# USING NCLR'S LATINO KIDS DATA EXPLORER TO TEACH DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL CHANGE:

## A GUIDE FOR PROFESSORS AND RESEARCHERS

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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA

Whether teaching sociological theories of race and ethnicity, discussing notions of cultural competency in social work or education, or introducing students to practical skills such as statistical analysis and grant writing, proficiency in analyzing hard data—to both explain and impact our social reality—is a growing necessity across a spectrum of disciplines.

It has become clear in recent years that broad-scale demographic change is considerably transforming the social landscape of America. Today's racial and ethnic minority groups are growing far more rapidly than the White population, and in 2012 the Census Bureau reported that minority children under age one now make up over 50% of all American babies. The Latino child population in particular has skyrocketed. Between 2000 and 2011, the group of Hispanic children under age 18 grew by 40%; today, close to one-quarter of all children is Hispanic, a fraction that will rise to one-third by the year 2030.

Not only are these changes transforming entire communities and regions across the country, they are also shifting notions of race and ethnicity, integration, social inclusion, and citizenship, as well as long-term processes of socioeconomic stratification and opportunity in the U.S. Given that one in three Americans will be Hispanic by 2050, understanding the specific challenges that Latino children and families face today is fundamental to recognizing how our society is evolving and designing solutions that can reduce social disparities in areas such as poverty, education, and health.

The growing importance of minority children and youth has intensified the demand for data on this subpopulation; professors, educators, and researchers across a wide swath of disciplines, for their part, increasingly seek pedagogical materials and tools that can facilitate student coursework on demographic and social change.

We invite you to view the National Council of La Raza's (NCLR) Latino Kids Data Explorer to discover its potential as a powerful teaching tool for courses in the social sciences, Latino and ethnic studies, education, early childhood, social work, public health, and public policy, among others. Not only can the Data Explorer foster rigorous and active learning, it can also reinforce concrete skills that are valuable to students beyond the classroom.

# WHAT IS THE NCLR LATINO KIDS DATA EXPLORER?

Due to the dearth of consolidated, accessible, and up-to-date data on Hispanic children, NCLR has produced in recent years a series of materials pertaining to young Latinos. In 2010, a report titled *America's Future: Latino Child Well-Being in Numbers and Trends* was co-authored with the Population Reference Bureau. It was the first of its kind to offer a comprehensive overview of Latino child well-being in the United States, analyzing demographic, health, education, housing, income, and juvenile justice indicators on a state, regional, and national basis. As a result of the report's popularity, NCLR decided to update and expand the database on a regular basis and improve its usability and accessibility.

NCLR's Latino Kids Data Explorer is a web-based tool that enables users to find data and customize tables related to the well-being of Latino children across the U.S. The Data Explorer offers 27 national- and state-level indicators of Latino child well-being, including demographic, economic, health, education, and juvenile justice variables (see a full list on page 6). All variables can be broken down by age group (0–2, 0–4, 0–8, 0–17, inclusive) and include time trend and racial/ethnic comparisons.

The Latino Kids Data Explorer is complemented by a raw database in Excel and CSV formats that can be easily downloaded to most statistical analysis software. Supplemented with customized reading materials, the Data Explorer can be used as a primary organizing tool for a variety of courses designed to teach students about the situation of Latino and other children across the U.S., whether in the areas of health, education, social welfare, or others.

- Most, but not all, of the numbers included in the Data Explorer are derived from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

- All source materials are included in the tables.

- Data Explorer users can print reports or download the data as Excel or CSV files that will facilitate further analysis and the creation of tables and graphs.

- The Data Explorer and complete database are available cost-free to university professors and researchers.

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# HOW TO USE THE LATINO KIDS DATA EXPLORER

1. To download data from the Data Explorer, select the indicator, age group, year, race(s), and state(s), and press "Submit":
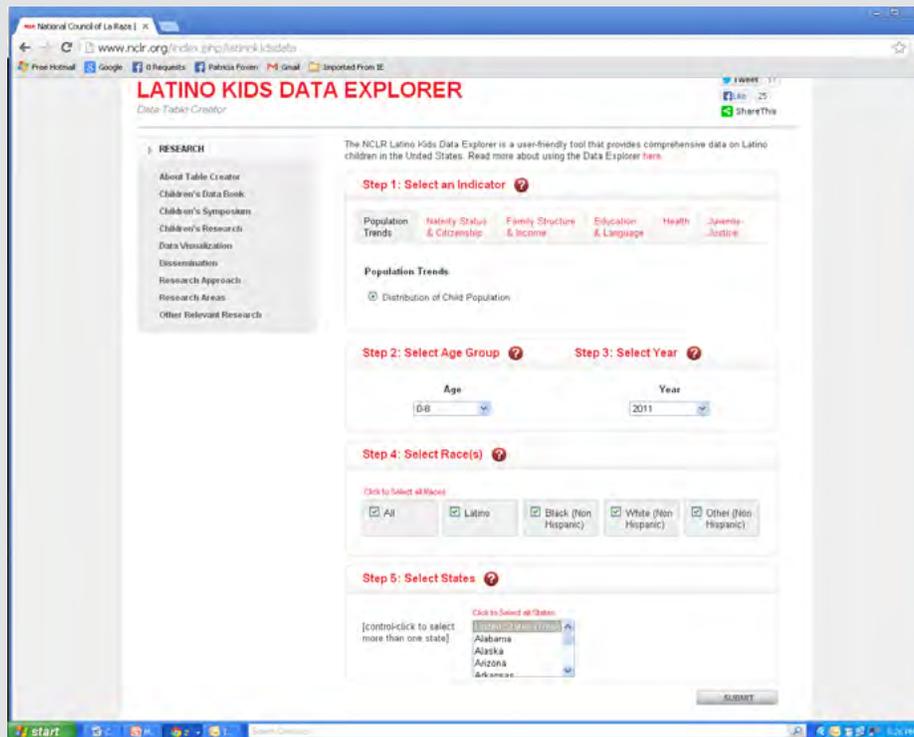


🔆 Due to some variation in data sources, options for age groups, years, states, and racial/ethnic groups are unavailable in certain cases.

