Hispanic/Latino Population	Foreign-Born Population	Foreign-Born (%)
Cook	5,265,398	1,102,013	20.93%	1,346,949	<b>485,617</b>	36.05%
Kane	518,648	88,632	17.09%	167,111	<b>62,492</b>	37.4%
Lake	714,484	133,276	18.65%	159,640	<b>60,087</b>	37.64%
DuPage	934,094	182,700	19.56%	135,909	<b>47,194</b>	34.72%
Will	696,403	86,042	12.36%	126,302	<b>38,499</b>	30.48%
McHenry	310,749	27,349	8.8%	42,981	<b>13,000</b>	30.25%
Winnebago	285,471	25,719	9.01%	38,627	<b>11,585</b>	29.99%
Kendall	130,757	12,122	9.27%	26,347	<b>6,304</b>	23.93%
Rock Island	144,694	11,880	8.21%	19,246	<b>4,779</b>	24.83%
Champaign	206,583	25,613	12.4%	12,941	<b>3,892</b>	30.07%

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by Great Cities Institute



Table 3: Top Ten Counties in Illinois with the Highest Percentage of Hispanic or Latino Foreign-Born of Total Population (2017-2021)

County	Total Population	Foreign-Born Hispanic or Latino Population	% Foreign-Born Hispanic or Latino Share
Kane County	518,648	62,492	<b>12.05%</b>
Cook County	5,265,398	485,617	<b>9.22%</b>
Lake County	714,484	60,087	<b>8.41%</b>
Cass County	13,058	1,057	<b>8.09%</b>
Boone County	53,592	3,880	<b>7.24%</b>
Will County	696,403	38,499	<b>5.53%</b>
DuPage County	934,094	47,194	<b>5.05%</b>
Kendall County	130,757	6,304	<b>4.82%</b>
McHenry County	310,749	13,000	<b>4.18%</b>
Winnebago County	285,471	11,585	<b>4.06%</b>

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Table 4: Ability To Speak English For Hispanic Or Latino Foreign-Born Population 5 Years And Over (2017-2021)

Ability To Speak English	Foreign-Born Population		Hispanic or Latino Foreign-Born Population	
	Population	Percentage	Population	Percentage
Speak Only English	227,716	12.69%	39,498	5.29%
Speak English Very Well	721,511	40.21%	237,708	31.83%
<b>Speak English Less Than Very Well</b>	<b>844,921</b>	<b>47.09%</b>	<b>469,492</b>	<b>62.88%</b>
Total Foreign-Born +5	1,794,148	100%	746,698	100%

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Table 5: Top Fifteen Counties With Highest Hispanic or Latino Foreign-Born Population Who Speak English Less Than Very Well (2017-2021)

County	Foreign-Born Population +5			Hispanic or Latino Foreign-Born Population +5		
	Speak Less Than very well	Total Foreign-Born Population	Percentage	Speak Less Than very well	Total Foreign-Born Population	Percentage
Cook	557,970	1,097,243	50.85%	<b>306,052</b>	467,209	65.51%
Kane	46,752	88,383	52.9%	<b>39,703</b>	61,985	64.05%
Lake	54,473	132,519	41.11%	<b>34,704</b>	56,821	61.08%
DuPage	68,078	181,694	37.47%	<b>24,577</b>	45,249	54.32%
Will	38,498	85,765	44.89%	<b>23,596</b>	37,454	63%
McHenry	10,928	27,286	40.05%	<b>7,128</b>	12,463	57.19%
Winnebago	9,171	25,558	35.88%	<b>5,318</b>	11,279	47.15%
Kendall	4,968	12,057	41.2%	<b>2,821</b>	6,156	45.83%
Rock Island	5,861	11,762	49.83%	<b>2,536</b>	4,373	57.99%
Boone	2,753	4,967	55.43%	<b>2,371</b>	3,770	62.89%
DeKalb	3,513	7,115	49.37%	<b>2,055</b>	3,506	58.61%
Kankakee	2,181	5,181	42.1%	<b>1,913</b>	3,569	53.6%
LaSalle	2,299	3,614	63.61%	<b>1,701</b>	2,260	75.27%
Champaign	8,938	25,376	35.22%	<b>1,212</b>	3,396	35.69%
Peoria	3,208	11,045	29.04%	<b>1,097</b>	2,000	54.85%

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Table 6: Ability to Speak English for the Hispanic or Latino Spanish-Speaking Population (2017-2021)

Hispanic or Latino Population		
	Population	Percentage
Speak Spanish	1,542,330	
Speak English Not Well or Not At All	305,834	19.83%

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by Great Cities Institute

Table 7: Top Ten Counties in Illinois with the Highest Spanish-Speaking Hispanic or Latino Population with Limited English Proficiency (Speak English Not Well Or Not At All, 2017-2021)

County	Hispanic or Latino Population	Spanish-Speaking Hispanic or Latino Population		Percentage
		Speak Spanish	Speak English Not Well or Not At All	
Cook County	1,248,555	981,681	<b>206,782</b>	21.06%
Kane County	153,200	120,647	<b>24,378</b>	20.21%
Lake County	146,337	111,386	<b>21,646</b>	19.43%
Will County	116,131	78,438	<b>14,648</b>	18.67%
DuPage County	125,020	87,522	<b>14,108</b>	16.12%
McHenry County	39,340	23,272	<b>3,985</b>	17.12%
Winnebago County	34,830	23,721	<b>3,543</b>	14.94%
Kendall County	24,289	15,087	<b>1,755</b>	11.63%
Boone County	11,209	7,909	<b>1,511</b>	19.1%
DeKalb County	10,903	7,079	<b>1,305</b>	18.43%

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimate (2017-2021). Tabulations by Great Cities Institute





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