

## STATE RANKING

New Jersey had the 7<sup>th</sup> largest Latino population in the U.S.<sup>1</sup>

## K-12 POPULATION

In New Jersey, **20%** of the K-12 population was Latino.<sup>2</sup>

## STATE POPULATION

In New Jersey, **18%** of the state population was Latino.<sup>3</sup>

Projections show a continued increase.

## MEDIAN AGE

The median age of Latinos in New Jersey was **30**, compared to **42** for White non-Hispanics.<sup>4</sup>

## DEGREE ATTAINMENT

In New Jersey, **22%** of Latino adults (25 to 64 years old) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to **45%** of all adults.<sup>5</sup>

For the U.S. to regain the top ranking in the world for college degree attainment, Latinos will need to earn 5.5 million degrees by 2020.

To reach the degree attainment goal by 2020, New Jersey can: 1) close the equity gap in college completion; 2) increase the number of degrees conferred; and, 3) scale up programs and initiatives that work for Latino and other students. The following is a framework for tracking Latino degree attainment in New Jersey.

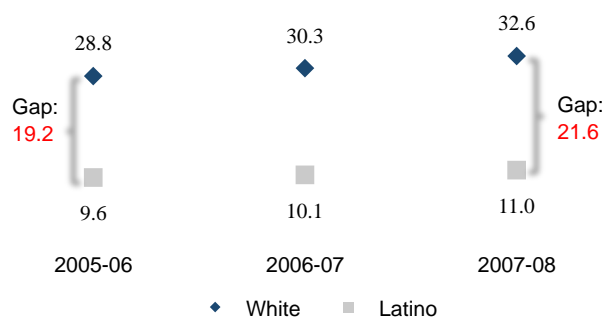
## Equity Gap in Degree Completion

Closing the equity gap in college completion can be tracked by the 3 measures provided below. Alone, none of these measures capture the entire “story” of equity in degree completion. However, in combination, they provide a useful picture of the equity gap in degree attainment between Latino and white cohorts in New Jersey in a single year (2007-08) and the persistence of the gap over time (2006-08).

New Jersey	2007-08		
	Latinos	Whites	Equity Gap
Graduation Rates	27.3	44.6	17.3
Completions per 100 FTE Students	12.1	17.6	5.5
Completions Relative to the Population in Need	11.0	32.6	21.6

**Graduation rates** - Total graduation within 150% percent of program time for first-time, full-time freshman  
**Completions per 100 FTE students** – Total undergraduate degrees and certificates awarded per 100 full-time equivalent students (incorporates part-time students)  
**Completions Relative to the Population in Need** – Total undergraduate degrees and certificates awarded per 1,000 adults aged 18 to 44 relative to the adult population with no college degree

Completions Relative to the Population in Need: 2006 to 2008



<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census 2010, American Fact Finder, Demographic Profile Summary. <http://factfinder2.census.gov>

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "State Nonfiscal Public Elementary/Secondary Education Survey", 2009-10, v.1b. [www.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/](http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/)

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census 2010: New Jersey. <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/data/>

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey. [www.census.gov/acs](http://www.census.gov/acs)

<sup>5</sup> Lumina Foundation for Education. *A Stronger Nation Through Higher Education. Educational Attainment Levels for the States.* [www.luminafoundation.org](http://www.luminafoundation.org)

## Degrees Conferred

Another metric to benchmark college completion is to track the progress of total degrees awarded over time. This measure may be the result of an increase in overall enrollment numbers rather than an increase in rates of completion. From 2005-06 to 2007-08,

- the number of Hispanics who earned an undergraduate degree in New Jersey increased about 14% from 2006-08, while all other race/ethnic groups increased 6%.
- New Jersey had one of the largest increases in degrees conferred to Latinos over 3 years among the top 10 states enrolling Latinos.

For more information on these metrics, download *Benchmarking Latino College Completion to Meet National Goals: 2010 to 2020* and *Degrees Conferred to Latinos: 2006-2008* at [www.EdExcelencia.org/research/EAF/Benchmarking](http://www.EdExcelencia.org/research/EAF/Benchmarking)

## Examples of What Works for Latino Students

There are institutions in New Jersey showing success in enrolling, retaining, and graduating Latino students. The following is an example of an institutional program with evidence of effectiveness in serving Latino students nominated for Examples of *Excelencia*.

### ***The Clave Latino Male Empowerment Program – Union County College***

The Clave Latino Male Empowerment Program is a program that includes learning communities, monthly lecture series, professional development opportunities, and a social/professional support network for students studying business and economics. The mission of the program is to increase participation of Latino males in activities and professional development, increase retention rates of Latino males in the education and business majors by at least 5%, and establish a social/professional network for Latino males. A total of 85 students participated in the program, with retention rates increasing about 92% from fall to spring. During the first year, the Center for Student Success/Institution had a track record of offering successful learning communities, paired with courses, as a the primary tool for retaining students; planned mentoring also proved to be an effective tool in the retention of Latino males. (<http://www.ucc.edu/>)

For more information on institutional programs improving Latino student success in higher education, access *Excelencia* in Education's Growing What Works database at <http://www.edexcelencia.org/examples>

## Ensuring America's Future partners in New Jersey:

The ASPIRA Association: <http://www.aspira.org/>

Educational Testing Service: [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org)