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# DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS, SENIOR WELL-BEING & ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF LATINOS IN NEBRASKA

A Comprehensive Analysis of Population Growth, Health  
Outcomes, and Economic Impact

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June 2025

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# Executive Summary

## Overall Demographics

- ☐ **Two-thirds (67.6%)** of the Hispanic population in Nebraska are native-born.
- ☐ Hispanics/Latinos are the state's second-largest racial or ethnic group after non-Hispanic whites, **representing over half** (54.3%) of the state's minority population in 2023.
- ☐ Hispanic/Latinos are present in 90 out of the 93 counties in Nebraska (only Blaine, Hooker, and McPherson counties show zero Hispanic/Latino population).
- ☐ English is spoken "very well" by 57% of Spanish speakers in Nebraska in 2023, compared to 49% in 2010.
- ☐ Seventy-six percent of young Spanish speakers (ages 5-17) in Nebraska speak English only or speak English "very well" at home versus only 39.9% of seniors (65+).
- ☐ Spanish is the dominant spoken language, excluding English, in 87 out of 93 counties in Nebraska.
- ☐ The Latino population has more than doubled as a percentage of Nebraska's total population over the last two decades.
- ☐ Hispanic/Latino residents are more likely to live in small urban centers (e.g., Grand Island, South Sioux City) than are the general population (32.9% vs. 21.1%, respectively). Only 11.9% of the Hispanic/Latino population live in rural Nebraska, compared to 18% of the overall population.
- ☐ Overall, the Hispanic/Latino population in Nebraska **grew six times faster** between 2019 and 2023 than did the overall population of the state (16.3% vs. 2.7%).
- ☐ Mexico is the dominant country of origin for foreign-born Nebraskans, and it's also the top country of origin for the foreign-born population in 62 Nebraska counties.

## Elderly Hispanic/Latino Population

- ☐ Obtaining accurate data for Hispanic/Latino seniors who are 60 years old is challenging because the U.S. Census Bureau primarily defines and reports on the older population using a threshold of age 65 and over. These barriers complicate efforts to accurately analyze and address the needs of aging Latin American-origin populations in the United States using Census Bureau data.
- ☐ According to the American Community Survey (2019-2023), there were 17,906 Hispanics/Latinos who were 60 years old and older, and 11,067 Hispanics/Latinos who were 65 years old and older, the largest senior population among all minorities.
- ☐ Demographic data shows significant disparities in how different racial and ethnic groups are aging in Nebraska. **The Hispanic elderly population is growing at more than 7 times the rate of the White elderly population** (44% vs. 6%, respectively), indicating a major demographic shift is underway.
- ☐ Hispanics were the **least likely** to include people 60 years old and over in SNAP Households when compared to the rest of the races/ethnicities in the state.
- ☐ In Nebraska, Hispanic or Latino grandparents are significantly less likely to be the primary caregivers for their grandchildren compared to other racial or ethnic groups.
- ☐ Between 2005 and 2023, the leading causes of death among 60-year-old and older Hispanics in Nebraska differed in order and composition from the general population, with cancer, diabetes, and COVID-19 being more prominent.
- ☐ While heart disease is the leading cause of death across all racial and ethnic groups aged 60 and older (accounting for 28% of total deaths), cancer is the leading cause among older Hispanics, comprising 25.5% of deaths in that group.
- ☐ Between 2020 and 2022, the leading cause of death for Hispanics aged 60 and older in Nebraska was **COVID-19**.

- ☐ Hispanics 60 years and older were **2.3 times more likely** to die of COVID-19 when compared to the rest of races/ethnicities between 2020 and 2022 (22.9% vs. 9.9%, respectively).
- ☐ In 2020, Hispanics aged 60 and older reported the highest prevalence (37.5%) death rate due to COVID-19 compared to all races in Nebraska.
- ☐ Chronic disease management (e.g., diabetes, heart disease, respiratory diseases, liver disease, stroke) and injury prevention should be prioritized for Nebraska's aging Hispanic population, given these patterns.

### **Economic Impact of the Hispanic Population in Nebraska**

- ☐ **Overall economic impact:** The Hispanic/Latino economic contribution in Nebraska is approximately 10–12% of the state's GDP.
- ☐ **Workforce Impact:** Latin American and Caribbean-born immigrants, the majority of whom are Hispanic, generated \$16.1 billion in production value and created over 79,500 jobs in Nebraska in 2019. In Omaha alone, their economic contributions accounted for over \$5 billion in production and 26,000 jobs.
- ☐ **Business Creation:** From 2012 to 2020, the number of Hispanic-owned businesses increased by 71%, rising from 565 to 966 enterprises.
- ☐ **Industry Concentration:** Hispanic workers are vital in sectors such as meatpacking (constituting 43% of the workforce), construction (12%), and food services (7%).
- ☐ **Ag. workforce expansion:** Latino agricultural operations in Nebraska have grown rapidly, with the number of Latino-operated farms increasing by **27%** and producers by **35%** from 2017 to 2022, outpacing the state's overall 4% decline in total farm numbers during the same period ([2022 Ag. Census](#)).
- ☐ **Market value of ag products:** According to the [2022 Ag. Census](#), Latino-operated farms in Nebraska generated over **\$313 million** in agricultural product sales, with livestock accounting for more than half of that value.
- ☐ **65%** of all minority farmers in Nebraska are Hispanics.
- ☐ **Nearly four out of ten** (38.8%) Hispanic producers in Nebraska are women, slightly higher when compared to [national Hispanic data](#) (36%).

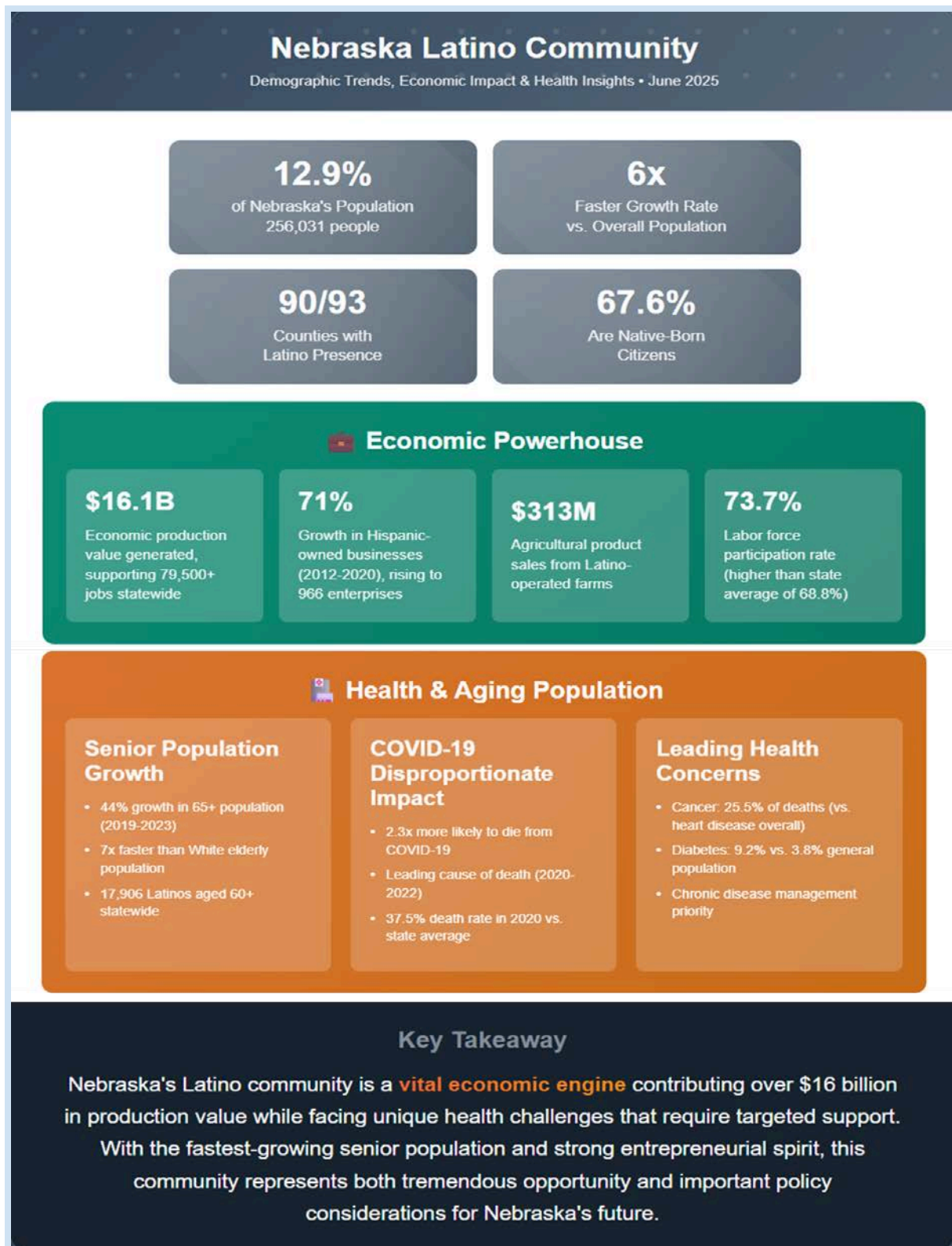
- ❑ **CCC Loan Access Disparity:** While Hispanic farm operations in Nebraska increased 27% between 2017-2022, their participation in federal Commodity Credit Corporation loan programs decreased 64% during the same period. This suggests that credit access barriers may be constraining the economic potential of Hispanic agricultural enterprises, which already generate \$313 million annually and could contribute significantly more to the rural Nebraska economy with improved access to federal lending programs.
- ❑ **Job Creation:** Immigrant spending, much of it Hispanic, supported over 30,400 jobs statewide in 2019, nearly doubling from 17,400 in 2010.
- ❑ Latin American and Caribbean-born residents contribute a ratio of 1.20 (contributions to costs), meaning this population pays about **20% more in taxes proportionally than they receive in public services** (e.g., public assistance, Medicaid, and Education) in Nebraska ([Decker, 2021](#)).
- ❑ Despite these economic contributions, Hispanics in Nebraska ranked 42nd out of all 50 states in terms of per capita income, earning \$23,451 annually in 2023. This figure is below the national average for Hispanics, which stands at \$28,026.

Latino farmers contribute significantly to agricultural diversity and economic vitality in rural Nebraska communities. Their operations, ranging from specialized livestock and crop production to diversified farming systems, help maintain the economic base of rural areas. With an average age younger than the state norm and continued growth in both farm numbers and producer counts, Latino agriculture represents a vital component of Nebraska's agricultural future.

Supporting opportunities for Hispanic education, entrepreneurship, and homeownership is not just about equity – it is an investment in the state's continued prosperity. The Hispanic population is integral to Nebraska's economic landscape, contributing in every domain from the farm fields to leadership roles, and their contributions will only deepen as the next generation rises.



# Infographics





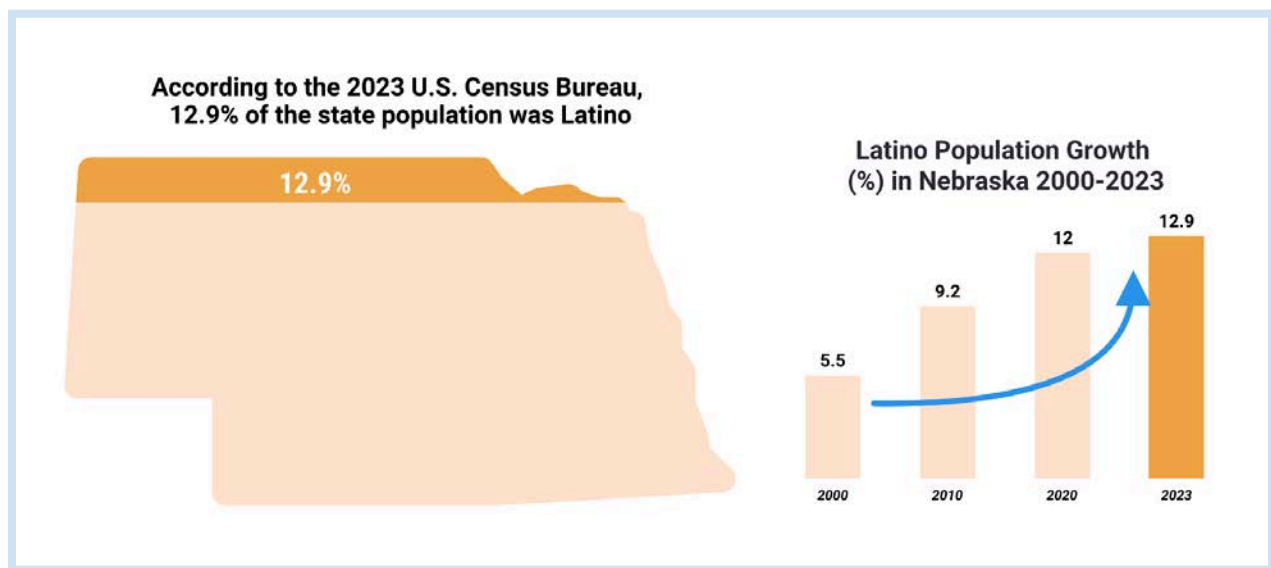
# Demographic Indicators

## Overview

*Hispanics/Latinos are the fastest-growing minority group in Nebraska, now comprising 12.9% of the state's population and present in 90 out of 93 counties.*

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 12.9% ( $n = 256,031$ ) of Nebraska's population identified as Hispanic or Latino<sup>1</sup> in 2023, more than twice the percentage present in 2000 (5.5%). **Figure 1.** The Hispanic/Latino population is the largest minority group in Nebraska, followed by Black/African Americans (5.0%), Asians/Pacific Islanders (2.8%), Multiracial (2.2%), and Native Americans (0.8%). ([U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program - PEP](#)).

**Figure 1.** Growth of Latino Population in Nebraska: 2000-2023.



**Data source:** U.S. Census Bureau, Bureau's Population Estimates Program (PEP). [Nebraska Population Demographics Dashboard](#).

<sup>1</sup> The [U.S. Census Bureau](#) 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.

Hispanic/Latinos are found in 90 out of the 93 counties in Nebraska (counties without the presence of Hispanics are Blaine, Hooker, and McPherson). Three counties have less than 10 Hispanic/Latino total population (Grant, Arthur, and Rock counties). **Figure 2.** Douglas County concentrates the greatest number of Hispanics (82,687 pop.), followed by Lancaster (26,670 pop.), Sarpy (21,466 pop.), and Hall (19,563 pop.)

The vast majority of Hispanic/Latinos live in urban-large counties (55.2%), followed by urban-small counties (32.9%), and rural counties (11.9%). **Table 1.**

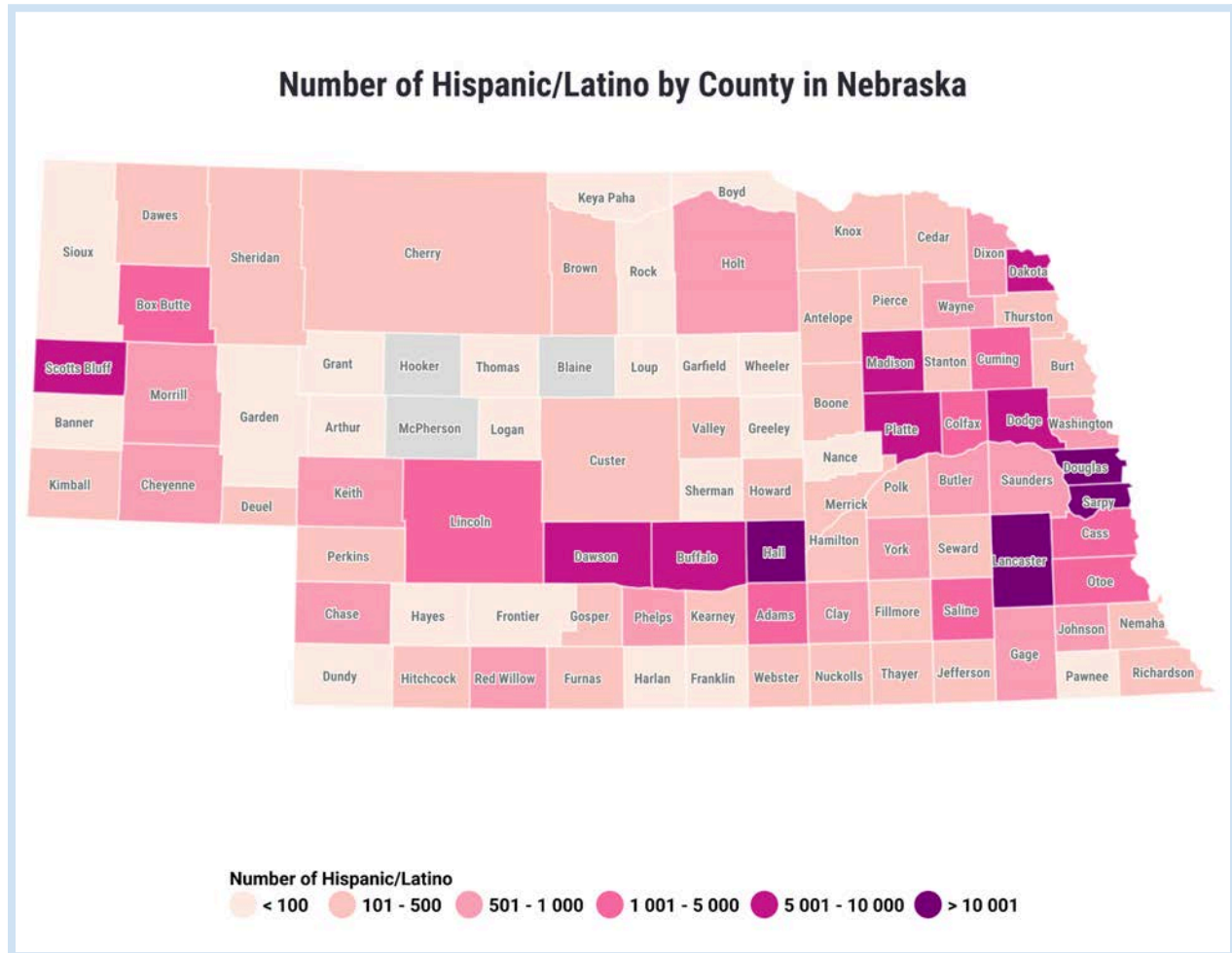
Hispanic/Latinos are **1.6 times more likely** to live in urban-small counties compared to the overall population (32.9% vs. 21.1%, respectively), **and 1.5 times less likely** to live in rural counties (11.9% vs. 18%, respectively). There are seven counties classified as “Urban-Large” (e.g., Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy), 15 counties classified as “Urban-Small” (e.g., Hall, Dakota, Dawson, Scotts Bluff, Platte, Dodge, Madison, Buffalo, Colfax), and 73 counties classified as “Rural”. See the [map](#) in the [Appendix](#) for Nebraska's overall urban/rural classification.

