About this Snapshot…

One of the most significant demographic changes expected in metropolitan Chicago by 2040 is the rapid growth of the region's Latino population. Continuing several decades of rapid growth, Latinos are expected to make up most of the region's population growth between now and 2040. This Regional Snapshot will show the nature of the increasing Latino population throughout the region and identify major planning considerations. It will describe how Latino population growth could affect components of comprehensive planning, including employment, income, and education; land use, transportation, and housing; and quality of life issues such as health, recreation, and civic involvement.

This information is meant to provoke discussion of the possible impacts of Latino growth and how the *GO TO 2040* plan can address these demographic changes. Because this snapshot is an overview, it does not provide a full analysis of issues facing Latinos in the region or a complete examination of the impacts of population growth, but rather focuses on those that are within the scope of the *GO TO 2040* plan.

Why a Latino Snapshot?

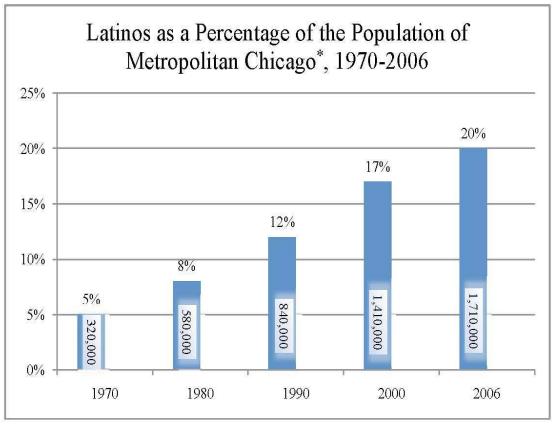
The strength of metropolitan Chicago has been due in part to increases in Latino population, which has made vital contributions to the region's economy and communities. Based on current growth projections that point to continued high rates of Latino growth, the Latino population will be an increasingly important agent of change to the year 2040 and beyond.

This Regional Snapshot also demonstrates that Latino population growth will affect the entire region, not just a few communities. Like previous immigrant groups, Latinos historically looked to the City of Chicago for homes, jobs, and a sense of community. This trend is changing, in that more Latinos now live in suburban areas than in Chicago. By strengthening and improving education, career opportunities, and communities for Latinos, the region as a whole can remain strong.

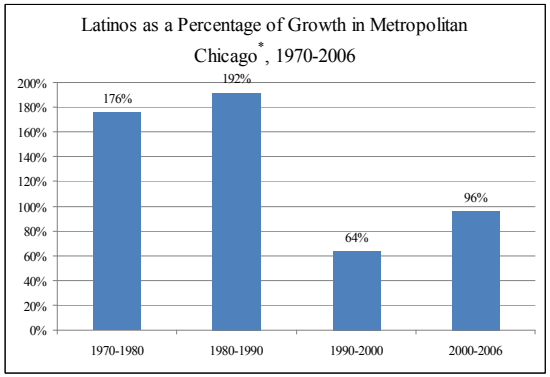
A more detailed technical document accompanies this report, and is available online at: http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/WorkArea/showcontent.aspx?id=13046

Population Growth and Forecasts

Comparing the most recent census data to 1970 shows how rapidly Latino population has increased in the region. In 1970, one of every 20 residents was Latino, but today one of every five people in the region is of Latino origin. The greatest number of Latino residents of the region are Mexican, and Chicago has the nation's third highest population with Mexican origin.

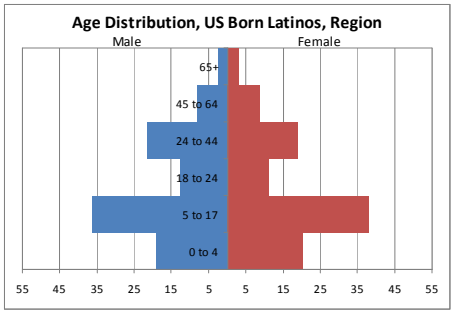


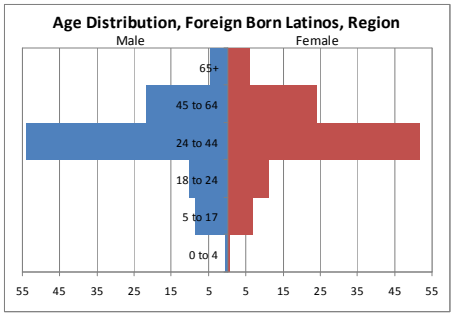
Between 1970 and 1990, the region's overall population would have declined if not for the growth in Latinos. Since 1990, the Latino population has continued to grow at a high rate, but other racial and ethnic groups have grown at higher rates as well.



