

Profile of Latino Youth



United Way
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Greater Omaha
human
care
profile[®]

“What Is” and “What Works”

United Way of the Midlands' fifth annual Greater Omaha Human Care Profile® focuses on United Way's mission to increase the capacity of people to care for one another. First published in 1999, the Human Care Profile has evolved significantly during the past five years. By providing trend data on nearly 50 health and human service indicators, the report begins to identify “what is” occurring across our community and provides a baseline for measuring results. Interpretation of the data and community engagement activities suggest “what works” in terms of coordinating efforts and identifying best practices to address these issues.

A Profile of Latino Youth

Profile users throughout the community have requested more focused information for use in strategic planning and grant development across health and human services. Therefore, United Way has created a special edition incorporating the **Profile of Latino Youth**, focused on Hispanic/Latino youth across our community. The Appendix of the report still contains the charts of nearly 50 indicators from the **Greater Omaha Human Care Profile** that have been relied on for the past five years. While the data in this special section focuses primarily on the Hispanic/Latino population, it is inclusive and will enable the assessment of other racial/ethnic subgroups as well. This focus on Hispanic/Latino youth represents United Way's historic financial and programmatic support of youth services and the rapid growth of the Hispanic/Latino population. By better understanding the assets and issues of these youth, United Way can help facilitate and mobilize the coordination of limited resources to help support and ensure a bright future for these children.

Focused on Assets

This special Profile of Latino Youth will help the community identify emerging needs, trends and assets for this population and provide information that is unique, usable and timely to the community. Many times, similar reports tend to focus on population ‘needs’, forgetting the assets and contributions each racial/ethnic group and culture contributes to our society. United Way of the Midlands' Profile of Latino Youth includes data describing the contributions being made by our increasing Hispanic/Latino population.

Cox Communications Partnership

As the partnership between United Way and Cox Communications enters its third year, the community will have the opportunity to view professionally produced video programs on Hispanic Latino Health, Education and Economic Opportunity. Each show will invite viewers into the lives of Hispanic/Latino individuals and families, provide information on Latino youth, and explore best practices of human care services across the Omaha metropolitan area. Tapes of these shows will be made available for educational and community engagement efforts following their broadcast.

Highlights

The Profile of Latino Youth report contains data on a national, state and local level for the Hispanic/Latino population. Areas of emphasis include Hispanic/Latino Population, Families, Education, Economic Opportunity, Basic Needs and Health. The sections on the following pages represents highlights from throughout the Profile of Latino Youth report.

Population

- Nebraska ranks 7th nationally, in terms of their growth in all immigrant populations. Between 1990 and 2000, the percent of these immigrants in Nebraska grew 165 percent.
- Persons of Hispanic origin now represent the largest group of racial/ethnic minorities throughout the state. Between 1990 and 2000, the number of Hispanics in Nebraska increased from 36,969 to 94,425, or 155 percent. More than 58 percent of the Hispanic/Latinos in Douglas County reside in South Omaha (zip codes 68105, 68107 and 68108).
- The Hispanic/Latino population in South Omaha and Douglas County is relatively young. The median age of Hispanic/Latinos in South Omaha ranges from 22.7 to 23.8 years of age.

Hispanic/Latino Family

- Hispanic/Latino families possess tremendous assets in terms of strong family values, including married parents with children. According to the 2000 Census, nearly half (48.9 percent) of all Hispanic children in Douglas county live with married parents compared to 35.8 percent of all families (of any race or ethnicity).
- Hispanic/Latino youth across Douglas County are much younger than their non-Hispanic/Latino counterparts. According to the 2000 Census, over one-third (37 percent) of all Latino children under age 18 in our community were under five years of age compared to 27 percent of non-Hispanic/Latinos.
- The National Survey of America's Families indicates that children of immigrants fare better on measures of behavioral problems, parental aggravation, school attendance, after-school lessons and discipline at school than children of parents born in the United States.

Hispanic/Latino Education

- Between 1990 and 2000, the number of Hispanic/Latino youth enrolled in Nebraska schools grades 1-12 increased 144 percent.
- Across the Omaha Public School (OPS) district, Hispanic students are experiencing a dropout rate of 9.4 percent, higher than that of African American students (8.3 percent) and Whites (6.5 percent), yet lower than the dropout rate of American Indian students (16.6 percent).
- More Hispanic parents (65 percent) believe that college education is one of the most important factors for youth to succeed in our world today compared to 47 percent of African American and 33 percent of White parents.
- Many Hispanic/Latino children in our community are bilingual, bringing a significant asset to our future workforce. The 2000 Census reports that nearly 80 percent of all 5 to 17 year olds in South Omaha who speak Spanish at home also speak English "well" or "very well".

Hispanic/Latino Economic Opportunity

- According to the National Immigration Forum, immigrants contribute approximately \$10 billion a year to the United States economy, redistributing more wealth than what is created.
- Between 1998 and 2022, the Social Security system is expected to experience a net benefit (taxes paid over benefits received) of \$500 billion due to immigrant labor.
- Median income for Hispanic/Latinos across Nebraska in 1999 was 43 percent lower than the median income for all Nebraskans (\$33,639 compared to \$48,032).
- Nearly one-fourth of all Hispanic/Latino children across Nebraska are in poverty compared to 12 percent of all Nebraska children.

Hispanic/Latino Basic Needs

- In 1997, only 16.6 percent of the nation's food stamp recipients were Hispanic/Latino compared to 34.6 percent African American and 38.1 percent White.
- In 2001, 3,041 people in the South Omaha study area (zip codes 68105, 68107 and 68108) received assistance from the TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) program, comprising 23 percent of all recipients across Douglas County.

Hispanic/Latino Health

- Between 1998 and 2002 in Nebraska, more than 32 percent of Hispanic/Latino adults did not have health insurance, compared to over nine percent of White adults.
- Between 1993-97 and 1998-02 in Nebraska, Hispanic/Latino women had the most significant decrease in infant mortality rates of (-22 percent) compared to a decrease of (-16 percent) for Whites and an increase of 5 percent for African Americans.
- Hispanic/Latino women are the most likely of all new mothers of any race or ethnicity to have babies of healthy birth weight. During 2002 in Nebraska, they experienced the lowest incidence of low birth weight babies (a significant indicator for infant death and disability).
- Between 1998-2002, over 21 percent of pregnant Hispanic/Latino women received inadequate prenatal care in Nebraska compared to nine percent of pregnant White women.
- Between 1998 and 2002, participation in the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program for Hispanic/Latinos across Douglas County increased 153 percent. Over 64 percent of the Hispanic/Latinos receiving WIC benefits reside in the South Omaha community.
- In 2002, over 2,700 children in South Omaha (37 percent of all children under seven) were tested for elevated blood lead levels. Nearly seven percent or 188 children had elevated blood lead levels high enough to cause permanent brain and nervous system damage.