**Table 1.** Hispanic/Latino Population Share by Rural and Urban Areas Compared to Overall Population, Nebraska (2023).

Geography	Hispanic/Latino Population	Percent Hispanic/Latino	Percent Overall Population in Nebraska
Rural	28,846	11.9%	18%
Urban	213,380	88.1%	82%
Urban Large	133,662	55.2%	61%
Urban Small	79,718	32.9%	21.1%
Total	242,226	100%	100%

**Data source:** U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. (2023). Hispanic or Latino Origin by Specific Origin. *American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B03001.*

**Figure 2.** Number of Hispanic/Latino population by county (2019-2023).

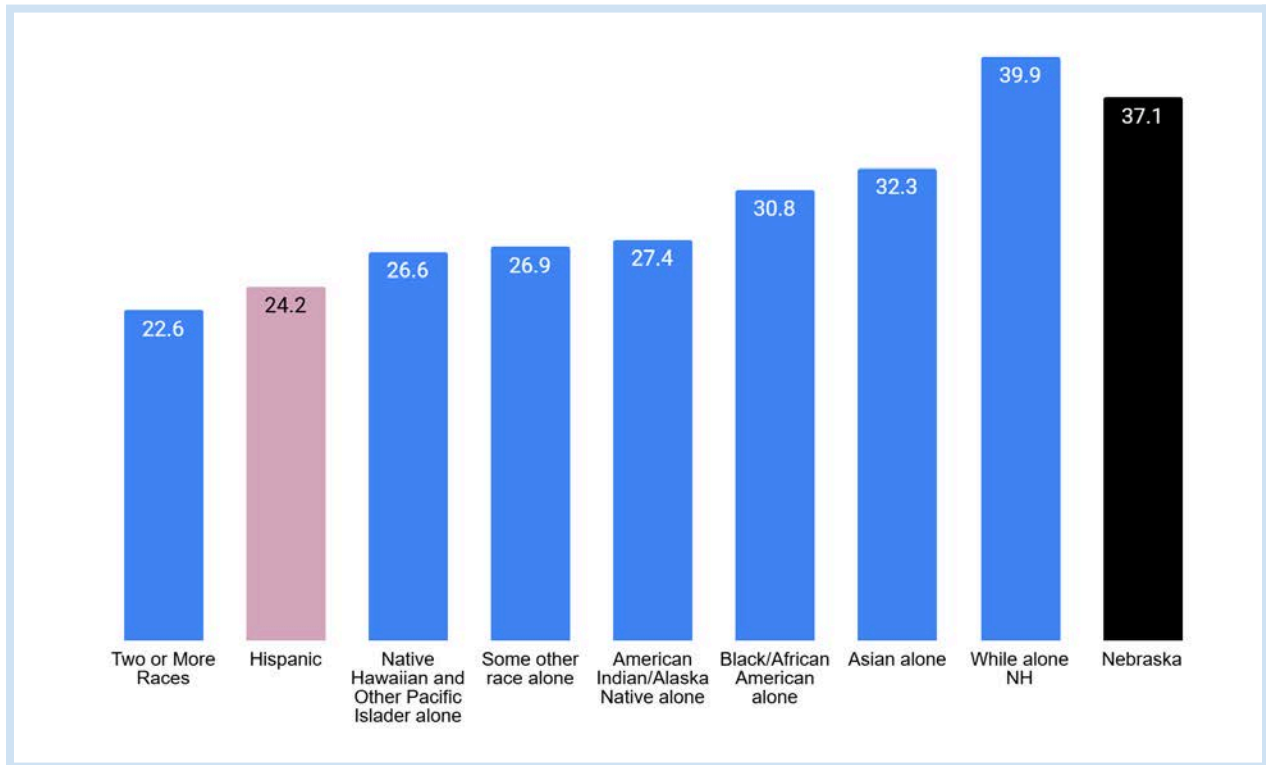


**Data source:** U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. (2023). Hispanic or Latino Origin by Specific Origin. *American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B03001*.

## Age

The median age of the Hispanic population in Nebraska is 24.2, 12.9 years younger when compared to the overall population of the state (37.1 years). The Hispanic population in Nebraska is the second youngest population after the two or more races population (median age: 22.6). [Figure 3](#).

**Figure 3.** Median age by race/ethnicity in Nebraska (2023).

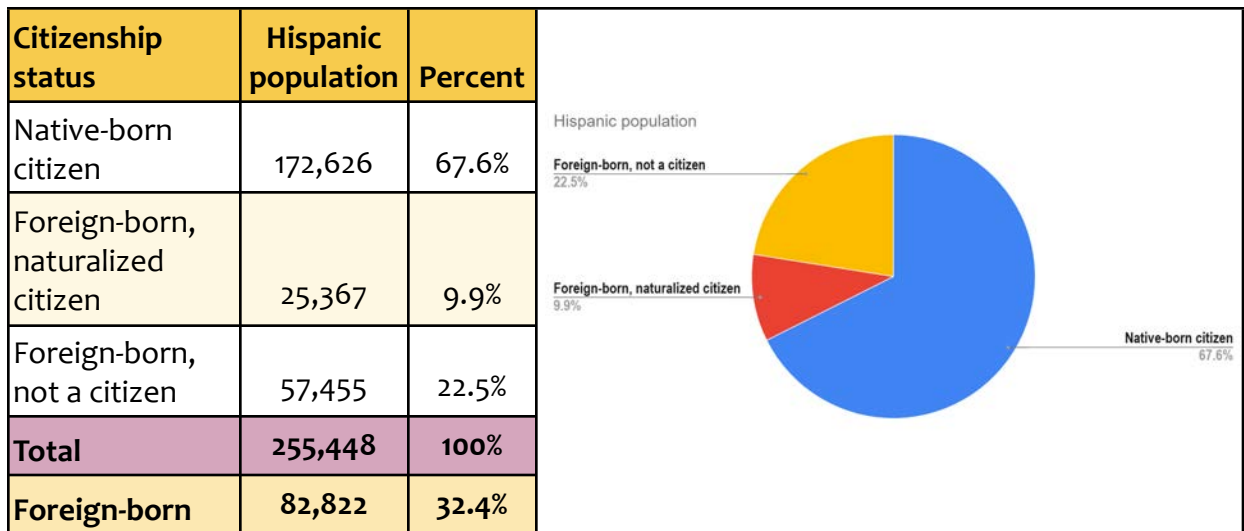


**Data sources:** [B01002G](#) | Median Age by Sex (Two or More Races), [B01002I](#) | Median Age by Sex (Hispanic or Latino), [B01002E](#) | Median Age by Sex (Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone), [B01002F](#) | Median Age by Sex (Some Other Race Alone), [B01002C](#) | Median Age by Sex (American Indian and Alaska Native Alone), [B01002B](#) | Median Age by Sex (Black or African American Alone), [B01002D](#) | Median Age by Sex (Asian Alone), [B01002A](#) | Median Age by Sex (White Alone), [S0101](#) | Age and Sex (Nebraska).

## Nebraska Hispanic Population by Citizenship Status, 2023

Two-thirds (67.6%) of the Hispanic population in Nebraska is native-born. ([Table 2](#)). The proportion of foreign-born Hispanics declined by 5.2% from 2013 to 2023 (37.6% vs. 32.4%, respectively),

**Table 2.** Nebraska Hispanic Population by Citizenship Status (2023).

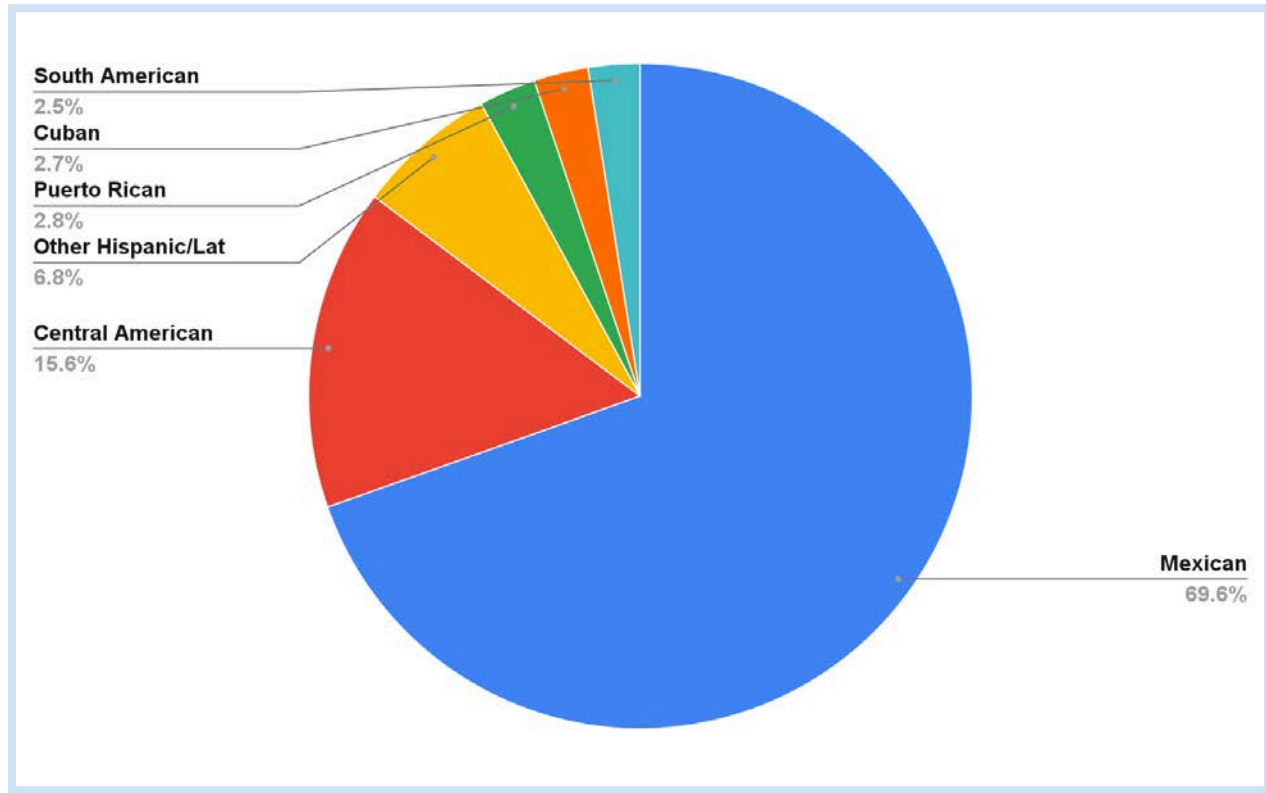


**Data source:** [S0201](#) | ACS, 2023 (one-year estimate). Selected Population Profile in the United States.

## Statewide Hispanic Origin Breakdown

The vast majority of Nebraska's Hispanic population is of **Mexican origin**. Around 69.6% of all Hispanics in Nebraska are of Mexican origin. ([2019–2023 American Community Survey 5-year estimates](#)). Other significant Hispanic origin groups include Guatemalans (19,839 pop., 8.2% of Nebraska's Hispanics) and Salvadorans (10,410 pop., 4.3%). The remaining ≈60,540 Hispanics (roughly 25%) are from various other origins – notably those of the Caribbean, Central American, and South American backgrounds (e.g., Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, Honduran), as well as Colombians, and other Latin American origins. **Figure 4.**

**Figure 4.** Percent of the Hispanic/Latino Population in Nebraska (2023).



**Data source:** U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. (2023). Hispanic or Latino Origin by Specific Origin. [American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B03001](#)

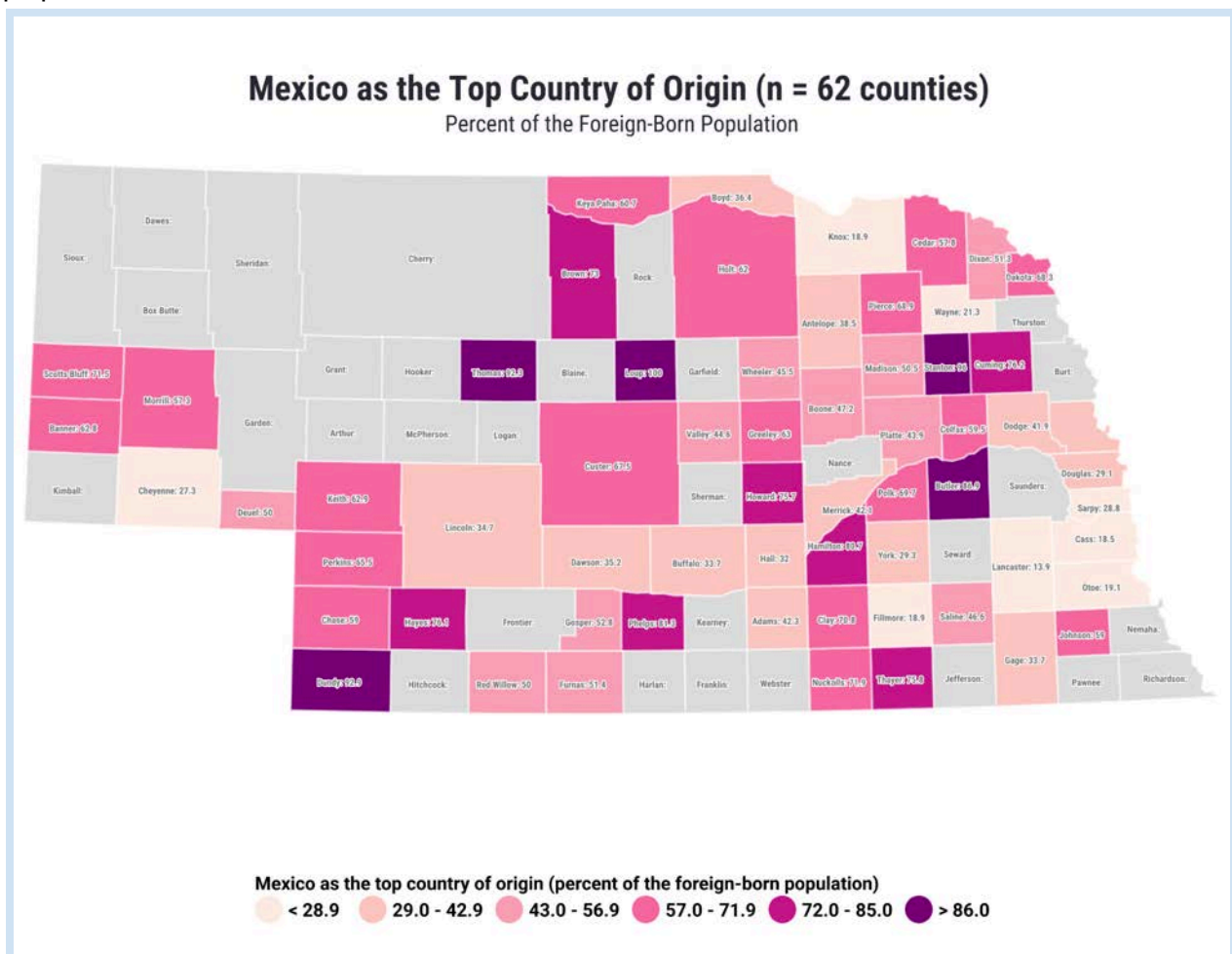
**Table A1** in the [Appendix](#) provides a detailed breakdown of Nebraska’s Hispanic or Latino population by specific origin group, including population counts and the percentage of Nebraska’s Hispanic population each group represents.

## National Origin Patterns Among the Foreign-Born Population in Nebraska (ACS 2019–2023)

Although Nebraska has a relatively modest overall percentage of foreign-born residents—approximately 7.7% of the total population (151,436 out of 1,965,926)—their presence and origins are markedly concentrated in specific counties and largely shaped by economic, historical, and regional factors.

The most relevant feature of Nebraska's foreign-born population is the overwhelming dominance of individuals originating from Mexico. In **62 counties**, Mexico ranks as the top country of origin ([Table A2](#) available in the [Appendix](#)), and in many of these, it represents a supermajority of the foreign-born population. Notable examples include Stanton (96%), Dundy (92.9%), Thomas (92.3%), Butler (86.9%), Phelps (81.3%), and Hamilton (80.7%) counties. [Figure 5](#). A total of **73 counties** in Nebraska list Mexico as the top, 2nd, or 3rd country of origin for the foreign-born population. See [Table A3](#) in the [Appendix](#) for a detailed list of countries of origin for each county in the state.

**Figure 5.** Mexico as the top country of origin in percent of the foreign-born population (2023).



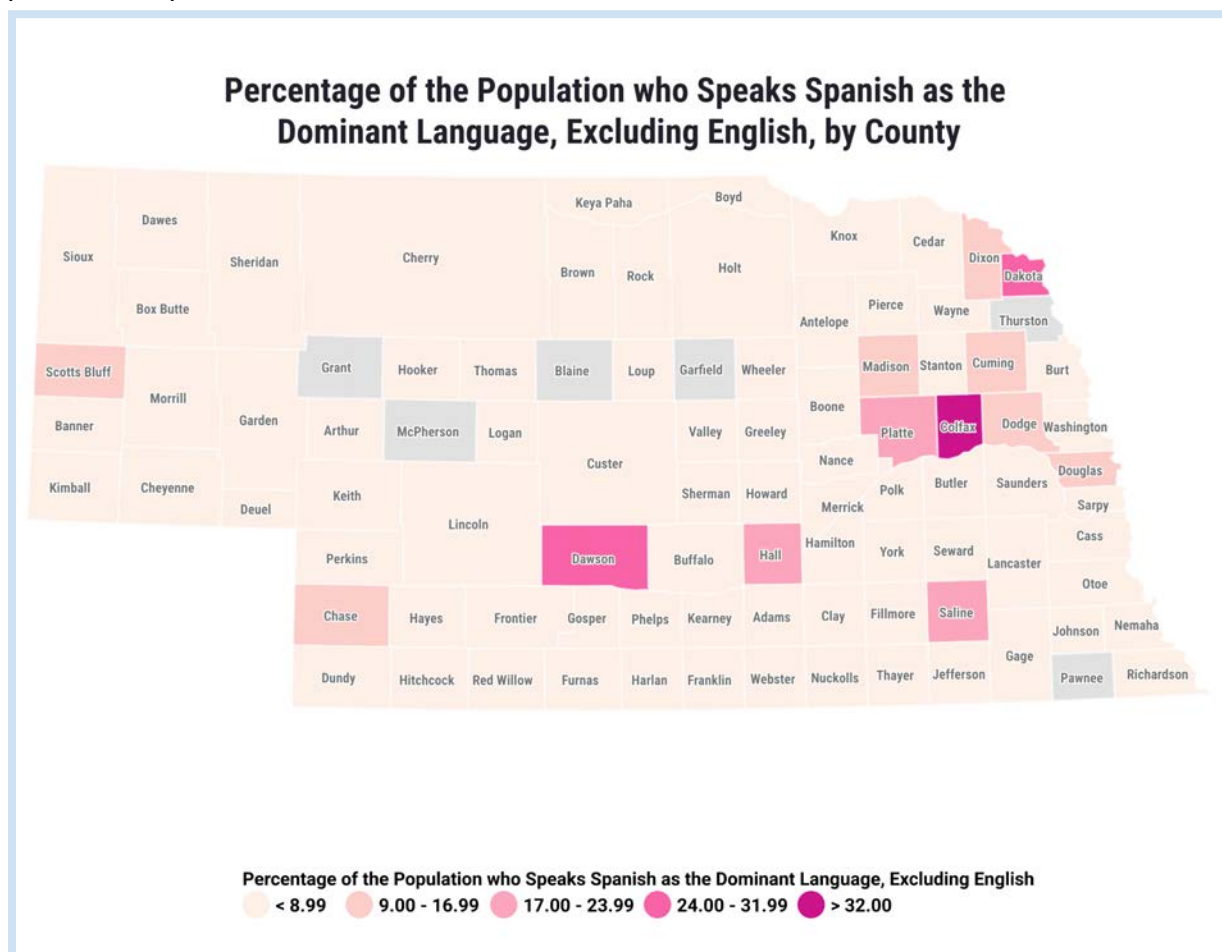
**Data source:** US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#): 2019-23. Additional data analysis by CARES. Map visualization Venngage.com



## Language spoken at home - Dominant Language Excluding English

Spanish is the dominant language spoken, excluding English, in 87 out of the 93 counties in Nebraska. It is estimated that nearly 150,000 people over 5 years of age speak Spanish in Nebraska. The top three counties with the highest percentage of Spanish speakers as the dominant language, excluding English, were Colfax (39.2%), Dakota (31%), and Dawson (30.5%) counties. Douglas County concentrates over one-third (36%) of all Spanish speakers in the State ( $n = 53,722$  people). **Figure 6** shows the percentage of Spanish speakers by county in the State. See **Table A4** for county-level details in the [Appendix](#).

