

Hispanic/Latine History in Oregon

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Sustainability

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History

Mexican Immigration in the Pacific Northwest: Labor Networks, Urbanization, and Socioeconomic Integration

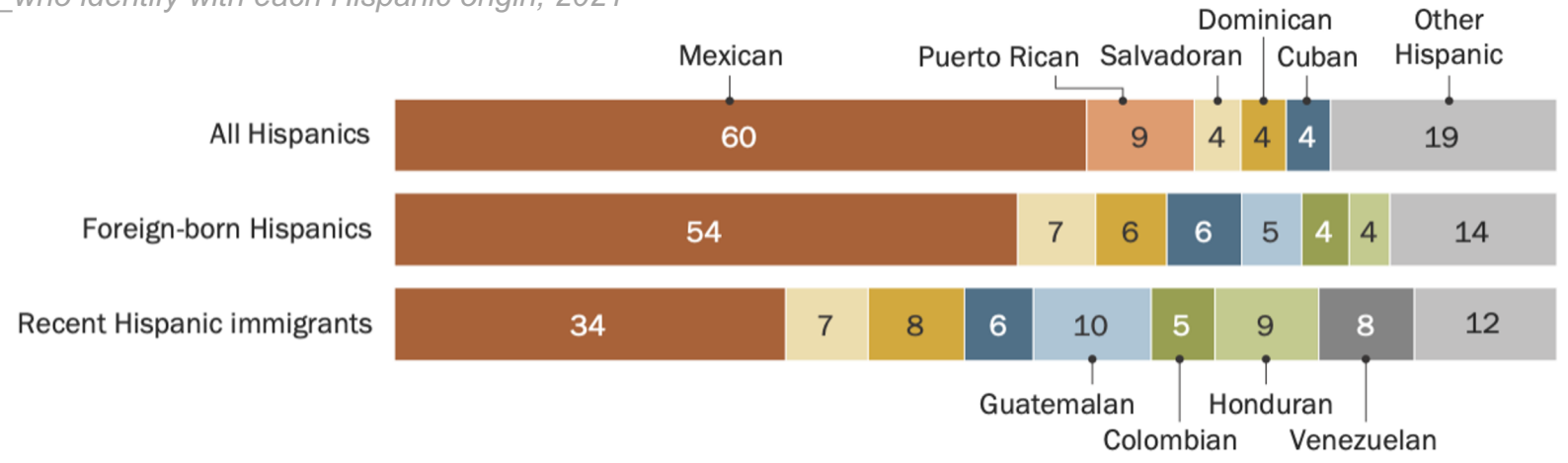
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First A Few Facts

Mexicans account for 60% of all U.S. Hispanics but only 34% of recent Hispanic Immigrants

% of _____ who identify with each Hispanic origin, 2021

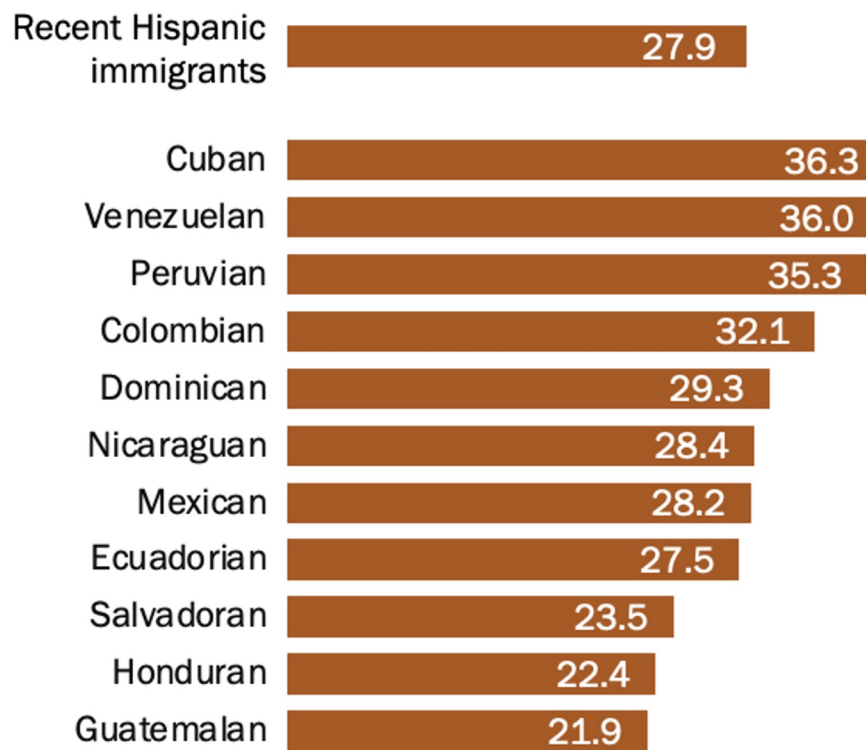


Note: For each population, only origin groups that make up about 4% or more are shown separately. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. "Recent Hispanic immigrants" refers to foreign-born Hispanics who have been in the U.S. for 5 years or less at the time of the survey.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2021 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS).

Most recent Latino immigrant groups in the U.S. have a median age of 30 or younger

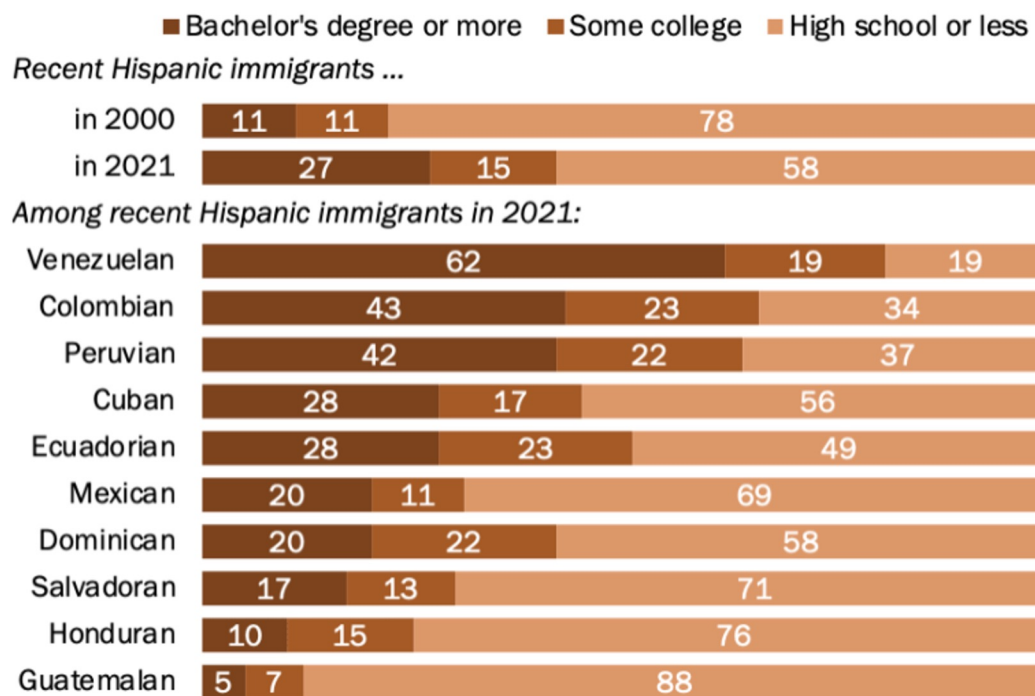
Median age of recent Hispanic immigrants in 2021, by origin group:



Note: "Recent Hispanic immigrants" refers to foreign-born Hispanics who have been in the U.S. for 5 years or less at the time of the survey. Origins show only groups with an unweighted sample size of more than 200. Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2021 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS).