The Census predicts continued high growth in the Latino population through 2040. According to Census projections, the nation's Latino population will increase by 204 percent between 2000 and 2040, compared to 44 percent for the population overall. Scaling these projections down to the regional level, CMAP estimates that the Latino population in the region is expected to increase from 1.4 million in 2000 to 3.5 million in 2040, at which point more than 30 percent of the region's residents will be Latino. More detail on these projections is available here: http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/WorkArea/showcontent.aspx?id=13048

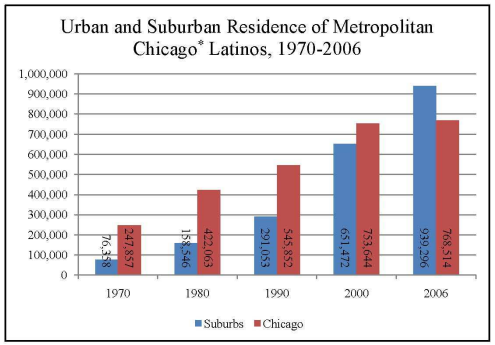
Part of the reason for the expected high rate of Latino growth is the distribution of ages within the Latino population. In the region in 2000, approximately 40 percent of Latinos were under 20 years of age, and three percent were over 65; for the population as a whole, 30 percent of residents were under 20 years of ago, and 11 percent were over 65. The age distribution charts below illustrate the differences between US-born and foreign-born Latinos in 2006, and show that US-born Latinos are concentrated in the younger age ranges, while more foreign-born Latinos are of working age.





Suburban Latino Growth

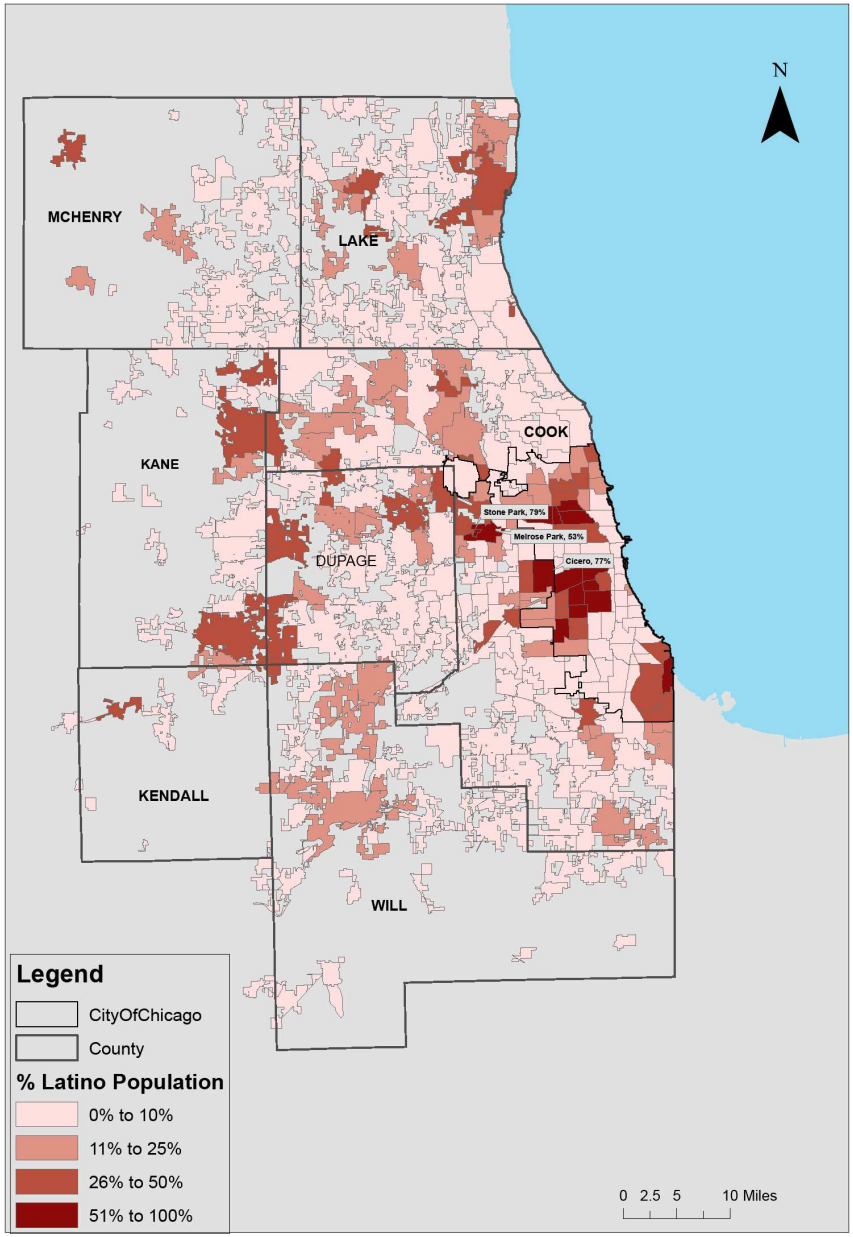
In year 2000, three municipalities (Stone Park, Cicero, and Melrose Park) and several areas within Chicago had greater than 50 percent Latino population. The map on the facing page shows Latinos as a percentage of total population by municipality and Chicago community area.



