

Hispanics in the 2008 Election: New Jersey

New Jersey's Hispanic population is the seventh-largest in the nation. More than 1.4 million Hispanics reside in New Jersey, 3% of all Hispanics in the United States. There are 588,000 eligible Hispanic voters in New Jersey, 3% of all U.S. Hispanic eligible voters.¹ This fact sheet provides key demographic information on Latino eligible voters.² It also contains data on other major groups of eligible voters in New Jersey, with comparative data for the U.S. All data are from the Census Bureau's 2006 American Community Survey.³

Hispanics in New Jersey's Eligible Voter Population

- New Jersey's population is 16% Hispanic, the ninth-highest Hispanic population share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 45%.
- 10% of eligible voters in New Jersey are Latinos, the ninth-largest Hispanic eligible voter population share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 38% followed by Texas with 25% and California with 23%.
- 43% of Latinos in New Jersey are eligible to vote, ranking New Jersey 23rd nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote.

	U.S.	New Jersey	New Jersey State Rank
Total population (thousands)	299,398	8,725	11
Percent of the population (all ages) that is Hispanic	14.8	15.6	9
Percent of all eligible voters (citizens ages 18 and older) who are Hispanic	8.7	10.1	9
Percent of the Hispanic population (all ages) that is eligible to vote	40.6	43.2	23

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the 2006 American Community Survey (IPUMS 1% sample)

Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- 25% of Hispanic eligible voters in New Jersey are ages 18 to 29, a lesser share than all Latino eligible voters nationwide (31%). Fewer eligible voters overall in New Jersey are in that age range (18%) compared with New Jersey Hispanic eligible voters (25%).
- A greater share of Hispanic eligible voters in New Jersey (37%) are naturalized U.S. citizens compared with Hispanics eligible voters nationwide (26%).
- 24% of Latino eligible voters in New Jersey have not completed high school, somewhat less than the share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide (27%). By contrast, 12% of all New Jersey eligible voters and 14% of all eligible voters nationwide have not completed high school.
- Slightly more than half of all Hispanic eligible voters in New Jersey live in owner-occupied homes compared with more than 7 in 10 of all New Jersey eligible voters. Fewer New Jersey Hispanic eligible voters live in owner-occupied homes than do all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide—51% versus 60%.

Table 2
 Characteristics of Eligible Voters
 in New Jersey and the United States

	NEW JERSEY		UNITED STATES	
	Hispanics	All	Hispanics	All
Population (in thousands)				
Total population	1,361	8,725	44,299	299,398
Eligible voters (citizens ages 18 and older)	588	5,815	17,975	206,329
Percent of Eligible Voters				
Age				
18-29	25.2	18.0	31.1	21.5
30-44	34.2	27.9	31.6	26.8
45-59	24.4	28.9	22.5	28.0
60 and older	16.1	25.1	14.9	23.8
Gender				
Female	52.2	52.3	50.8	51.8
Male	47.8	47.7	49.2	48.2
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	63.1	85.8	73.6	92.7
Naturalized citizen	36.9	14.2	26.4	7.3
English-speaking ability				
Does not speak English *very well*	32.0	7.1	24.3	4.3
Speaks only English or English *very well*	68.0	92.9	75.7	95.7
Educational attainment				
Did not complete high school	24.2	12.1	27.3	14.0
Completed high school	33.1	30.7	31.6	31.2
Some college	26.6	25.6	27.8	29.8
Bachelor's degree or more	16.1	31.6	13.3	25.0
Marital Status				
Married	47.1	53.3	47.8	52.7
Never Married	32.6	27.7	33.5	26.3
Other	20.3	19.0	18.7	20.9
With child(ren) younger than 18 in home				
	33.7	28.4	33.4	26.8
In owner-occupied homes				
	51.3	73.8	60.2	70.8
Household income*				
Less than \$30,000	22.5	15.2	26.1	22.9
\$30,000-\$49,999	17.8	13.8	21.7	19.4
\$50,000-\$74,999	20.9	17.8	21.5	20.7
\$75,000-\$99,999	16.2	15.7	13.5	14.1
\$100,000 or more	22.6	37.5	17.1	22.9

*Persons in households with zero or negative income excluded (less than 1% of all eligible voters in the U.S.)