About a quarter of recent Hispanic Immigrants to the U.S. had a bachelor's degree or more in 2021

% of recent Hispanic immigrants ages 25 and older with ___ educational experience, by origin group



Note: "Recent Hispanic immigrants" refers to foreign-born Hispanics who have been in the U.S. for 5 years or less at the time of the survey. "High school or less" includes those who have attained a high school diploma or its equivalent, such as a General Education Development (GED) certificate. "Some College" includes those who have an associate degree and those who attended college but did not obtain a bachelor's degree. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Origins show only groups with an unweighted sample size of more than 200. Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2000 decennial census (5% IPUMS) and 2021 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS).

Why focus on the Mexican origin population in the PNW?

- It is the largest immigrant population in the region, and its trajectory will heavily influence the overall success of the current wave of immigration in its quest to *salir adelante*.

Most of the PNW Mexican Origin Population has roots in Small Towns and Rural Communities

Understanding the Historic Importance of Migration Networks

- Who can emigrate from rural Mexico? It takes a great deal of money, is risky, and rural wages don't allow enough savings to do it.
- Initial migrants from most rural Mexican communities were recruited through WWII-initiated Bracero Programs (1942-1964) but also industry, or had significant financial resources (landowners or small business class)
- Overwhelmingly it was the Bracero Programs that recruited in rural Mexico
- Farmworkers were recruited almost entirely from communities with traditions of agricultural work, not urban ones

Importance of migration networks (con't)

- Early migrants learned trip logistics, developed knowledge of and relationship with employers, and accumulated some savings.
- Early migrants shared their knowledge and dollars with large numbers of later migrants from their communities who otherwise could not have made the trip.
- Thus privileged early migrants, most recruited by the US government, farmers, and industries, formed social networks that are the basis for the massive flows observed until 2007. Recruitment initiated networks, and Mexico's proximity, explain why Mexico is the leading sending country to the US.

Jul
12
2010

The 10 states in Mexico receiving the highest remittances per person

Maps, Teaching ideas

The map shows the ten states which receive the highest remittances (funds sent home, primarily from the USA by Mexican migrant workers) on a per person basis in 2005.



Many factors help to explain why some states receive high amounts of remittances, on a per person basis, while other states receive much less.

They include:

- The number of working migrant workers from that state working in USA
- The poverty levels in the state
- Unemployment rates in the state
- Whether or not that state has a long history of supplying migrant workers

Perhaps surprisingly, there is no correlation between distance from the USA and the per person remittances sent back by migrant workers. On the contrary, it is clear that more remittances are received per person in several southern states. No northern border state is in the top 10 receiving states for remittances.

Cumulative Causation: Low Cost Mexican Labor Leads to Demand for More Mexican Labor

- Availability of low-cost labor since the 1960s facilitated the growth of labor-intensive rural enterprise in the Pacific Northwest, particularly in irrigated regions.
- Key employing industries:
 - orchards in Central Washington, Hood River, elsewhere
 - nursery/greenhouse industry in N. Willamette Valley
 - vineyards

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Through 1980s, migration from Mexico was highly seasonal and focused on rural PNW destinations.

1990s to Present: Urbanization

- Rural Mexico → rural PNW movement (and sometimes rural Mexico → California → rural PNW) continues.
- Migration networks, being the primary conduit of human migration, mean that most people go to where their community network leads them.
- PNW rural communities that are near metro regions, particularly Portland and Salem, are the basis of:
 - Rural Mexico → Rural PNW → Urban PNW
 - or,
 - Mexico → Urban PNW (now the largest component)

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The Luck of the Draw: Social Mobility Linked to your Network – and its Destination’s Opportunities

- If your community network from Mexico leads to a rural community that is far from an urban region, your opportunities may be mostly limited to rural employment.
- If your network has led to a rural community near urban jobs, or to an urban area, your job opportunities are much greater.
- But can’t people who have migrated all the way from Mexico make one shorter resettlement trip from a rural community to a city, even in the absence of a network to help them? Spokane County and Eugene, not near to zones of labor intensive agriculture as examples on next slide.