From 1970 through 2000 most Latino growth took place in the city of Chicago, but by year 2006 Latino growth had shifted to suburban areas surrounding the city of Chicago. In fact, the city of Chicago would have lost population were it not for the growth of the Latino population. Among the suburban counties, Kendall and Will experienced Latino growth of more than 100 percent between 2000 and 2006.

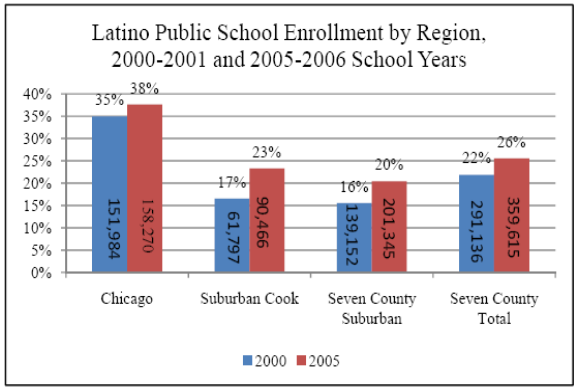
The suburbanization of Latino population growth is among the most important findings of this report. As the rest of this report emphasizes, all of our region's communities, not just Chicago or suburban Cook County, are impacted by Latino population growth.

Latino Population in 7 County N.E. Region (YR 2000)