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the 2006 American Community Survey (IPUMS 1% sample)

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in New Jersey, by Race and Ethnicity

- Black eligible voters in New Jersey outnumber Hispanic eligible voters—749,000 blacks compared with 588,000 Hispanics.
- Latino eligible voters outnumber Asian eligible voters in New Jersey by almost 2 to 1—588,000 to 300,000.
- More Latino eligible voters (24%) in New Jersey did not complete high school compared with white (10%), black (19%) and Asian (6%) eligible voters.
- Asian eligible voters in New Jersey are more likely to be naturalized citizens compared with Latino eligible voters—83% versus 37%.
- Roughly 8 in 10 white and Asian eligible voters in New Jersey live in owner-occupied home compared with 5 in 10 New Jersey Latino and black eligible voters.

Table 3
Characteristics of Eligible Voters in New Jersey, by Race and Ethnicity

	Hispanics	NON-HISPANIC		
		White	Black	Asian
Population (in thousands)				
Total population	1,361	5,437	1,144	652
Eligible voters (citizens ages 18 and older)	588	4,113	749	300
Percent of Eligible Voters				
Age				
18-29	25.2	15.7	24.0	19.5
30-44	34.2	25.8	31.5	34.5
45-59	24.4	30.2	25.6	30.3
60 and older	16.1	28.3	18.9	15.7
Gender				
Female	52.2	52.2	54.6	49.5
Male	47.8	47.8	45.4	50.5
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	63.1	93.6	89.3	17.5
Naturalized citizen	36.9	6.4	10.7	82.5
English-speaking ability				
Does not speak English "very well"	32.0	2.7	1.8	31.1
Speaks only English or English "very well"	68.0	97.3	98.2	68.9
Educational attainment				
Did not complete high school	24.2	9.5	18.8	6.3
Completed high school	33.1	30.8	35.3	14.0
Some college	26.6	25.5	27.5	19.6
Bachelor's degree or more	16.1	34.2	18.5	60.1
Marital Status				
Married	47.1	56.9	32.7	69.7
Never Married	32.6	24.1	44.8	22.8
Other	20.3	19.0	22.5	7.4
With child(ren) younger than 18 in home				
	33.7	27.3	26.6	39.0
In owner-occupied homes				
	51.3	81.3	49.2	77.8
Household income*				
Less than \$30,000	22.5	13.0	24.2	8.4
\$30,000-\$49,999	17.8	12.5	19.8	9.6
\$50,000-\$74,999	20.9	17.4	18.6	14.1
\$75,000-\$99,999	16.2	16.0	15.5	12.9
\$100,000 or more	22.6	41.1	21.9	55.0

*Persons in households with zero or negative income excluded (less than 1% of all eligible voters in the U.S.)

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the 2006 American Community Survey (IPUMS 1% sample)

Endnotes

- ¹ In this fact sheet, eligible voters are defined as U.S. citizens ages 18 and older. Eligible voters are not the same as registered voters. To cast a vote, in all states except North Dakota, an eligible voter must first register to vote.
- ² The terms “Hispanic” and “Latino” are used interchangeably. References to “whites,” “blacks,” and “Asians” are to the non-Hispanic components of those populations.
- ³ The specific data set used to derive estimates contained in this fact sheet are from the University of Minnesota’s Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) for the 2006 American Community Survey (1% sample). Information can be found on the following Website: <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/>. The estimates in this fact sheet are subject to sampling error. Also, estimates in this fact sheet will differ from estimates that may be published by the Census Bureau because of differences between the data used by the Census Bureau and the data it has released for public use. Further information on Census data and on sampling error in the data is available at <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/2006/AccuracyPUMS.pdf>.