**Figure 6.** Spanish as the dominant language, excluding English, by county (2019-2023).

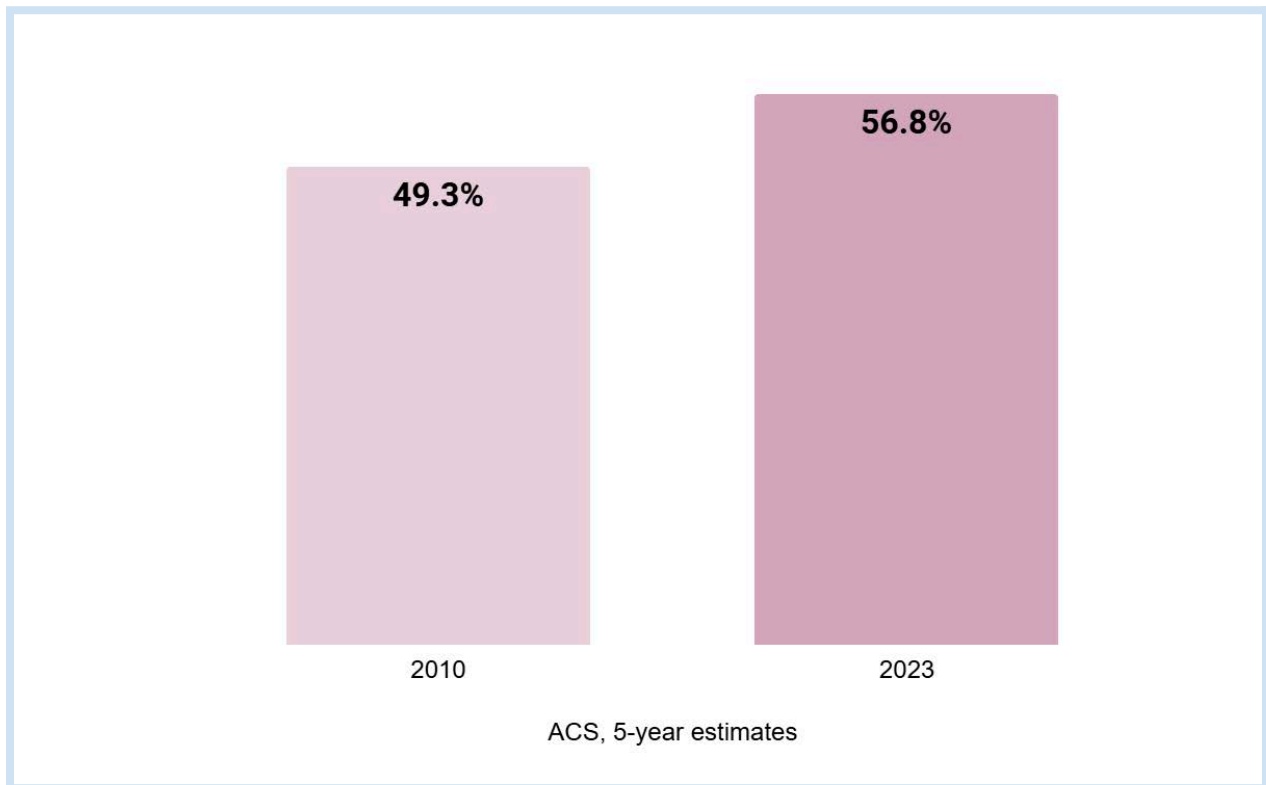


**Data source:** Language Spoken at Home, Dominant Language, Excluding English by County, ACS 2019-23

## English spoken “very well” by Spanish speakers

English is spoken “very well” by 56.8% of Spanish speakers in Nebraska in 2023, 7.5% higher when compared to 2010 (49.3%). [Figure 7](#).

**Figure 7.** Percentage of Spanish speakers who speak English "very well" at home for the Population 5 Years and Over: 2010 vs. 2023.

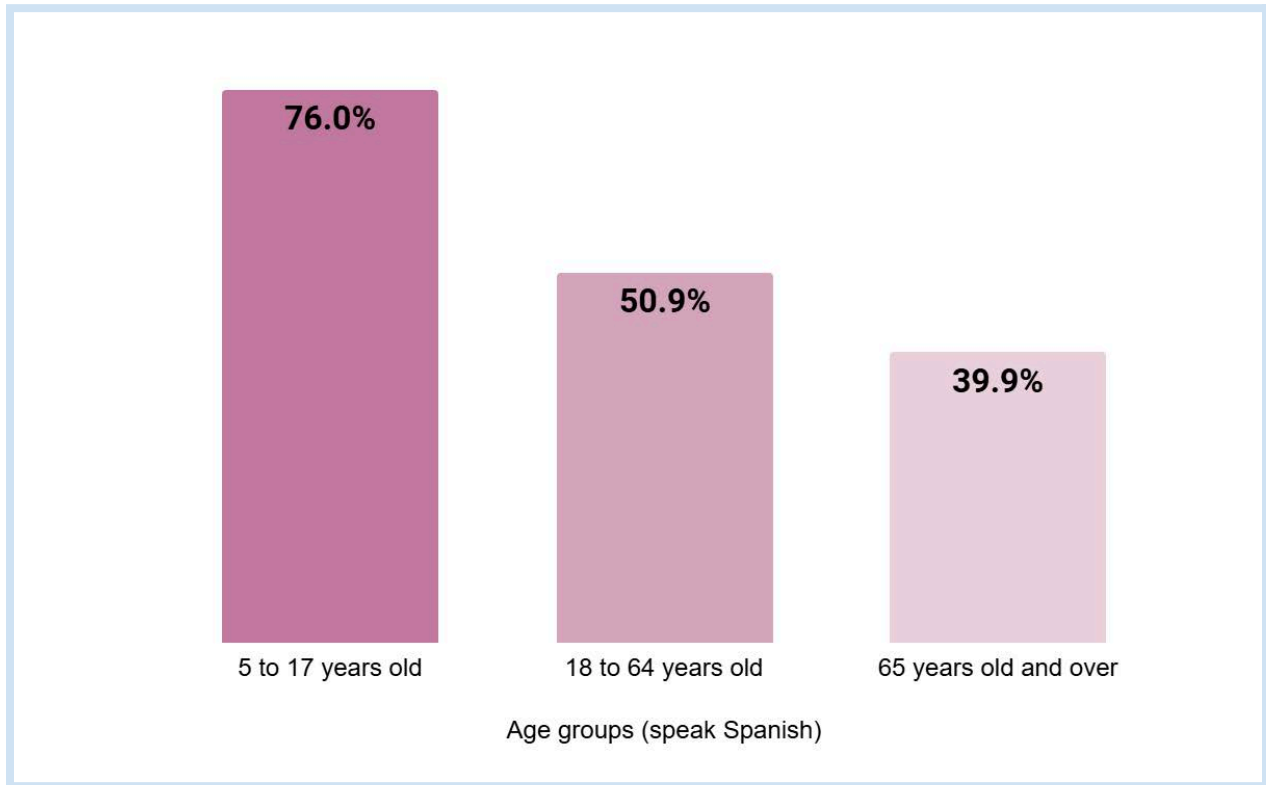


**Data source:** [B16001](#) | Language Spoken at Home by Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Over. ([ACS, 2010](#), [ACS, 2023](#))

## English only or English spoken “very well” at home by Spanish speakers by age groups

Three out of four (76%) Spanish speakers aged 5 to 17 years speak English only or speak English "very well" at home compared to 39.9% of Spanish speakers aged 65 and over who reported speaking only English or English "very well" at home. [Figure 8](#).

**Figure 8.** Spanish speakers who speak English only or speak English “very well” at home by age groups (2023).



**Data source:** [S1601](#) | Language Spoken at Home (ACS, 5-year estimates, 2023).

## Hispanic Elderly Population in Nebraska

### Legal definitions

While most Latin American countries have established 60 years as the standard threshold, the United States generally uses 65 years for its major programs, though with some exceptions. See [Table A5](#) in the [Appendix](#) for a detailed comparative analysis by selected Latin American countries and the United States and benefits associated with being “seniors”.

Most Latin American countries, including Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Argentina, have standardized on 60 years as the age threshold for senior status. Even within countries that use the 60-year standard, certain specific programs may use higher age thresholds (such as Mexico's Pension Bienestar Program for those

65+). The United States uses a mixed approach, with 65 being the primary threshold for major benefits like Medicare, but 60 being recognized in some federal programs.

## **Barriers to Analyzing Senior Data (Age 60+) for Latin American-Origin Persons in the U.S. Using Census Bureau Data**

Analyzing data on seniors of Latin American origin (age 60 and above) in the United States using U.S. Census Bureau data presents several challenges:

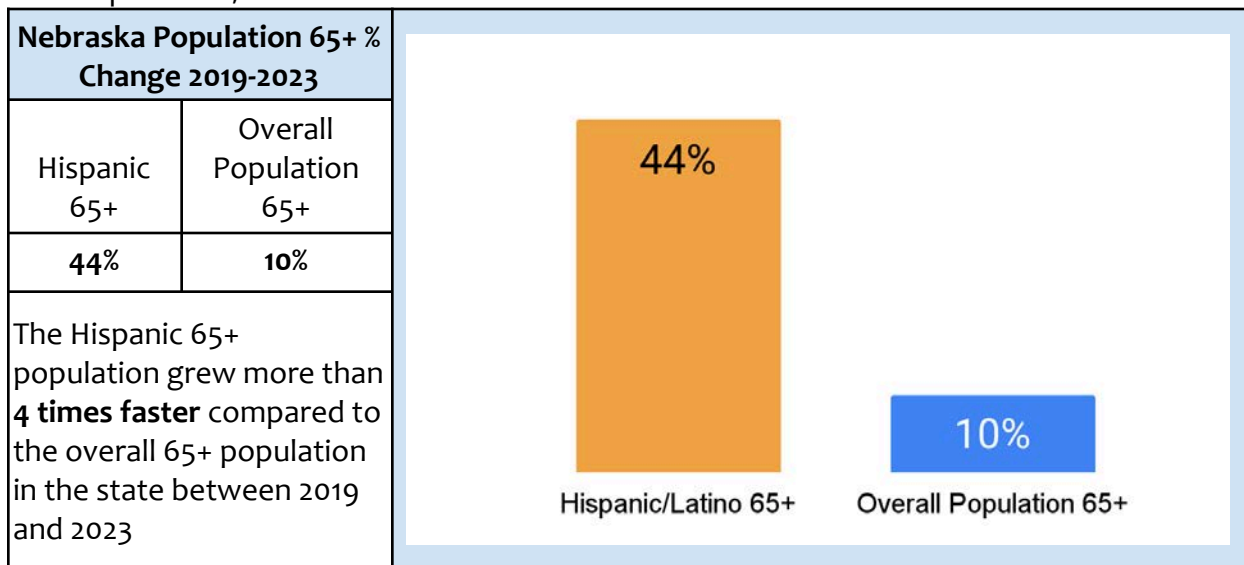
- ☐ Standard Census age brackets may not align with the 60+ threshold commonly used in Latin America to define "senior," as many U.S. programs and surveys use 65+ as the main cutoff.
- ☐ This can limit the ability to make direct comparisons or to isolate data for those aged 60–64.
- ☐ Many older Latinos have limited English proficiency, which can affect both their participation in the Census and the accuracy of data collected.
- ☐ Miscommunication or misunderstanding of Census questions may result in incomplete or inaccurate responses.
- ☐ Economic insecurity, lower retirement savings, and disparities in healthcare access among aging Latinos are often underrepresented or not fully detailed in Census data.
- ☐ Cultural differences, work schedules, and a lack of awareness about the importance of Census participation further reduce response rates and data quality among Latino seniors.

## **Age Distribution: Breakdown of Latino adults aged 60+ and 65+.**

According to the American Community Survey (5-year estimates, 2019-2023), there were 17,906 Hispanic/Latinos who were 60 years old and older, and 11,067 Hispanic/Latinos who were 65 years old and older, the largest group among minorities in Nebraska. See [Table A6](#) in the [Appendix](#) for details.

The Hispanic/Latino population aged 65 and older in Nebraska grew at a rate **more than four times** that of the overall 65+ population (**44% vs. 10%**) between 2019 and 2023, adding 3,368 individuals during that time period (7,699 in 2019 to 11,067 in 2023). **Figure 9**. The 44% growth among Hispanics aged 65 and older between 2019 and 2023 was the highest compared to all other racial groups, growing at more than 7 times the rate of the White elderly population (White: 6%). **Table 3**.

**Figure 9.** Growth of Nebraska's Hispanic Population Aged 65+ Compared to Overall 65+ Population, 2019–2023.



**Data source:** Population Age 65+, Hispanic or Latino, Percent by County, ACS 2015-19 and ACS 2019-23.

**Table 3.** Percentage population growth for the 65 years old and over age group by Race/ethnicity in Nebraska between 2019 and 2023.

Race/Ethnicity	65+ Pop Growth 2019-2023
Hispanic	44%
Asian	25%
Black	10%
White	6%
Minorities	40%
Total Population	10%

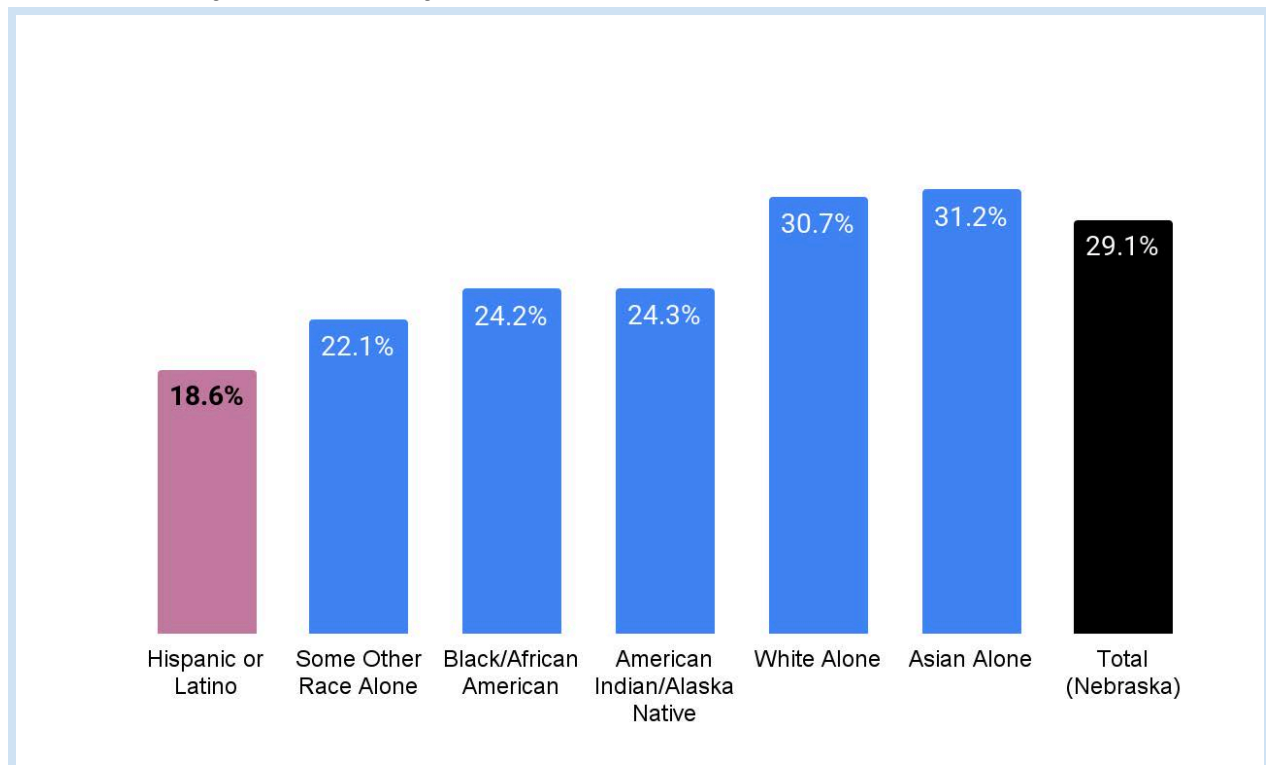
**Data source:** [Table B01001](#) (letters A to I). Population Age 65+, Hispanic or Latino, Percent by County, ACS 2015-19 and ACS 2019-23.

## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program SNAP Participation Among Hispanic Households in Nebraska by Presence of Seniors

### Main Findings

- ❑ Less than 1 in 7 Hispanic households (13.9%) received SNAP benefits.
- ❑ Only about 1 in 5 (18.6%) Hispanic households receiving SNAP benefits included seniors (60 years old and over). This is the lowest rate among all racial groups listed and significantly below Asian households (31.2%), White households (30.7%), and the State average (29.1%). **Figure 10.** For more details, see **Table A7** in the **Appendix**.

**Figure 10.** Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP by Presence of Persons Aged 60 and Over by race/ethnicity in Nebraska (Past 12 Months).

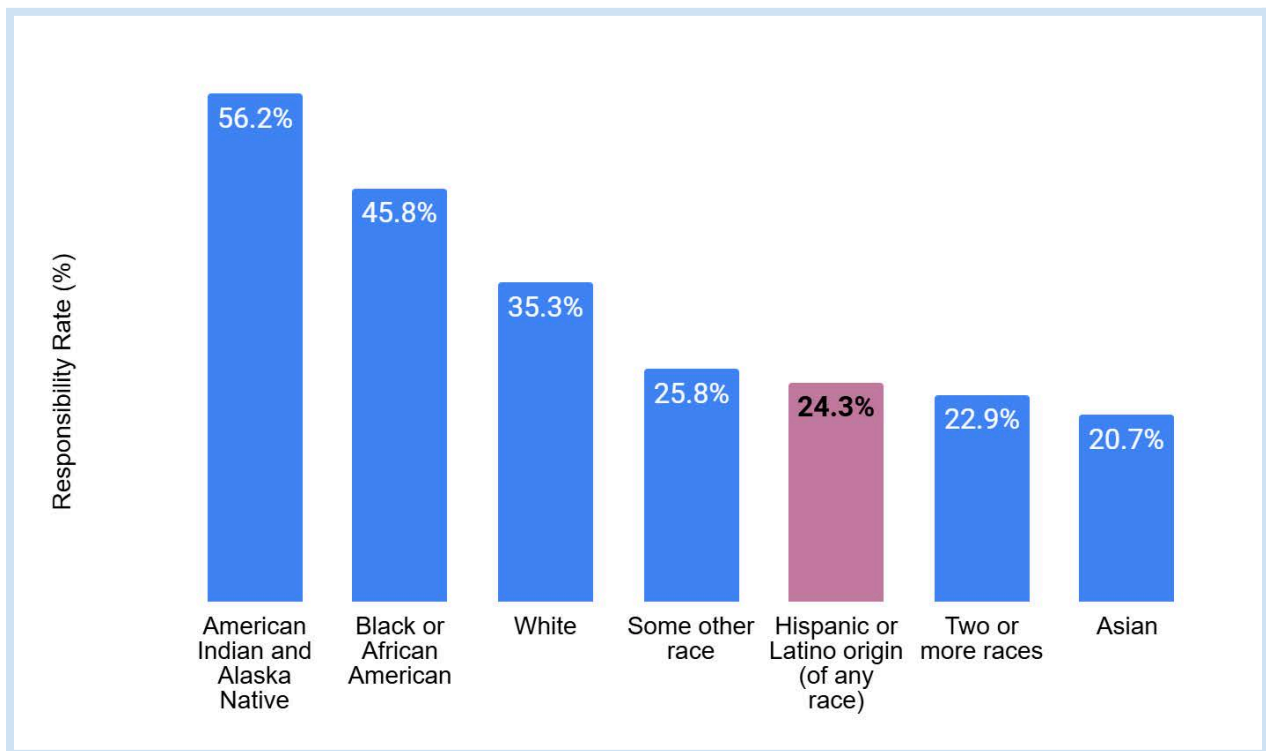


Data source: U.S. Census Bureau. "RECEIPT OF FOOD STAMPS/SNAP IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS BY PRESENCE OF PEOPLE 60 YEARS AND OVER FOR HOUSEHOLDS." [American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Selected Population Detailed Tables, Table B22001, 2021](#)

## Hispanic Grandparents as Caregivers

In Nebraska, Hispanic or Latino grandparents are significantly less likely to be the primary caregivers for their grandchildren compared to other racial or ethnic groups. Only 24.3% of Hispanic grandparents are responsible for grandchildren under 18, well below the rates observed among Black (45.8%) and American Indian/Alaska Native (56.2%) populations. **Figure 11.**

**Figure 11.** Grandparents Responsible For Grandchildren By Race/Ethnicity In Nebraska (2019-2023).



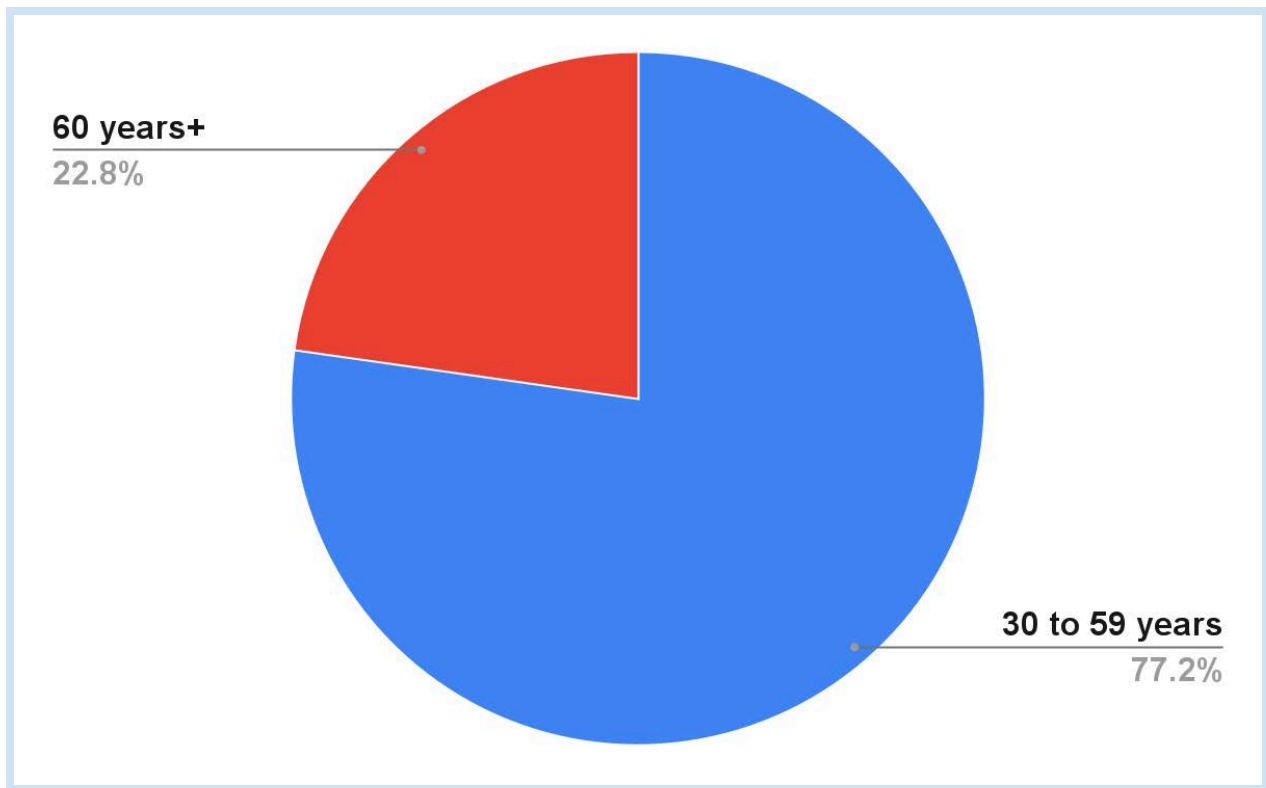
**Data source:** U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. (2023). [Grandparents. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1002](#). Detailed tables by race/ethnicity: Table B10051A, B10051B, B10051C, B10051D, B10051F, and B10051I.

