



# IDAHO AT A GLANCE

## Hispanics: An Overview

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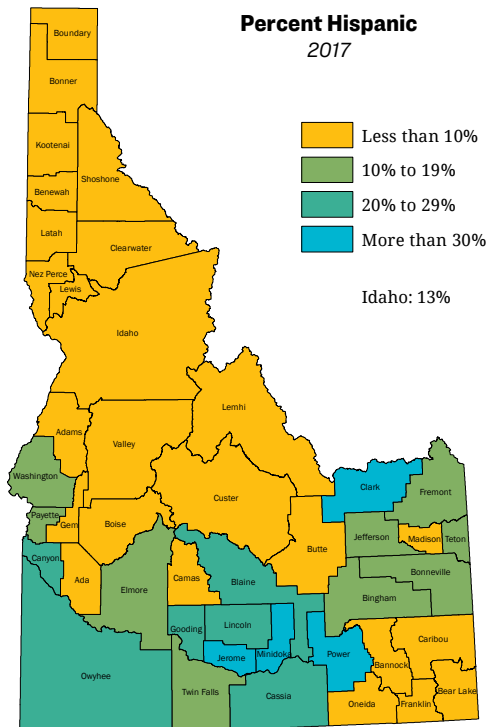
Author: Crystal Callahan, M.S.\*

### HIGHLIGHTS

Hispanics are the largest minority population in Idaho. Hispanic population growth has outpaced non-Hispanic population growth in Idaho for the last three decades. From 2010 to 2017, Hispanics accounted for **26% of Idaho's growth**.<sup>1</sup> This Hispanic growth will continue to have a role in shaping the cultural and economic future of Idaho. This report offers a wide-ranging overview of Hispanics in Idaho.

In 2017:

- Idaho Hispanics made up **13%** of the state's population, **12%** of the labor force and **18%** of students enrolled in Idaho K-12 public schools (2018-2019 data).<sup>2,3,4</sup>
- Approximately **three-quarters** (73%) of Idaho Hispanics were born in the US. Of those not native-born, **50%** came to the US **before 2000**.<sup>3</sup>
- **Eighty-one percent** of Idaho Hispanics were **US citizens** (both native and naturalized), which is similar to the US in which 79% of Hispanics are citizens.<sup>3</sup>
- Almost half of Idaho's Hispanics (**43%**) were **born in Idaho**, which is comparable to the percentage of Idaho non-Hispanics born in the state (48%).<sup>3</sup>



SOURCE: US Census Bureau<sup>2</sup>



## GEOGRAPHY

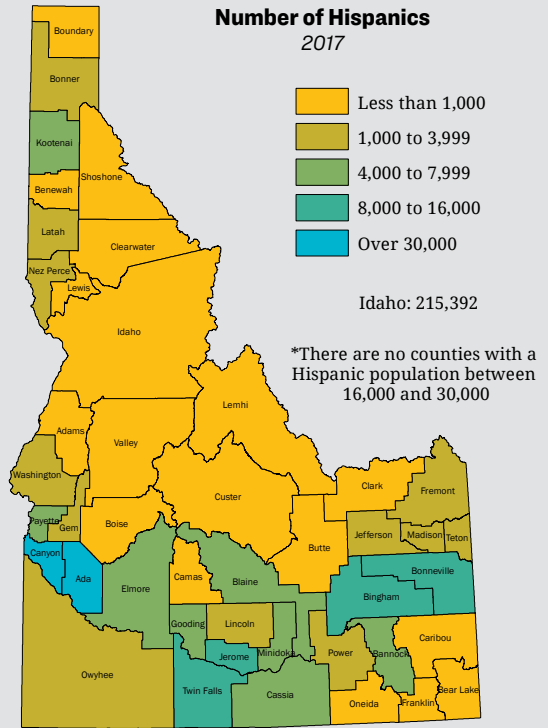
Idaho's Hispanic population is **not evenly distributed** throughout the state. Most (77%) Hispanics live in southwestern and southeastern Idaho along the **Snake River Plain**, where agricultural lands and major metropolitan centers exist. In recent years, Hispanic growth rates in counties in northern and central Idaho have outpaced growth rates in counties in southwestern and southcentral Idaho.<sup>2</sup>

