

CENSUS 2020 :

More Than 1 in 2 People Added to U.S. Population Are Latino

By: Rogelio Sáenz

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In this February 8, 2020 photo, men gather outside of the Our Lady of Guadalupe church in the town of Guadalupe, Arizona, near Phoenix. (AP Photo/Dario Lopez-Mills)

The much-anticipated results of the 2020 Census for redistricting purposes are just in. The numbers illustrate the major changes that have been afoot in the U.S. population for some time. The nation's population is becoming increasingly diverse due to major growth in the Latino, Asian, and multiracial populations and an aging white population that declined for the first time ever.

A total of 331.4 million were tallied in the 2020 Census, an absolute increase of 22.7 million people in the country. The Latino population led the way with slightly more than one of every two persons added to the country's population through birth or international migration between 2010 and 2020 being Latino (Figure 1).

Overall, the Latino population increased by 23% during the decade while the white population declined by 8.6%.

Due to its aging population, the white population continued the downward slide of its share of the nation's overall population at 57.8%, down from 63.7% a decade earlier (Figure 2). On the other hand, the Latino population increased its share of the population from 16.3% in 2010 to 18.7% in 2020 with a total Latino population of 62.1 million. These trends are in line with U.S. Census Bureau population projections suggesting that in 2044 whites will comprise less than half of the U.S. population. People of color now make up 42.2% of the U.S. population.

Some noteworthy changes reflecting the significant growth of the Latino population. First, the Latino population increased in

all states and the District of Columbia.

Second, one of the most dramatic alterations in the Latino population is its increasing representation in an expanding swath of states around the country. The number of states where Latinos comprised more than 10% of the population climbed from 17 in 2010 to 27 in 2020 with Massachusetts, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Maryland, the District of Columbia, North Carolina, Delaware, Virginia, Georgia, and Wyoming joining the ranks in 2020 (Figure 3). This fanning out of the Latino population contrasts greatly to an earlier time more than a half-century ago when Latinos were clustered in the Southwest, Illinois, Florida, and New York.

Third, Latinos were the largest or second largest racial/ethnic group in 24 states in 2020 (Figure 4). California has now joined New Mexico to represent the two states where Latinos are the largest racial/ethnic group. Of the 22 states where Latinos make up the second largest group, Texas stands out with whites holding a slim percentage share advantage of 39.7% versus 39.3% for Latinos. It is projected that Latinos will outnumber whites in the state in 2022.

Final Thoughts

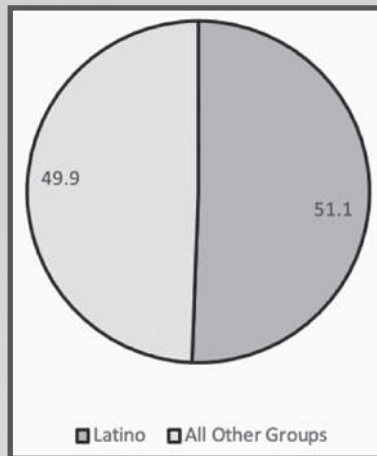
There is undoubtedly an undercount of Latinos and other groups in the midst of the pandemic and the Trump Administration's attempts to insert a citizenship question and to disallow the tally of unauthorized persons in the counts used to generate redistricting. Still, kudos go out to the good people at the U.S. Census Bureau who protected the integrity of the Census, produced the

most accurate count of the population, and were able to fend off Trump's directives to manipulate the count.

There is still a lot of greater details that will emerge over the coming months on the changing U.S. population. The true reality is that the nation is becoming increasingly diverse with Latinos in the forefront of this shift alongside Asians, Blacks, and persons identifying with multiple racial categories.

But one clear message emerges from the results of the 2020 Census, as the count will be used for redistricting purposes. Trucha, raza, we know the

Figure 1. Percentage Distribution of U.S. Population Growth, 2010-2020



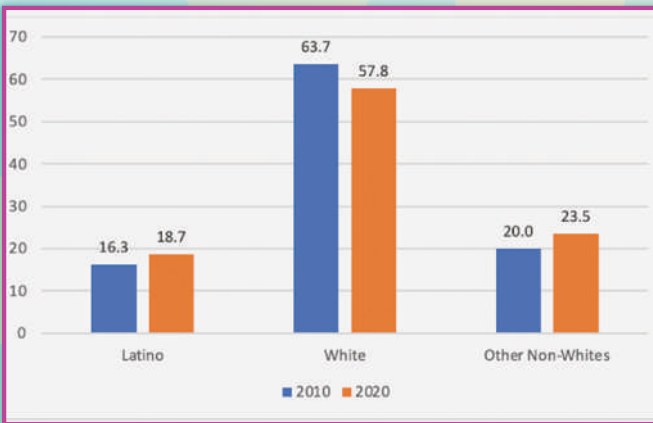


Figure 2. Percentage Distribution of U.S. Population by Race/Ethnicity, 2010 and 2020

