

Hispanics in the 2008 Election: New Mexico

New Mexico's Hispanic population is the ninth-largest in the nation. More than 874,000 Hispanics reside in New Mexico, 2% of all Hispanics in the United States. There are 501,000 eligible Hispanic voters in New Mexico, 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 Mexico, with comparative data for the U.S. All data are from the Census Bureau's 2006 American Community Survey.³

Hispanics in New Mexico's Eligible Voter Population

- New Mexico's population is 45% Hispanic, the highest Hispanic population share nationally.
- 38% of eligible voters in New Mexico are Latinos, the largest Hispanic eligible voter population share nationally.
- 57% of Latinos in New Mexico are eligible to vote, ranking 4th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote.

	U.S.	New Mexico	New Mexico State Rank
Total population (thousands)	299,398	1,955	36
Percent of the population (all ages) that is Hispanic	14.8	44.7	1
Percent of all eligible voters (citizens ages 18 and older) who are Hispanic	8.7	37.5	1
Percent of the Hispanic population (all ages) that is eligible to vote	40.6	57.3	4

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

Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- 29% of Hispanic eligible voters in New Mexico are ages 18 to 29. By contrast, 23% of all New Mexico eligible voters and 22% of all U.S. eligible voters are in that range.
- Hispanic eligible voters in New Mexico are just as likely as all eligible voters in the U.S. to be citizens by birth—93% in both cases. They are more likely to be U.S. citizens by birth (93%) than all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide (74%).
- 23% of Latino eligible voters in New Mexico have not completed high school compared with 27% of all Latino eligible voters nationwide. By contrast, 15% of all New Mexico eligible voters and 14% of all eligible voters nationwide have not completed high school.
- Almost three quarters of New Mexico Hispanic eligible voters live in owner-occupied homes compared with 6 in 10 Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. A slightly greater share of Hispanic eligible voters in New Mexico live in owner-occupied homes than do all U.S. eligible voters—74% versus 71%.

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

	NEW MEXICO		UNITED STATES	
	Hispanics	All	Hispanics	All
Population (in thousands)				
Total population	874	1,955	44,299	299,398
Eligible voters (citizens ages 18 and older)	501	1,334	17,975	206,329
Percent of Eligible Voters				
Age				
18-29	28.5	23.2	31.1	21.5
30-44	28.5	25.4	31.6	26.8
45-59	23.6	27.2	22.5	28.0
60 and older	19.3	24.2	14.9	23.8
Gender				
Female	52.0	51.9	50.8	51.8
Male	48.0	48.1	49.2	48.2
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	92.8	95.9	73.6	92.7
Naturalized citizen	7.2	4.1	26.4	7.3
English-speaking ability				
Does not speak English "very well"	12.4	6.6	24.3	4.3
Speaks only English or English "very well"	87.6	93.4	75.7	95.7
Educational attainment				
Did not complete high school	22.5	15.0	27.3	14.0
Completed high school	34.8	29.4	31.6	31.2
Some college	30.7	32.3	27.8	29.8
Bachelor's degree or more	12.0	23.3	13.3	25.0
Marital Status				
Married	47.7	50.4	47.8	52.7
Never Married	32.6	28.0	33.5	26.3
Other	19.7	21.6	18.7	20.9
With child(ren) younger than 18 in home				
	30.8	25.5	33.4	26.8
In owner-occupied homes				
	73.8	73.3	60.2	70.8
Household income*				
Less than \$30,000	33.4	28.6	26.1	22.9
\$30,000-\$49,999	25.6	22.9	21.7	19.4
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.0	19.9	21.5	20.7
\$75,000-\$99,999	11.2	12.5	13.5	14.1
\$100,000 or more	10.9	16.1	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 Mexico, by Race and Ethnicity

- Latino eligible voters outnumber Native American eligible voters in New Mexico by more than 4 to 1.
- Latino and Native American eligible voters are younger than white eligible voters in New Mexico. About 29% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29, as are 33% of New Mexico Native American eligible voters, compared with 17% of white eligible voters.
- Similar shares of New Mexico Hispanic and white eligible voters live in owner-occupied homes—74% and 75% respectively. A somewhat smaller share of Native American eligible voters live in owner-occupied homes (65%).

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

	Hispanics	NON-HISPANIC	
		White	Native American
Population (In thousands)			
Total population	874	826	174
Eligible voters (citizens ages 18 and older)	501	663	122
Percent of Eligible Voters			
Age			
18-29	28.5	17.2	32.7
30-44	28.5	22.1	29.4
45-59	23.6	30.8	23.4
60 and older	19.3	30.0	14.4
Gender			
Female	52.0	51.7	52.9
Male	48.0	48.3	47.1
Type of citizen			
Citizen by birth	92.8	98.4	99.4
Naturalized citizen	7.2	1.6	0.6
English-speaking ability			
Does not speak English "very well"	12.4	0.8	14.6
Speaks only English or English "very well"	87.6	99.2	85.4
Educational attainment			
Did not complete high school	22.5	7.2	27.3
Completed high school	34.8	25.1	33.1
Some college	30.7	33.7	31.5
Bachelor's degree or more	12.0	34.0	8.0
Marital Status			
Married	47.7	55.5	36.3
Never Married	32.6	20.7	46.8
Other	19.7	23.8	16.9
With child(ren) younger than 18 in home			
	30.8	21.6	26.6
In owner-occupied homes			
	73.8	75.4	64.8
Household income*			
Less than \$30,000	33.4	23.0	39.1
\$30,000-\$49,999	25.6	20.8	23.3
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.0	20.8	18.4
\$75,000-\$99,999	11.2	13.9	11.4
\$100,000 or more	10.9	21.5	7.8

*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” and “Native Americans” 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>.