In 2017:

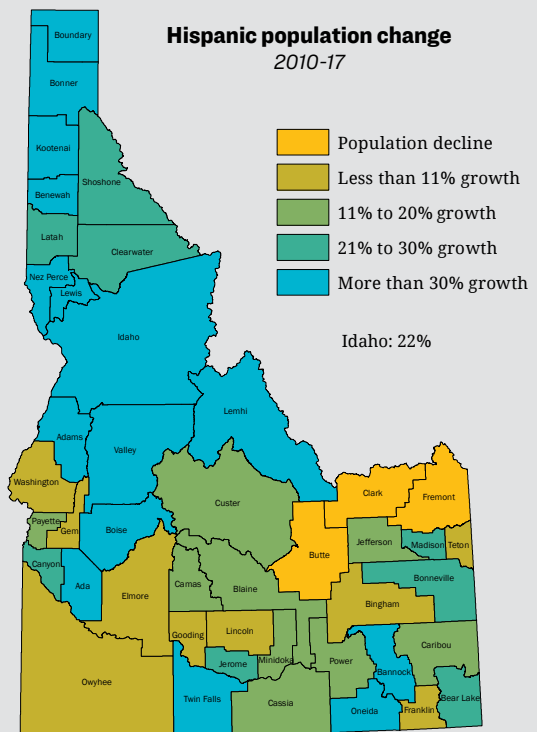
- Hispanics accounted for over 215,000 people in Idaho.<sup>2</sup>
- **Canyon County** had the largest number of Hispanics. Nearly **55,000** Hispanics called Canyon County home.<sup>2</sup>
- **Clark County** had the largest percentage of Hispanic residents; **42%** of residents in Clark County were Hispanic.<sup>2</sup>

From 2010 to 2017:

- Idaho's Hispanic population grew **22%**. Idaho's non-Hispanic population grew about **8%** during this time.<sup>1</sup>
- Hispanic population growth was at or above **30%** in 16 counties: **Ada, Adams, Bannock, Benewah, Boise, Bonner, Boundary, Idaho, Kootenai, Lemhi, Lewis, Madison, Nez Perce, Oneida, Twin Falls and Valley.**<sup>1</sup>
- **Seven** of those 16 counties with growth rates above 30% are in **north Idaho.**<sup>1</sup>
- **Without Hispanic population growth, Bingham, Cassia, Idaho, Jerome, Minidoka and Payette** counties would have **lost residents.**<sup>1</sup>
- The Hispanic population **declined** in three Idaho counties. **Butte, Clark and Fremont** counties lost both Hispanics and non-Hispanic residents.<sup>1</sup>