However, among those who do take on caregiving responsibilities, Hispanic grandparents are remarkably young — 77.1% fall between the ages of 30 and 59, the highest proportion in that age group among all groups considered. This reflects a trend of younger family structures, possibly involving early parenting, intergenerational co-residence, or socio-cultural expectations where younger grandparents still play active roles in raising children.



This dual finding — lower caregiving rates but younger caregivers — presents unique family dynamics in Hispanic communities. Grandparents may frequently be part of the household but not the primary legal or financial guardian, instead contributing in more informal caregiving roles. See [Figure 12](#). For detailed data regarding Hispanic grandparents as caregivers compared to other races, see [Table A8](#) in the [Appendix](#).

**Figure 12.** Age Distribution of Responsible Hispanic Grandparents in Nebraska (2023).



**Data source:** U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. (2023). [Grandparents. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1002](#).

## Comparison of Leading Causes of Death among 60 and older age groups: Hispanics vs. All Races/Ethnicities (Nebraska, 2005–2023)

### Overview

The data compares the top 10 causes of death among people aged 60–64 to 85+ in Nebraska from 2005 to 2023, contrasting the Hispanic population with all races/ethnicities combined.

Between 2005 and 2023, the leading causes of death among individuals aged 60 and older in Nebraska reveal notable distinctions between the Hispanic population and the broader racial/ethnic population. While **heart disease** is the top cause of death across all racial and ethnic groups (accounting for 28% of total deaths), **cancer** is the leading cause among older Hispanics, comprising 25.5% of deaths in that group. **Table 4**.

Several conditions demonstrate heightened impact among Hispanics. **Diabetes**, for instance, ranks third among Hispanics (9.2%)—more than twice its proportion in the broader population (3.8%). Similarly, **COVID-19** appears among the top five causes for Hispanics (6.6%) but does not rank in the top ten for all races, highlighting the pandemic’s disproportionate effect on Hispanic communities.

In contrast, age-related conditions such as Alzheimer’s disease and essential hypertension, which rank relatively high among the general population, are less prominent among Hispanics. This may reflect variations in life expectancy, disease detection, or reporting.

**Table 4.** Top 10 Leading Causes of Death Among Adults Aged 60 and Older in Nebraska (2005–2023): Comparison Between All Races/Ethnicities and Hispanic Population (%).

Rank	All Races/Ethnicities (%)	Hispanic (%)
1	Heart Disease (28.0)	Cancer (25.5)
2	Cancer (25.8)	Heart Disease (21.5)

3	Chronic lower respiratory diseases (8.7)	Diabetes (9.2)
4	Stroke (6.9)	Stroke (7.4)
5	Alzheimer's disease (5.5)	COVID-19 (6.6)
6	Diabetes (3.8)	Chronic lower respiratory diseases (3.9)
7	Accidents (3.4)	Accidents (3.5)
8	Influenza and pneumonia (2.6)	Alzheimer's disease (3.2)
9	Essential hypertension and hypertensive renal disease (2.1)	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis (3.1)
10	Kidney disease (2.0)	Influenza and pneumonia (2.6)

**Data Source:** Vital Records, Nebraska DHHS. [Leading Causes of Death Dashboard](#). Notes: Deaths that occurred within Nebraska to non-residents are not included in the data presented. Deaths are reported according to the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) of the World Health Organization. Leading causes of death are based on the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) ranking classification. NCHS has identified a standardized set of 52 causes for ranking, which includes COVID-19 beginning in year 2020. To protect the privacy and security of the data presented within the dashboard, the number of cases or records are suppressed (not shown) when the count is 1-5. Age-adjusted results for individual causes of death will be added to a future release of this dashboard.

### Major Differences

- COVID-19 appears as the 5th leading cause among Hispanics (6.6%), but does not appear in the top 10 for all races/ethnicities.
- Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis is 9th among Hispanics (3.1%) but not in the top 10 for all races/ethnicities.
- Essential hypertension and hypertensive renal disease and kidney disease are in the top 10 for all races/ethnicities but not for Hispanics.
- Alzheimer's disease ranks higher among all races/ethnicities (5th, 5.5%) than among Hispanics (8th, 3.2%).

### Accidents as a Cause of Death Among Hispanics

- Accidents (unintentional injuries) rank 7th among both groups, but the percentage is slightly higher among Hispanics (3.5%) compared to all races/ethnicities (3.4%).

- While the difference in percentage appears small, accidents are relatively more prominent among Hispanics due to the overall lower number of deaths in this group. This indicates that unintentional injuries are a significant concern for older Hispanics in Nebraska, possibly reflecting occupational, environmental, or social factors unique to this population.

**Table 5** summarizes the main findings and key differences regarding leading cause of death between the Hispanic population and the rest of races/ethnicities.

**Table 5.** Summary Table: Leading Cause of Death All Races/Ethnicities vs. Hispanic among 60 years old and older between 2005 and 2023.

Key Differences	All Races/Ethnicities	Hispanic
#1 Cause	Heart Disease	Cancer
Diabetes Rank	6th (3.8%)	3rd (9.2%)
Accidents Rank	7th (3.4%)	7th (3.5%)
COVID-19	Not in top 10	5th (6.6%)
Chronic Liver Disease	Not in top 10	9th (3.1%)
<b>Notable Disparities</b>	Higher Chronic Respiratory and Hypertension	Higher Diabetes, COVID-19, and Liver Disease
<b>Implications</b>	Older general population impacted more by age-related diseases	Hispanics show higher burden from preventable and infectious diseases

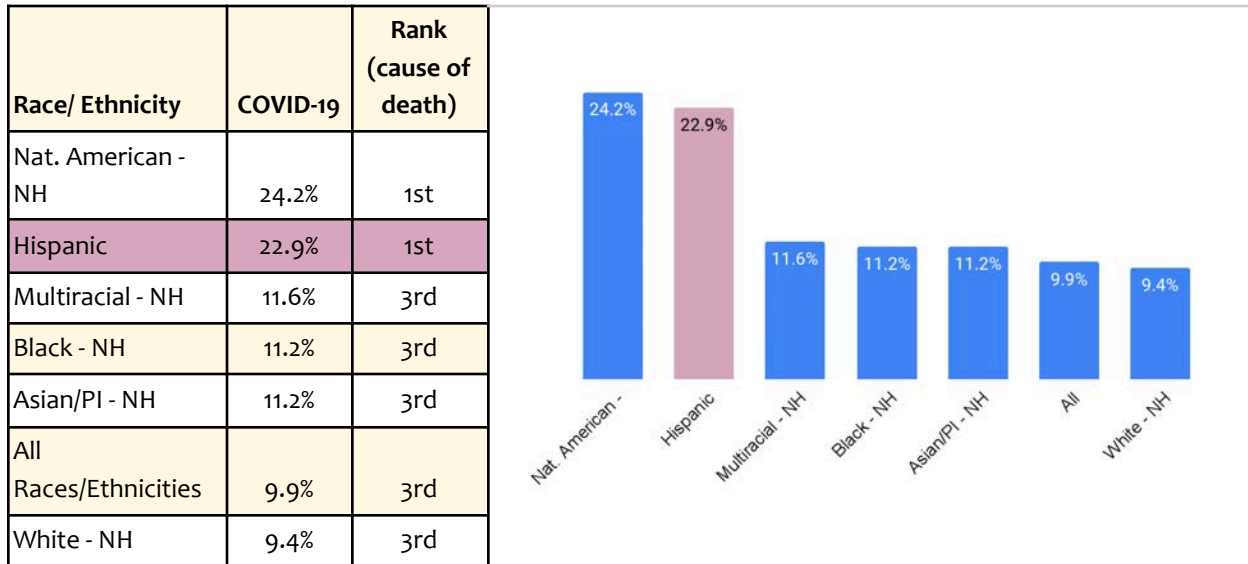
**Data Source:** Vital Records, Nebraska DHHS. [Leading Causes of Death Dashboard](#). Own elaboration.

### COVID-19 (Population aged 60 and older): 2020-2022

Hispanics 60 years and older were **2.3 times more likely** to die of COVID-19 when compared to the rest of races/ethnicities between 2020 and 2022 (22.9% vs. 9.9%, respectively), and slightly lower when compared to Native Americans in Nebraska (24.2%).

COVID-19 was the leading cause of death among Hispanics 60 years old and older between 2020 and 2022, which was ranked #3 as the leading cause of death for the rest of races/ethnicities during the same time period. [Table 6](#).

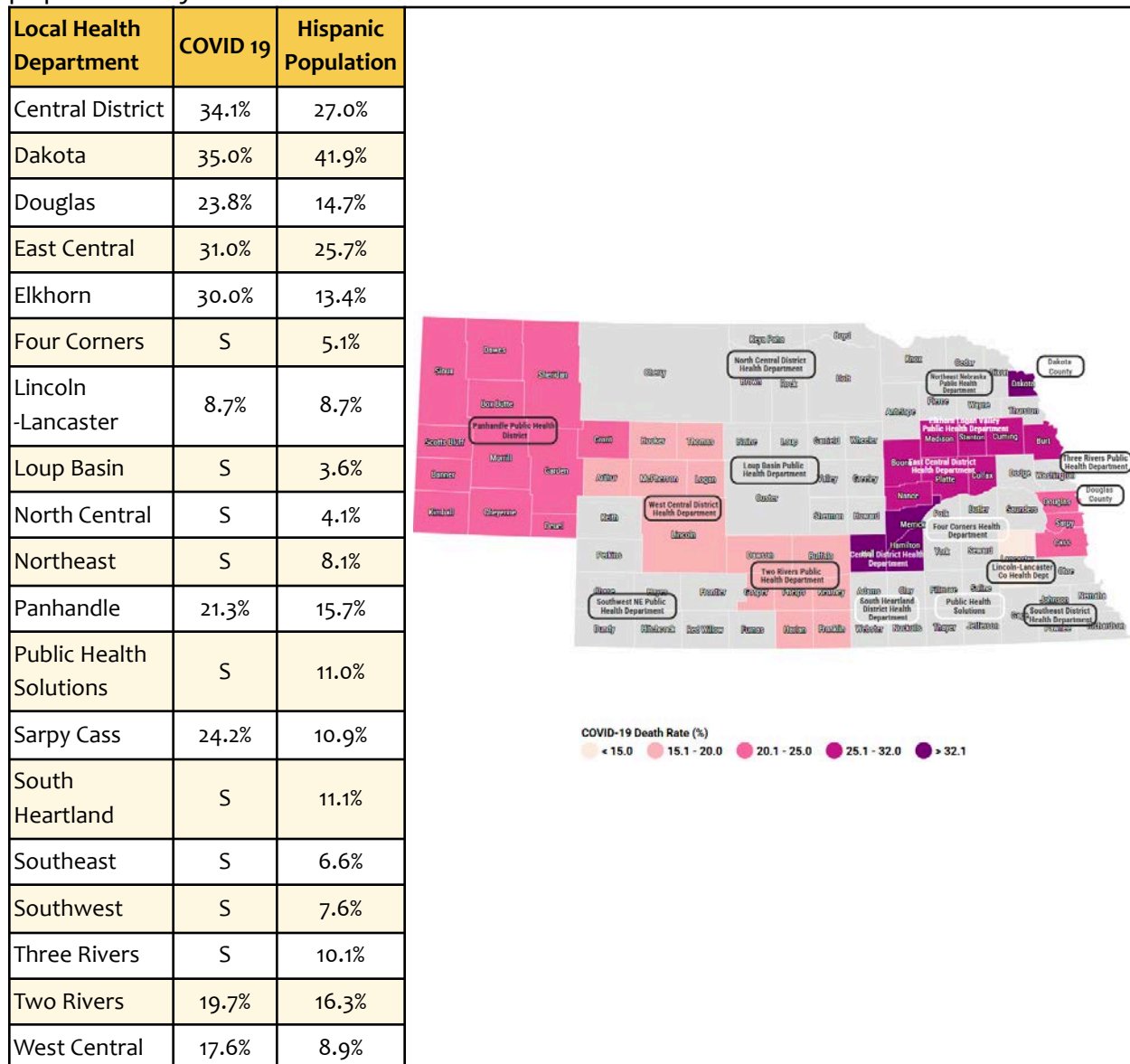
**Table 6.** COVID-19 as a Leading Cause of Death among adults aged 60 and older by Race/Ethnicity in Nebraska (2020–2022): Percentage of Deaths Attributed to COVID-19.



**Data Source:** Vital Records, 2020-2022. Nebraska DHHS. [Leading Causes of Death Dashboard](#). Own elaboration.

Analysis at the Local Health Department (LHD) reveals that four LHDs concentrated the highest levels of death due to COVID-19 among Hispanics aged 60 and older between 2020 and 2022: Dakota County (35%), Central District (34.1%), East Central (31%), and Elkhorn (30%). [Table 7](#) shows the death rates (%) due to COVID-19 among Hispanics aged 60 and older by LHD, and the percentage of the Hispanic population by each LHD. Darker colors on the map show higher percentages of death rates due to COVID-19 among the Hispanic population by LHD.

**Table 7.** Percent of death rates due to COVID-19 among Hispanics aged 60 and older by Local Health Department (LHD): 2020-2022. Percent of the Hispanic population by LHD.



**Data Sources:** 1) Vital Records, 2020-2022. Nebraska DHHS. [Leading Causes of Death Dashboard](#). 2) [Nebraska Population Demographics Dashboard](#). Own elaboration. Note: The letter 'S' stands for suppressed data due to small numbers.

# The Latino Paradox

The Latino paradox, also known as the Hispanic paradox, is a phenomenon where Hispanic Americans tend to have better health outcomes and longer life expectancy compared to non-Hispanic whites, despite facing socioeconomic disadvantages ([Fernandez, Garcia-Perez, & Orozco-Aleman, 2023](#)). This paradox has been observed for several decades and continues to intrigue researchers.

## Key aspects of the Latino paradox include:

1. **Life expectancy:** Hispanic people have a life expectancy of 77.7 years, compared to the overall U.S. life expectancy of 76.1 years ([CDC, 2023](#)).
2. **Health outcomes:** Despite lower income, education, and access to healthcare, Hispanic Americans often have similar or better health outcomes than non-Hispanic whites.
3. **Mortality rates:** Hispanic populations have a 17.5% lower risk of mortality compared to other racial groups ([Fernandez, Garcia-Perez, & Orozco-Aleman, 2023](#); [Ruiz, Steffen, & Smith, 2013](#)).
4. **Specific health conditions:** The paradox extends to certain diseases, with Hispanic people showing better survival rates for lung cancer compared to non-Hispanic whites ([Price et al., 2021](#)).

## Possible explanations for the Latino paradox include:

1. **Social connections:** Strong family bonds and social networks may contribute to better health outcomes ([Diaz & Niño, 2019](#)).
2. **Cultural factors:** Cultural values and practices may promote healthier lifestyles ([Diaz & Niño, 2019](#)).
3. **Healthy migrant effect:** Immigrants tend to be younger and healthier than the average population ([Fernandez, Garcia-Perez, & Orozco-Aleman, 2023](#)).
4. **Salmon bias:** Some ill Hispanic immigrants may return to their home countries for treatment, potentially skewing U.S. mortality statistics ([Bostean, 2013](#)).

