

IDAHO AT A GLANCE

Hispanics: An Overview June 2010

Like the rest of the nation, Idaho is becoming more diverse, mainly because of its growing Hispanic population. With about 165,000 Hispanic residents, Idaho has the 15th highest proportion of Hispanics in the nation. Today, roughly 11% of Idahoans are Hispanic, compared to 5% in 1990.

Also similar to the rest of the nation, most Hispanics in Idaho were born in the U.S. Of those born elsewhere, one-third came to this country before 1990, another third arrived during the 1990s, and the rest have come since 2000. Thus, Hispanics who moved to the U.S. in the last decade make up only 10% of the state's total Hispanic population.

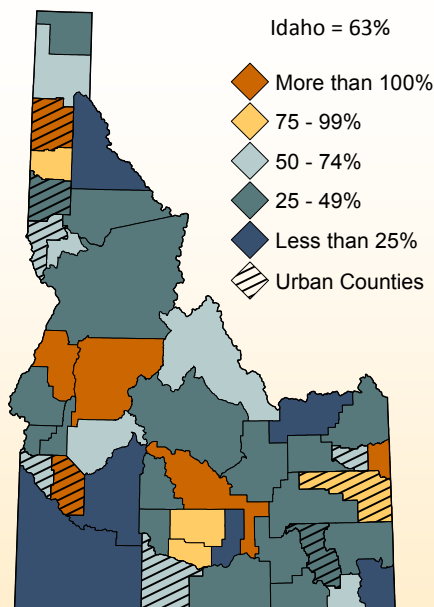
This report provides an overview of Idaho's Hispanic residents, with information about the size and characteristics of the Hispanic population. It is the first in a series of three *Hispanic At A Glance* reports. The next two reports will focus on education and the labor force.

Hispanics make up a large share of Idaho's population growth

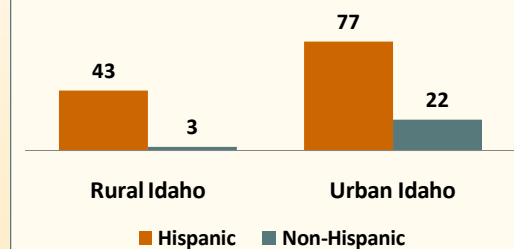
From 2000 to 2009:

- Growth in the Hispanic population accounted for one-fourth of all population growth in Idaho, even though Hispanics made up only one-tenth of the state's residents. Idaho was the 5th fastest growing state in the nation.
- Idaho's Hispanic population grew at an annual rate of 7%, compared to 2% for non-Hispanics. This compares to an annual rate of 4% growth among Hispanics nationwide.
- The Hispanic population grew faster in urban than in rural Idaho (an annual rate of 9% in urban Idaho compared to 5% in rural parts of the state).

Hispanic population change, 2000-2009

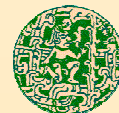


Percent change, 2000-2009



University of Idaho

Idaho Commission
on Hispanic Affairs

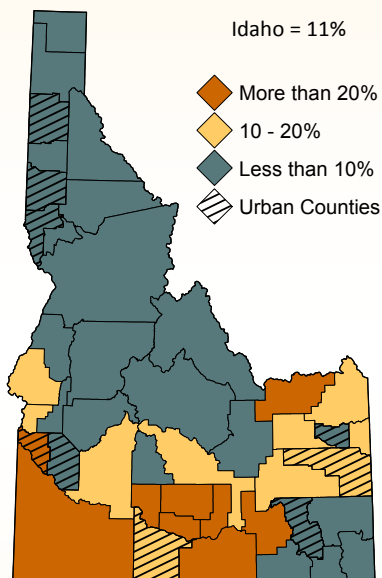


Most of Idaho's Hispanics live in southern Idaho

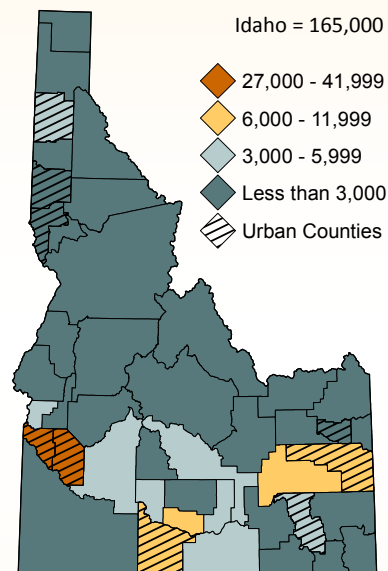
In 2009:

- 41% of Hispanics, compared to 36% of non-Hispanics, lived in Ada and Canyon counties.
- Clark County had the highest proportion of Hispanics at 45%, followed by Minidoka (31%), and Jerome and Power (both 29%).
- Counties with the highest proportion of Hispanics (greater than 20%) have economies that rely on agriculture and food processing.
- Hispanics were more likely to live in rural counties than non-Hispanics (38% compared to 29%, respectively).