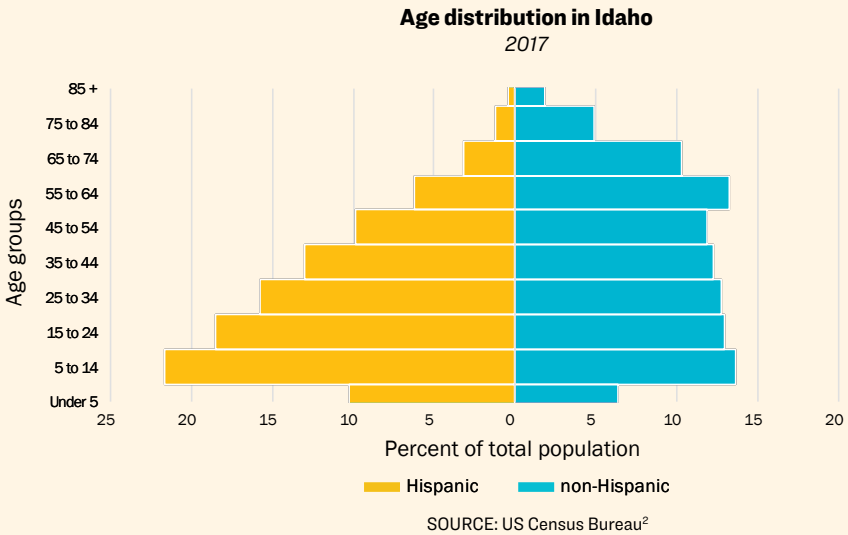
SOURCE: US Census Bureau<sup>2</sup>



SOURCE: US Census Bureau<sup>1</sup>

## AGE DISTRIBUTION

Idaho's Hispanic population tends to be younger than the non-Hispanic population. Compared to Idaho's non-Hispanic population, there are more Idaho Hispanics **under** the age of 20, **more school-aged children** and fewer adults over the age of 65.<sup>2</sup> The percentage of Idaho's non-Hispanic residents is more evenly distributed across all age categories.

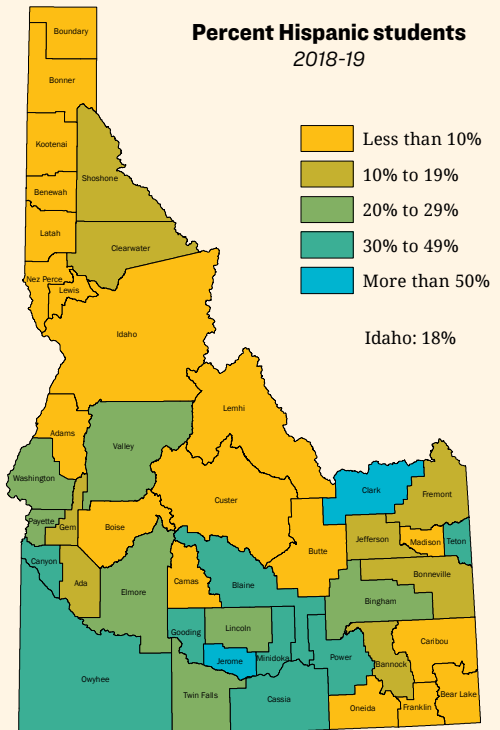


In 2017, the US Census Bureau estimated that:

- **School-age children** (age 5 to 17) accounted for **28% of Hispanic** and **18% of non-Hispanic** Idahoans.<sup>2</sup>
- **Forty-two percent** of Idaho's Hispanics were **under the age of 20**, whereas only 27% of Idaho's non-Hispanics were under the age of 20.<sup>2</sup>

In the 2018-2019 school year, the Idaho State Department of Education reported:

- **Hispanic** students accounted for **18%** of enrollment in Idaho K-12 public schools.<sup>4</sup>
- **Nine public and charter school districts** reported that **50% or more** of enrolled students identified as **Hispanic**. These districts included **Aberdeen, American Falls Joint, Caldwell, Clark County, Heritage Community Charter School, Jerome Joint, Shoshone Joint, Wendell and Wilder**.<sup>4</sup>
- **Wilder School District** had the highest percentage of Hispanic students. The district reported that **70%** of enrolled students identified as Hispanic.<sup>4</sup>



## ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

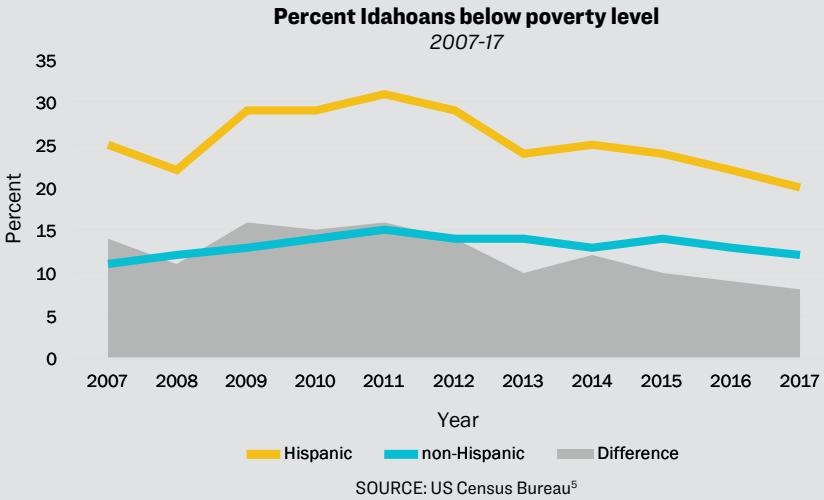
In Idaho, Hispanics participate in the labor force at a higher rate than non-Hispanics. However, the Hispanic unemployment rate is still higher than the non-Hispanic rate, both in Idaho and the US. In Idaho, Hispanic median income is lower than for non-Hispanics, and a higher percent of Hispanics are living below the poverty level compared to non-Hispanics. In recent years, the gaps between Hispanic and non-Hispanics in these categories have been shrinking.

In 2017:

- Idaho's Hispanic **participation** in the **labor force was 70%**, higher than Idaho's non-Hispanic residents (**61%**).<sup>3</sup>
- The **median household income** was lower for Idaho Hispanics, **\$45,231**, compared to \$53,280 for Idaho non-Hispanics.<sup>3</sup>

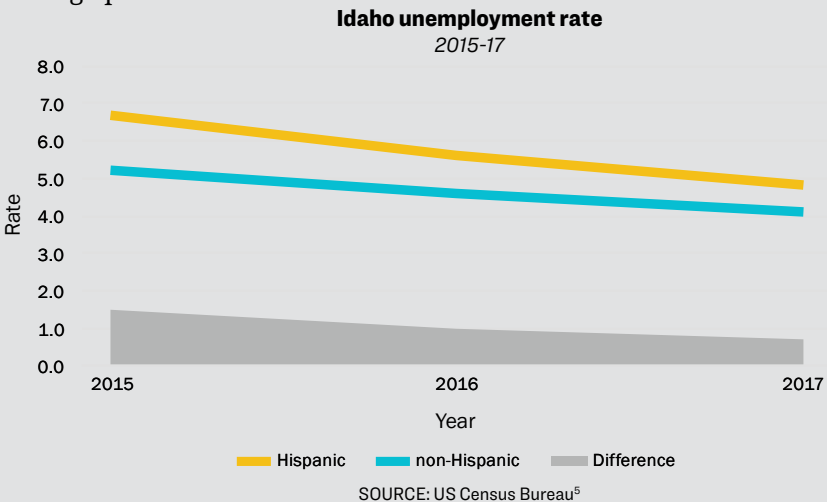
From 2007 to 2017:

The difference between the share of Idaho Hispanics and non-Hispanics living below the poverty level decreased. In **2011**, the peak year, **31% of Idaho Hispanics** were living **below the poverty level** compared to **16% of Idaho non-Hispanics**, a difference of approximately 15 percentage points. In 2017, **20% of Idaho Hispanics** were living **below the poverty level** compared to **12% of Idaho non-Hispanics**, a difference of 8 percentage points.<sup>5</sup>



From 2015 to 2017:

Over this three year period, the unemployment rate difference between Idaho Hispanics and non-Hispanics decreased. In **2015**, the Idaho **Hispanic unemployment** rate was 6.7% and the non-Hispanic rate was 5.2%, a **difference of 1.5** percentage points. In 2017, the Hispanic unemployment rate was 4.8% and the non-Hispanic rate was 4.1%, a **difference of 0.7** percentage points.<sup>5</sup>