McGlade: Mexican Farm Labor Networks and Population Increase

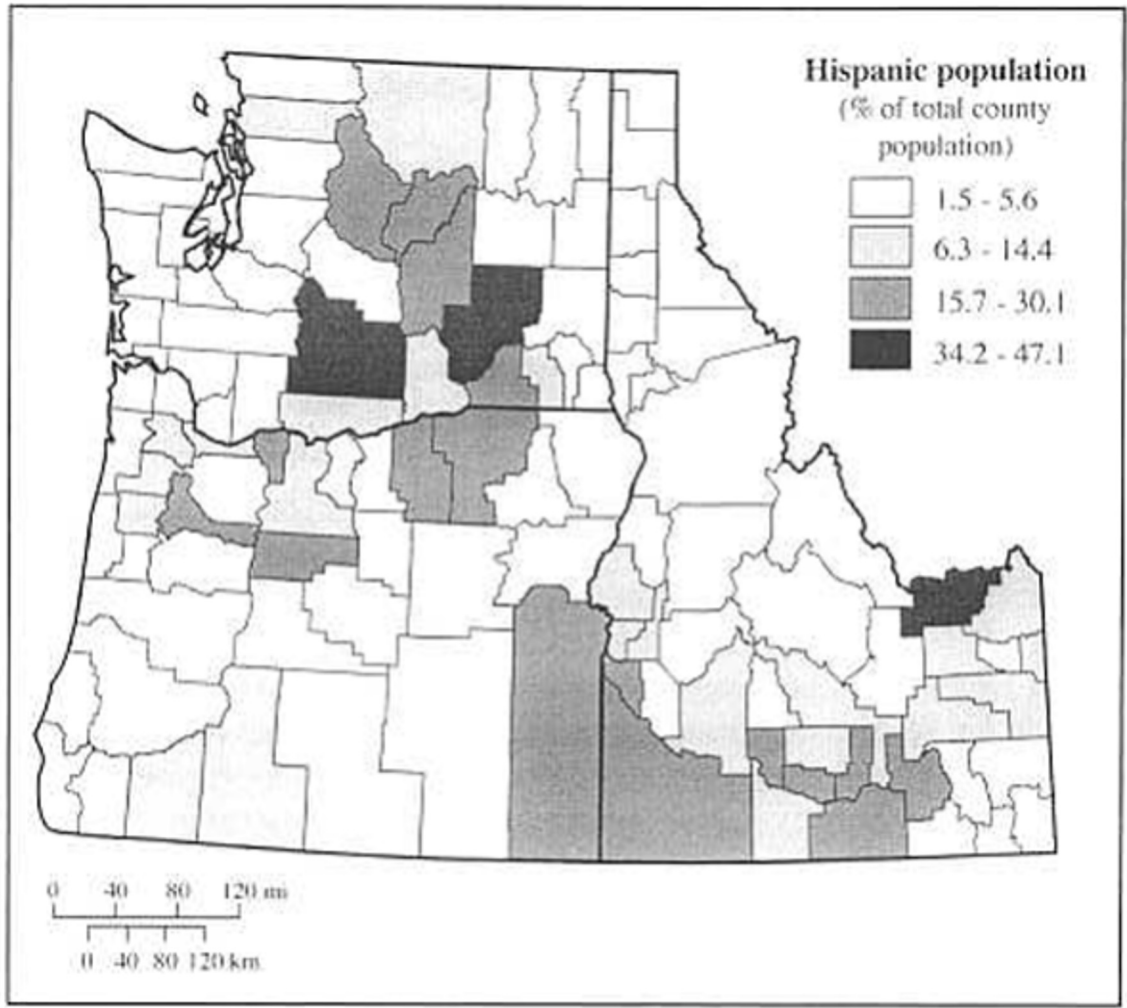


Figure 1. Hispanic share of total population, 2000.

Indigenous Origin “Latinos” in Oregon

- Come mostly from S. Mexico and Guatemala
- Guatemalans may not wish to be identified as not being Mexican
- Are often perceived by outsiders (especially non-Latinos), as Mexicans
- Many speak little or no Spanish, though may be reluctant to let this be known
- May not be able to communicate with other people from Indian communities, as native language diversity is high
- Many perceive themselves as sharing little cultural heritage with Latinos
- Terms such as *Latino* or *Hispanic* or *Latinx* may have little meaning to them
- Many are marginally literate
- Tend to be seen as competitors for low wage jobs by other Latinos
- Guatemalans, in particular, may not be Catholic

Social Mobility and Integration of the Second Generation

- Children growing up in rural communities across the region, regardless of ethnicity, are seeing limited economic opportunities in their communities, relative to what is available in urban areas.
- English fluency and increasingly a college education or training in skilled trades are keys to achieving the American Dream of middle class status.

Sources useful for additional reading:

For understanding the outcomes of the second generation:

-Alejandro Portes and Ruben G. Rumbaut, *Legacies: The Story of the Immigrant Second Generation*. Berkeley and Los Angeles, University of California Press, 2001, 2014.

For geography of Mexican immigration to the Pacific Northwest:

-Michael S. McGlade, Mexican Farm Labor Networks and Population Increase in the Pacific Northwest. *Association of Pacific Coast Geographers Yearbook*, Vol. 64: 28-54, 2002.

-Articulations of Place, Poverty, and Race: Dumping Grounds and Unseen Grounds in the Rural American Northwest Author(s): Victoria Lawson, Lucy Jarosz and Anne Bonds Source: *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* , July 2010, Vol. 100, No. 3 (July 2010), pp. 655-677. Association of American Geographers. Stable URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/40863554>

For analysis of rural Mexico in the context of outmigration: <https://geo-mexico.com/?p=1916>

For national level statistics: <https://www.pewresearch.org/search/latino>



Latinx Communities in Oregon

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Hispanic Origins of Oregon

A HISTORICAL APPROXIMATION TO EARLY HISPANIC PRESENCE IN THE WEST COAST OF NORTH AMERICA (1543 - 1819)

Study by Olga Gutiérrez Rodríguez
Prologue by Jaime Marroquín Arredondo
Epilogue by David G. Lewis

