

9-21-2016

States with the Most Integrated Hispanics

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarship.law.uci.edu/daca-dapa-project-publications>



Part of the [Anthropology Commons](#), and the [Immigration Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

States with the Most Integrated Hispanics (2016),

Available at: <https://scholarship.law.uci.edu/daca-dapa-project-publications/3>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the The Southern California Deferred Action (DACA, DACA+, DAPA) Project at UCI Law Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Project Publications by an authorized administrator of UCI Law Scholarly Commons.

[WalletNews](#)[Blog](#)[Studies & Statistics](#)[Calculators](#)[Ad Disclosure](#)

2016's States with the Most Integrated Hispanics

Sep 21, 2016 | Richie Bernardo

133
SHARES



Coming to America can be a challenge for immigrants. Adapting to a new way of life is another — and sometimes more painful. The process involves far more than learning the dominant language and counting money in the local currency. But subsequent generations often are able to skip those difficult steps. “Full integration into U.S. society and economy generally takes more than one generation, with children of immigrants reliably outperforming their parents in educational attainment, occupational status, wealth, and home ownership,” according to the Migration Policy Institute.

Today, Hispanics are the [third fastest-growing](#) minority group behind individuals claiming two or

[GET YOUR FREE CREDIT SCORE & REPORT](#) ^



Integration, however, can be both positive and negative. Although it allows children of immigrants to more easily navigate U.S. bureaucracy, education and financial systems, many would argue that integration also can lead to a loss of cultural heritage.

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, WalletHub's analysts compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia to measure how well Hispanics have adapted to mainstream American society relative to where they live. In making such a comparison, we examined each state and the District according to 17 key indicators of integration, ranging from "English proficiency" to "educational attainment" to "Hispanic homeownership rate." Continue reading below for our findings, additional expert commentary and a full description of our methodology.

1. MAIN FINDINGS

2. ASK THE EXPERTS

3. METHODOLOGY

Main Findings



[EMBED ON YOUR WEBSITE](#)

Overall Rank	State	Total Score	'Cultural & Civic Integration' Rank	'Educational Integration' Rank	'Economic Integration' Rank
1	West Virginia	75.46	3	1	3
2	Vermont	70.37	1	4	9
3	Louisiana	63.41	10	3	10
4	Montana	63.30	2	8	16
5	Florida	62.51	16	6	2
6	Hawaii	61.15	20	19	1
7	Kentucky	61.12	17	2	12
8	Alaska	58.94	18	11	6
9	Missouri	57.43	7	17	22
10	Tennessee	56.55	15	7	20
11	Virginia	55.98	19	24	4
12	Michigan	55.68	5	20	32
13	New Mexico	55.65	13	26	5
14	New Hampshire	55.43	4	14	42
15	Wyoming	55.01	11	18	18
16	Maine	54.49	12	10	23
17	Ohio	53.83	6	22	39
18	Oklahoma	53.03	33	12	14
19	Indiana	51.88	22	15	29
20	Nevada	51.39	27	32	7

[GET YOUR FREE CREDIT SCORE & REPORT](#) 



			Rank	Rank	Rank
21	Maryland	50.20	21	39	8
22	Alabama	49.12	51	5	24
23	South Carolina	48.65	42	16	21
24	Arkansas	48.11	50	9	11
25	Georgia	47.19	30	28	25
26	Kansas	46.58	34	25	31
27	Oregon	45.72	38	35	13
28	North Carolina	45.61	31	27	33
29	Mississippi	45.61	43	13	38
30	Texas	45.48	35	34	17
31	Delaware	45.48	44	21	27
32	Arizona	45.23	24	38	26
33	Illinois	44.38	39	30	30
34	North Dakota	43.84	36	31	36
35	New Jersey	43.04	14	41	41
36	Idaho	42.55	47	33	19
37	California	41.59	29	48	15
38	Utah	41.41	32	40	35
39	Iowa	41.23	46	29	34
40	South Dakota	41.15	48	23	44
41	New York	40.90	9	44	45
42	Colorado	40.17	23	43	40
43	Washington	37.59	41	46	28
44	Nebraska	36.09	49	36	43
45	Wisconsin	35.59	45	37	46
46	District of Columbia	34.65	8	51	37
47	Pennsylvania	33.69	26	42	48
48	Minnesota	33.46	40	45	47

