

Immigration and Countries of Origin

More than one-half of the Latino residents in all nine counties were born in the United States, with the percentage in some being over 70 percent. The percentages of those native to Wisconsin range from 28% (Trempealeau County) to 57% (Racine). At the state level, 64% of Latinos were born in the U.S. and 45% specifically in Wisconsin.

The shares of the Latino population who are foreign-born ranges from about one-fourth (Kenosha and Racine) to almost one-half (Trempealeau, which has seen the greatest percentage surge in Latinos in the past 15 years among the nine counties). Dane County's percentage of foreign-born Latinos may also be elevated by the relatively large international student population at UW-Madison. State-wide, 30% of Latinos were born in foreign countries.

Table 5. Latinos by Place of Birth and Nativity, 2010-14

	Brown County	Kenosha County	Milwaukee County	Racine County	Dane County	Fond du Lac County	Door County	Kewaunee County	Trempealeau County
Born in Wisconsin	40%	38%	48%	57%	38%	35%	43%	35%	28%
Born in another state in the U.S.	17%	34%	13%	16%	18%	25%	21%	22%	26%
Native; Born outside the U.S.*	6%	3%	10%	3%	4%	2%	2%	6%	1%
Foreign Born	38%	24%	29%	24%	40%	38%	33%	37%	45%

*includes Latinos born in Puerto Rico, and those born in other countries who have at least one U.S. parent

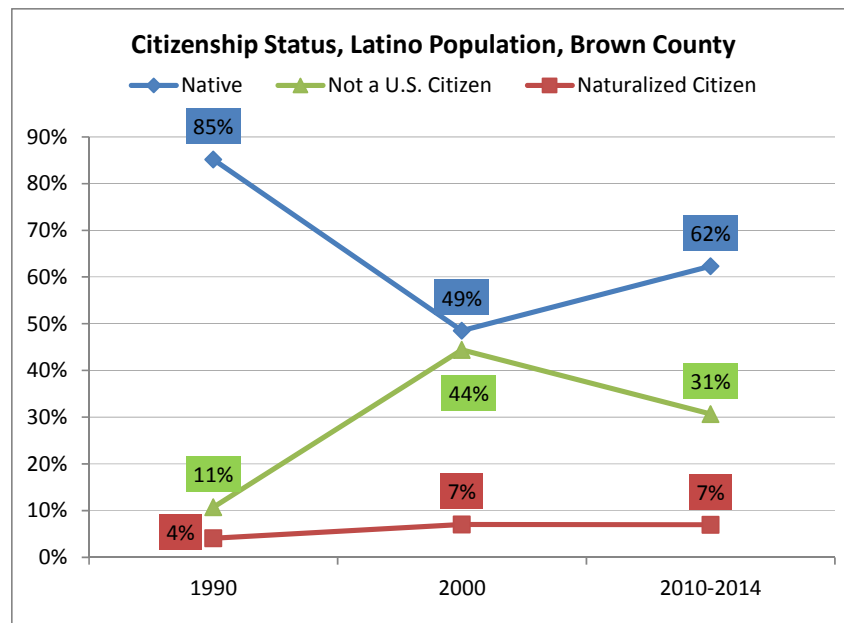
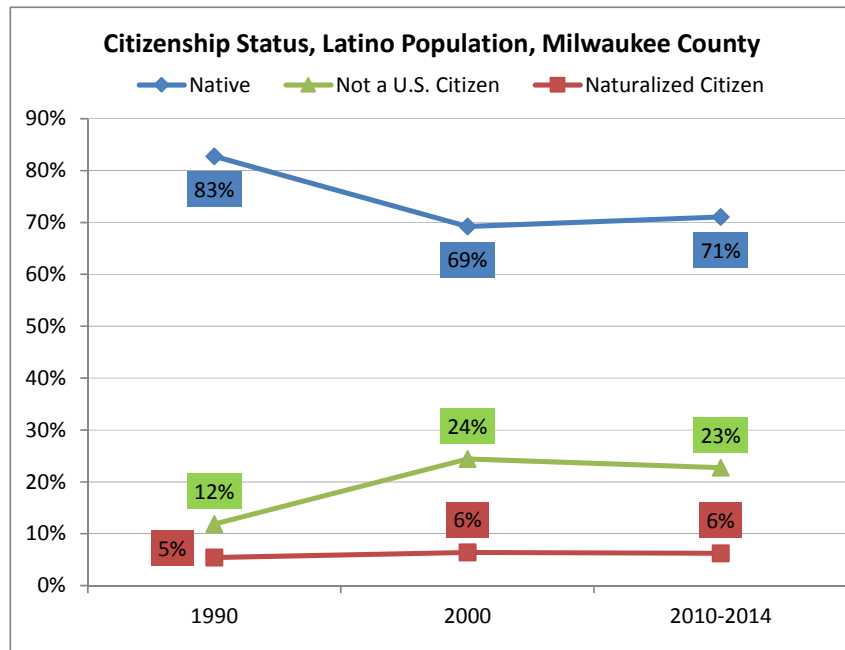
The majority of Latinos in every county—and approximately four out of five Latinos in six of the nine counties—identify Mexico as their country of origin. The percentage who report Puerto Rican heritage varies from as little as 2% (Trempealeau) to as high as 26% (Milwaukee). Other Central and South American countries and some Caribbean nations (e.g., the Dominican Republic) account for the balance. Across the entire state, three-fourths of Latinos identify Mexico and 15% identify Puerto Rico as their place of heritage.

Table 6. Latino Country/Regions of Heritage, 2010-14

Country/Region	Brown County	Kenosha County	Milwaukee County	Racine County	Dane County	Fond du Lac County	Door County	Kewaunee County	Trempealeau County
Mexico	72%	79%	66%	82%	72%	84%	84%	81%	85%
Puerto Rico	10%	12%	26%	8%	8%	5%	12%	14%	2%
Central American	8%	3%	3%	3%	5%	6%	1%	2%	2%
South American	2%	3%	2%	1%	9%	2%	2%	0%	1%
Others	8%	3%	3%	6%	6%	3%	1%	3%	10%

With regard to citizenship status, across the past 25 years, the nine counties break down into three common patterns, which are illustrated below.

For the southeastern urban counties of Milwaukee, Kenosha and Racine, in 1990 the percentage of Latinos who were native (U.S.) citizens was 80% or higher, those who were naturalized were 5-7%, and non-citizens were around 10%. With greater immigration in the 1990s, the percentage of non-citizen Latinos in these counties rose to the 20-25% range in 2000; consequently the shares of native Latinos, even though numeric growth was also substantial, dipped to about 70-75%. These percentage ranges held fairly constant to the 2010-2014 period.



For the urban counties of Dane and Brown, immigration during the 1990s was particularly robust, producing a sharp rise in the number and percentage of non-citizen Latinos, and a consequent decline in the percentage of native Latinos (again, even though numeric increases were strong). However, over the past 15 years the percentage of native citizens rebounded, with a resulting decline in non-citizens. (The percentage of naturalized citizens has remained fairly constant.)

Finally, in the more rural counties of Fond du Lac, Door, Kewaunee and Trempealeau, the solid numeric increases over the past 15 years has produced a rising pattern of the percentages of non-citizen Latinos, with the consequence of reducing the shares of native citizens. Because the Latino populations have been relatively small in these counties, the percentage of naturalized Latinos has been more variable, but generally under 10%.