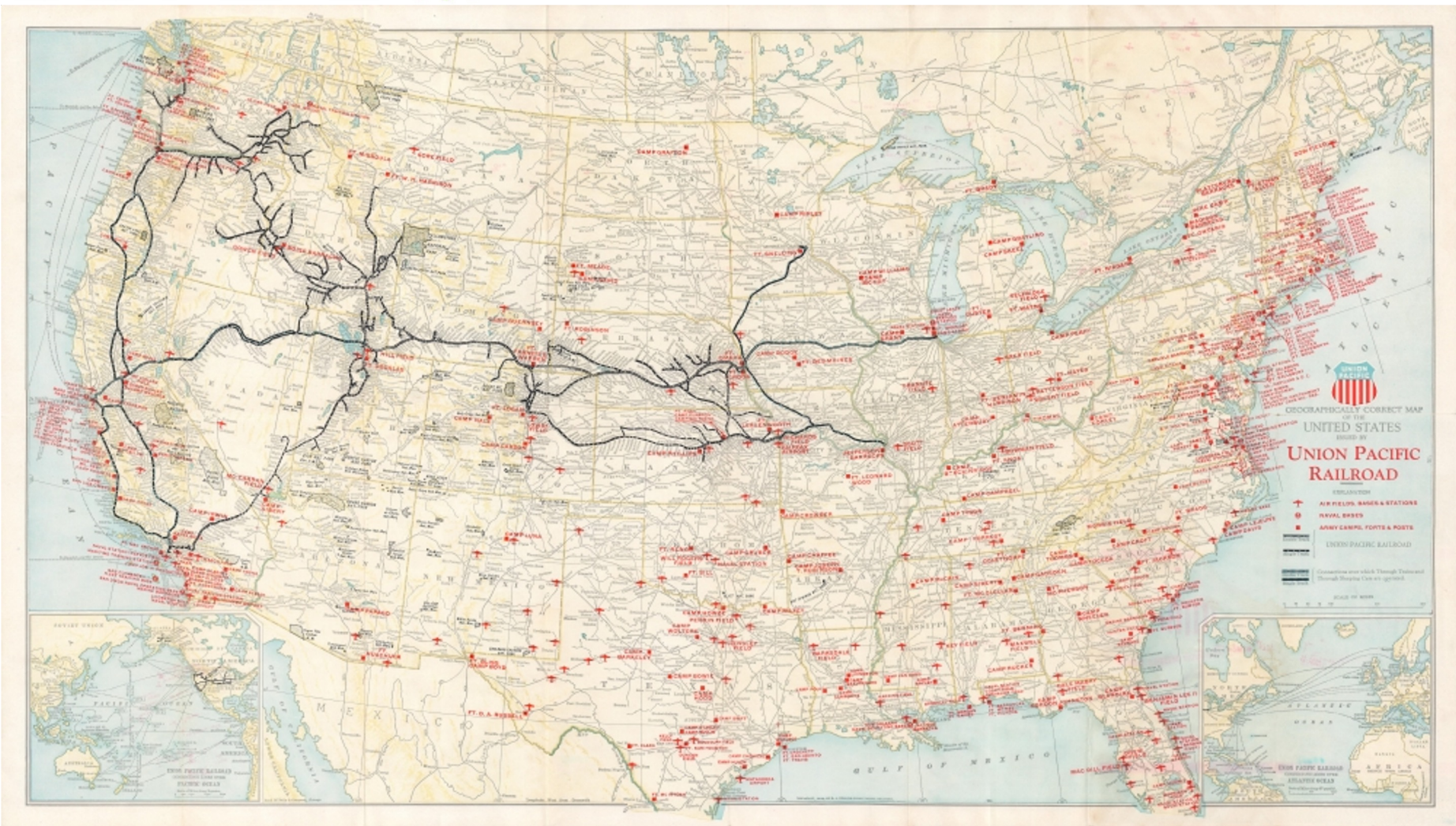


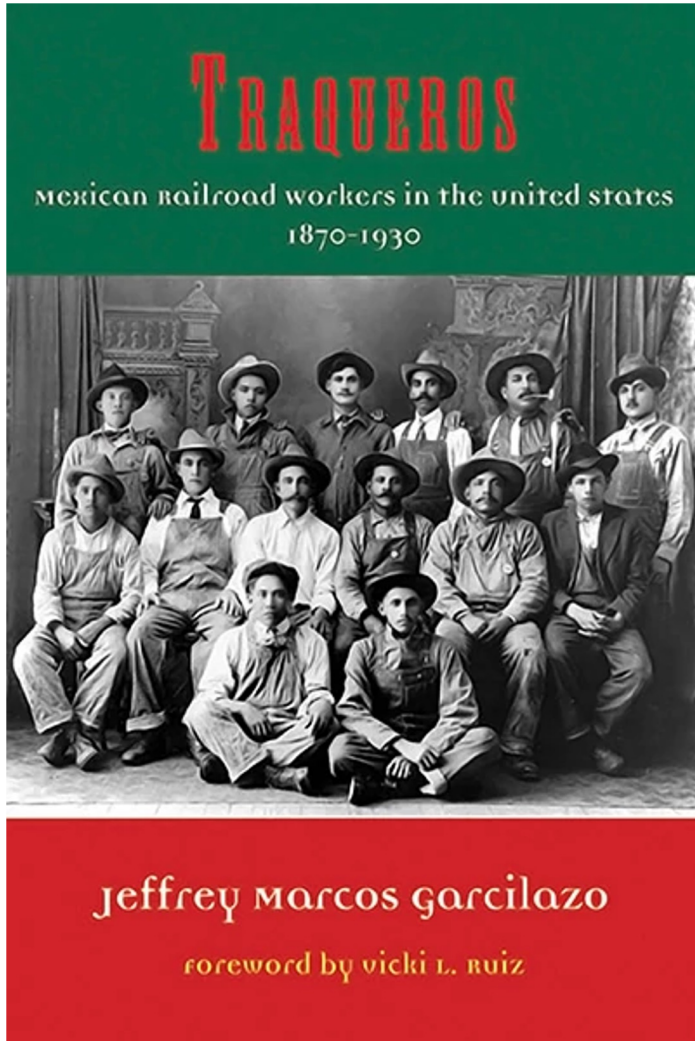
Mexicans in early 19th Century Oregon Territory



- Miners.
- Mule packers to supply the American Army:
Guadalupe Garcia
Oregon City
- Lost in record, unclear descriptions

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Mexican population in Oregon between 1850 to 1930

- Foundation of Portland, 1845 – increased trade.
- By 1860, twenty Mexicans, including five women.
- American westward migration – demographic boom.
- Porfirio Diaz labor agreements with the United States
- Employment opportunities:
 - Portland harbor.
 - Railroad system, build and maintenance.
 - Agricultural labor.
- 50 Mexicans in Oregon in 1900, 569 in 1920.
- Effects of the Mexican Revolution and WWI.

Growth of Latinx Population 1920 - 1960



- 1917 Immigration Act: Mexicans exempted from: the \$8 head tax and, the literacy test.
- 1930 - 1,500 Mexicans in Oregon's records.
- Great Depression and Deportations.
- WWII and the Bracero Program.

Latinx in 1950s Oregon



- 1950s – Latinx population mostly limited to rural areas and predominantly Mexican.
- By 1960, there were 4 Latinx families in Salem, including the one of Isabela Varela Ott, Spanish born, raised in Guadalajara, Mexico, who finally settled in Salem, Oregon.
- Isabela's daughter, Mary, married a Peruvian man who also lived in Salem in the 1950s.