🔆 Given the potentially small sample sizes, the data for the young child age groups (0–2, 0–4, and 0–8) are derived from American Community Survey three-year estimates.  Most of the 0–17 data are available for both American Community Survey one-year and three-year estimates.  One-year and multiyear estimates should not be compared with one another.

🔆 We suggest using caution when interpreting results that have a margin of error of 10 or greater.

## 2. After submitting your request a data table will appear:



- You can either print the table as is or download the data to an Excel spreadsheet.

- Detailed source information and additional notes can be found at the bottom of each data table.

## 3. You can use the data to produce graphs and charts.

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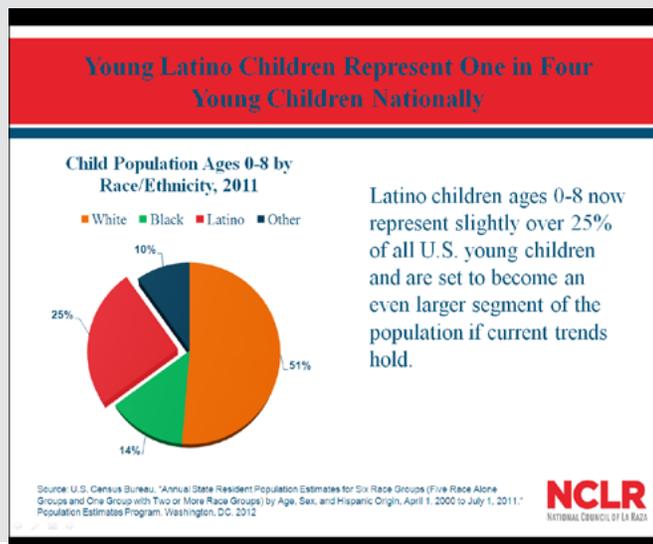
# SAMPLE COURSE TOPICS THAT CAN INTEGRATE THE DATA EXPLORER

**Demography, Sociology, Race, and Ethnicity Studies:**

Demographic and Social Change in the United States
Introduction to Population and Statistics
Sociology of Race and Ethnicity
Sociology of Childhood

**Latino Studies, Geography, Immigration Studies:**

Latinos in the 21st Century:  The Changing Face of America
The Cultural Geography of Latino Communities across the U.S.
Immigration Studies:  Migration and Integration of Latino Populations

**Social Work, Education, Public Health:**

Child Development:  The Growing Importance of Minority Children
Child Welfare
Cultural Competency in Health/Education:  Understanding the Latino Child Population
Early Childhood Education
Education and Race/Ethnicity

**Cross-Curricular Skills:**

Introduction to Statistics (SPSS or SAS)
How to Use Excel
Grant Writing for Nonprofits

# LIST OF INDICATORS

**Population Trends**
Distribution of child population

**Nativity Status and Citizenship**
Citizenship status of children
Children living in immigrant families
Children who are foreign-born (nativity status)

**Family Structure and Income**
Children in single-parent families
Children living below 100% of the poverty level
Children living below 200% of the poverty level
Children in households where housing costs exceed 30% of income
Children in low-income working families
Children living in high-poverty neighborhoods

**Education and Language**
Children in linguistically isolated households
Cumulative promotion index (public high school graduation on time with standard diploma)
Percent of eighth grade students who are below basic for math
Percent of eighth grade students who are below basic for reading
Percent of children under five years old whose family reads to them less than three days per week
Participants in all head start programs
Children ages 3–5 not in preschool or kindergarten
Children living with mothers who have less than a high school diploma

**Health**
Children without health insurance
Percent of children who are overweight or obese
Percent of children without a medical home
Parents asked by doctor or health care provider about learning, development, or behavior concerns
Teen pregnancies per 1,000 females ages 15–19
Births to mothers with late or no prenatal care
Babies born with low birth weight (less than 2,500 grams)
Children whose health care was delayed or not received

**Juvenile Justice**
Juveniles in residential placement (per 100,000 youth)

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# THE DATA EXPLORER, COMPLETE DATABASE, AND OTHER RESEARCH PRODUCTS ARE AVAILABLE COST-FREE ON NCLR'S WEBSITE

**Useful Links:**

Latino Kids Data Explorer

Further information about the Data Explorer

Latino Kids Data Visualization

*America's Future:  Latino Child Well-Being in Numbers and Trends*

NCLR's research on Latino children and youth

Information about NCLR

For questions and feedback regarding the Latino Kids Data Explorer, please contact Patricia Foxen, Ph.D., Deputy Director of Research, NCLR, at pfoxen@nclr.org.