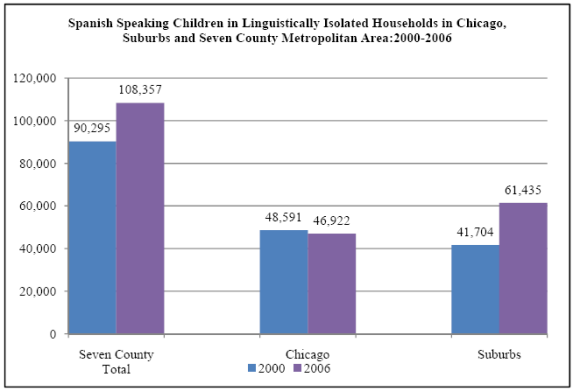


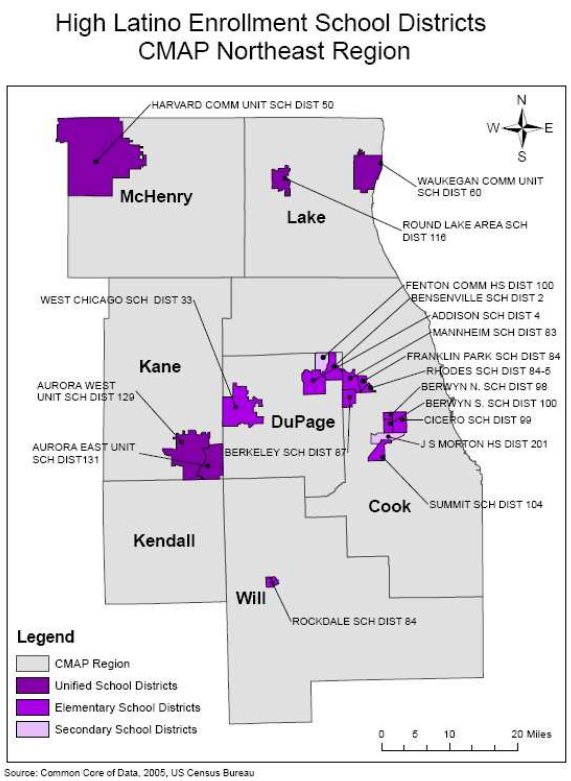
Education

Recent data shows that more than a quarter (26 percent) of all public school Kindergarten through 12th (K-12) grade students are Latino. Approximately 38 percent of students in the city of Chicago are Latino, compared to 23 percent in suburban Cook County and 20 percent outside of Cook County. In all areas, the number of Latino students has increased in the region.



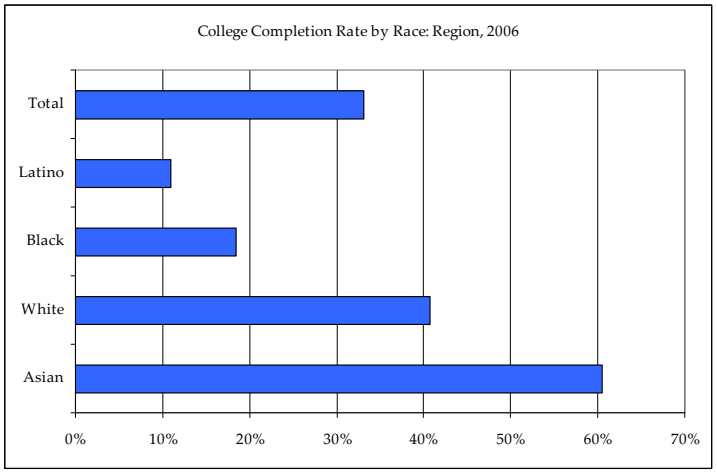
The number of Latino children ages five to 17 living in linguistically isolated households (that is, households where no adults speak English fluently) in the region increased 18 percent between 2000 and 2006. The number of linguistically isolated Spanish-speaking children increased more significantly in the suburbs, by over 47 percent, and decreased slightly in the city of Chicago.





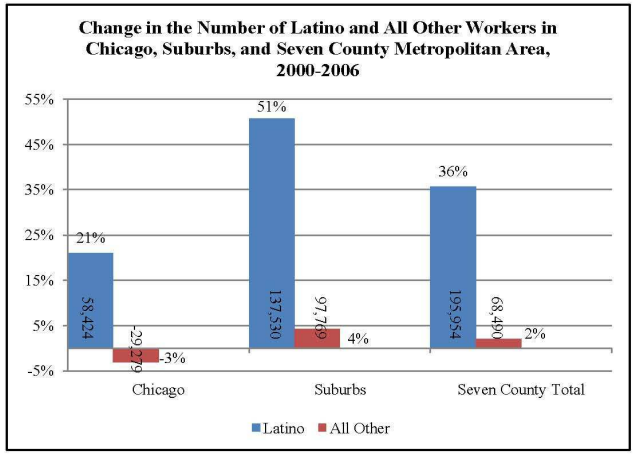
The map on the left displays public school districts with the highest concentrations of Latino enrollment in 2005. The suburban areas highlighted below represent the 19 school districts with over 41 percent Latino enrollment, including: Cook (9 districts), DuPage (four), Lake (two), Kane (two), McHenry (one), and Will (one). As this demonstrates, Latinos make up high percentages of students in school districts in many parts of the region.

There is a stark difference between Latinos and other major racial groups with respect to educational attainment, as shown in the chart below. Only 11 percent of Latinos in the region in 2006 had college degrees, compared to 18 percent for African-Americans, 41 percent for White residents, and 61 percent for Asians. These differences in educational attainment are important because of the link between levels of education and earnings. Research has shown that earnings increase with higher levels of education, even regardless of race or ethnicity. In 1999, for example, full-time workers with a high school diploma earned an average of $30,400 annually, but workers with a bachelor's degree averaged $52,200, a 72-percent difference. Also, as our economy continues to shift toward knowledge-based jobs, a skilled and educated workforce will be critical to our region's economic success. Increasing education levels among Latinos, the fastest-growing segment of the region's population, will be necessary to move the region in this direction.

