



LATINX NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Dubois County, Indiana



This report was prepared by Indiana University Center for Rural Engagement in partnership with ALASI, Southwest Dubois County School Corporation, Vincennes University Jasper Campus, Latino Collaboration Table, and Dubois County Health Department.



SUMMARY

In 2021, the **Asociación Latinos Americana del Sur de Indiana (ALASI)** and the **Center for Rural Engagement (CRE)** performed a needs assessment to determine the needs of the Latinx* community in southern Indiana. A survey was created and distributed to members of this community to gather data on their access to resources and how they view their community, along with general demographic information.

Survey responses from 155 Latinx residents, mostly from Dubois County, provided valuable information on the demographics and needs of this community. Respondents reported that their most important needs were in the areas of education, employment, childcare, and healthcare. Additional questions revealed which resources are currently accessible and which are needed within these areas. On the topic of life in their county, respondents noted that they like the education, sense of community, and safety associated with their county, but would improve the accessibility or quality of recreational activities, transportation, and healthcare.

When available, the survey data are compared to county, state, and national statistics. Overall, the survey data align with figures reported by national agencies like the U.S. Census Bureau and show that the Latinx population generally has less access to many public resources, such as housing and healthcare, than the overall population.

**For the purposes of this report, the word “Latinx” refers to all people born in Latin America or with ancestors and culture from Latin American countries.*

BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

The survey was created and hosted on Qualtrics and distributed electronically from August to November 2021. As an incentive, participants were offered a chance to win one of ten \$20 electronic Wal-Mart gift cards upon completion of the survey. Additionally, many respondents took the survey at an ALASI-sponsored event where various small rewards were given to those who completed a survey.

The survey received 165 completed responses overall, 155 of which were from those who self-reported as Latinx, Hispanic, or both. Since the survey was targeted at the Latinx population, responses from those who did not identify as Latinx or Hispanic were not analyzed. The respondents were given an option to complete the survey in either English or Spanish, and 64.3% completed the survey in English while the remaining 35.7% chose Spanish.



ABOUT ALASI

ALASI improves the lives of Latinos in Southern Indiana and promotes civic engagement by motivating and helping them access trustworthy support systems. We build bridges that connect Latino communities with the resources and services they need for a better life. Our vision that one day every Latino in Southern Indiana will enjoy civic engagement in their communities and improve the future of America.



ABOUT THE IU CENTER FOR RURAL ENGAGEMENT

The IU Center for Rural Engagement improves the lives of Hoosiers through collaborative initiatives that discover and deploy scalable and flexible solutions to common challenges facing rural communities. Working in full-spectrum community innovation through research, community-engaged teaching and student service, the center builds vision, harnesses assets and cultivates sustainable leadership structures within the communities with which it engages to ensure long-term success.



DEMOGRAPHICS

Latinx people make up 8.2% of Indiana and 9.5% of Dubois County, which is much lower than the national percentage of 18.7%.²

Most respondents identified their county of residence as Dubois County (91.2%). Those living in Dubois County were mostly from the communities of Huntingburg (48.2%) or Jasper (46.4%). When asked to choose reasons for moving to their county, respondents indicated that they moved for a work or education opportunity (50.0%), to be closer to family and friends (38.6%), or to have a better environment for raising children (33.6%).

About two-thirds of all respondents (68.7%) immigrated to the United States from another country. Most of these respondents came from El Salvador (51.6%), Mexico (33.0%), or Honduras (7.2%). About two-thirds of respondents (62.3%) reported being U.S. citizens. Others stated they were non-residents (14.4%), residents (11.0%), or preferred not to answer (5.5%).

When asked what languages they speak, almost all respondents reported speaking Spanish (94.9%), with 65.8% speaking both English and Spanish and 29.1% speaking only Spanish. The remaining respondents spoke only English (3.4%) or another language (1.7%). When asked about their preferred spoken language, 40.7% preferred only Spanish, 33.1% preferred English and Spanish, and 24.6% preferred only English. Finally, respondents were asked how often their preferred language was used for communication at their school or place of employment. Most respondents stated their institution used their preferred language all or most of the time (36.2%) or sometimes (35.3%). Others reported that their preferred language was rarely (18.1%) or never (6.9%) used.

Many respondents identified their race as white (46.8%), but a substantial percentage identified their race as “other” (45.2%), either alone or in combination with other races. This is consistent with the results from the 2020 Census, in which 51.0% of Indiana’s Latinx population identified as white and 71.2% identified as some other race.³ In this survey and in the 2020 Census, respondents were asked about their race and ethnicity in separate questions.