However, recent research suggests that the paradox may be changing:

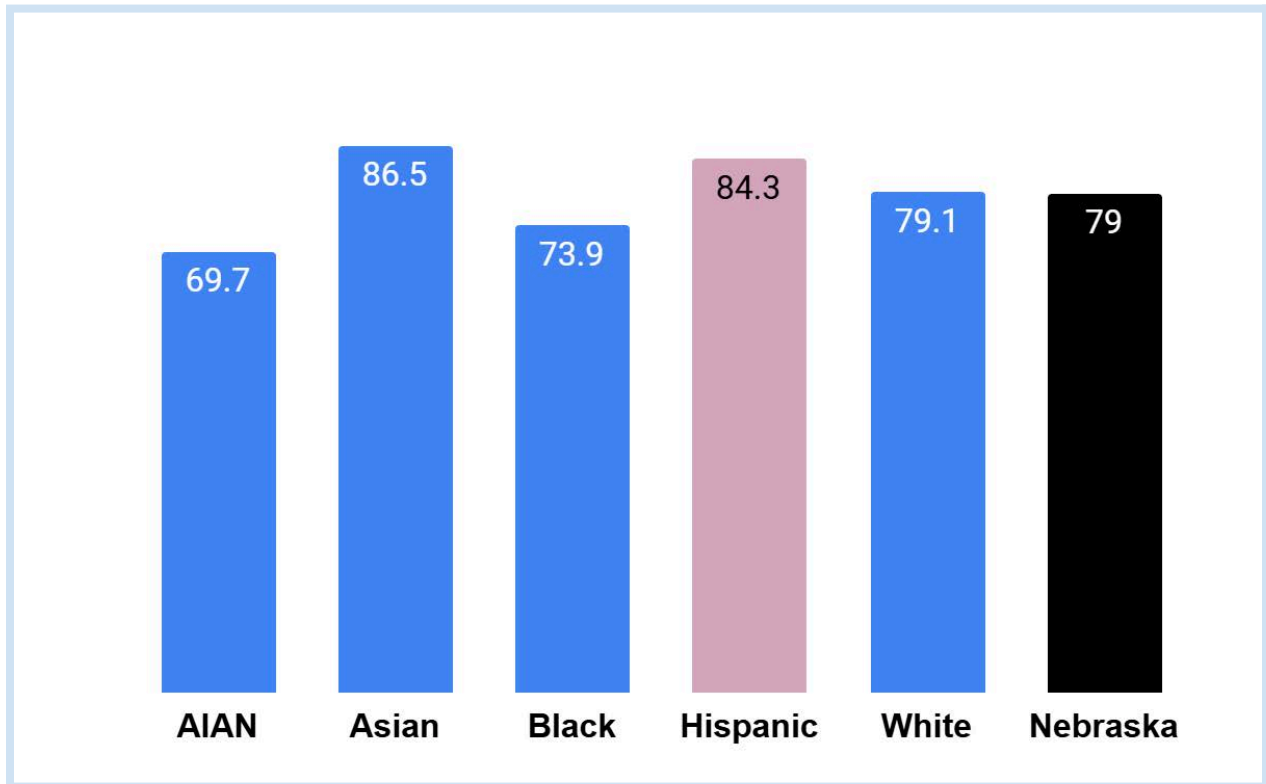


1. **Variations among subgroups:** The paradox may not apply equally to all Hispanic subgroups, with differences based on country of origin and acculturation levels ([Fernandez, Garcia-Perez, & Orozco-Aleman, 2023](#)).
2. **Emerging health trends:** Some studies show increasing rates of certain health issues, such as heart disease and stroke, among Hispanic populations ([Dominguez et al., 2015](#)).
3. **Ongoing research:** Scientists continue to investigate the paradox, examining factors such as immigrant status, acculturation, and socioeconomic interactions ([Borrell & Markides, 2024](#); [Garcia & Saenz, 2023](#); [Hernandez et al., 2022](#);

### **Results for Latinos in Nebraska:**

1. **Life expectancy:** Hispanics in Nebraska report a significant life expectancy advantage compared to most other racial and ethnic groups in the state. According to 2018-2020 data from the National Center for Health Statistics, Hispanics in Nebraska had a life expectancy of 84.3 years—the highest among all racial and ethnic groups except for Asians, who had 86.5 years.  
[Figure 13.](#)

**Figure 13.** Life Expectancy at Birth by Race and Ethnicity in Nebraska, 2018-2020.



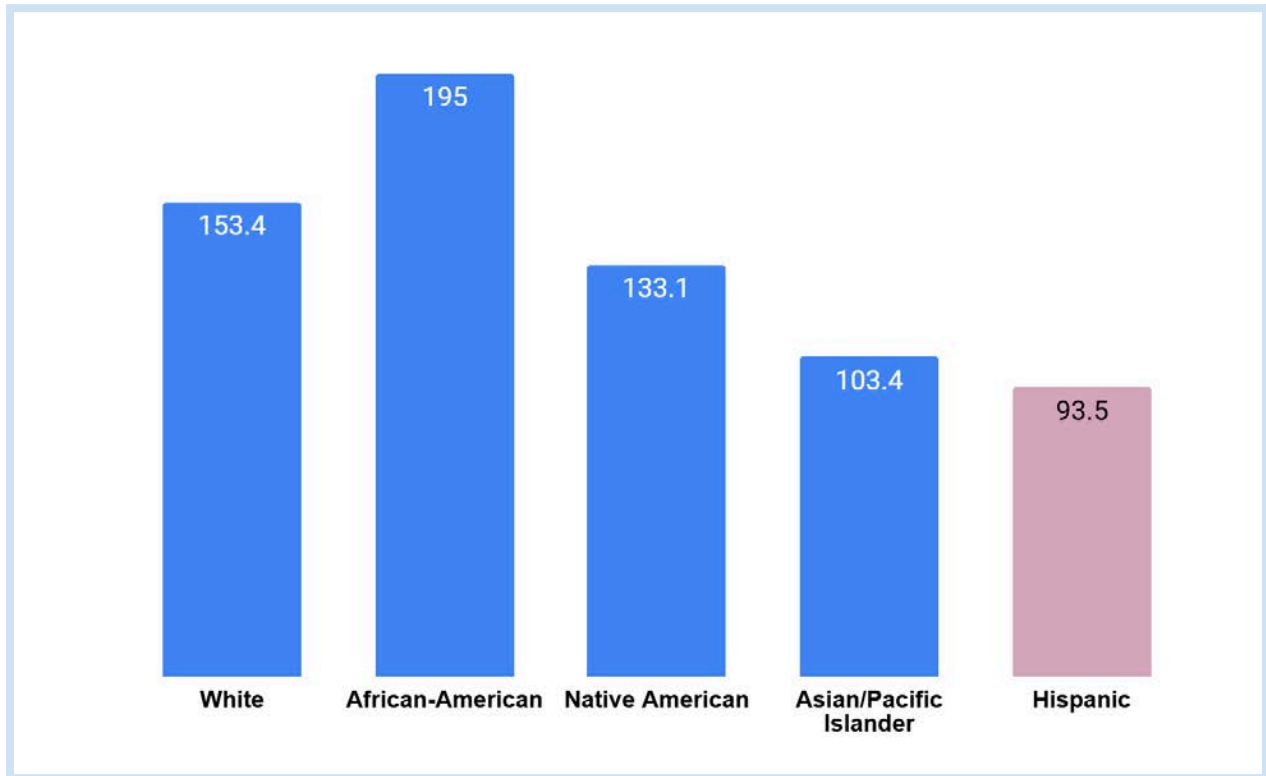
**Data source:** National Center for Health Statistics - Mortality Files, 2018-2020

2. **Health outcomes in Nebraska:** There are mixed findings regarding health outcomes for Latinos in Nebraska:

**a. Positive indicators:**

- i. Hispanics in Nebraska were less likely to die from all cancer cases (93.5 per 100,000) compared to Non-Hispanic Whites (153.4 per 100,000) from 2010 to 2019, the lowest cancer mortality among all races/ethnicities ([NE DHHS, 2023](#). Table 6). **Figure 14.** See note below.

**Figure 14.** Cancer Mortality Rates (per 100,000 population) by race/ethnicity in Nebraska (2010-2019).



**Data source:** [NE DHHS \(2023\)](#). **Note:** Despite a relatively low overall cancer mortality rate, the Hispanic population in Nebraska faces disproportionate risks in Gastrointestinal and prostate cancers.

- ii. Hispanics in Nebraska were **0.6 times less likely** to have a depressive disorder compared to Whites (10.4% vs. 18.7%, respectively. NE DHHS, BRFSS 2018-2022), and **0.8 times less likely** to report that their mental health was not good in the last 14 days within 30 days compared to Whites (9.8% vs. 12.4%, respectively. (NE DHHS, BRFSS 2018-2022).
- iii. Hispanics in Nebraska reported the **second lowest prevalence rate** of people with High Blood Pressure among all races and ethnicities (26%). (NE DHHS, BRFSS 2018-2022).

**b. Negative indicators:**

- i. Hispanics were **2.3 times more likely** to perceive their health as fair or poor compared to Non-Hispanic Whites. (25.9% vs. 11.3%, respectively NE DHHS, BRFSS 2018-2022).

3. **Socioeconomic factors:** Latinos in Nebraska face socioeconomic challenges:
  - a. The median annual household income among Latinos in Nebraska in 2019-2023 was **\$65,399** (ACS, 2019-2023. [Table B19013I](#)) compared to **\$77,418** for non-Hispanic Whites (ACS, 2019-2023. [Table B19013A](#)).
  - b. The poverty rate is nearly **two times higher** for Hispanics (15.8%) than for non-Hispanic Whites (8.7%) (ACS, 2019-2023. Tables [B17001A](#) and [B17001I](#), respectively).
4. **Ongoing research:** A University of Nebraska–Lincoln researcher is leading a team investigating how interpersonal discrimination affects Latinos, potentially leading to chronic health conditions like cardiovascular disease ([UN-L, 2022](#)). This research may provide more specific data on the Latino Paradox in Nebraska in the future.

## Healthcare Spending Patterns

The Latino Paradox becomes even more remarkable when examining healthcare spending patterns. Despite having better health outcomes and longer life expectancy, Hispanic Americans actually spend significantly less on healthcare compared to other racial and ethnic groups. According to data from 2002-2016, Hispanic Americans had total per capita healthcare spending of \$6,025, which was substantially lower than non-Hispanic Whites (\$8,141) and most other racial groups ([Dieleman et al., 2021](#)). [Table 8](#).

**Table 8.** US Health Care Spending by Race and Ethnicity, 2002-2016.

Category	American Indian and Alaska Native (NH)	Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (NH)	Black (NH)	Hispanic	Multiple Race (NH)	White (NH/Hispanic)
Total Per Capita Spending (2016)	\$7,649 (UI: \$6,129-\$8,814)	\$4,692 (UI: \$4,068-\$5,202)	\$7,361 (UI: \$6,917-\$7,797)	\$6,025 (UI: \$5,703-\$6,373)	\$9,276 (UI: \$8,066-\$10,601)	\$8,141 (UI: \$8,038-\$8,258)
Ambulatory Care Spending vs All-Pop Mean	N/A	Less	26% less (UI: 19%-32%)	33% less (UI: 26%-37%)	N/A	15% more (UI: 13%-17%)

<b>Inpatient Care Spending vs All-Pop Mean</b>	N/A	Less	19% more (UI: 3%-32%)	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Emergency Department Care Spending vs All-Pop Mean</b>	90% more (UI: 11%-165%)	Less	12% more (UI: 4%-24%)	N/A	40% more (UI: 19%-63%)	N/A
<b>Dental Spending vs All-Pop Mean</b>	N/A	Not less	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Source:** Dieleman, J. L., Chen, C., Crosby, S. W., Liu, A., McCracken, D., Pollock, I. A., ... & Murray, C. J. (2021). US health care spending by race and ethnicity, 2002-2016. *JAMA*, 326(7), 649-659. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8371574/>

This spending pattern reinforces the paradoxical nature of Latino health outcomes. Hispanic Americans spent 33% less on ambulatory care compared to the population mean, suggesting they may have less routine access to preventive and primary care services. Yet despite this reduced healthcare utilization and spending, they continue to demonstrate superior health outcomes in many areas, including the lower cancer mortality rates and higher life expectancy observed in Nebraska.

# The Economic Impact of Latino Americans in Nebraska: From Labor Force to Business Leadership

## Introduction

Latino Americans have emerged as one of the most significant drivers of economic growth in Nebraska, transforming from a primarily labor-focused community to a dynamic entrepreneurial force that generates billions in economic activity across the state. This transformation spans over three decades, beginning with the establishment of meatpacking plants in rural communities and evolving into a diverse business ecosystem that now encompasses construction, food services, healthcare, and professional services. The economic contributions of Nebraska's Latino community extend far beyond their 12.9% population share, representing a vital component of the state's economic foundation that generates over **\$16 billion** in production value and sustains nearly **80,000 jobs** statewide ([Decker, 2021](#)).

Latino Americans contributes billions to Nebraska's GDP, maintains higher labor force participation rates than state averages, and shows remarkable entrepreneurial growth.

📌 Their young median age (23 years compared to 38 for non-Hispanic whites) represents a vital demographic dividend for Nebraska as it confronts workforce shortages and an aging population.

## Historical Foundation and Demographic Growth

The modern economic story of Latino Americans in Nebraska began with a pivotal moment in 1990 when the Lexington IBP meatpacking plant opened its doors. This

event marked the beginning of a significant demographic shift that would fundamentally alter Nebraska's economic landscape. The meatpacking industry's expansion created a demand for workers willing to perform difficult and often dangerous jobs, attracting waves of Latino immigrants who became essential to the industry's operations ([Nebraska State Historical Society, 2022](#)).

The rapid population growth created a foundation for economic expansion that would extend well beyond the initial industrial employment that drew many families to the state.

The demographic transformation has been remarkable in its scope and pace. Nebraska's Latino population grew from approximately 94,000 in 2000 to 234,715 by 2020, representing a **77% increase over two decades** (NE DHHS, 2020). This growth rate far exceeded that of other demographic groups, with Latinos becoming 12.9% of Nebraska's total population and representing over half (54.3%) of the state's minority population in 2023.

The geographic distribution of this growth has been concentrated but impactful. Douglas and Lancaster counties have become the focal points for Latino economic activity, accounting for 58% of all Hispanic-owned firms, 60% of total sales, 56% of the employed workforce, and 57% of the annual payroll among Latino-owned businesses ([NCLA, 2023](#)). This concentration has created economic clusters that generate significant multiplier effects throughout these metropolitan areas.

✍️ This economic contribution represents approximately **10-12% of Nebraska's total GDP<sup>2</sup>**, closely matching the Hispanic population percentage (12.9% as of 2023).

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<sup>2</sup> For context, Nebraska's gross domestic product (GDP) in recent years has been around \$145–\$165 billion. A contribution of \$16+ billion by Latin American immigrants alone approaches roughly 10–12% of state output. **Data sources based on:** Nebraska Latino GDP figures from [Decker, 2021](#), and Nebraska GDP figures from [Hoffman & Jurado, 2024](#).



## Entrepreneurship shows remarkable growth

Hispanic-owned businesses have shown explosive growth, significantly outpacing the overall business growth rate while diversifying Nebraska's economy.

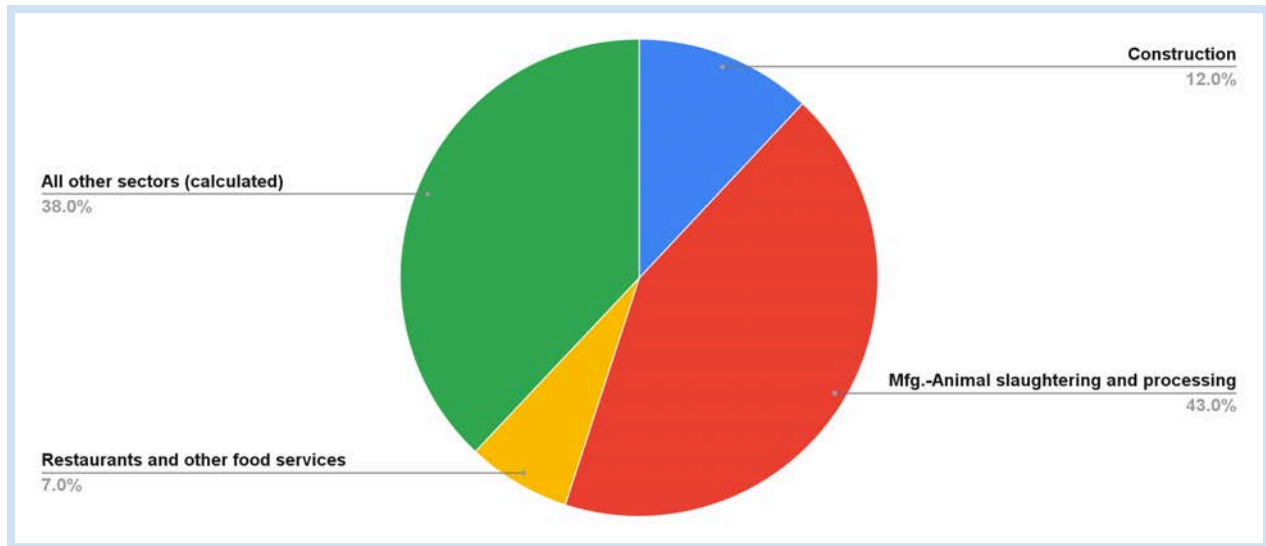
The number of Hispanic-owned businesses in Nebraska grew by **71%** from 2012 to 2020, according to the Nebraska Commission on Latino-Americans ([NCLA, 2023](#)). This growth far exceeded the state's overall business growth rate and continued a trend documented in the 2012 Nebraska Survey of Business Owners, which reported 6,048 Hispanic-owned businesses—a **97.5% increase** from 2007's 3,063 businesses ([UNO, 2012](#)). **Table 9** on [page 39](#) shows a summary the main economic impacts of the Hispanic business community in Nebraska.

### **Employment Contributions** (statistics from [Decker, 2021](#)):

Latin American and Caribbean-born residents made up 4.7% of Nebraska's population aged 16+ but have outsized employment impact in key sectors:

- They represent 12% of construction jobs, 43% of animal slaughtering/processing jobs, and 7% of restaurant/food service jobs in Nebraska. **Figure 15.**
- Their employment in these three sectors created 24,981 direct jobs and supported 45,535 additional jobs through indirect and induced effects (page 17, Table 6)

**Figure 15.** Employment Distribution of Latin American and Caribbean-Born In Nebraska (2015–2019).



**Data source:** U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 ACS Public Use Microdata Samples. Modified from [Decker, 2021](#)

### Consumer Spending Impact:

- Latin American and Caribbean-born residents spent \$1.1 billion locally in Nebraska, generating a total economic impact of **\$1.9 billion**
- Their spending supported **14,715 jobs** throughout the state

### Fiscal Contributions:

- Latin American and Caribbean-born residents contributed 2.6% of measured state taxes while accounting for only 2.1% of measured costs (page 19, Table 7)
- Latin American and Caribbean-born residents contribute a ratio of 1.20 (contributions to costs), meaning this population pay about **20% more in taxes proportionally than they receive in public services** (e.g., public assistance, Medicaid, and Education) in Nebraska
- Specifically, they contributed 2.4% of state income taxes, 3.1% of sales taxes, and 2.7% of gasoline taxes

### Comparative Impact:

- The Latin American and Caribbean-born population's total economic impact increased from \$13.6 billion in 2010 to \$16.1 billion in 2019

**Table 9.** Summary Table: Key Economic Indicators for Hispanics/Latinos in Nebraska

Indicator	Value/Impact (Recent Years)
Share of NE population	12.9% (2023)
Hispanic-owned businesses	966 (2020), up 71% since 2012
Annual business sales	\$555 million (2018); \$500M–\$1B (2020 est.)
Jobs created (immigrants)	79,500+ (2019, Latin American/Caribbean)
Payroll (Hispanic firms)	\$136 million (2020)
Top sectors	Mfg.-Animal slaughtering and processing, food service, construction, retail
State/local tax contribution	2.6% of taxes (state income taxes, state sales taxes and state gasoline taxes), 2.1% of costs (public assistance, Medicaid, and Education) ( <a href="#">2019</a> )
Per capita income	\$23,451 (2023) - Lowest tier compared to other states.
Economic multiplier	2.10
Consumer spending impact	\$1.1B spent, 15,000 jobs supported

**Data sources:** [Decker \(2021\)](#). [NCLA \(2023\)](#).

## Economic Well Being

Latinos in Nebraska show a notably high labor force participation rate—73.7%, the second highest among demographic groups in the state ([Table 10](#)). However, many are employed in rapidly expanding job sectors that typically offer wages below Nebraska’s median. This pattern leaves Latino workers especially susceptible to

economic instability and is a key factor behind the higher poverty rates observed in Latino households, especially those with children, even when family members are employed. The following tables highlight key indicators of Latino economic well-being, comparing income, labor force participation, and unemployment rates by race and ethnicity in Nebraska for the year 2023. See [Tables 10](#) and [11](#), and [Figures 16](#) and [17](#).

**Table 10.** Labor Participation Hispanics in Nebraskan (2023).

Year: 2023	Total (all population)	Hispanic	Hispanic % of Total
In labor force	1,057,127	116,665	11.04%
<b>Participation rate<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>68.8%</b>	<b>73.7%</b>	--
Unemployed	31,714	4,433	13.97%
Unemployment rate	3.0%	3.8%	--

**Data source:** [S2301](#) | Employment Status. Note 1: Labor force participation rate is based on the civilian, noninstitutionalized population aged 16 years and over.

