








Latinos in Pennsylvania: Building a Secure Economic Future

From 2008 to 2018, the Latino* population in Pennsylvania grew by nearly 39%, or about 380,000 Latinos.¹ Today, there are almost one million Latinos in Pennsylvania.²

Despite ongoing inequities where Latinos lag behind other Pennsylvania residents, gains across several economic indicators point to better economic security for Latinos. Given the size of the Latino population in Pennsylvania, considering Latino economic gains and addressing economic shortfalls across a range of indicators can help lawmakers and advocates empower the economic security of all Pennsylvanians.

Snapshot of Latinos in Pennsylvania:

	Latinos in Pennsylvania		All Pennsylvanians	
	2008	2018	2008	2018
 Median Household Income	\$33,791	\$42,899	\$50,713	\$60,905
 Poverty Rate	29.9%	26.3%	12.1%	12.2%
 Earned Income Tax Credit Receipt	61,036	97,746	633,740	762,166
 Child Tax Credit Receipt	43,818	63,462	1,030,669	742,335
 Renters Facing High Rental Costs	56.1%	54.9%	47.3%	48.0%
 Homeownership	45.0%	41.1%	70.8%	68.6%
 Access to Paid Leave	17.8%	16.7%	38.5%	37.2%

* The terms “Hispanic” and “Latino” are used interchangeably by the U.S. Census Bureau and throughout this document to refer to persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central and South American, Dominican, Spanish, and other Hispanic descent; they may be of any race. This document may also refer to this population as “Latinx” to represent the diversity of gender identities and expressions that are present in the community.

Trends that Promote Economic Security:

- **Decrease in Latinos Experiencing Rent Burdens:** In 2018, more than half of Latinos in Pennsylvania were burdened by the high cost of rent, meaning that they spent more than 30% of their income on it. Compared to 2008, the share of Latinos burdened by rent decreased by about one percentage point, to 54.9%.³ Unfortunately, Latinos are still more likely to be burdened by high rental costs than Pennsylvanians overall.
- **Decrease in Latino Poverty:** The Latino poverty rate dropped by about three percentage points between 2008 and 2018. Part of this development can be attributed to two tax credits that bolstered financial support for Latino families: the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC). In 2018, some 100,000 Latinos in Pennsylvania received the EITC and almost 64,000 received the CTC in Pennsylvania.⁴ Despite the progress, Latino poverty is twice as high as the rate for Pennsylvania overall.

A Trend that Obstructs Economic Security:

- **Fewer Latinos Can Access Paid Family Leave:** In 2018, 16.7% of Latinos in Pennsylvania had access to paid time off from their jobs to take care of a family member. This decreased from 2008, when 17.8% of Latinos had access to paid family leave. In addition, Latinos continue to have lower access to paid family leave than Pennsylvanians overall.
- **Fewer Latinos Own a Home:** Since 2008, Pennsylvania gained 34,924 Latino homeowners.⁵ Yet, Latino homeownership declined by about four percentage points, from 45.0% in 2008 to 41.1% in 2018. In addition, the state's 2018 Latino homeownership rate remained lower than the state's overall homeownership rate of 68.6%.

Conclusion

Latinos in Pennsylvania have made considerable gains in the last decade, particularly in achieving lower poverty rates and some relief in experiencing rent burdens. Yet, Latinos in Pennsylvania still lag behind the average Pennsylvania resident. It is critical that all policymakers look to trends in Pennsylvania households' economic security to guide their policies. The key takeaway is clear: where policymakers create targeted policies and programs that help working Latinos succeed, all Americans succeed.

About Us

UnidosUS, previously known as NCLR (National Council of La Raza), is the nation's largest Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization. Through its unique combination of expert research, advocacy, programs, and an [Affiliate Network](#) of nearly 300 community-based organizations across the United States and Puerto Rico, UnidosUS simultaneously challenges the social, economic, and political barriers that affect Latinos at the national and local levels.

For more than 50 years, UnidosUS has united communities and different groups seeking common ground through collaboration, and that share a desire to make our country stronger. For more information on UnidosUS, visit www.unidosus.org or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

Endnotes

1 U.S. Census Bureau, "American FactFinder: Selected Population Profile in the United States," *American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates*, Washington, DC, 2018 & 2008.

2 Ibid.

3 Ibid.

4 UnidosUS calculations from the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2018.

5 U.S. Census Bureau, "American FactFinder: Selected Population Profile in the United States," *American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates*, Washington, DC, 2018 & 2008.