AGE



4%
Less
than 18
years old



62%
18-36
years old



32%
37-54
years old



2%
55-74
years old

GENDER



67%
female

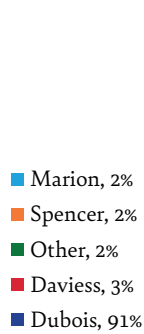


32%
male

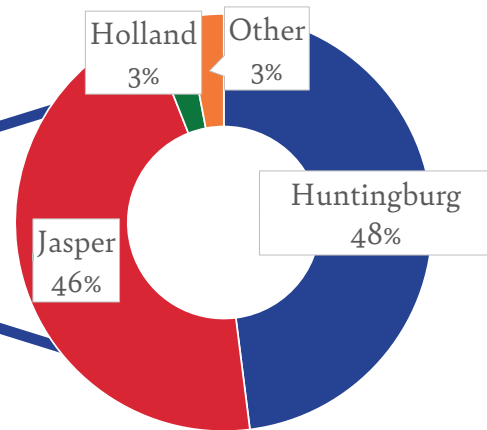


1%
transgender

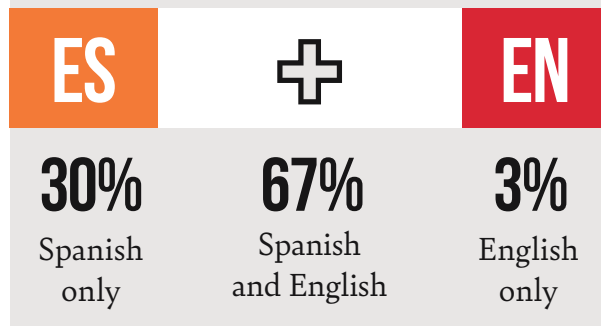
COUNTY OF RESIDENCE



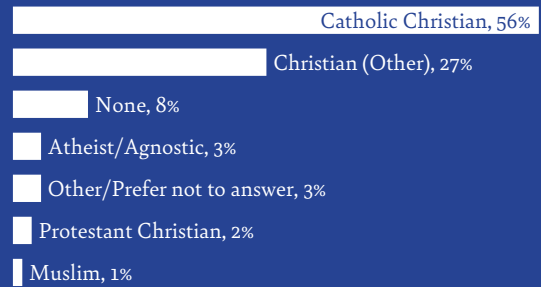
COMMUNITY OF RESIDENCE



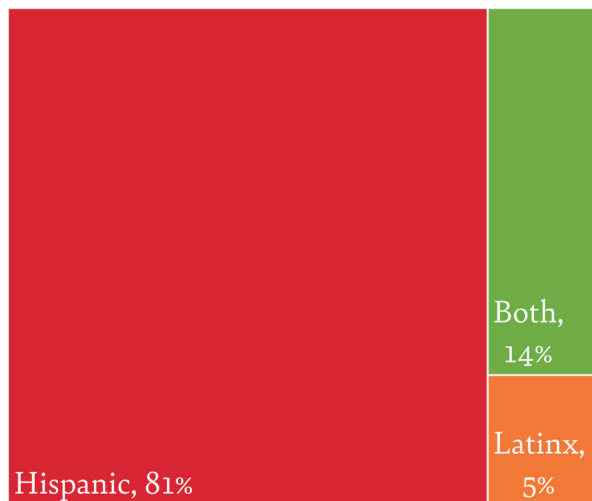
SPOKEN LANGUAGES



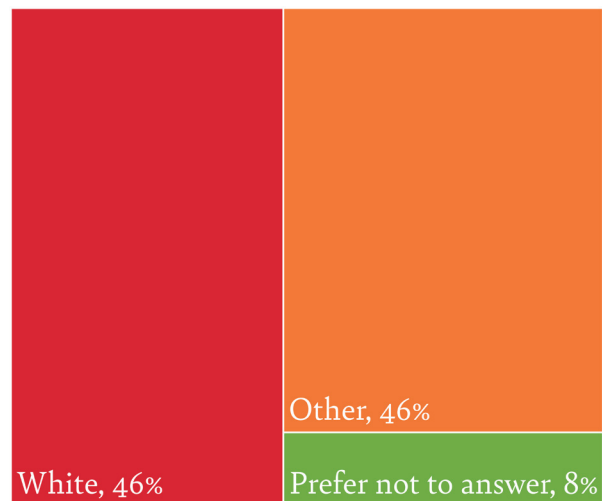
RELIGION



ETHNICITY



RACE



ACCESS TO RESOURCES

Survey respondents were asked about their access to four resources: childcare, healthcare, housing, and internet. Access to childcare and healthcare are discussed later in this report.

Nine respondents (7.8%) stated they had no internet access at home. Three of these respondents reported only having internet access through public places like libraries and job centers while six reported having no internet access at all.