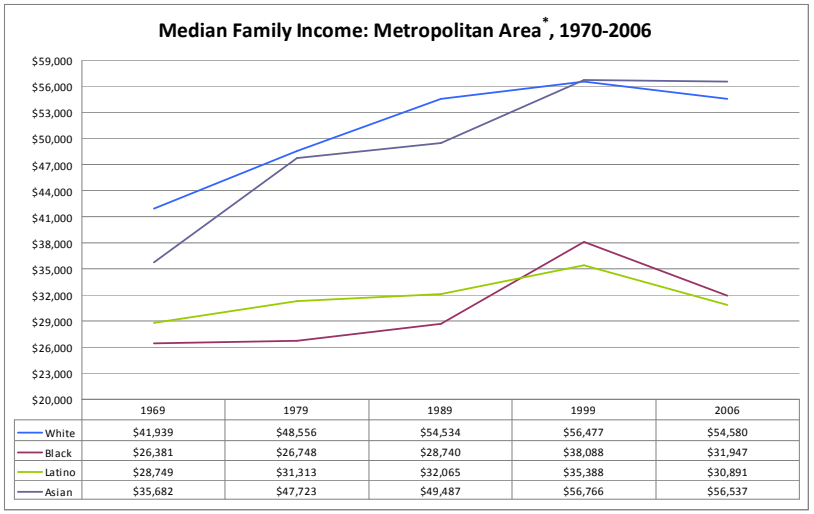


Employment and Income

Between 2000 and 2006, Latinos accounted for 74 percent of the total increase in employed persons in the seven county area and 58 percent of the increase in suburban workers. In Chicago, growth in the Latino workforce prevented the city's workforce from decreasing in number. In 2006, Latinos accounted for 27 percent of all workers in Chicago, and 14 percent in the suburbs (suburban Cook and the six collar counties).



The earnings gap between Latinos and non Latinos increased during the period 2000-2006. As shown below, Latinos had lower family incomes than any other major racial or ethnic group in the region in both 2000 and 2006.

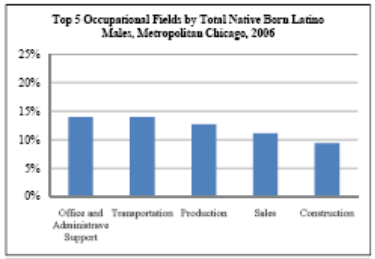


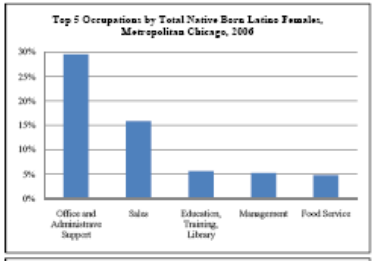
	1969	1979	1989	1999	2006
White	$41,939	$48,556	$54,534	$56,477	$54,580
Black	$26,381	$26,748	$28,740	$38,088	$31,947
Latino	$28,749	$31,313	$32,065	$35,388	$30,891
Asian	$35,682	$47,723	$49,487	$56,766	$56,537

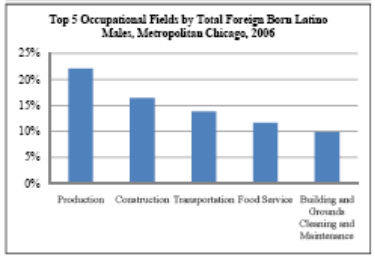
Sixty-one percent of all native born and 74 percent of all foreign born Latino males work in the fields shown in the following charts. Often, immigrants have fewer language, education, and occupation skills compared to native-born residents. As a result, they have fewer occupational options, so they are concentrated in a few occupations. Foreign-born Latino men are most commonly found in unskilled blue collar and low-paying service jobs, while native-born Latino men fill a mixture of semi-skilled white collar jobs and better paying blue collar jobs.