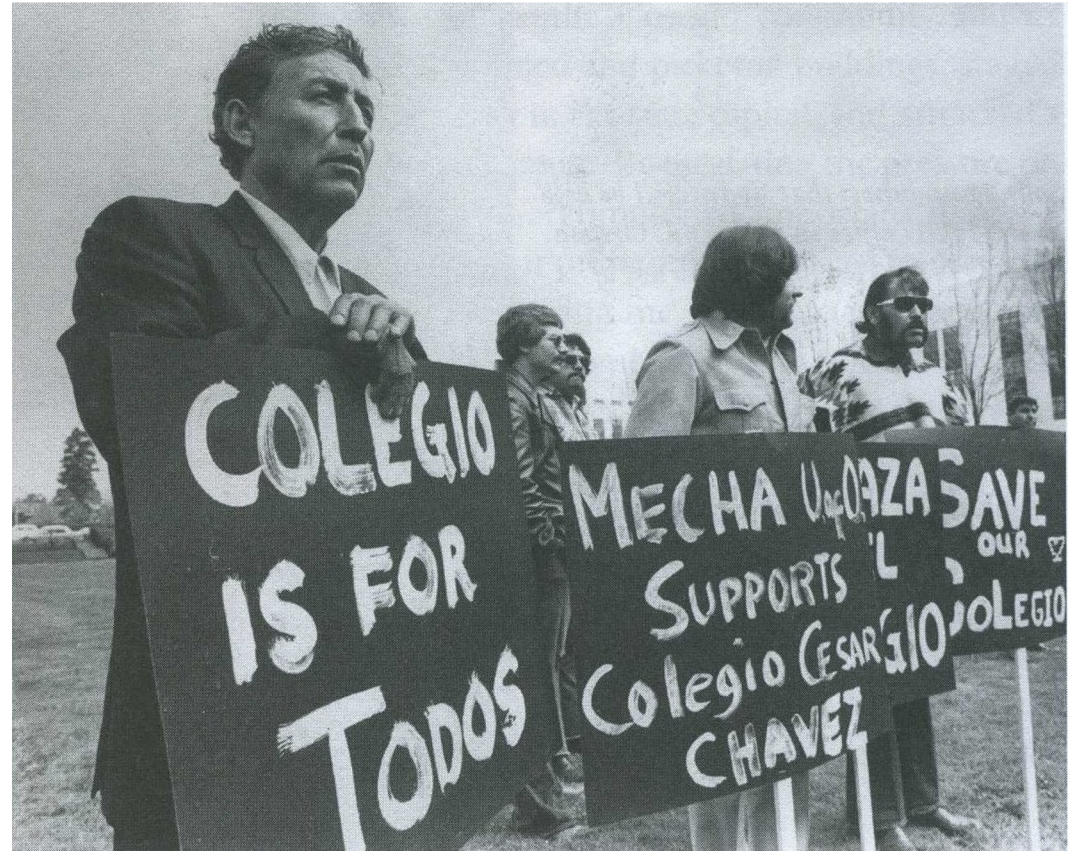
Forming Communities after the 1960s

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- ❖ 1965 – 17,000 Mexican seasonal farm laborers.
5,000 settled permanently.
- 1965 – 1974 – Valley Migrant League.
- 1966 – Volunteers in Vanguard Action (VIVA).
- 1974 – 1979 – the VML reorganized under a new name, Oregon Rural Opportunities.
- 1980s – Latinx relocation to urban Oregon.

Cesar Chavez College (1973 – 1983)



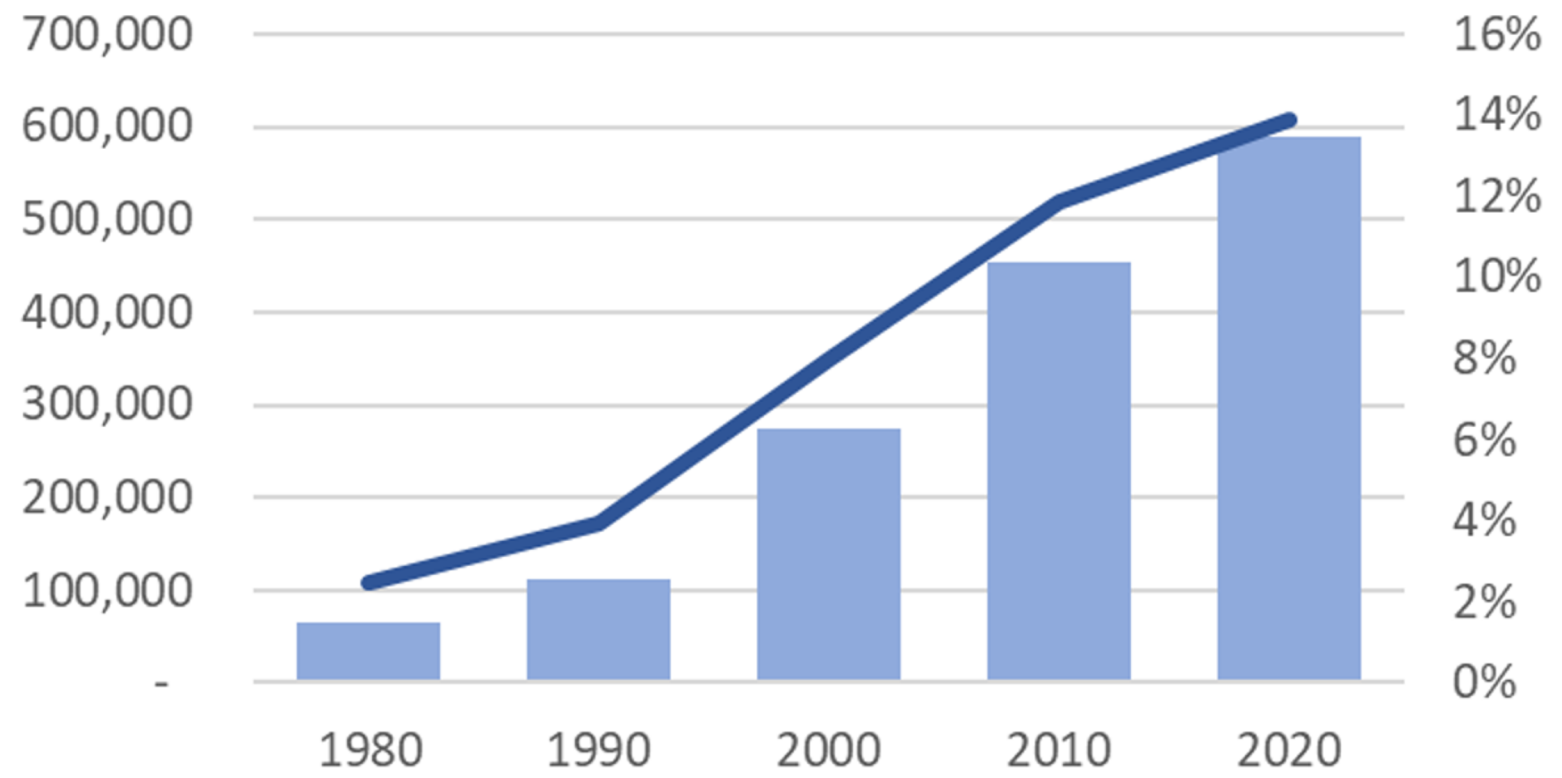
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Portland in 1980 – 1,030,00 total
26,700 Latinx (2.5%)