GET YOUR FREE CREDIT SCORE & REPORT 



			Rank	Rank	Rank
49	Connecticut	31.54	25	49	49
50	Rhode Island	30.94	28	47	50
51	Massachusetts	26.02	37	50	51



Among Hispanics

1. Montana
2. North Dakota
3. Hawaii
4. Maine
5. Vermont



**Best States
vs
Worst States**

Among Hispanics

47. Tennessee
48. New Jersey
49. Georgia
50. Alabama
51. North Carolina

2x Difference

Highest % of Hispanics with at Least a Bachelor's Degree

1. West Virginia
2. Maine
3. Vermont
4. South Dakota
5. Kentucky

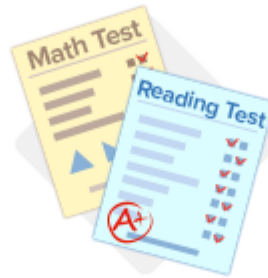


Highest % of Hispanics with at Least a Bachelor's Degree

47. Connecticut
48. Massachusetts
49. California
50. Colorado
51. District of Columbia

Highest Math & Reading Test Scores of Hispanic Students

1. Louisiana
2. Kentucky
3. Tennessee
4. Florida
5. Arkansas



Lowest Math & Reading Test Scores of Hispanic Students

44. Colorado
45. Pennsylvania
46. Connecticut
47. Massachusetts
48. District of Columbia

Highest Median Annual Income of

Highest Median Annual Income of

GET YOUR FREE CREDIT SCORE & REPORT



- 2. Vermont
- 3. Hawaii
- 4. Maine
- 5. Oregon



- 48. Texas
- 49. Connecticut
- 50. Massachusetts
- 51. District of Columbia

Lowest Hispanic Unemployment Rate

- 1. Tennessee
- 2. Arkansas
- 3. Alaska
- 4. South Carolina
- 5. Alabama



Highest Hispanic Unemployment Rate

- 47. New Hampshire
- 48. Connecticut
- 49. Massachusetts
- 50. Pennsylvania
- 51. Rhode Island

Highest Hispanic Homeownership Rate

- 1. New Mexico
- 2. Hawaii
- 3. Texas
- 4. Wyoming
- 5. West Virginia



Best States
vs
Worst States

Lowest Hispanic Homeownership Rate

- 47. Rhode Island
- 48. New Jersey
- 49. New York
- 50. Connecticut
- 51. Massachusetts

8x Difference

Lowest Hispanic Poverty Rate

- 1. Alaska



Lowest Hispanic Poverty Rate

- 47. Alabama

GET YOUR FREE CREDIT SCORE & REPORT



4. West Virginia

5. Virginia

30. Pennsylvania

51. Rhode Island

Ask the Experts

Integration into American society has been easier for some Hispanics than for others. For additional insight regarding this rapidly growing ethnic minority group and advice on how policymakers can ease the adaptation process for immigrants, we turned to a panel of experts in such fields as Hispanic/Latino studies and immigration. Click on their profiles below to read their bios and thoughts on the following key questions:

1. Are Hispanics gaining entry into some industries faster than in others?
2. What are the major causes of the racial wealth gap between Hispanic households and white or Asian households?
3. How might immigration reform — including a potential pathway to citizenship — influence Hispanic integration?
4. What can state and local authorities do to help Hispanic families integrate?
5. In evaluating the states where Hispanics are most integrated, what are the top five indicators?



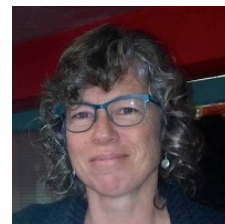
Heather R. Rodriguez

Assistant Professor of Sociology
at Central Connecticut State
University



Gustavo Carlo

Millsap Professor of Diversity and
Multicultural Studies, and Director
of the Center for Family Policy
and Research at the University of
Missouri



Kathleen Coll

Assistant Professor in the
Department of Politics at
University of San Francisco

GET YOUR FREE CREDIT SCORE & REPORT 



Methodology

In order to determine which states are home to the most integrated Hispanics, WalletHub's analysts compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across three key dimensions: 1) Cultural & Civic Integration, 2) Educational Integration and 3) Economic Integration.

We evaluated these categories using 17 relevant metrics, which are listed below with their corresponding weights. Each metric was graded on a 100-point scale, with 100 indicating the highest level of Hispanic integration.