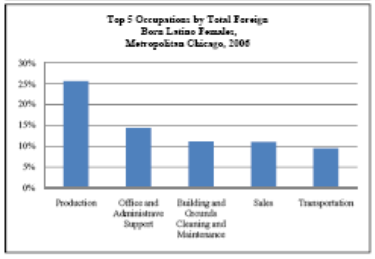
Sixty-one percent of all native born females and 72 percent of all foreign born Latino females work in the five fields shown in the following chart. The language, education, and occupations skills of immigrant Latinas mirror immigrant males, so they also have fewer occupational options, and a higher proportion are concentrated in a few occupations. Foreign born Latinas hold more unskilled blue collar jobs while native-born Latinas as more likely to cluster in the middle level semi-skilled white collar jobs.

As noted in the education section, a growing share of our workforce is Latino, and it is critical to our region's economic competitiveness that this group has the skills to fill the jobs of the future.







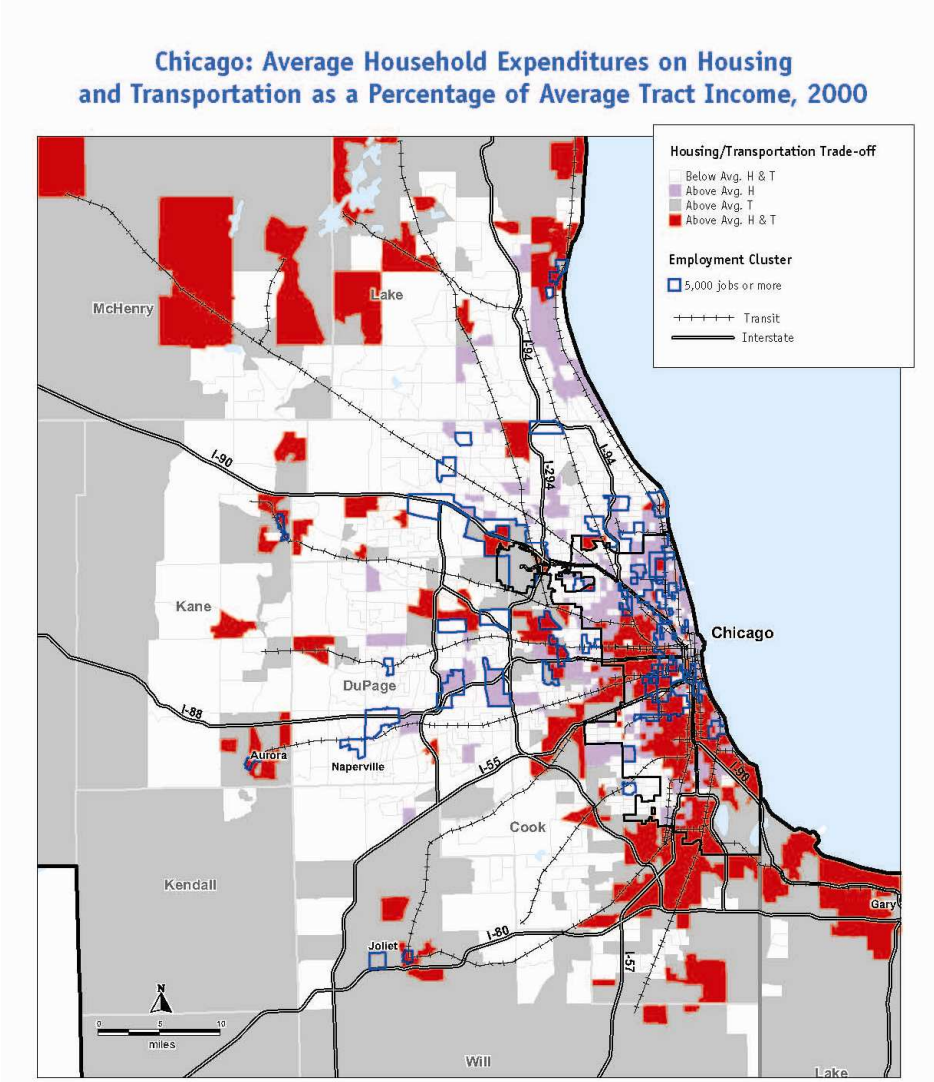


Transportation

Transportation and housing are the largest expenditures for working families (household income of $20,000 to $50,000 per year). In the Chicago metro area, 28 percent of household income is spent on housing, and 27 percent is spent on transportation. The map to the right shows parts of the region that have above-average housing costs, transportation costs, or both. Studies have also shown that Latinos make up 25 percent of neighborhoods with high transportation and high housing costs. These neighborhoods are often inner suburbs with few jobs, low income urban areas, (Cicero, Stone Park, or Blue Island), or outer suburbs or satellite cities (Round Lake Beach, Harvard, Aurora, or Joliet).