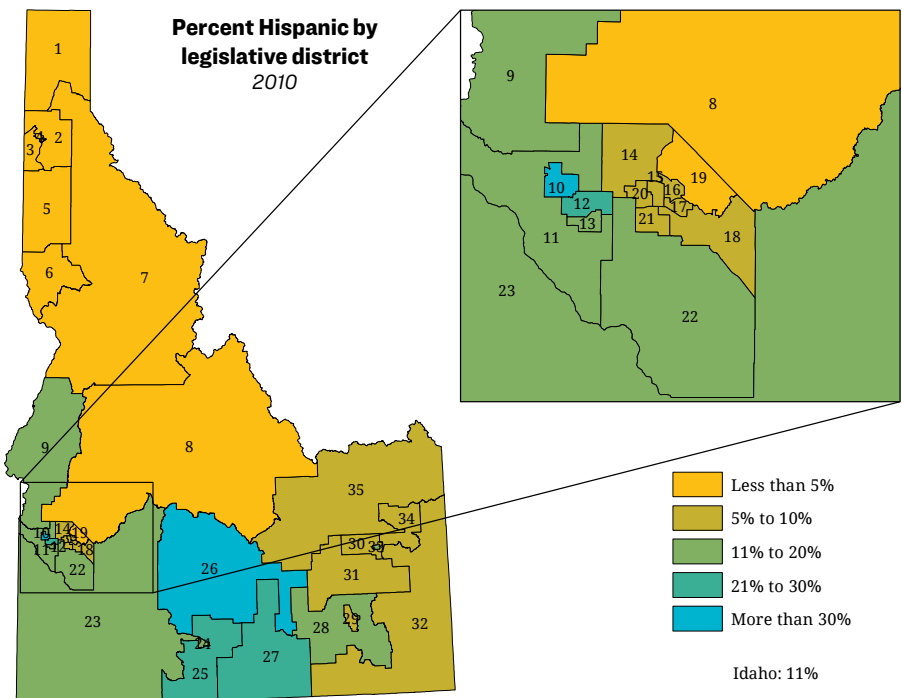


## VOTING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

As of 2017, **62%** of Idaho Hispanics were **of voting age** (18 and older).<sup>2</sup> Hispanics historically have lower participation at the polls than non-Hispanics. In 2016, voter registration among Idaho Hispanics increased compared to the previous presidential election.<sup>8</sup>

In Idaho:

- In the 2016 US presidential election, **48%** of Idaho Hispanics registered to vote, up from **30%** in the 2012 US presidential election. The non-Hispanic voter registration rates for the same elections were **71%**.<sup>6</sup>
- In 2017, in Idaho's **1<sup>st</sup> US Congressional District**, Hispanics accounted for **11%** of the population. In the **2<sup>nd</sup> US Congressional District**, **14%** of residents were Hispanic.<sup>3</sup>
- A 2018 survey of Idaho state legislators, conducted by the Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs, found only **one Idaho state representative** that identified as **Hispanic**, more specifically as **Latina**. No Idaho state senators identified as Hispanic in this survey.<sup>7</sup>
- At the federal level, US Representative Raul Labrador, who identifies as Hispanic, was **one of the four** members of Idaho's US Congressional delegation. US Rep. Labrador served from 2011 to 2019.<sup>8</sup>



SOURCE: Spokesman-Review<sup>9</sup>

## TERMS

**Hispanic:** The US Office of Management and Budget defines “‘Hispanic or Latino’ as a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race.”<sup>10</sup> Ethnicity and race are collected based on the self-identification of US Census and survey participants.