We then calculated overall scores for each state and the District using the weighted average across all metrics, which we then used to construct our final ranking.

For every metric except "English Proficiency," we measured Hispanics' integration against "whites" as the benchmark, considering that whites represent the majority of the population. For instance, we subtracted the percentage of Hispanics with at least a bachelor's degree from the percentage of whites with the same attributes. By examining the difference between Hispanics and whites in each state for a given metric, we avoided penalizing a state that, using the aforementioned metric again as an example, may be predominantly blue-collar and consequently may not have a high percentage of bachelor's degree holders.

Cultural & Civic Integration – Total Points: 33.33

- English Proficiency of Hispanics: Full Weight (~5.56 Points)

Note: This metric measures the percentage of the Hispanic population who speak only English at home or who speak Spanish at home but have the ability to speak English very well.

- Veteran Status of Hispanics: Full Weight (~5.56 Points)

- Hispanic Voter Turnout (Presidential Election): Full Weight (~5.56 Points)

Note: This metric specifically measures the percentage of Hispanics who voted in the 2012 presidential election.

- Hispanic Voter Turnout (Midterm Election): Full Weight (~5.56 Points)

Note: This metric specifically measures the percentage of Hispanics who voted in the 2014 midterm election.

- Hispanic Voter Registration (Presidential Election): Full Weight (~5.56 Points)

Note: This metric specifically measures the percentage of Hispanics who were registered to vote in the 2012 presidential election.

GET YOUR FREE CREDIT SCORE & REPORT 



election.

Educational Integration – Total Points: 33.33

- Percentage of Hispanics with at Least a Bachelor's Degree: Full Weight (~8.33 Points)
- Public High School Graduation Rate of Hispanic Students: Full Weight (~8.33 Points)
- Standardized-Test Scores of Hispanic Students: Full Weight (~8.33 Points)

Note: This metric refers to math and reading standardized-test scores reported by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

- Average SAT & ACT Test Scores of Hispanic Students: Full Weight (~8.33 Points)

Economic Integration – Total Points: 33.33

- Earned Income: Full Weight (~4.76 Points)

Note: This metric measures the median annual income of Hispanics, adjusted by cost of living.

- Hispanic Labor-Force Participation Rate: Full Weight (~4.76 Points)
- Hispanic Unemployment Rate: Full Weight (~4.76 Points)
- Hispanic Homeownership Rate: Full Weight (~4.76 Points)
- Hispanic Poverty Rate: Full Weight (~4.76 Points)

Note: This metric measures the percentage of Hispanics whose income in the past 12 months was at or below poverty level.

- Hispanic-Owned Businesses: Full Weight (~4.76 Points)
- Percentage of Hispanic Executives: Full Weight (~4.76 Points)

Sources: Data used to create these rankings were collected from the U.S. Census Bureau, National Center for Educational Statistics, College Board, ACT and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Was this article helpful?

GET YOUR FREE CREDIT SCORE & REPORT 



Disclaimer: Editorial and user-generated content is not provided or commissioned by financial institutions. Opinions expressed here are the author's alone and have not been approved or otherwise endorsed by any financial institution, including those that are WalletHub advertising partners. Our content is intended for informational purposes only, and we encourage everyone to respect our [content guidelines](#). Please keep in mind that it is not a financial institution's responsibility to ensure all posts and questions are answered.

Ad Disclosure: *Certain offers that appear on this site originate from paying advertisers, and this will be noted on an offer's details page using the designation "Sponsored", where applicable. Advertising may impact how and where products appear on this site (including, for example, the order in which they appear). At WalletHub we try to present a wide array of offers, but our offers do not represent all financial services companies or products.*

< [PREVIOUS ARTICLE](#)

How Long Does Bankruptcy Stay On Your Credit Report?

[NEXT ARTICLE](#) >

Authorized Users: Adding Them, Building Credit & What To Watch Out For

RELATED

[Most Diverse Cities in the U.S.](#)

[2019's Best Cities for Hispanic Entrepreneurs](#)

[Best & Worst Places to Raise a Family](#)

[Most & Least Ethnically Diverse Cities in the U.S.](#)

[Most Caring Cities in America](#)

GET YOUR FREE CREDIT SCORE & REPORT 



Your thoughts?

Submit

[About](#) [Media](#) [Contact Us](#)

[Business](#) [Privacy](#) [Terms](#)



© 2019 Evolution Finance, Inc.
All Rights Reserved.