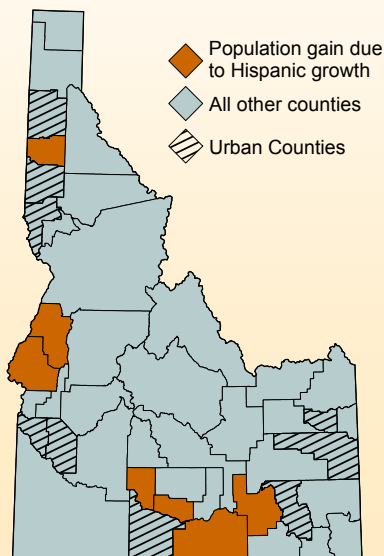
Percent Hispanic 2009



Hispanic population 2009



Parts of rural Idaho would be losing population if not for Hispanic growth



Across the country, Hispanic growth is offsetting rural population decline. Some evidence from Idaho suggests this population growth is revitalizing local economies.¹ From 2000 to 2009:

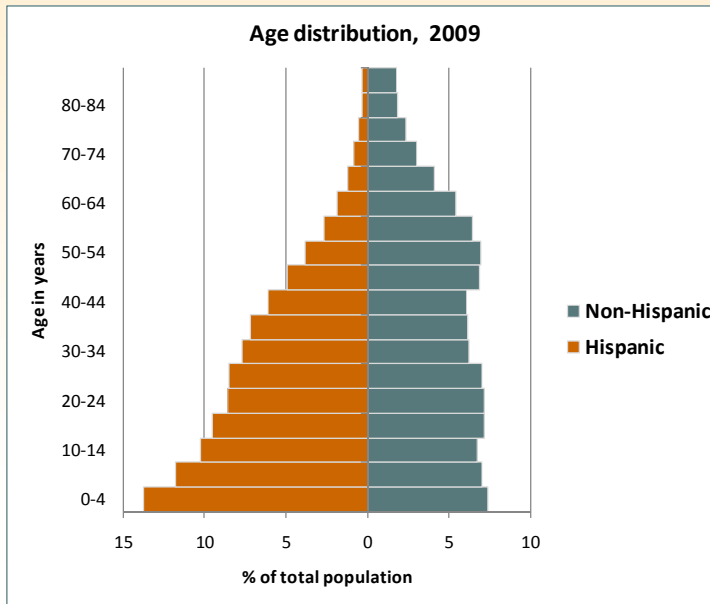
- Hispanic growth accounted for 63% of total growth in Idaho's rural counties.
- Hispanic growth offset non-Hispanic loss in seven rural counties (shown left), all of which would have lost total population if not for Hispanic growth.
- Every county in Idaho had an increase in its Hispanic population, while almost one-half of Idaho's counties—all rural—had a decline in the non-Hispanic population.

¹ Salant, P., J. Wulfhorst, and S. Kane with C. Dearien. 2009. *Community Level Impacts of Idaho's Changing Dairy Industry*. College of Agricultural & Life Sciences, University of Idaho.

Hispanics tend to be younger than other Idahoans and are more likely than other Idahoans to live in families with children

A large portion of Idaho's Hispanic population includes children and young adults of child-bearing age, and a very small portion of this population is over age 65. Thus, it is a very young population. This is in stark contrast to the non-Hispanic population, which has a more even distribution of people across age groups.