Many suburban counties and municipalities have embraced the need to plan for a multi-modal transportation system that provides public transit, bicycling, and walking options. The growing Latino population in suburban areas provides further support for the importance of this strategy. As suburban communities continue to diversify in terms of race, ethnicity, and age, planning for transportation options to serve these diverse residents becomes even more critical. (See the Regional Snapshot Report on aging for a more detailed treatment of how the aging of the population affects community design.)

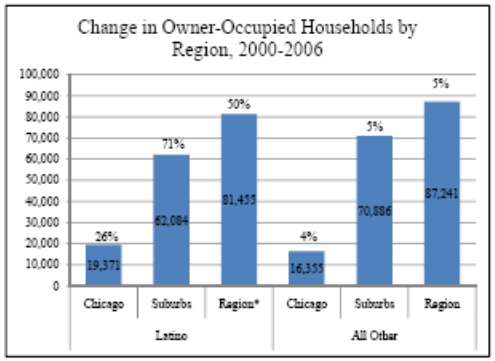
There is limited data available to allow the travel patterns of Latinos to be compared to other groups. As better data becomes available, CMAP will seek to draw additional conclusions concerning the transportation needs of Latinos.



Source: Center for Neighborhood Technology

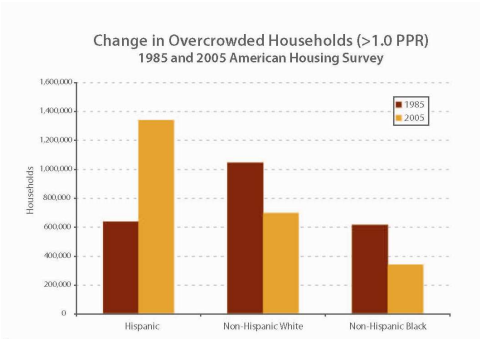
Housing and Land Use

During years 2000-2006, almost all of the increase in Latino households was in owner-occupied homes (86 percent). Latinos accounted for 54 percent of the increase in owner-occupied homes in Chicago and 47 percent of the increase in the suburbs.



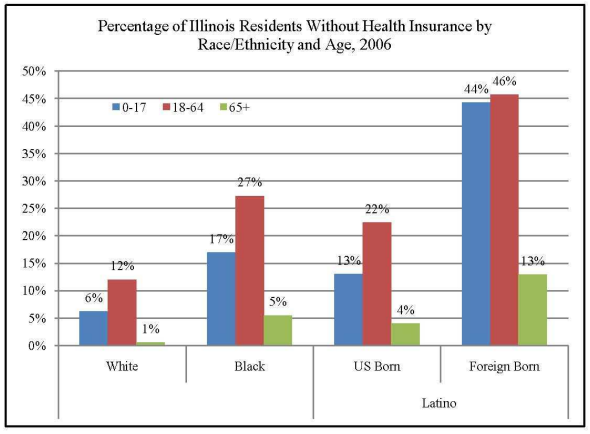
Forty-five percent of mortgages (first liens) obtained by Latinos in 2006 were sub-prime loans – those with interest rates at least three percent higher than the prime treasury rate. Only 16 percent of mortgages obtained by non-Latino white residents were subprime loans.

Recent data suggest that overcrowded housing conditions have increased on a national scale for Latinos. Reasons for overcrowding could be explained in two ways. One is that higher numbers of people within housing units is a cultural preference, and that planners need to be aware of Latino culture when developing code enforcement policies and ordinances. The second explanation is that overcrowding is caused by economic and social factors related to low wages, expensive or sub-standard housing, and social marginalization. Local officials could address overcrowding by promoting an adequate supply of affordable housing.



Health and Recreation

Statewide data for year 2006 show that Latinos have the highest rates of uninsured people in all age categories. Among the working adult population (age 18-64), foreign-born Latinos are disproportionately without health insurance (46 percent), followed by Blacks (27 percent) and U.S.-born Latinos (22 percent). Equally significant, 44 percent of foreign-born Latino children (age 0-17) are without health insurance, compared to 17 percent of Blacks and 13 percent of U.S.-born Latinos. For the older adult category (65+) without health insurance, foreign-born Latinos have the highest with 13 percent. While health care is beyond the scope of the *GO TO 2040* plan, this is a significant issue in the Latino community that must be addressed through other means.