**Table 11.** Median Household Income (2023).

Year: 2023	Total (all population)	Hispanic
<b>Median Household Income</b>	\$74,590	\$65,399

**Data sources:** [B19013I](#) | Median Household Income in the Past 12 Months (in 2023 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars) (Hispanic or Latino Householder). [S1901](#) | Income in the Past 12 Months (in 2023 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)

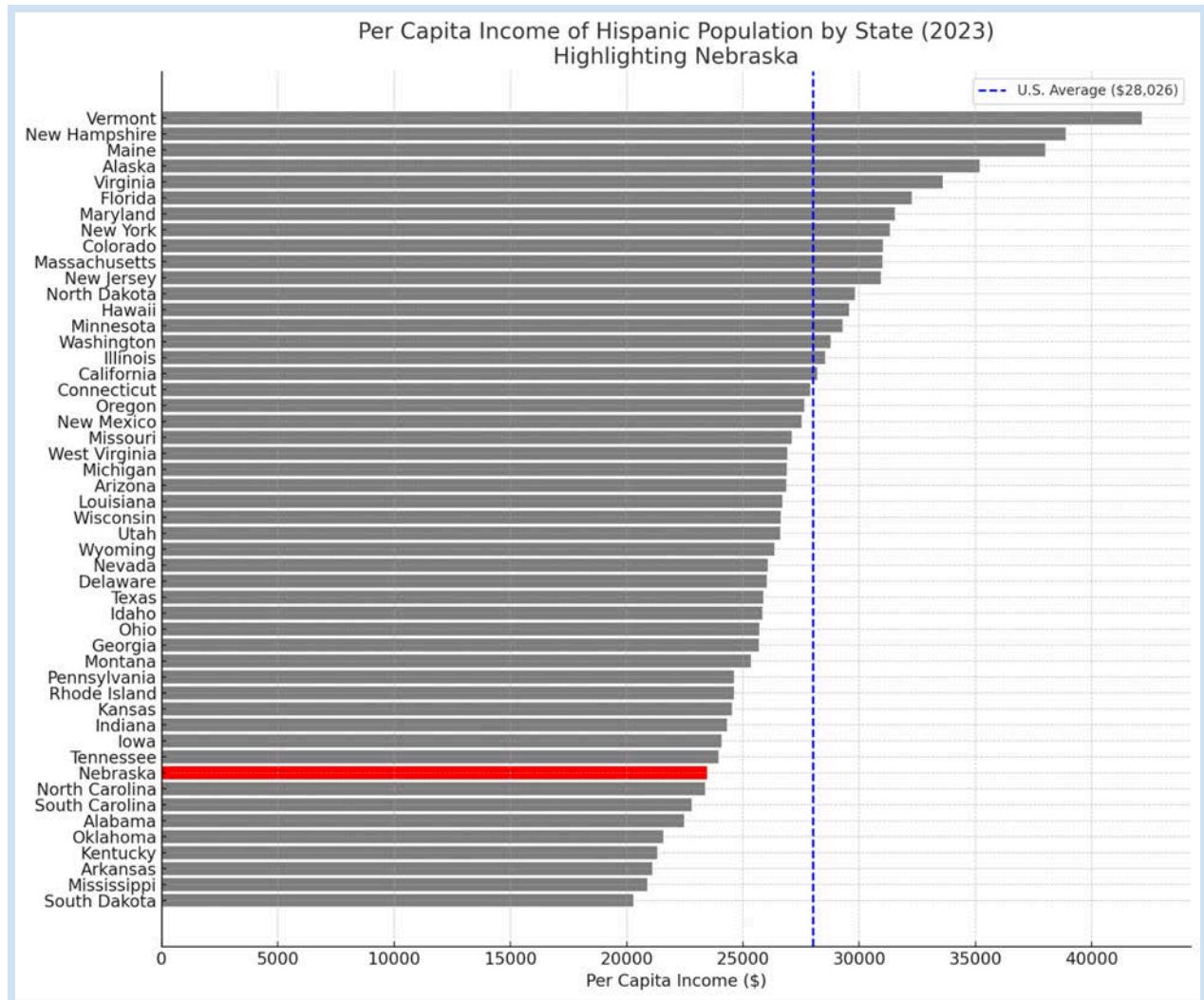
## Per Capita Income

In 2023, Hispanics in Nebraska ranked **42nd** out of all 50 states in terms of per capita income, earning **\$23,451** annually. This income is below the national average for Hispanics, which stands at \$28,026, highlighting a significant income disparity of \$4,575. ([American Community Survey, 1-Year Dataset, 2023](#))

This low ranking places Nebraska among the bottom ten states for Hispanic income, positioned just above states like **North Carolina**, **Mississippi**, and **South Dakota**, which report even lower incomes for this demographic. In contrast, the

top-ranking states like **Vermont** (\$42,145) and **New Hampshire** (\$38,868) show considerably higher earnings for Hispanics, indicating a more favorable economic environment in those areas. [Figure 16](#).

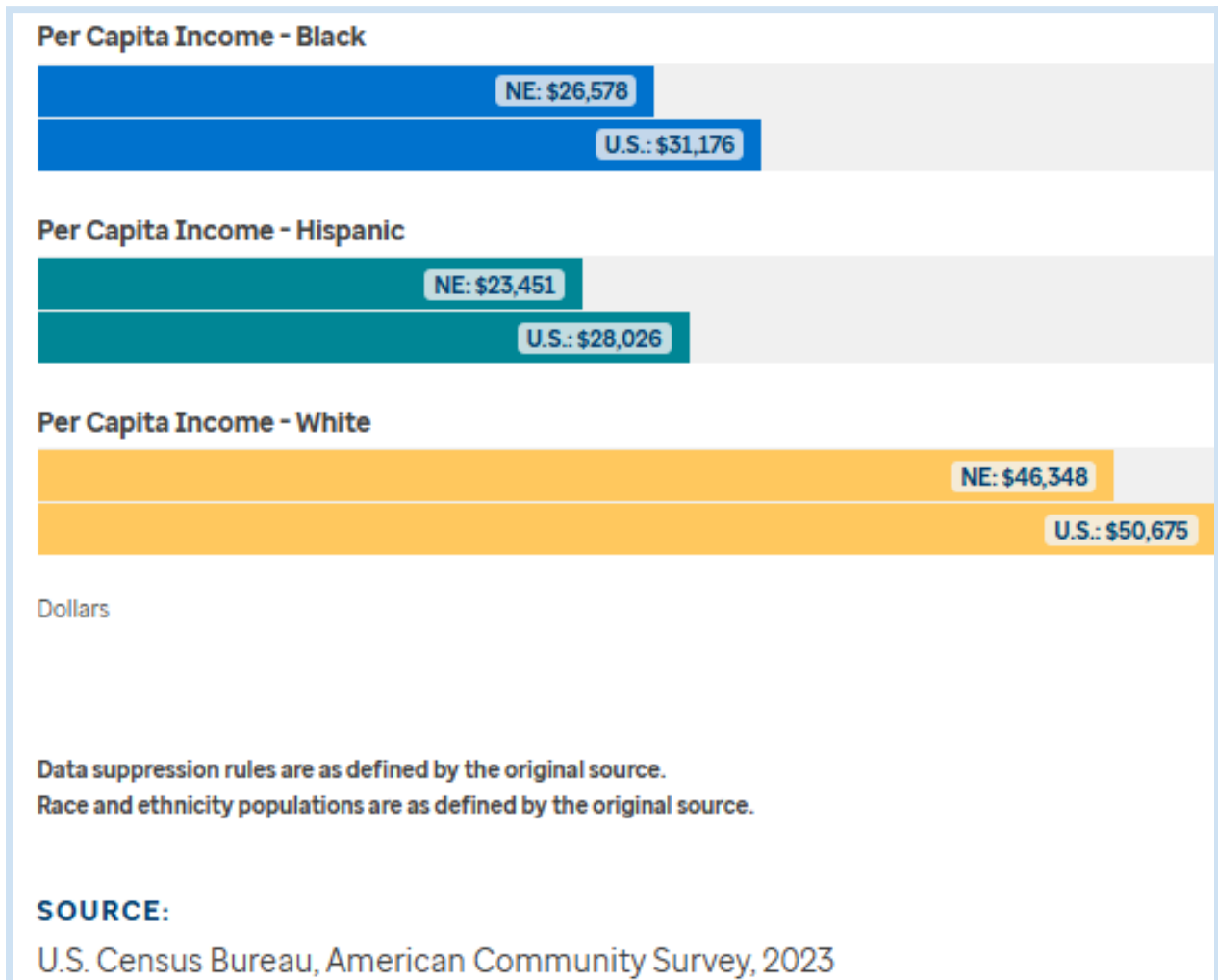
**Figure 16.** Comparative Hispanic Income Levels Across U.S. States (2023).



**Data source:** [\(American Community Survey, 1-Year Dataset, 2023\)](#)

Among the three racial/ethnic groups shown (Black, Hispanic, White) in [Figure 17](#), Hispanics have the lowest per capita income in Nebraska and nationally.

**Figure 17.** Per Capita Income by Race and Ethnicity: Nebraska vs. U.S. Average (2023).



**Data source:** America's Health Rankings:  
[https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/PerCapIncome/PerCapIncome\\_hispanics/NE](https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/PerCapIncome/PerCapIncome_hispanics/NE)

## DACA Recipients and Economic Contributions in Nebraska

### DACA Program Participation in Nebraska

Here is some information about DACA holders in Nebraska:

- **Number of DACA Recipients:** As of March 2020, there were 2,910 active DACA recipients in Nebraska. Since 2012, DACA has been granted to a total of 3,635 people in the state.
- **Eligibility and Application Rate:** By 2019, about 75% of DACA-eligible immigrants in Nebraska had applied for the program.
- **Potential Future Eligibility:** Fewer than 2,000 additional residents of Nebraska would satisfy all but the educational requirements for DACA, and fewer than 1,000 would become eligible as they grew older. ([American Immigration Council, 2023](#)).
- **Current Active Recipients:** As of March 31, 2023, there were 2,620 active DACA recipients in Nebraska. ([U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, 2023](#))

The presence of DACA holders in Nebraska has a positive impact on the state's economy. Here are some key points highlighting their contributions:

1. **Tax Contributions:** DACA recipients and eligible individuals in Nebraska paid an estimated \$6.4 million in state and local taxes in 2018. This is part of the broader immigrant community's contribution, which includes \$363.4 million in state and local taxes from all immigrant-led households in the state([American Immigration Council, 2023](#)).
2. **GDP Contributions:** An study published by [CAP in 2017](#) indicates that removing DACA workers from Nebraska may have an annual GDP loss of \$150,00,000 (Svajlenka et al., 2017).
3. **Entrepreneurship:** Although specific data on DACA holders' entrepreneurial activities in Nebraska is not detailed, nationally, DACA recipients have shown a propensity for starting small businesses, which can contribute to local economic growth. In 2015, DACA-eligible immigrants were 15 percent more likely to start a business than U.S.-born Americans in the same age range. By 2022, more than 12,000 DACA recipients owned their own businesses

nationwide, creating jobs and strengthening local economies across the country ([Center for American Progress, 2024](#)).

Overall, DACA holders, as part of the broader immigrant community, play a vital role in Nebraska's economy by contributing to tax revenues, labor force participation, economic output, and consumer spending.

## Workforce Contributions Fill Critical Labor Gaps

Hispanic/Latino workers maintain higher labor force participation rates than Nebraska's overall population, helping address the state's severe workforce shortages while contributing significantly to key industries. [Table 12](#). However, "Latinos are overrepresented in several high-growth occupations that tend to pay below-median wages, and as a result, they are vulnerable to economic downturns and experience high poverty rates." ([UNIDOSUS](#)). [Table 13](#).

Nebraska faces a severe labor shortage, with only 66 workers available for every 100 open positions as of May 2025, according to the [U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#). Hispanic workers help mitigate this shortage, particularly in essential industries where their representation is substantial:

- **Meatpacking:** Latin American immigrants constitute 43% of workers in Nebraska's meatpacking industry
- **Construction:** Hispanic workers represent 12% of Nebraska's construction workforce
- **Food Service:** 7% of Nebraska's food service workforce is Hispanic

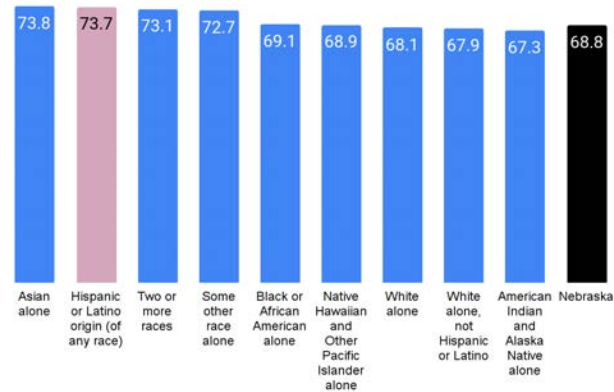
Many rural Nebraska communities with meatpacking facilities have been transformed demographically, with towns like Lexington becoming **65% Hispanic** (ACS, [Table DP05](#). 5-year estimates, 2023). Industry leaders across these sectors acknowledge the essential role of Hispanic workers in maintaining operations.

While historically concentrated in certain industries, increasing educational attainment among second and third-generation Hispanic Nebraskans is enabling greater occupational mobility into management, professional, and technical roles.



**Table 12.** Labor Force Participation Rate by Race and Ethnicity for Nebraska Population Age 16 and Over (2023).

Race/Ethnicity	Population 16 years and over	Labor Force Participation Rate
Asian alone	38,711	73.8
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	158,297	73.7
Two or more races	92,496	73.1
Some other race alone	57,750	72.7
Black or African American alone	68,972	69.1
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	747	68.9
White alone	1,264,125	68.1
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	1,218,609	67.9
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	13,721	67.3
Nebraska	1,536,522	68.8



Data source: [S2301](#) | Employment Status.

**Table 13.** Poverty Measures Among the Total and Hispanic Populations in Nebraska (2023)

Poverty Measures	Total Nebraska	Hispanic Nebraska	Hispanic % of Total
Below poverty level	197,300	37,267	18.9%
Poverty rate	10.3%	15.8%	--
Under 18 below poverty level	55,299	17,381	31.4%
Child poverty rate	11.1%	18.9%	--

Data sources: 1) [B17001](#) | Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Sex by Age. 2) Voices for Children in Nebraska. (2024). [Kids Count in Nebraska 2024 report](#).

## Agricultural and Rural Economic Contributions

While urban Latino businesses receive significant attention, the agricultural sector represents an important but often overlooked area of Latino economic contribution. The 2022 Census of Agriculture shows Nebraska had 44,479 farms with 80,283 total producers, including **612 farms** with Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin producers and **727 such producers** statewide.

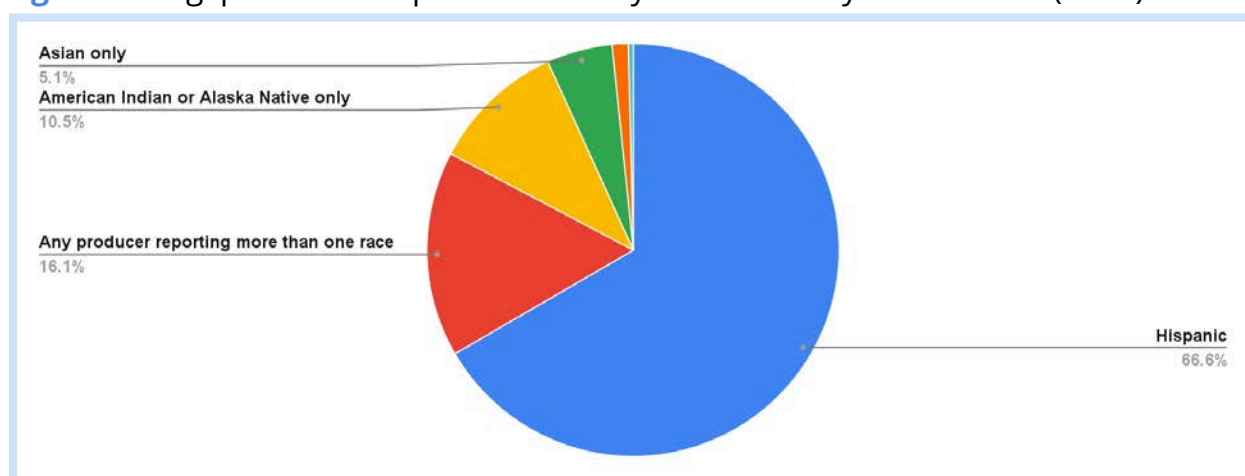
Latino agricultural operations in Nebraska have shown significant growth over recent decades. Between 2017 and 2022, the number of farms with Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin producers increased from 482 to 612 farms (a **27% increase**), while the number of Latino producers grew from 540 to 727 (a **35% increase**). This growth far exceeds the overall trend in Nebraska agriculture, where total farm numbers **decreased by 4%** during the same period.

Latino-operated farms in Nebraska managed 651,086 acres in 2022, a **27% increase** when compared to 2017 (514,239 acres), while the state lost 2.2% acres in operated farms during the same time period. Nearly 40% of Latino-operated farms in Nebraska are 500 acres or larger, indicating substantial commercial operations. This contrasts with national data showing 61% of Hispanic-operated farms are less than 50 acres.

## Producer Demographics and Characteristics

When compared to other demographic groups in Nebraska agriculture, Latino farmers represent a dynamic and growing segment. **Two-thirds** of all minority farmers in Nebraska are Hispanics, followed by more than one race (16.1%), American Indian/Alaska Native (10.5%), Asian (5.1%), Black/African American (1.3%), and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (0.4%). The representation of farmers of Hispanic origin increased from 64.6% in 2017 to 66.6% in 2022. [Figure 18](#).

**Figure 18.** Ag. producers representation by race/ethnicity in Nebraska (2022).



**Data sources:** USDA. Census of Agriculture, 2022. [Table 60](#) (Hispanics), and [Table 62](#). Selected Producer Characteristics by Race: 2022 and 2017

## Gender

Between 2017 and 2022, female representation among Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish-origin agricultural producers reported a notable upward trend. In 2022, women accounted for **38.8%** of Hispanic producers, up from 35.2% in 2017. This level of participation is significantly higher than the overall female representation among all agricultural producers in Nebraska, which was 32.8% in 2022 and 32.1% in 2017. The female Hispanic representation in Nebraska is slightly higher when compared to the Hispanic national data (38.8% vs. [36%](#), respectively). [Table 14](#).

**Table 14.** Comparison of All and Hispanic Ag. Producers by Sex, 2017 and 2022.

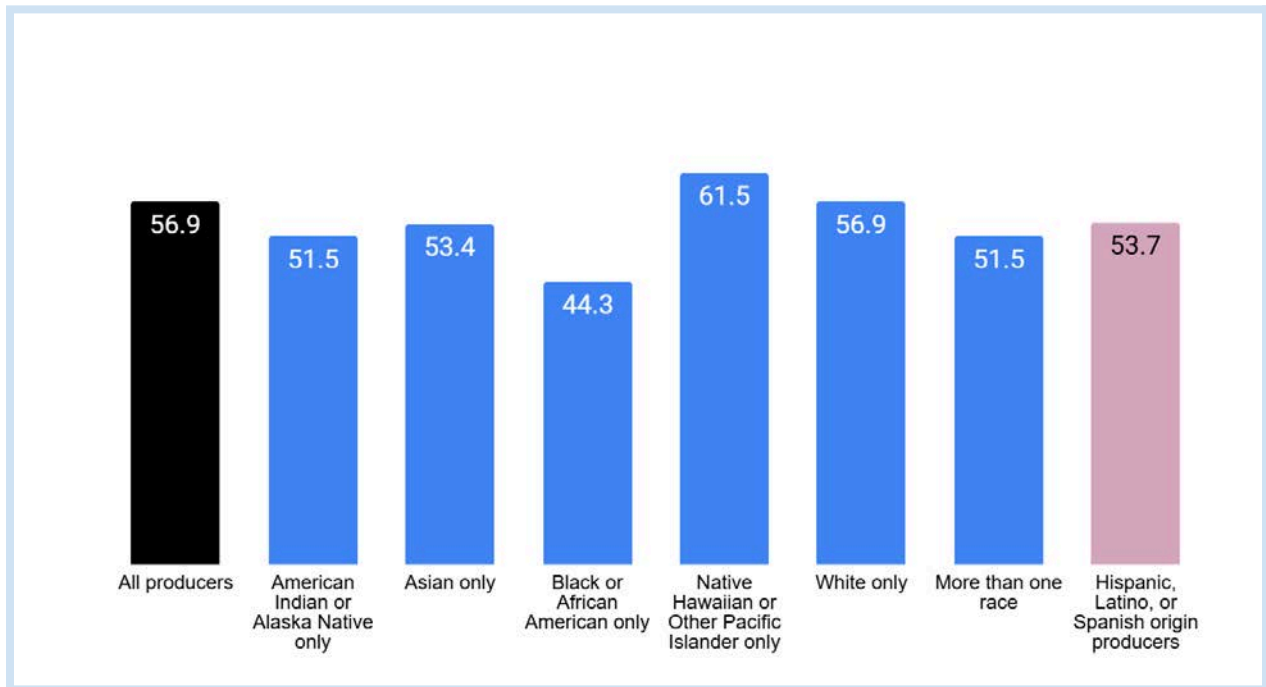
All producers (Nebraska)					
Year	Male	Male (%)	Female	Female %	Total producers
2022	53,919	67.2%	26,364	32.8%	80,283
2017	52,367	67.9%	24,730	32.1%	77,097
Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin Producers (Nebraska)					
Year	Male	Male (%)	Female	Female %	Total Hispanic producers
2022	445	61.2%	282	38.8%	727
2017	350	64.8%	190	35.2%	540

**Data sources:** USDA. Census of Agriculture, 2022. [Table 60](#) (Hispanics), and [Table 62](#). Selected Producer Characteristics by Race: 2022 and 2017

## Age

Hispanic producers are 3.2 years younger when compared to all producers in Nebraska (53.7 vs. 56.9 years old). [Figure 19](#).