Oregon's Hispanic or Latino Population

Population, left axis | Share of state, right axis

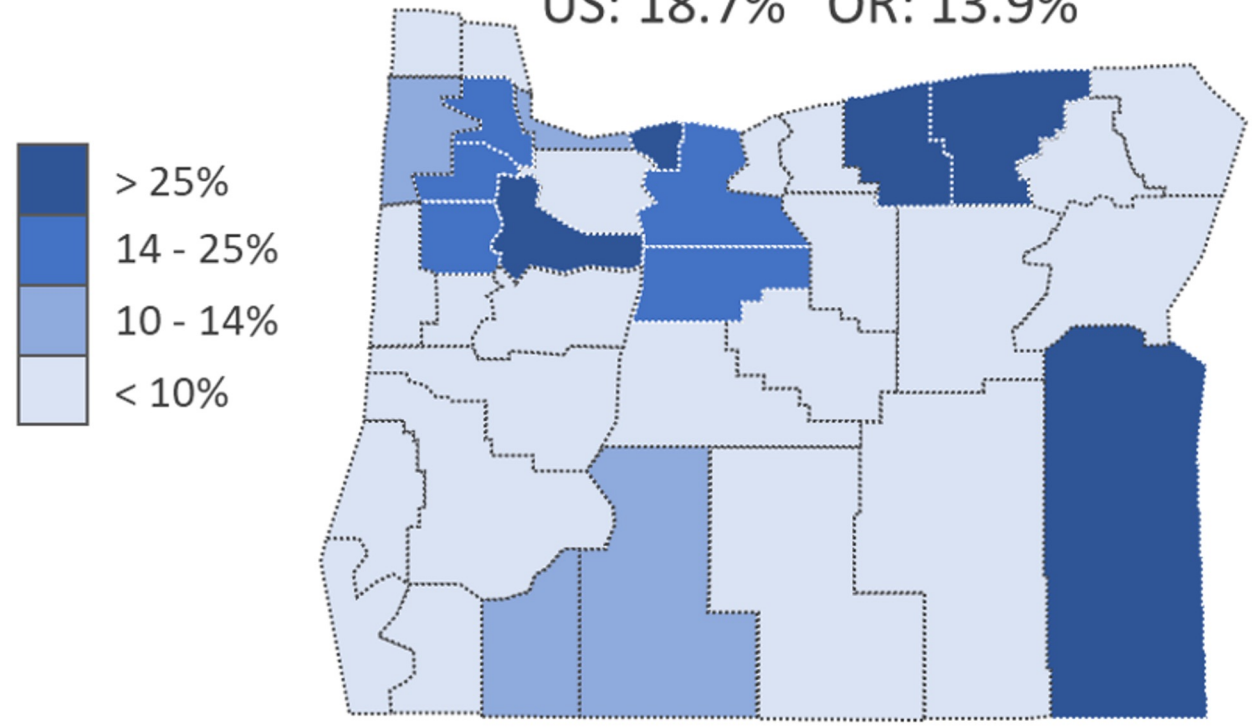


Data: Decennial Census | Source: Census, IPUMS-USA, Oregon Office of Economic Analysis