Only one respondent (0.9%) reported experiencing homelessness when asked about their access to housing. The remaining respondents had access to housing, either owning their home (47.4%), renting (25.9%), living with immediate family (21.6%), or some other specified arrangement (4.3%). On a national level, Latinx people make up 23% of the homeless population but only 16% of the overall population.⁴

VIEWS ON COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Respondents were asked to list three things that they liked about their county, such as education or public transportation. In open ended responses, the three most often cited aspects were education (listed 49 times), the sense of community (30), and safety or security (15). The subsequent question asked respondents to list three things they would improve about their county. The three most often cited aspects were recreational activities (37), transportation (31), access to public resources (18), and healthcare (8). Many responses noted that these issues were especially important for Latinx people in their county.

ACCESS TO HOUSING



50%

Homeowner



27%

Renter





22%

Living with
family or friends



1%

Experiencing
homelessness

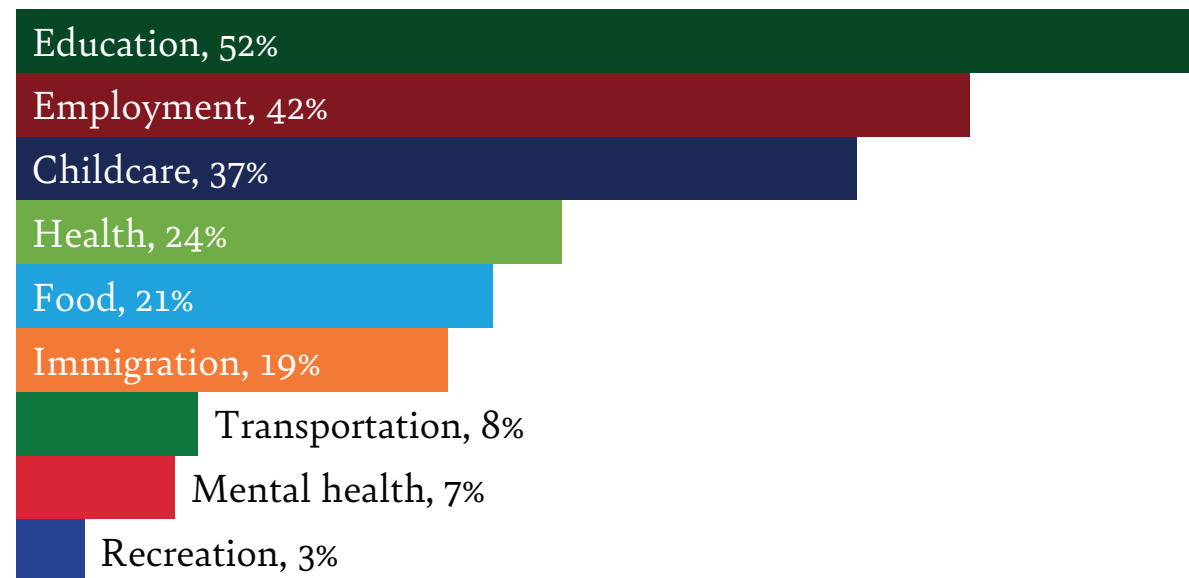
ACCESS TO RESOURCES		
	Yes	No
Internet	92%	8%
Health insurance	80%	20%
Childcare	32%	68%

MOST IMPORTANT NEEDS

Participants were asked to rank a list of needs on a scale of 1-10, with 1 being the need most important to them and 10 being the least important need. The top need cited as most important was education, with 73.6% of respondents ranking it in their top three most important needs. Other highly ranked needs included employment (59.1%), childcare (52.7%), and health (33.6%).

NEEDS RANKED

The values in this chart represent the percentage of respondents who ranked a need in their top three.



EDUCATION

When asked to pick from a list the specific educational needs they had, respondents most often reported needing a high school diploma or equivalency (42.6%) or English classes (37.7%). Other respondents reported needing affordable higher education (18.0%), Spanish classes (8.2%), and child after-school programs (6.6%).

Participants were asked if a lack of funding was a barrier to seeking further education. Almost two-thirds of respondents (64.4%) answered “yes.” Of respondents, 25.7% stated that a lack of funding was not a barrier, while 9.9% stated they did not know.

EMPLOYMENT

Most respondents reported being employed either full-time (74.3%) or part-time (11.0%) at the time of taking the survey. A sizeable percentage stated they were unemployed (14.7%). There is no state- or county-level data on unemployment rates for Latinx people, but on a national level they have a higher unemployment rate than white and Asian people.¹

Almost half (46.8%) of all respondents reported having an annual household income between \$20,000 and \$49,999. An additional 25.7% reported an annual income of \$50,000 to \$100,000. As of 2019, the median household income for Latinx householders in Indiana was \$47,149, which is about \$9,000 below the median income for all races and ethnicities (\$56,303).⁵ A large percentage (18.4%) of respondents stated that they did not know their annual income, which may indicate unstable or unpredictable incomes for that group or a lack of knowledge of other household members’ incomes.