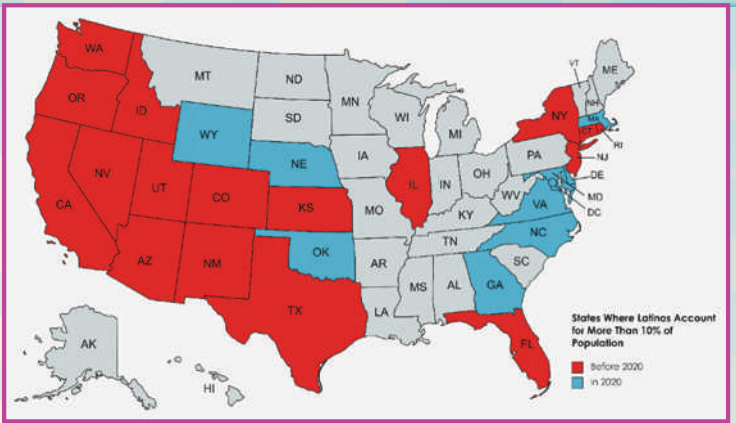


Figure 3. States Where Latinos Represent 10% or More of Overall Population, 2020

gerrymandering and underhand tactics that Republicans will use to dilute our community’s numbers. Remember that in our nation, whites sustained a decline of nearly 9% between 2010 and 2020 with Latinos increasing by 23%, a pattern replicated in many parts of the country.

Finally, on a personal note, I have been studying the demography of Latinos intensively since 1980. It has been an incredibly rewarding journey to see first-hand these tremendous changes and cannot wait to see what lies ahead.

BIO: Rogelio Sáenz is a sociologist and demographer. He is professor in the Department of Demography at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Sáenz is a regular contributor to Latino Rebels. Twitter: @RogelioSaenz42.

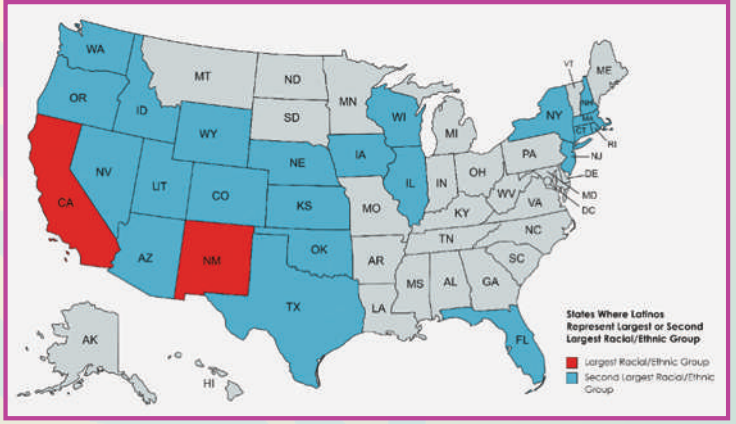


Figure 4. Twenty-Four States Where Latinos Represent the Largest or Second Largest Racial/Ethnic Group, 2020

Luis Angel Pérez Chavez, aka “Lucito”



April 10, 1967 - August 19, 2021



Lucito Pérez cut an interesting figure at Esperanza events with his ready smile, leaning on his walking stick, dressed in a black hat and bolo tie. When engaging him in political or conversations he spoke softly and in a fast tempo. A well known activist within the indigenous community of San Antonio, Lucito was constantly present at protests, prayers and ceremonies. From annual marches like the MK March and the International Women’s Day March, Lucito believed in serving just causes for human dignity and had a respect and reverence for all cultures, races, languages and creeds. An outspoken advocate of Indigenous communities, he also supported organizations such as Fuerza Unida, Domesticas Unidas, RAICES and Esperanza. Many knew him as a tender soul and called him by his nickname “Yoyo”. Exceptionally

intelligent with a capacity for great critical and analytical thinking skills, Luis Angel was known as a human encyclopedia educating others on historical events and spiritual dogmas anywhere along the time continuum. He never forgot dates or times, in history or personally, making it a priority to call loves ones on their birthdays. Lucito was born, raised and attended school in Monterrey, N.L., but was mainly self taught. He daily honored the four directions and held the grandmothers and mother earth in highest esteem. The Esperanza Peace and Justice Center board, staff and Buena Gente extend our deepest sympathies to his familia, friends and community. ¡Lucito Pérez, presente!