**Figure 19.** Average Age of Agricultural Producers by Race and Hispanic Origin (2022).



**Data sources:** USDA. Census of Agriculture, 2022. [Table 60](#) (Hispanics), and [Table 62](#). Selected Producer Characteristics by Race: 2022 and 2017

## Economic Impact and Performance

Latino-operated farms in Nebraska generated substantial economic activity in 2022:

- **Total market value:** \$320.2 million in agricultural products sold and government payments
- **Crop sales:** \$177.4 million (55.4% of total sales)
- **Livestock sales:** \$136.1 million (42.5% of total sales)
- **Government payments:** \$6.7 million
- **Average per farm:** \$523,000 in total market value

This places Latino farmers well above national averages for Hispanic-operated farms and demonstrates their significant contribution to Nebraska's \$29.4 billion agricultural economy.

## Economic Class Distribution

The fact that 57% of Latino farms had sales of \$50,000 or more ([Table 15](#)) significantly exceeds the national average of 16% for Hispanic-operated farms, indicating the commercial viability of Latino agriculture in Nebraska.

**Table 15.** Sales by number of Latino farms in Nebraska (2022 vs. 2017).

Agricultural Census	2022		2017	
	# Farms	% Farms	# Farms	% Farms
Less than \$1,000	54	8.8%	91	18.9%
\$1,000 to \$2,499	52	8.5%	47	9.8%
\$2,500 to \$4,999	26	4.2%	46	9.5%
\$5,000 to \$9,999	39	6.4%	27	5.6%
\$10,000 to \$24,999	54	8.8%	46	9.5%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	39	6.4%	39	8.1%
<b>\$50,000 or more</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>56.9%</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>38.6%</b>
Total	612	100%	482	100%

**Data source:** [United States Department of Agriculture. National Agricultural Statistics Service. Nebraska.](#)

## Land Ownership and Tenure

Latino farmers in Nebraska show strong patterns of land ownership:

- Full owners: 333 farms (54.4%) owning 231,055 acres
- Part owners: 204 farms (33.3%) operating 349,196 acres
- Tenants: 75 farms (12.3%) renting 70,835 acres

This 54.4% full ownership rate shows significant investment in Nebraska agriculture and long-term commitment to farming in the state.

## Technology and Market Access

Latino farmers in Nebraska show strong adoption of modern agricultural practices:

- **Internet access:** 495 farms (80.9%) have internet access, approaching the state average of 83%
- **Government programs:** 107 farms participated in Conservation Reserve and related programs
- **Credit access:** 4 farms received Commodity Credit Corporation loans

## CCC Loan Participation

Hispanic farmers' participation in CCC loan programs appears proportionally consistent with the overall population when measured as a percentage of their respective farm populations - both groups show approximately 0.7% participation rates.

Between 2017 and 2022, Hispanic CCC loan participation decreased from 11 farms to 4 farms (a 64% decline), while total loan amounts dropped from \$1.064 million to \$982,000 (an 8% decrease). This occurred during the same period when Hispanic farm operations in Nebraska grew by 27% (from 482 to 612 farms), indicating that credit access may not be keeping pace with the expansion of Hispanic agricultural enterprises.

## Economic Impact Implications

The limited CCC loan participation by Hispanic farmers may constrain their ability to manage risk, purchase equipment, or expand operations - factors that could limit their economic impact on Nebraska's agricultural economy. Given that Hispanic-operated farms generated **\$320.2 million** in agricultural sales in 2022, improved access to federal credit programs could potentially amplify their economic contributions to rural Nebraska communities. The disparity is particularly notable given that Hispanic farmers tend to operate at commercial scales, with 57% generating sales above \$50,000 annually, indicating creditworthy operations that could benefit from expanded access to federal agricultural lending programs.



## Homeownership and the Housing Market

Homeownership is a key indicator of economic contribution and community stability, and Nebraska's Hispanic population has made notable strides in this area. Owning a home not only builds wealth for families but also anchors them in

The influence of the Hispanic population on housing extends beyond just buying homes. Many work in residential construction and remodeling, meaning they are building the very homes Nebraskans live in.

communities and generates property tax revenue. In Nebraska, about **half (53.6%) of Latino households are homeowners**, a rate that has been steadily increasing ([ACS, 2023, 5-year estimates](#)).

**Property Tax Contributions:** As homeownership grows, so does the contribution of Latinos to property tax revenues. Every home owned by a Hispanic family means annual property taxes that fund local schools, county services, and community colleges. Even those who rent contribute indirectly (landlords pass on property taxes through rent). For instance, in 2023 Hispanics accounted for **6.9%** of Nebraska's homeowner households (ACS, [Table S2502](#), 5-year estimates, 2023 ), **2.4% higher** when compared to 2013 (**4.5%**. ACS, [Table S2502](#), 5-year estimates, 2013), ([Table 16](#)), which translates into tens of millions of dollars in property taxes each year. In some counties, especially where meatpacking plants are major employers, Latino homeowners form the backbone of the residential tax base supporting public schools. This is a critical contribution in rural areas that have struggled to retain population; Latino home purchases have literally kept some neighborhoods alive.

**Table 16.** Latino Contribution to Homeownership in Nebraska (2023).

Year: 2023	Number of Homeowners	Homeownership Rate	Latino % of Total Homeowners
Total Population	523,603	66.5%	6.9%
Latino	36,025	53.6%	

**Data source:** [S2502](#) | Demographic Characteristics for Occupied Housing Units (ACS, 2023, 5-year estimates).



## Geographic Distribution and Regional Impact

The concentration of Latino economic activity in specific regions has created identifiable economic corridors that serve as engines of growth for their respective communities. The Omaha metropolitan area, encompassing Douglas and Sarpy counties, has become the primary center of Latino business activity, hosting 372 Hispanic-owned firms that generate over \$226 million in sales and employ more than 3,000 workers ([NCLA, 2023](#)).

Lancaster County, anchored by Lincoln, represents the second major concentration with 164 Hispanic-owned businesses generating \$106 million in sales. Together with Douglas County, these two metropolitan areas account for nearly 60% of all Latino business activity in the state, creating economic clusters that benefit from shared resources, networks, and market opportunities ([NCLA, 2023](#)).

Rural communities have also experienced significant Latino economic impact, particularly in areas with meatpacking facilities. Counties such as **Dakota**, **Dawson**, and **Hall** have developed substantial Latino business communities that serve both the immigrant workforce and the broader regional economy ([NCLA, 2023](#)). These businesses often provide culturally specific services and products while also contributing to the general commercial life of their communities.

The famous 24th Street corridor in Omaha exemplifies the transformation that Latino economic activity can bring to urban areas ([OLLAS, 2021](#)). This corridor has become a vibrant commercial district where Latino-owned businesses have revitalized neighborhoods, created jobs, and provided services that attract customers from throughout the metropolitan area.

## Conclusion

The Hispanic population in Nebraska has become an engine of economic growth and cultural enrichment. Across agriculture, manufacturing, construction, hospitality, healthcare, education, and entrepreneurship, Latinos are making outsized contributions – often filling critical roles and launching new ventures that drive local prosperity. They contribute labor, create businesses and jobs, pay taxes,

purchase goods, revitalize neighborhoods, and invest in the state's future through their children and their own skill development.

Hispanics constitute a steadily growing share of Nebraska's workforce ([SBA, 2021](#)), own thousands of businesses that collectively generate over half a billion dollars in sales ([NCLA, 2023](#)), and contribute hundreds of millions in taxes that support public services. Perhaps even more importantly, they have helped reverse decline in many communities – keeping schools open, houses occupied, and Main Street alive.

With the Latino population projected to grow substantially, Nebraska's economic fortunes will be increasingly tied to the success of this community.

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# Appendix

**Table A1.** Breakdown of Hispanic or Latino Origins in Nebraska: Population and Percent of Total (2019–2023).

Hispanic/Latino Origin	Population (2019–2023)	% of Hispanic Population
Mexican	168,586	69.6%
Guatemalan	19,839	8.2%
Salvadoran	10,410	4.3%
Puerto Rican	6,681	2.8%
Cuban	6,419	2.7%
Honduran	5,136	2.1%
Spanish	3,310	1.4%
Spaniard	2,869	1.2%
Colombian	2,361	1.0%
Dominican (Dominican Republic)	1,483	0.6%
Nicaraguan	1,113	0.5%
Chilean	1,035	0.4%
Venezuelan	879	0.4%
Peruvian	743	0.3%
Panamanian	700	0.3%
Costa Rican	590	0.2%
Spanish American	475	0.2%
Argentinean	356	0.1%
Ecuadorian	296	0.1%
Bolivian	269	0.1%
Uruguayan	165	0.1%
Other Central American	41	0.0%
Paraguayan	38	0.0%
Other South American	28	0.0%
All other Hispanic or Latino	8,404	3.5%
<b>Total Hispanic or Latino</b>	<b>242,226</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Data source:** U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. (2023). Hispanic or Latino Origin by Specific Origin. [American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B03001](#)

**Table A2.** National Origin, Dominant Country of Origin (Among Foreign-Born Population) in Nebraska, ACS 2019-23.

There are **62 counties** in Nebraska where **Mexico** is the top country of origin among the foreign-born population.

Top Country of Origin	Number of Counties	Total Population Top Country of Origin	List of Counties
Mexico	62	47,132	Adams, Antelope, Banner, Boone, Boyd, Brown, Buffalo, Butler, Cass, Cedar, Chase, Cheyenne, Clay, Colfax, Cuming, Custer, Dakota, Dawson, Deuel, Dixon, Dodge, Douglas, Dundy, Fillmore, Furnas, Gage, Gosper, Greeley, Hall, Hamilton, Hayes, Holt, Howard, Johnson, Keith, Keya Paha, Knox, Lancaster, Lincoln, Loup, Madison, Merrick, Morrill, Nuckolls, Otoe, Perkins, Phelps, Pierce, Platte, Polk, Red Willow, Saline, Sarpy, Scotts Bluff, Stanton, Thayer, Thomas, Valley, Washington, Wayne, Wheeler, York
Bahamas	1	352	Box Butte
India	2	81	Thurston, Cherry
China, excluding Hong Kong and Taiwan	3	80	Seward, Burt, Kearney
Cuba	2	62	Sioux, Saunders
Bulgaria	2	62	Jefferson, Hitchcock
Kenya	2	41	Nance, Kimball
Germany	2	36	Franklin, Frontier
Vietnam	1	31	Sheridan
Japan	1	29	Harlan
United Kingdom, excluding England and Scotland	1	25	Richardson
Korea	1	25	Dawes
Africa, n.e.c.	1	14	Nemaha
Australia	1	9	Arthur
England	1	9	McPherson
Philippines	2	8	Webster, Garden
Spain	1	7	Sherman
Denmark	1	6	Pawnee
Other Eastern Europe	1	5	Grant
Ireland	1	4	Logan

Sweden	1	4	Rock
Ethiopia	1	3	Garfield
Unknown	2	0	Blaine, Hooker
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>48,025</b>	

**Data source:** US Census Bureau, American Community Survey: 2019-23. Additional data analysis by [CARES](#). Release date: December 2024. Retrieved from [CAP](#).

**Table A3.** National Origin, Top Country of Origin, 2nd and 3rd Country of Origin (Among Foreign-Born Population) by County, ACS 2019-23.

County	Total Population	Foreign Born Population	Top Country of Origin	Top Country of Origin, Population	Top Country of Origin, Percentage of Foreign-Born Population	2nd Country of Origin	3rd Country of Origin
Adams	31,034	1,742	Mexico	736	42.25	Cuba 13.72%	Vietnam 10.10%
Antelope	6,302	135	Mexico	52	38.52	Kenya 6.67%	Philippines 5.93%
Arthur	540	16	Australia	9	56.25	Poland 25.00%	Turkey 18.75%
Banner	657	43	Mexico	27	62.79	Korea 16.28%	Guatemala 4.65%
Blaine	385	0	N/A	0	0		
Boone	5,366	106	Mexico	50	47.17	Guatemala 13.21%	Korea 10.38%
Box Butte	10,754	660	Bahamas	352	53.33	Mexico 25.15%	Philippines 10.30%
Boyd	1,704	66	Mexico	24	36.36	Spain 6.06%	
Brown	2,739	111	Mexico	81	72.97	South Africa 23.42%	Guatemala 1.80%
Buffalo	50,323	2,420	Mexico	815	33.68	Guatemala 8.39%	China, excluding Hong Kong and Taiwan 6.69%
Burt	6,730	34	China, excluding Hong Kong and Taiwan	12	35.29	Taiwan 14.71%	

County	Total Population	Foreign Born Population	Top Country of Origin	Top Country of Origin, Population	Top Country of Origin, Percentage of Foreign-Born Population	2nd Country of Origin	3rd Country of Origin
Butler	8,413	213	Mexico	185	86.85	Guatemala 4.69%	Honduras 3.76%
Cass	26,963	325	Mexico	60	18.46	Germany 15.69%	China, excluding Hong Kong and Taiwan 13.54%
Cedar	8,344	71	Mexico	41	57.75	England 9.86%	Poland 8.45%
Chase	3,639	244	Mexico	144	59.02	Philippines 12.70%	Honduras 4.92%
Cherry	5,468	121	India	63	52.07		
Cheyenne	9,478	143	Mexico	39	27.27	Poland 20.98%	India 10.49%
Clay	6,084	137	Mexico	97	70.8	Spain 15.33%	Bahamas 4.38%
Colfax	10,541	3,033	Mexico	1,803	59.45	Guatemala 25.55%	Sudan 8.70%
Cuming	8,976	589	Mexico	449	76.23	Guatemala 13.41%	Jamaica 4.24%
Custer	10,544	209	Mexico	141	67.46	Guatemala 8.61%	Trinidad and Tobago 4.78%
Dakota	21,331	5,040	Mexico	3,441	68.27	Somalia 11.41%	Ethiopia 4.92%
Dawes	8,212	68	Korea	25	36.76	Morocco 29.41%	Taiwan 22.06%
Dawson	24,020	5,378	Mexico	1,891	35.16	Guatemala 27.05%	Somalia 8.96%
Deuel	1,865	8	Mexico	4	50	Philippines 37.50%	Germany 12.50%
Dixon	5,561	435	Mexico	223	51.26	Guatemala 37.01%	El Salvador 3.68%
Dodge	37,146	2,492	Mexico	1,044	41.89	Guatemala 20.10%	Cuba 13.76%

County	Total Population	Foreign Born Population	Top Country of Origin	Top Country of Origin, Population	Top Country of Origin, Percentage of Foreign-Born Population	2nd Country of Origin	3rd Country of Origin
Douglas	585,461	59,946	Mexico	17,455	29.12	India 7.10%	Guatemala 5.84%
Dundy	1,811	14	Mexico	13	92.86	Africa, n.e.c. 7.14%	
Fillmore	5,551	53	Mexico	10	18.87		Pakistan 11.32%
Franklin	2,868	13	Germany	7	53.85	Latvia 23.08%	Korea 7.69%
Frontier	2,562	51	Germany	29	56.86	Mexico 21.57%	Nigeria 7.84%
Furnas	4,605	70	Mexico	36	51.43	Africa, n.e.c. 22.86%	Spain 8.57%
Gage	21,646	318	Mexico	107	33.65	Costa Rica 19.50%	China, excluding Hong Kong and Taiwan 17.92%
Garden	1,620	7	Philippines	4	57.14	Spain 42.86%	
Garfield	1,797	3	Ethiopia	3	100		
Gosper	1,929	36	Mexico	19	52.78	Guatemala 27.78%	Germany 13.89%
Grant	695	24	Other Eastern Europe	5	20.83	Korea 8.33%	
Greeley	2,211	27	Mexico	17	62.96	South Africa 11.11%	Germany 7.41%
Hall	62,431	10,031	Mexico	3,211	32.01	Guatemala 24.00%	Cuba 13.65%
Hamilton	9,438	93	Mexico	75	80.65	Haiti 10.75%	Japan 4.30%
Harlan	3,006	81	Japan	29	35.8	South Africa 19.75%	El Salvador 14.81%

County	Total Population	Foreign Born Population	Top Country of Origin	Top Country of Origin, Population	Top Country of Origin, Percentage of Foreign-Born Population	2nd Country of Origin	3rd Country of Origin
Hayes	854	46	Mexico	35	76.09	Guatemala 15.22%	Germany 6.52%
Hitchcock	2,601	25	Bulgaria	12	48	Philippines 32.00%	England 12.00%
Holt	10,093	271	Mexico	168	61.99	China, excluding Hong Kong and Taiwan 9.96%	Denmark 8.12%
Hooker	613	0	N/A	0	0		
Howard	6,492	111	Mexico	84	75.68	Germany 9.01%	Honduras 5.41%
Jefferson	7,155	191	Bulgaria	50	26.18	Germany 22.51%	Honduras 15.71%
Johnson	5,263	195	Mexico	115	58.97	Thailand 7.18%	Laos 6.67%
Kearney	6,697	97	China, excluding Hong Kong and Taiwan	32	32.99	Mexico 30.93%	South Africa 11.34%
Keith	8,239	202	Mexico	127	62.87	United Kingdom, excluding England and Scotland 10.89%	Philippines 8.91%
Keya Paha	939	28	Mexico	17	60.71	Germany 35.71%	
Kimball	3,348	75	Kenya	36	48	Mexico 42.67%	Germany 5.33%
Knox	8,362	74	Mexico	14	18.92	Philippines 17.57%	Guatemala 16.22%
Lancaster	323,673	27,436	Mexico	3,809	13.88	Vietnam 13.66%	Iraq 10.23%
Lincoln	34,122	861	Mexico	299	34.73	South Africa 12.20%	Korea 9.52%

County	Total Population	Foreign Born Population	Top Country of Origin	Top Country of Origin, Population	Top Country of Origin, Percentage of Foreign-Born Population	2nd Country of Origin	3rd Country of Origin
Logan	812	4	Ireland	4	100		
Loup	564	16	Mexico	16	100		
Madison	35,535	2,556	Mexico	1,291	50.51	Cuba 14.36%	Guatemala 5.87%
McPherson	463	11	England	9	81.82	France 18.18%	
Merrick	7,696	178	Mexico	75	42.13	India 14.61%	Guatemala 14.04%
Morrill	4,544	178	Mexico	102	57.3	Pakistan 19.10%	South Africa 9.55%
Nance	3,342	14	Kenya	5	35.71		Other Eastern Africa 14.29%
Nemaha	7,035	67	Africa, n.e.c.	14	20.9	Philippines 17.91%	Thailand 7.46%
Nuckolls	4,089	57	Mexico	41	71.93	Oceania, n.e.c. 14.04%	Africa, n.e.c. 10.53%
Otoe	16,075	1,055	Mexico	201	19.05	Honduras 17.16%	Guatemala 5.31%
Pawnee	2,539	20	Denmark	6	30	Mexico 20.00%	Brazil 15.00%
Perkins	2,835	87	Mexico	57	65.52	South Africa 8.05%	
Phelps	8,983	230	Mexico	187	81.3	South Africa 12.17%	Ukraine 6.52%
Pierce	7,312	103	Mexico	71	68.93	Germany 4.85%	China, excluding Hong Kong and Taiwan 2.91%
Platte	34,358	4,153	Mexico	1,825	43.94	Honduras 22.51%	Cuba 11.94%
Polk	5,209	99	Mexico	69	69.7	Taiwan 6.06%	El Salvador 5.05%
Red Willow	10,611	94	Mexico	47	50	Ireland 14.89%	Jamaica 13.83%

County	Total Population	Foreign Born Population	Top Country of Origin	Top Country of Origin, Population	Top Country of Origin, Percentage of Foreign-Born Population	2nd Country of Origin	3rd Country of Origin
Richardson	7,797	72	United Kingdom, excluding England and Scotland	25	34.72	Mexico 26.39%	Haiti 15.28%
Rock	1,335	7	Sweden	4	57.14	Germany 14.29%	
Saline	14,642	2,459	Mexico	1,146	46.6	Guatemala 20.78%	El Salvador 12.20%
Sarpy	194,051	12,126	Mexico	3,486	28.75	Vietnam 7.36%	Philippines 6.87%
Saunders	22,761	213	Cuba	41	19.25	Mexico 15.49%	Vietnam 15.02%
Scotts Bluff	35,937	1,451	Mexico	1,037	71.47	India 4.41%	Germany 3.51%
Seward	17,636	191	China, excluding Hong Kong and Taiwan	36	18.85	Mexico 16.23%	Haiti 12.04%
Sheridan	5,058	108	Vietnam	31	28.7	Mexico 12.96%	Nepal 11.11%
Sherman	2,974	14	Spain	7	50	Korea 42.86%	
Sioux	1,197	34	Cuba	21	61.76	Mexico 26.47%	England 8.82%
Stanton	5,835	100	Mexico	96	96	Japan 3.00%	Germany 1.00%
Thayer	4,938	33	Mexico	25	75.76	Germany 6.06%	
Thomas	626	13	Mexico	12	92.31	Germany 7.69%	
Thurston	6,666	102	India	18	17.65	Guatemala 14.71%	Mexico 10.78%
Valley	4,094	83	Mexico	37	44.58	Germany 15.66%	Jordan 12.05%



County	Total Population	Foreign Born Population	Top Country of Origin	Top Country of Origin, Population	Top Country of Origin, Percentage of Foreign-Born Population	2nd Country of Origin	3rd Country of Origin
Washington	20,989	353	Mexico	125	35.41	Costa Rica 20.96%	Germany 15.86%
Wayne	9,786	540	Mexico	115	21.3	El Salvador 20.74%	Honduras 9.26%
Webster	3,385	17	Philippines	4	23.53		Japan 17.65%
Wheeler	785	11	Mexico	5	45.45		Philippines 9.09%
York	14,231	369	Mexico	108	29.27	Ukraine 13.28%	Philippines 12.74%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,965,926</b>	<b>151,436</b>		<b>48,025</b>			
<b>"Mexico" (n counties)</b>	<b>73</b>		<b>62</b>			<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>

**Data source:** US Census Bureau, American Community Survey: 2019-23. Additional data analysis by [CARES](#). Release date: December 2024. Retrieved from [CAP](#).