CHILDCARE

Respondents were asked if they used childcare services, including daycare programs and friends or family members. About one-third (31.5%) stated they did use childcare services, while the remaining 68.5% did not use childcare services.

Those who stated they used childcare services were asked what sources of childcare they used. Most respondents reported friends and/or family members as a source of childcare (71.4%). Other respondents stated they used daycare programs (22.9%) or someone else who takes care of children (14.3%).

Those who reported not using childcare were asked for the reasons they did not use childcare. Most respondents stated they did not use childcare services because they did not need them (66.7%). Other reasons cited by respondents included the cost of childcare being too high (25.6%), childcare not being available for the times it is needed (13.3%), and a lack of transportation (6.7%).

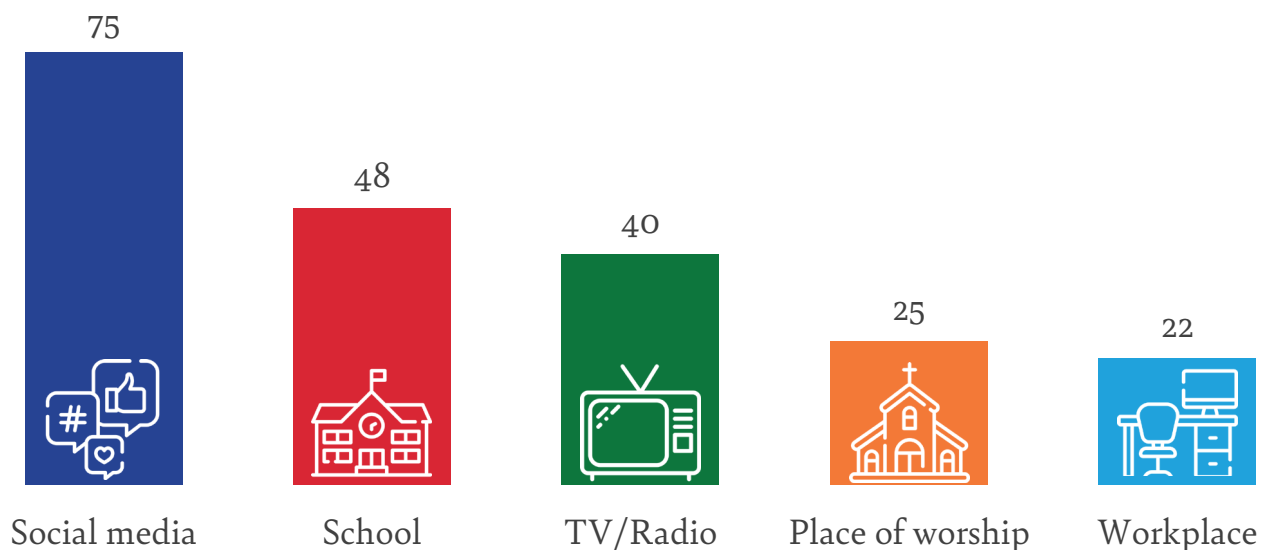
HEALTHCARE

Respondents were asked about problems they face when going to a hospital or clinic. The cost of healthcare was most often cited as a problem (63.8%). Long wait times (16.19%) and language barriers (11.4%) were also commonly reported problems.

Latinx people in Dubois County are less likely to have healthcare coverage than non-Latinx people. About one-fifth of respondents (20%) reported having no health insurance or other healthcare coverage. This is slightly above the percentage of uninsured Latinx people in Indiana, which is 19.1%—almost double the overall state uninsured rate of 10.3%.⁶

SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND AWARENESS OF ALASI

Respondents were asked to identify where they receive information about their community. Social media (71.4%) was the most identified source of information, followed by family and friends (49.5%), school (45.7%), place of worship (23.8%), and work (21.0%).



When asked about their awareness of ALASI, about two-thirds of respondents reported being **aware** of the organization [67.3%]. Others said they were only **somewhat aware** of ALASI [19.6%] or **not familiar** at all [13.1%].



REFERENCES

- ¹U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey,” 2021, <https://www.bls.gov/cps/>.
- ²U.S. Census Bureau, Census Redistricting Data, 2020, <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2021/2020-census-redistricting.html>.
- ³U.S. Census Bureau, Race and Ethnicity in the United States, 2020, <https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/race-and-ethnicity-in-the-united-state-2010-and-2020-census.html>
- ⁴U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, “The 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress,” 2021, <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2020-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>.
- ⁵U.S. Census Bureau, “Household Income by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2005–2009 and 2015–2019,” 2020, <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2020/acs/acsbr19-07.pdf>.
- ⁶U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, 2019, <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sahie.html>.

JOIN US TO SUPPORT THE LATINX COMMUNITY!

Learn more and support services for Latinx residents by contacting ALASI at alasiindiana@gmail.com.