Hispanic or Latino Population

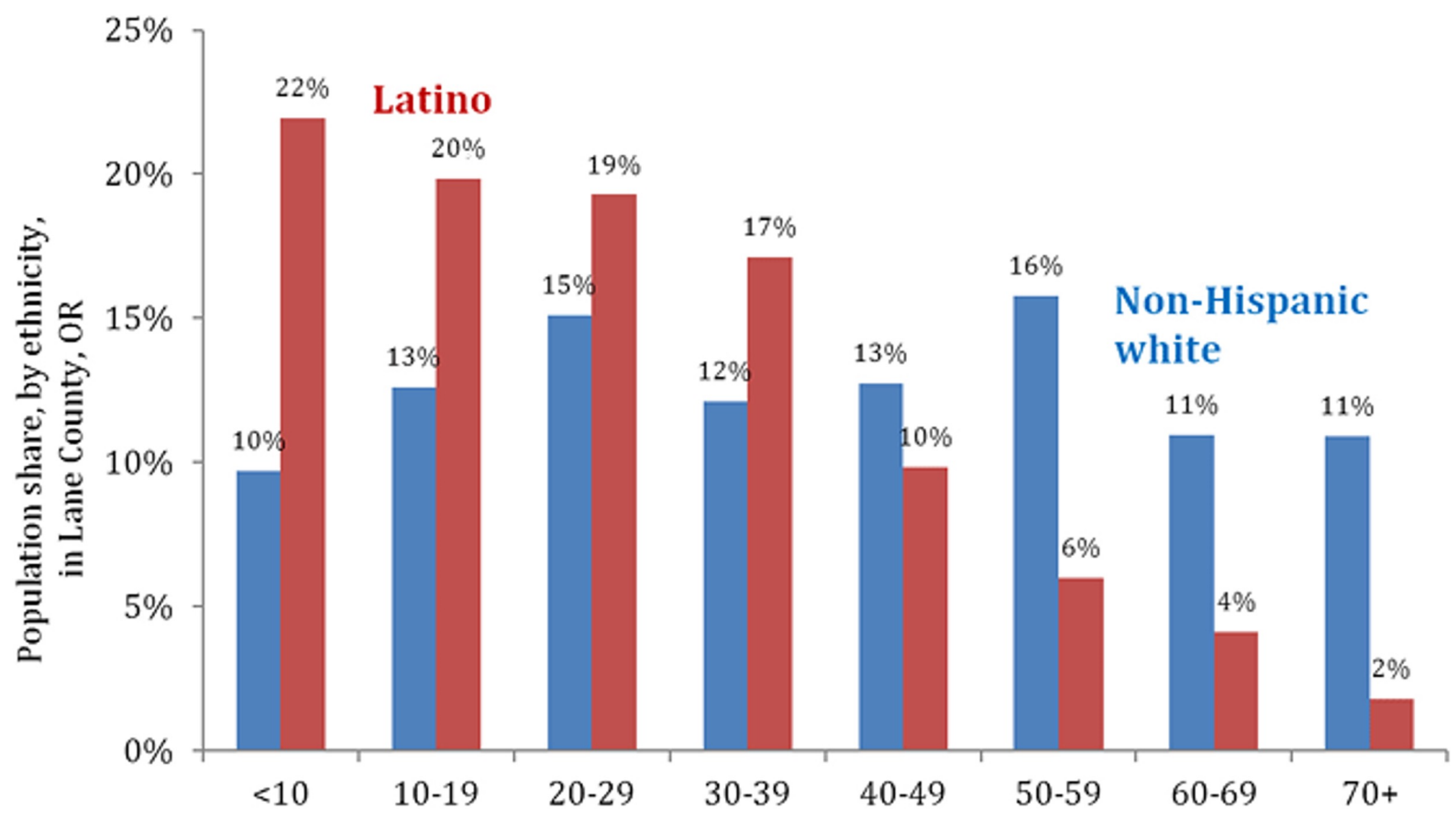
2020 Census

US: 18.7% OR: 13.9%

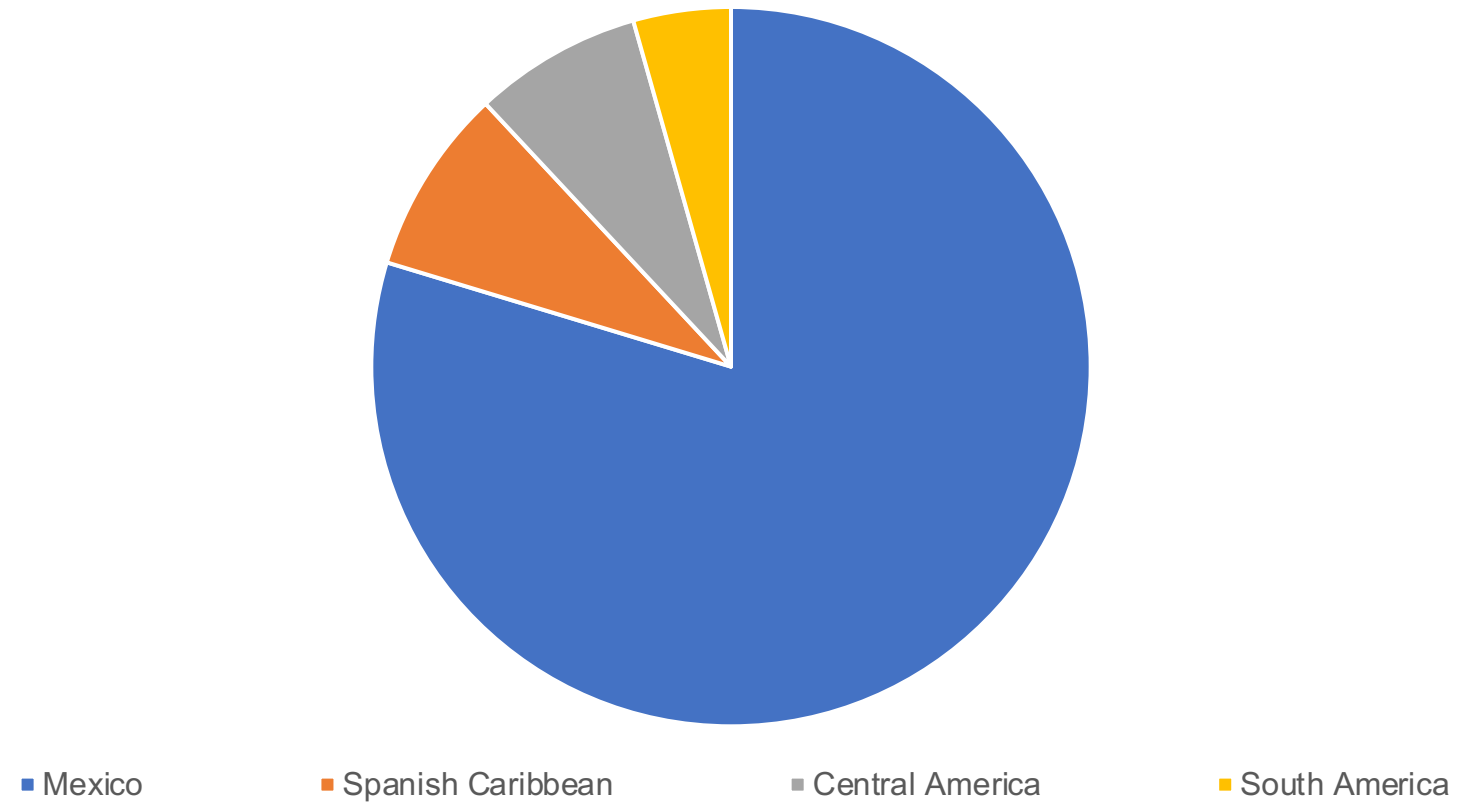


Source: Census, Oregon Office of Economic Analysis

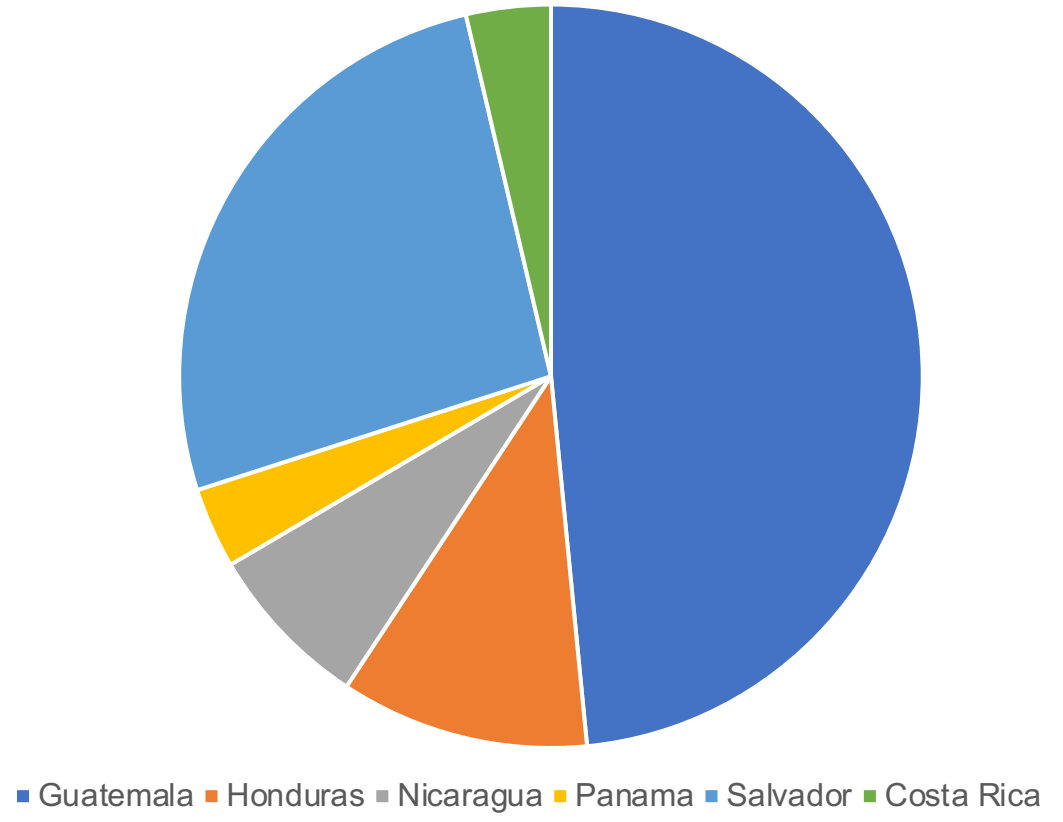
Figure 1: The Latino population of Lane County, Oregon, is much younger than the white-only population