**Table A4.** Dominant Language - Number of speakers and percentages by county (sorted from highest to lowest %) (2023).

County	Dominant Language	Dominant Language, Number of Speakers	Dominant Language Speakers, % of Population Age 5+	County	Dominant Language	Dominant Language, Number of Speakers	Dominant Language Speakers, % of Population Age 5+	County	Dominant Language	Dominant Language, Number of Speakers	Dominant Language Speakers, % of Population Age 5+
Colfax	Spanish	3806	39.27	Thomas	Spanish	25	4.12	Burt	Spanish	114	1.79
Dakota	Spanish	6065	31.04	Red Willow	Spanish	409	4.11	Gage	Spanish	363	1.77
Dawson	Spanish	6754	30.5	Keith	Spanish	320	4.07	Webster	Spanish	56	1.75
Hall	Spanish	13721	23.77	Polk	Spanish	199	4.03	Franklin	Spanish	46	1.7
Saline	Spanish	3200	23.43	Box Butte	Spanish	407	3.99	Seward	Spanish	277	1.66
Platte	Spanish	5610	17.52	Holt	Spanish	369	3.91	Knox	Spanish	127	1.61
Dodge	Spanish	4626	13.3	Jefferson	Spanish	258	3.83	Harlan	Spanish	45	1.59
Dixon	Spanish	634	12.16	Furnas	Spanish	164	3.78	Dawes	Spanish	122	1.57
Chase	Spanish	374	10.96	Brown	Spanish	94	3.66	Valley	Spanish	60	1.55
Madison	Spanish	3469	10.5	York	Spanish	466	3.49	Nuckolls	Spanish	59	1.52
Scotts Bluff	Spanish	3511	10.43	Deuel	Spanish	59	3.38	Thayer	Spanish	71	1.52
Douglas	Spanish	53722	9.86	Merrick	Spanish	233	3.21	Fillmore	Spanish	77	1.48
Cuming	Spanish	789	9.52	Lincoln	Spanish	1008	3.13	Frontier	Spanish	34	1.4
Johnson	Spanish	436	8.7	Antelope	Spanish	183	3.11	Cheyenne	Spanish	125	1.4
Adams	Spanish	2340	8.06	Sioux	Spanish	33	2.99	Pierce	Spanish	91	1.34
Wayne	Spanish	714	7.68	Wheeler	Spanish	21	2.96	Cass	Spanish	326	1.28

County	Dominant Language	Dominant Language, Number of Speakers	Dominant Language Speakers, % of Population Age 5+	County	Dominant Language	Dominant Language, Number of Speakers	Dominant Language Speakers, % of Population Age 5+	County	Dominant Language	Dominant Language, Number of Speakers	Dominant Language Speakers, % of Population Age 5+
Loup	Spanish	38	7.05	Nemaha	Spanish	192	2.89	Garden	Spanish	19	1.21
Otoe	Spanish	1026	6.76	Kimball	Spanish	90	2.8	Greeley	Spanish	23	1.11
Hayes	Spanish	53	6.58	Keya Paha	Spanish	24	2.68	Nance	Spanish	34	1.08
Buffalo	Spanish	3051	6.45	Perkins	Spanish	70	2.61	Sherman	Spanish	28	1
Morrill	Spanish	265	6.23	Washington	Spanish	506	2.55	Saunders	Spanish	194	0.91
Sarpy	Spanish	10202	5.63	Custer	Spanish	248	2.52	Rock	Spanish	11	0.88
Arthur	Spanish	27	5.34	Gosper	Spanish	46	2.5	Hooker	Spanish	5	0.85
Banner	Spanish	32	5.22	Howard	Spanish	135	2.23	Richardson	Spanish	62	0.84
Butler	Spanish	393	4.95	Dundy	Spanish	37	2.21	Hitchcock	Spanish	18	0.74
Kearney	Spanish	297	4.72	Logan	Spanish	16	2.1	Pawnee	Other	104	4.4
Lancaster	Spanish	14260	4.68	Hamilton	Spanish	185	2.09	McPherson	Other	9	2
Stanton	Spanish	257	4.67	Cherry	Spanish	105	2.04	Thurston	Other	228	3.77
Boyd	Spanish	74	4.52	Sheridan	Spanish	93	1.96	Grant	Other	5	0.78
Phelps	Spanish	348	4.14	Cedar	Spanish	148	1.89	Blaine	Other	2	0.55
Clay	Spanish	235	4.13	Boone	Spanish	92	1.82	Garfield	Other	5	0.29

**Data source:** Language Spoken at Home, Dominant Language, Excluding English by County, ACS 2019-23. Table [B16001](#).

**Table A5.** Age Thresholds and Key Social Benefits for Seniors in Selected Latin American Countries and the United States.

Country	Age Defined as "Senior"	Key Benefits/Programs for Seniors
<b>Mexico</b>	60 (INAPAM card); 65 (Pension Bienestar)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- INAPAM card at 60: Discounts on healthcare, medications, public transport, groceries, leisure, cultural events, property taxes, utilities</li> <li>- Pension Bienestar at 65: Cash subsidy every two months</li> <li>- Early retirement pension at 60, full at 65</li> </ul>
<b>Brazil</b>	60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Priority service in banks, hospitals, stores</li> <li>- Free or discounted public transport</li> <li>- Free medication</li> <li>- Exemption from property tax (IPTU)</li> <li>- Special airfare program (Voa Brasil)</li> </ul>
<b>Colombia</b>	60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discounts on public transportation, attractions, some stores, and restaurants</li> <li>- Access to affordable healthcare and insurance</li> </ul>
<b>Argentina</b>	60 (women), 65 (men) for retirement; 65 (PUAM universal pension)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public healthcare (mostly free)</li> <li>- Subsidized prescriptions</li> <li>- Pension system (PUAM at 65 if not receiving other pension)</li> <li>- Retirement visa for foreigners</li> </ul>
<b>Chile</b>	60 (commonly used for "older adult" in policy); 65 (pension eligibility, most benefits, both genders for new pensions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Old-age solidarity pension (PBSV) and solidarity top-up (APSV) at 65, means-tested solidarity pensions</li> <li>- Preventive medical exams and long-term care programs</li> <li>- Discounts on public services, transport, and some health services</li> <li>- Winter grant (Bono de Invierno) at 65 for low-income pensioners</li> <li>- No mandatory retirement age; women may access some benefits at 60<sup>125</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Peru</b>	60 years old and above. Peru's Law No. 30490 (2016) – Ley de la Persona Adulta Mayor establishes that an older adult is any person aged 60 or over	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Peruvian public institutions consider 60+ as the senior citizen group for purposes of social programs and legal protections.</li> </ul>
<b>United States</b>	65 (Medicare, most federal programs); 62 (early Social Security); 60 (some programs, e.g., Older Americans Act)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Medicare health insurance at 65</li> <li>- Social Security retirement benefits (full at 66–67, early at 62)</li> <li>- Discounts on travel, recreation, dining (varies, often 62–65+)</li> <li>- Housing, transportation, prescription assistance</li> <li>- AARP membership and discounts at 50+</li> </ul>

**Data sources:** Mexico (DOF: Diario Oficial de la Federación; INAPAM Official Website), Brazil (Estatuto do Idoso (Law No. 10.741/2003); Presidência da República – Planalto); Argentina (Ley 27.360 – Ratification of the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons; Boletín Oficial de la República Argentina); Colombia (Ley 1251 de 2008 – Ley de Protección al Adulto Mayor); Ministerio de Justicia de Colombia); Peru (Ley N° 30490 – Ley de la Persona Adulta Mayor); Congreso de la República del Perú); Chile (SENAMA (Servicio Nacional del Adulto Mayor); SENAMA Website). Regional Reference (Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons (OAS, 2015); Organization of American States (OAS).

**Table A6.** Population Age 60 and Over by Race and Ethnicity in Nebraska (2023).

Race/ethnicity	Population	Population 60 years and over	Percent 60 years and over
Total population	1,965,926	447,656	22.8%
One race	1,816,516	434,226	23.9%
White	1,570,775	408,262	26.0%
Black or African American	94,364	12,087	12.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native	19,659	1,791	9.1%
Asian	49,148	5,372	10.9%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0.0%
Some other race	82,569	6,267	7.6%
Two or more races	149,410	13,430	9.0%
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	241,809	17,906	7.4%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	1,498,036	403,338	26.9%

**Data source:** U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. (2023). Table S0102 | Population 60 Years and Over in the United States. *American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0102*. Retrieved May 7, 2025, from [https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2023.S0102?q=nebraska&t=Older+Population&g=040XX00US31\\$0500000&moe=false](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2023.S0102?q=nebraska&t=Older+Population&g=040XX00US31$0500000&moe=false).

**Table A7.** Overview of SNAP Participation by Senior and by Race/Ethnicity in Nebraska (2017-2021).

Race/Ethnicity	Total Households	SNAP Recipients	% Receiving SNAP	% of SNAP HHs w/ Seniors
Hispanic or Latino	59,801	8,321	13.9%	18.6%
Some Other Race Alone	15,764	1,816	11.5%	22.1%
Black/African American	34,016	8,168	24.0%	24.2%
American Indian/Alaska Native	5,026	1,293	25.7%	24.3%

White Alone	671,344	44,824	6.7%	30.7%
Asian Alone	15,333	1,428	9.3%	31.2%
<b>Total (Nebraska)</b>	<b>766,887</b>	<b>61,513</b>	<b>8.0%</b>	<b>29.1%</b>

**Data Source:** U.S. Census Bureau. (2021). RECEIPT OF FOOD STAMPS/SNAP IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS BY PRESENCE OF PEOPLE 60 YEARS AND OVER FOR HOUSEHOLDS. *American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Selected Population Detailed Tables, Table B22001*. Retrieved May 7, 2025, from [https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT5YSPT2021.B22001?q=nebraska&t=Older+Population&g=040XX00US31\\$0500000&moe=false](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT5YSPT2021.B22001?q=nebraska&t=Older+Population&g=040XX00US31$0500000&moe=false).

**Table A8.** Grandparents responsible for grandchildren (2023) (\*).

Grandparents responsible for grandchildren		Number of grandparents responsible for grandchildren			Percent distribution of grandparents responsible for grandchildren		
		Estimate	30 to 59 years	60 years and over	Total	30 to 59 years	60 years and over
RACE AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN	<b>Total</b>						
One race	21,850	7,599	4,059	3,537	34.8%	53.4%	46.6%
White	15,771	5,564	2,824	2,739	35.3%	50.7%	49.2%
Black or African American	1,675	767	475	298	45.8%	61.9%	38.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native	742	396	281	114	53.3%	71.1%	28.8%
Asian	1,627	331	141	191	20.3%	42.5%	57.8%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Some other race	2,058	533	339	191	25.9%	63.5%	35.9%
Two or more races	2,082	476	339	140	22.9%	71.1%	29.3%
<b>Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)</b>	<b>5,098</b>	<b>1,244</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>24.4%</b>	<b>77.1%</b>	<b>22.8%</b>
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	14,455	5,249	2,564	2,688	36.3%	48.9%	51.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,956</b>	<b>8,067</b>	<b>4,398</b>	<b>3,673</b>	<b>33.7%</b>	<b>54.5%</b>	<b>45.5%</b>

**Data source:** U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. (2023). Grandparents. *American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1002*. Retrieved May 9, 2025, from <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2023.S1002?q=grandparents&g=040XX00US31&moe=false>.

(\*) **Note:** Own elaboration. Estimates based on percentages from the original Table S1002.

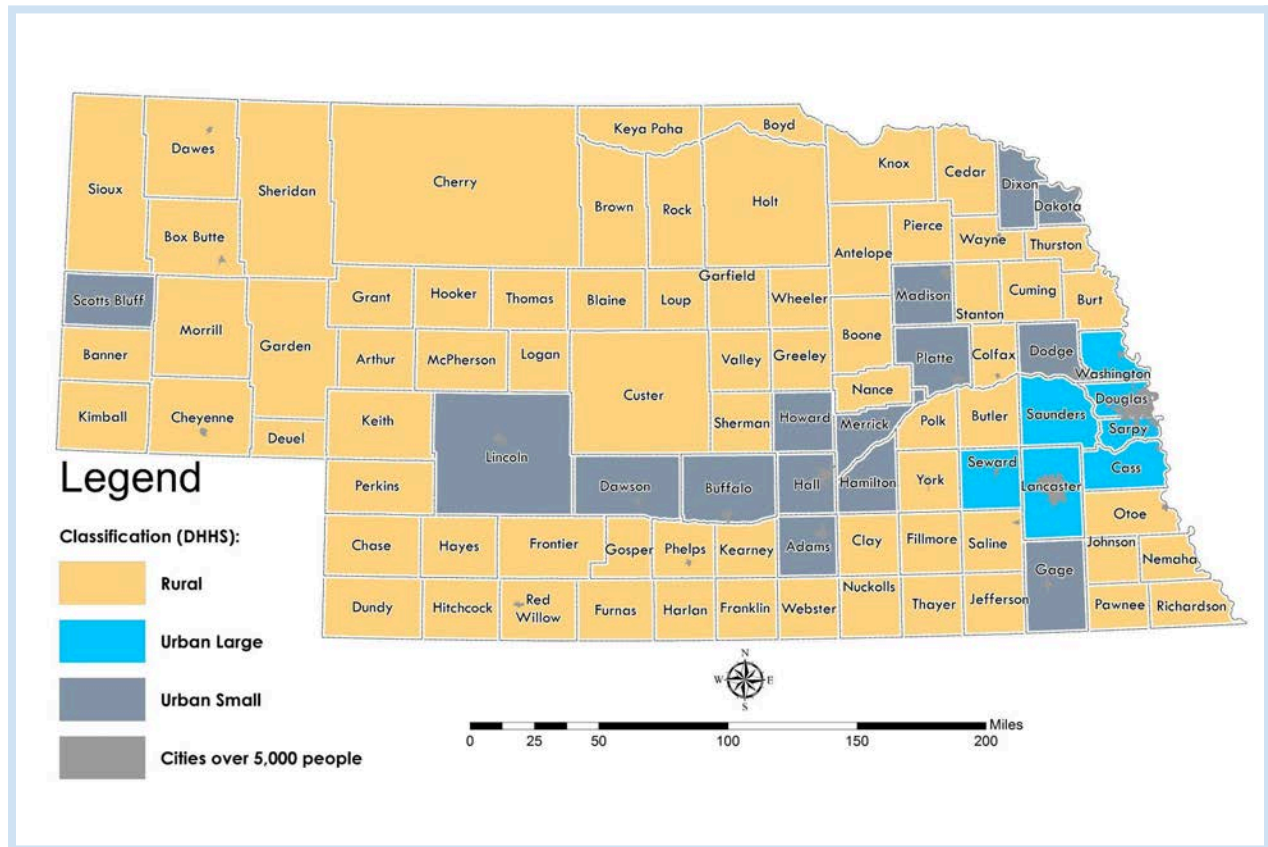
**Table A9.** Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin Producers: 2022: With data on farms, number of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish producers, and land in farms (acres).

Geographic Area	Farms	Hispanic Producers	Acres	Geographic Area	Farms	Hispanic Producers	Acres	Geographic Area	Farms	Hispanic Producers	Acres
Adams	4	4	4,408	Furnas	3	3	12,460	Pawnee	6	6	2,700
Antelope	2	2	(D)	Gage	10	10	648	Perkins	13	29	7,521
Arthur	2	2	(D)	Garden	5	5	44,405	Phelps	12	15	5,333
Banner	5	5	9,254	Garfield	3	3	17,700	Pierce	8	8	4,060
Blaine	2	2	(D)	Gosper	5	7	458	Platte	15	18	6,695
Boone	2	2	(D)	Grant	1	1	(D)	Polk	6	6	4,944
Box Butte	8	8	1,305	Greeley	4	4	682	Red Willow	8	8	11,560
Brown	6	6	60	Hall	3	4	130	Richardson	2	6	(D)
Buffalo	12	16	8,792	Harlan	1	1	(D)	Rock	5	5	9,730
Butler	14	19	12,805	Hayes	2	2	(D)	Saline	5	5	2,222
Cass	12	13	8,049	Holt	9	9	7,538	Sarpy	1	1	(D)
Cedar	12	16	8,252	Howard	3	3	2,679	Saunders	15	18	8,318
Chase	8	8	8,384	Jefferson	6	8	7,020	Scotts Bluff	39	55	15,524
Cherry	9	9	39,251	Kearney	2	2	(D)	Seward	7	7	4,892
Cheyenne	16	16	53,851	Keith	8	8	3,240	Sheridan	16	16	43,413
Colfax	6	6	1,304	Kimball	13	29	13,124	Sherman	5	5	8,356
Cuming	10	12	4,647	Knox	10	12	6,686	Sioux	4	4	2,000
Custer	11	11	18,578	Lancaster	20	24	3,908	Stanton	3	3	340
Dakota	8	8	1,354	Lincoln	13	13	22,609	Thayer	17	24	6,718
Dawes	16	20	46,253	McPherson	1	3	(D)	Thomas	8	8	10,758
Dawson	12	15	3,077	Madison	7	7	1,610	Thurston	2	2	(D)
Deuel	10	10	8,366	Merrick	6	10	150	Valley	3	3	1,326
Dixon	17	17	5,520	Morrill	14	16	12,666	Washington	7	10	(D)
Dodge	4	4	704	Nance	1	1	(D)	Wayne	5	6	1,319
Douglas	5	5	(D)	Nemaha	2	2	(D)	Webster	3	4	1,772
Franklin	2	2	(D)	Nuckolls	8	8	9,394	Wheeler	2	2	(D)
Frontier	1	1	(D)	Otoe	5	5	4,206	York	14	14	12,898

**Data source:** USDA. Census of Agriculture (2022). [Nebraska, county data. Table 48.](#)

## Map 1. Geographic Classification of Urban and Rural Counties in Nebraska.

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS) classifies the state's 93 counties into three categories based on urbanization levels: Urban-Large, Urban-Small, and Rural.



**Data source:** Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. (2016). *Disparities demographic data recommendations*.

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/Reports/Disparities%20Demographic%20Data%20Recommendations%20-%20016.pdf>

### County Classifications:

- Urban-Large (7 counties): Cass, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy, Saunders, Seward, Washington
- Urban-Small (15 counties): Adams, Buffalo, Dakota, Dawson, Dixon, Dodge, Gage, Hall, Hamilton, Howard, Lincoln, Madison, Merrick, Platte, Scotts Bluff
- Rural (71 counties): Highlighted in yellow on the map.