Health and recreation initiatives aimed at encouraging children's access to the outdoors are a recent movement in the region. In efforts to involve more low-income Latino children to participate in outdoor activities and recreational opportunities, organizations like Chicago Wilderness and the Waukegan First Baptist Church have explored the connections between environmental, community service, and faith-based organizations to bring the outdoors to children in the region, including Latinos. Initiatives like *Leave No Child Inside* and the First Baptist Church's *A Cool Summer Experience* (in Waukegan) highlight the efforts to increase the health benefits associated with encouraging children's access to the outdoors.

Civic Involvement

As the Latino population continues to grow, Latinos will exercise more influence in education, in the economy, in health care, and in the communities where they live. Challenges faced by Latinos, such as gaps in income, education, and poverty are detrimental not just to Latinos but to the region's competitiveness. In contrast, an integrated region has a better chance of competing globally.

Latino leaders have suggested that they must broaden the stage for discussing and resolving important issues and develop new paradigms for inclusiveness at all levels of decision making. They also favor promoting understanding and cooperation between Latino and non-Latino communities. This can be accomplished by providing support for the increasing numbers of bi-cultural families and by promoting cultural sensitivity toward all minority groups.

CMAP has worked with Latino leaders and organizations throughout the region by co-hosting *GO TO 2040* Community Conversations, a public involvement component of developing the long-range regional plan. CMAP has met with a number of organizations within communities that have significant Latino populations, including Aurora, Cicero, Elgin, Waukegan, and numerous organizations within Chicago. We are continuing to reach out to the Latino communities and look forward to learning from all our region's residents how we can envision our future together. All Community Conversations are conducted in English and/or Spanish.

In addition, CMAP sponsored *GO TO 2040*'s "Bold Ideas" pilot contests to get kids thinking and acting creatively about the future. Three Chicago schools were selected to participate, including Pulaski Middle School, Carpenter Elementary School, and Whitney Young High School. CMAP has also recently begun the Future Leaders in Planning (FLIP) youth leadership development program to teach high school youth about regional planning and create the space for them to be a part of the conversation that informs CMAP planning activities. Designed to introduce high school sophomores and juniors from the region to a wide range of urban planning issues, CMAP aims to engender a sense of citizenship and investment in the Chicago metropolitan area. The 2008-09 cohort of FLIP reflects the diversity of our region and we look forward to sharing results from this year's program in the future.

Next Steps and Further Discussion

Regional Snapshots are intended to start discussion of emerging critical issues posing both challenges and opportunities to the region. Some local comprehensive plan updates and special studies have already acknowledged the importance of the Latino population and possible impacts on their areas. Examples include the *Lake County Regional Framework Plan* (Lake County Planning, Building, and Development), *Who are the New Neighbors?* (DuPage County Human Services), and *Aurora Neighborhood Planning Initiative* (City of Aurora Division of Planning). These publications and programs document increasing racial and ethnic diversity and support efforts to deal proactively with future impacts on topics such as housing, transportation, education, and public service needs.

As with other Regional Snapshots, a longer technical document that expands on the information contained in this report is available online at <add link>. Numerous additional topics for study were mentioned during public discussion of this snapshot; these are listed in the longer technical document. In addition, similar snapshots for other racial and ethnic groups were strongly recommended. Research on these topics will be conducted as resources allow.

Research Credits

The Institute of Latino Studies (ILS) of University of Notre Dame, led by Sylvia Puente and John Koval, served as research consultant for the project. ILS also convened a meeting of Latino leaders recognized for their expertise in the major subject area of this snapshot. The meeting involved interactive conversations about relationships between the topic areas and how those connections could shape the region through 2040, resulting in unique and valuable cross disciplinary conversations.

About CMAP

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) was created to integrate planning for land use and transportation in the seven counties of northeastern Illinois: Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will. By state and federal law, CMAP is responsible for producing the region's official, integrated plan for land use and transportation. The *GO TO 2040* planning campaign will develop and implement strategies to address projected growth in population and employment and their serious implications for transportation, housing, economic development, open space, the environment, and natural resources. See www.cmap.illinois.gov for more information.