**Latino:** Refers to those who identify as having Latin American heritage. Latino can also appear as Latina or Latinx. The “o” or “a” at the end of the word denotes gender as signified in the Spanish language. The modern English language use of “x” is intended to indicate a gender neutral and more inclusive aspect to this identity.<sup>11</sup>

## SELECTED SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	IDAHO		
	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	Total
<b>POPULATION<sup>2</sup></b>			
1990	52,927	953,822	1,006,749
2000	101,690	1,192,263	1,293,953
2010	175,901	1,391,681	1,567,582
2017	215,392	1,501,551	1,716,943
Population change, 1990-2000 (%)	92	25	29
Population change, 2000-2010 (%)	73	17	21
Population change, 2010-2017 (%)	22	8	10
<b>AGE<sup>2</sup></b>			
Children under age 18, 2017 (% of population)	38	24	26
Adults age 65+, 2017(% of population)	5	17	15
Median age, 2017 (year)	24	39	37
<b>HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION<sup>3</sup></b>			
High school graduate, 2017 (% of population age 25+)	66	93	91
Bachelor's degree or higher, 2017 (% of population age 25+)	10	29	27
<b>NATIVITY AND CITIZENSHIP<sup>3</sup></b>			
Foreign-born, 2017 (%)	27	3	6
Native-born, 2017 (%)	73	97	94
US citizen, native-born and naturalized, 2017 (%)	81	99	96
<b>INCOME AND POVERTY<sup>3</sup></b>			
Median household income, 2017 (\$)	45,231	53,280	52,225
Per capita income, 2017 (\$)	15,389	27,949	26,386
Poverty rate, 2017 (%)	20	12	13
Households receiving food stamp benefits (SNAP), 2017 (%)	16	9	10
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>			
Registered to vote in 2016 US presidential election (% of citizens age 18+ ) <sup>6</sup>	48	71	69
Foreign-born - speaks English only or speaks English "very well", 2017 (% of population age 5+) <sup>3</sup>	36	76	53
Native-born - speaks English only or speaks English "very well", 2017 (% of population age 5+) <sup>3</sup>	93	98	99

**SPECIAL THANKS:** Director Margie Gonzalez and Lymaris Ortiz Perez (Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs) and our external reviewers and Advisory Board.

**MAPS CREATED BY:** Jared Phelps, University of Idaho undergraduate student

### SOURCES

- <sup>1</sup> US Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, Single-year Estimates 2017 and 2010
- <sup>2</sup> US Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, Single-year Estimates 2017
- <sup>3</sup> US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Single-year Estimates 2017
- <sup>4</sup> Idaho State Department of Education, 2018-2019 Public K-12 Student Enrollment data
- <sup>5</sup> US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Single-year Estimates 2007 to 2017
- <sup>6</sup> US Census Bureau, Voting and Registration in the Election of November 2012 and 2016
- <sup>7</sup> Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs, 2018, Informal email and phone survey conducted by ICHA to all 2018 Idaho state legislators, no publication available
- <sup>8</sup> Collection of the US House of Representatives, 2019, Raul Labrador, retrieved from: [https://history.house.gov/People/Listing/L/LABRADOR,-Ra%C3%BAI-R--\(L000573\)/](https://history.house.gov/People/Listing/L/LABRADOR,-Ra%C3%BAI-R--(L000573)/)
- <sup>9</sup> Spokesman - Review, 2019, Census 2010: Idaho Legislative Districts, retrieved from: <http://data.spokesman.com/census/2010/Idaho/legislative-districts/>
- <sup>10</sup> US Census Bureau, 2018, Hispanic Origin, retrieved from: <https://www.census.gov/topics/population/hispanic-origin/about.html>
- <sup>11</sup> Merriam-Webster, 2018, "Latinx" and Gender Inclusivity, retrieved from: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/word-history-latinx>



The University of Idaho's James A. and Louise McClure Center for Public Policy Research was founded in 2007. The Center's approach to addressing society's complex issues sustains Senator McClure's legacy of thoughtfully pursuing bipartisan collaborations and sound public policy.



The Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs was created in 1987 to identify solutions and provide recommendations to the governor, legislature, and other non-governmental organizations concerning issues relevant to the state's Hispanic population.

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