

Hispanics in the 2008 Election: Colorado

Colorado's Hispanic population is eighth-largest in the nation. More than 927,000 Hispanics reside in Colorado, 2% of all Hispanics in the United States. There are over 404,000 eligible Hispanic voters in Colorado, 2% of all U.S. Hispanic eligible voters.¹ This fact sheet provides key demographic information on Latino eligible voters.² It also contains data on other major groups of eligible voters in Colorado, with comparative data for the U.S. All data are from the Census Bureau's 2006 American Community Survey.³

Hispanics in Colorado's Eligible Voter Population

- Colorado's population is 20% Hispanic, the seventh-highest Hispanic population share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 45%.
- 12% of eligible voters in Colorado are Latinos, the sixth-largest Hispanic eligible voter population share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 38%, followed by Texas with 25% and California with 23%.
- 44% of Latinos in Colorado are eligible to vote, ranking Colorado 21st nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote.

	U.S.	Colorado	Colorado State Rank
Total population (thousands)	299,398	4,753	22
Percent of the population (all ages) that is Hispanic	14.8	19.5	7
Percent of all eligible voters (citizens ages 18 and older) who are Hispanic	8.7	12.2	6
Percent of the Hispanic population (all ages) that is eligible to vote	40.6	43.5	21

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the 2006 American Community Survey (IPUMS 1% sample)

Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- 30% of Hispanic eligible voters in Colorado are ages 18 to 29, similar to the share for all Latino eligible voters nationwide (31%). A greater share of Coloradan Hispanic eligible voters are in that age range than are all Colorado (22%) and all U.S. (22%) eligible voters.
- A greater share of Hispanic eligible voters in Colorado (11%) are naturalized U.S. citizens compared with all Colorado eligible voters (4%) and all eligible voters in the U.S. (7%). By contrast, 89% of Coloradan Hispanic eligible voters are citizens by birth compared with just 74% of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide.
- 26% of Latino eligible voters in Colorado have not completed high school, similar to the share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide (27%). However 10% of all Coloradan eligible voters and 14% of all eligible voters nationwide have not completed high school.
- 61% of Latino eligible voters in Colorado live in owner-occupied homes, a similar share as for all Latino eligible voters in the U.S. By contrast, a lesser share of Latino eligible voters in Colorado live in owner-occupied homes than do all eligible voters nationwide (71%).

Table 2
Characteristics of Eligible Voters
in Colorado and the United States

	COLORADO		UNITED STATES	
	Hispanics	All	Hispanics	All
Population (in thousands)				
Total population	927	4,753	44,299	299,398
Eligible voters (citizens ages 18 and older)	404	3,299	17,975	206,329
Percent of Eligible Voters				
Age				
18-29	29.6	22.3	31.1	21.5
30-44	33.0	28.6	31.6	26.8
45-59	23.1	28.8	22.5	28.0
60 and older	14.4	20.3	14.9	23.8
Gender				
Female	49.7	50.4	50.8	51.8
Male	50.3	49.6	49.2	48.2
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	89.0	95.7	73.6	92.7
Naturalized citizen	11.0	4.3	26.4	7.3
English-speaking ability				
Does not speak English *very well*	13.6	3.1	24.3	4.3
Speaks only English or English *very well*	86.4	96.9	75.7	95.7
Educational attainment				
Did not complete high school	26.2	10.0	27.3	14.0
Completed high school	33.5	25.5	31.6	31.2
Some college	28.0	31.9	27.8	29.8
Bachelor's degree or more	12.4	32.6	13.3	25.0
Marital Status				
Married	50.1	55.1	47.8	52.7
Never Married	29.8	25.5	33.5	26.3
Other	20.0	19.5	18.7	20.9
With child(ren) younger than 18 in home				
	35.2	27.8	33.4	26.8
In owner-occupied homes				
	61.4	71.8	60.2	70.8
Household income*				
Less than \$30,000	27.2	19.4	26.1	22.9
\$30,000-\$49,999	23.7	18.6	21.7	19.4
\$50,000-\$74,999	21.9	20.6	21.5	20.7
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.2	15.5	13.5	14.1
\$100,000 or more	14.0	26.0	17.1	22.9

*Persons in households with zero or negative income excluded (less than 1% of all eligible voters in the U.S.)
Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the 2006 American Community Survey (IPUMS 1% sample)

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Colorado, by Race and Ethnicity

- White eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in Colorado by more than 6 to 1.
- Latino eligible voters are younger than white eligible voters in Colorado. Among Latino eligible voters, 30% are ages 18 to 29 compared with 21% of white eligible voters.
- Hispanic eligible voters are less likely than white eligible voters in Colorado to live in owner-occupied homes—61% versus 75%.

Table 3
Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Colorado,
by Race and Ethnicity

	Hispanics	NON-HISPANIC White
Population (in thousands)		
Total population	927	3,407
Eligible voters (citizens ages 18 and older)	404	2,644
Percent of Eligible Voters		
Age		
18-29	29.6	20.7
30-44	33.0	27.6
45-59	23.1	29.9
60 and older	14.4	21.8
Gender		
Female	49.7	50.6
Male	50.3	49.4
Type of citizen		
Citizen by birth	89.0	98.2
Naturalized citizen	11.0	1.8
English-speaking ability		
Does not speak English "very well"	13.6	0.8
Speaks only English or English "very well"	86.4	99.2
Educational attainment		
Did not complete high school	26.2	7.1
Completed high school	33.5	24.0
Some college	28.0	32.4
Bachelor's degree or more	12.4	36.5
Marital Status		
Married	50.1	56.9
Never Married	29.8	23.8
Other	20.0	19.3
With child(ren) younger than 18 in home		
	35.2	26.5
In owner-occupied homes		
	61.4	74.8
Household income*		
Less than \$30,000	27.2	17.5
\$30,000-\$49,999	23.7	17.6
\$50,000-\$74,999	21.9	20.4
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.2	16.2
\$100,000 or more	14.0	28.3

*Persons in households with zero or negative income excluded (less than 1% of all eligible voters in the U.S.)
Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the 2006 American Community Survey (IPUMS 1% sample)

Endnotes

- ¹ In this fact sheet, eligible voters are defined as U.S. citizens ages 18 and older. Eligible voters are not the same as registered voters. To cast a vote, in all states except North Dakota, an eligible voter must first register to vote.
- ² The terms “Hispanic” and “Latino” are used interchangeably. References to “whites” are to the non-Hispanic component of that population.
- ³ The specific data set used to derive estimates contained in this fact sheet are from the University of Minnesota’s Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) for the 2006 American Community Survey (1% sample). Information can be found on the following Website: <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/>. The estimates in this fact sheet are subject to sampling error. Also, estimates in this fact sheet will differ from estimates that may be published by the Census Bureau because of differences between the data used by the Census Bureau and the data it has released for public use. Further information on Census data and on sampling error in the data is available at <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/2006/AccuracyPUMS.pdf>.