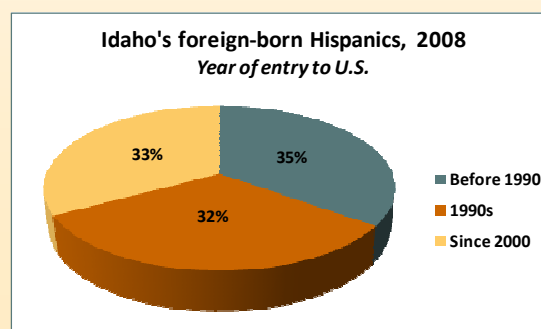
- Hispanics' median age was 23 in 2009, compared to 36 for non-Hispanics.
- In 2008, over one-half of all Hispanic households were families with children under 18, compared to one-third of non-Hispanic households.
- Between 2000 and 2009, the Hispanic school-age population grew faster than the non-Hispanic school-age population: 55% growth for Hispanics, compared to 3% for non-Hispanics.
- Only 3% of Hispanics were over age 65 in 2009, compared to 13% of non-Hispanics.



Hispanics born in the U.S. are different from those who move here from another country

- In 2008, almost 70% of Idaho's Hispanics were born in the U.S. Many of Idaho's Hispanic families have lived in the U.S. for generations.
- As of 2008, native-born Hispanics were younger, better educated, more likely to have health insurance, and more likely to speak only English at home than foreign-born Hispanics.
- Contrary to conventional wisdom, there has not been a recent surge in Idaho's Hispanic immigrants. They are divided evenly among those who arrived in the U.S. before 1990, during the 1990s, and since 2000.
- Almost all of Idaho's Hispanics are of Mexican descent (87% in Idaho, compared to 66% in the U.S.).

	Hispanics, 2008	
	Native-born	Foreign-born
High school graduates (% age 25+)	73	31
College graduates (% age 25+)	13	2
Median age (in years)	15	34
Speaks only English at home (% age 5+)	51	12
Covered by health insurance (% all ages)	71	35



Selected social and economic indicators	IDAHO		
	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	Total
DEMOGRAPHICS			
Total population (thousands)			
2008	165	1,381	1,546
2000	102	1,192	1,294
1990	53	954	1,007
1980	37	908	944
Population change (%)			
2000-2008	63	16	19
1990-2000	92	25	29
1980-1990	45	5	7
Age (% of total population), 2008			
Children, under age 18	44	28	30
Elderly, age 65 and older	3	13	12
Median age (years), 2008	23	36	34
Education (% , age 25+), 2008			
High school graduate	50	91	88
College graduate	7	25	24
Average household size (persons), 2008	3.5	2.6	2.6
Average family size (persons), 2008	3.8	3.1	3.1
Family households w/children < 18 (% of households), 2008	54	33	35
Speaks English "very well" (% , age 5+), 2008	70	99	96
Foreign born (%), 2008	32	3	6
Native born (%), 2008	68	97	94
U.S. citizen, native-born and naturalized (%), 2008	75	98	96
INCOME & POVERTY			
Median household income (\$), 2008	34,592	48,700	47,576
Per capita income (\$), 2008	12,466	23,920	22,748
Poverty rate (%), 2008	22	12	13
Household participation in major U.S. assistance programs			
Social Security Income (% of households), 2008	13	27	26
Food stamp benefits (% of households), 2008	14	7	8

HISPANIC—An ethnicity that refers to those who identify themselves as “Spanish,” of “Hispanic origin,” or “Latino.” Hispanics may be of any race.

RURAL—Counties in which the largest town or city has less than 20,000 residents.

URBAN—Counties in which the largest town or city has 20,000 residents or more.

SOURCES: U.S. Census Bureau (Census of Population and Housing, Population Estimates Program, American Community Survey), U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (Economic Research Service’s *Rural At A Glance* series), Pew Hispanic Center, University of Idaho (Salant, Wulfhorst and Kane with Dearien, *Community Level Impacts of Idaho’s Changing Dairy Industry*)

AUTHORS: Christy Dearien, Research Associate (cdearien@uidaho.edu), and Priscilla Salant, UI Coordinator for Outreach and Engagement (psalant@uidaho.edu)

MAPS: Debbie Gray, Research Analyst (dgray@uidaho.edu)

NOTES ABOUT THE DATA:

1) All 2008 data in this report come from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is an ongoing survey sent to a sample of the U.S. population. It provides estimates of the population’s characteristics and replaces the long form of the decennial census. ACS data are subject to sampling error, which occurs as a result of selecting a sample rather than surveying the entire population. For more information about the ACS and sampling error, please visit <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2008.pdf>.

2) Much of the data in this report are presented as rounded numbers to avoid the appearance of unwarranted precision in the estimates.

3) The U.S. Census Bureau does not ask people about their immigration status.