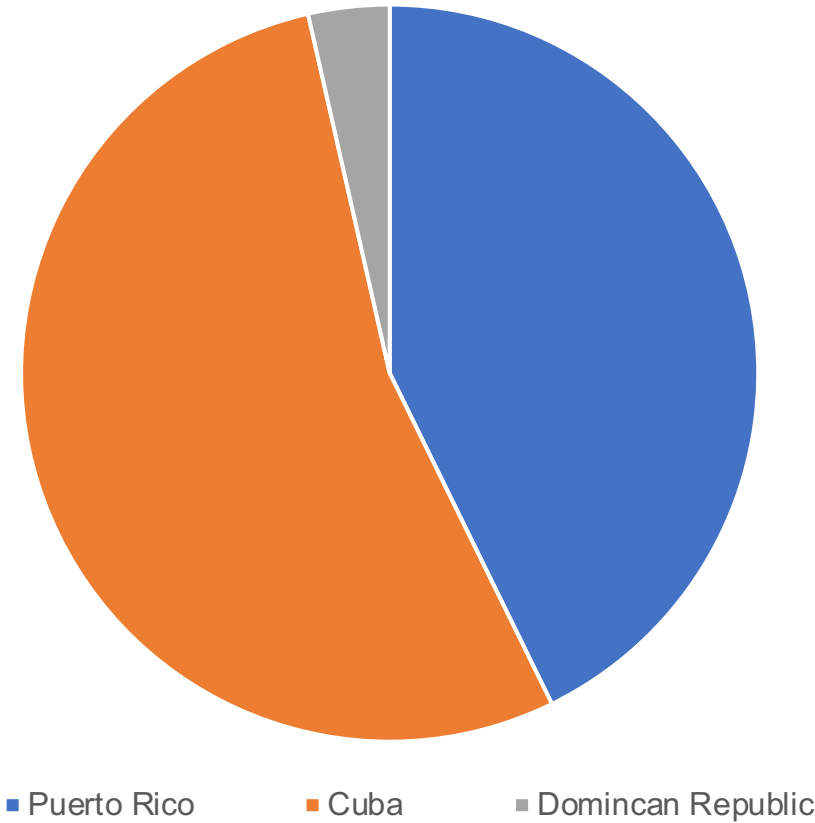
Estimate Latinx Population Portland 2020 (around 52,000)



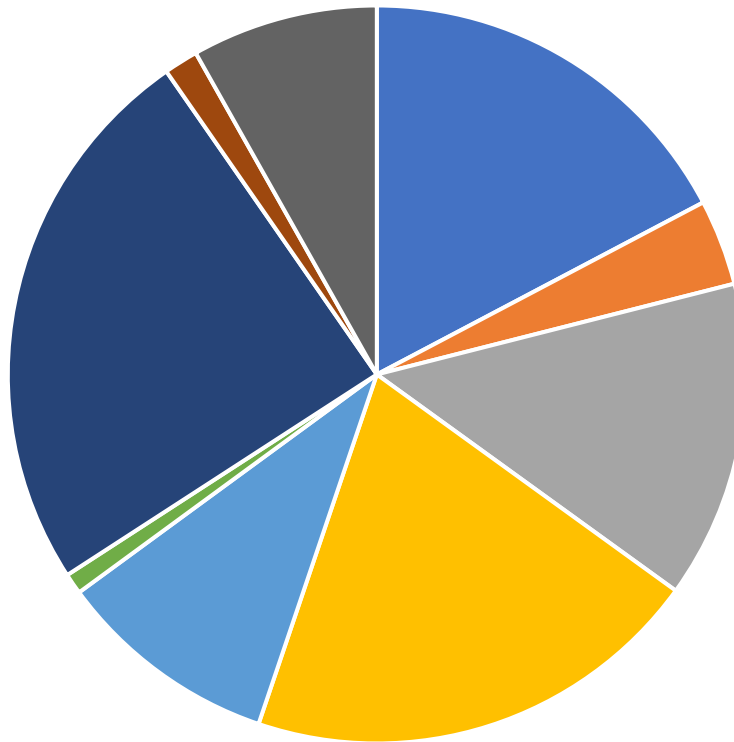
Central Americans Estimate Total 5,000



Spanish Caribbean Estimate Total 5,000



South Americans Estimate Population 2,200



■ Argentina ■ Bolivia ■ Chile ■ Colombian ■ Ecuador ■ Paraguay ■ Peru ■ Uruguay ■ Venezuela

Reasons for Latinx Migration to Oregon, or not

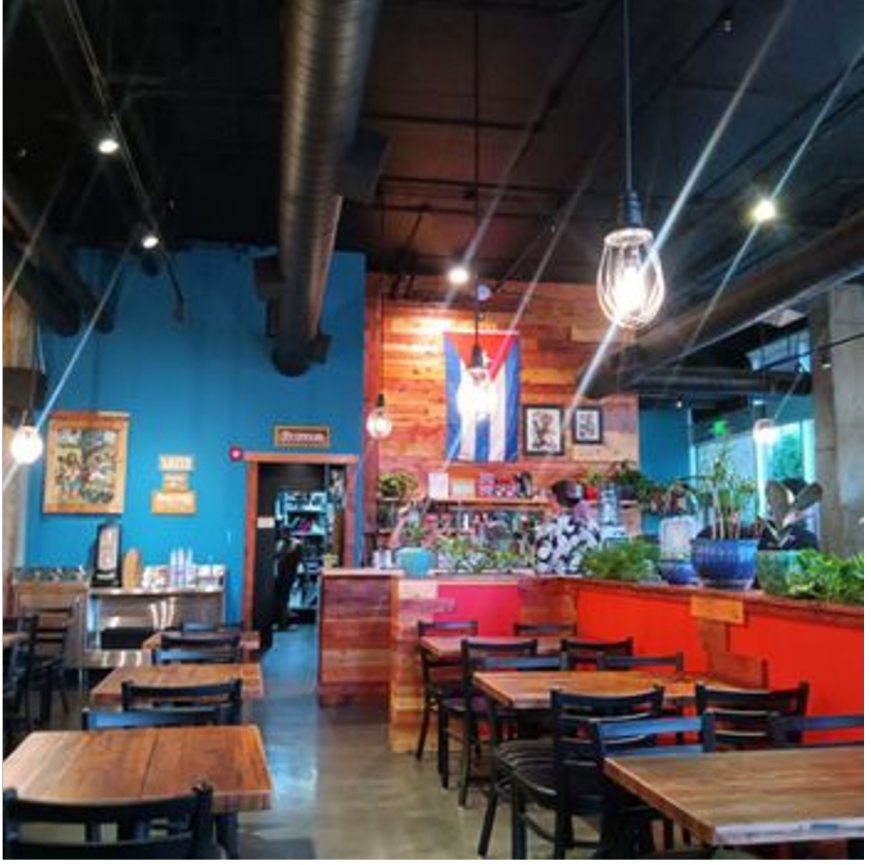


- Portland perceived as friendly, sanctuary city.
 - Oregon seen as an opportunity.
 - Organizations and support to immigrants.
 - New migrants are young with urban background.
 - Family and friends already living in Oregon.
-
- ❖ Cold weather, rain, lack of sunshine.
 - ❖ Small Latinx community.
 - ❖ Reduced urban area.

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> FIRST LATINO CONGRESSMEMBERS IN OREGON

LORI CHAVEZ-DEREMER (R-5)



ANDREA SALINAS (D-6)

