

The State of Latinx People In The U.S Today

The Latinx demographic in the United States is a complex and diverse cohort of individuals. The community comprises a heterogeneous group of individuals originating from diverse countries, ethnicities, and cultural backgrounds. Despite their linguistic, historical, artistic, and cultural differences, members of this group share a collective identity. The identity of this group is characterized by the collective experiences of adversity and resilience that its constituents have encountered. The objective of this manuscript is to provide a thorough examination of the present state of Latinx individuals in the United States. The paper will concentrate on the political obstacles encountered by Latinx individuals, the societal contributions made by this group, and the values that hold importance for them.

Latinx individuals who reside in the United States face a variety of political challenges that have a noteworthy effect on their daily lives. According to a report released by KPBS, individuals who self-identified as Latinx faced numerous challenges during the 2020 Census. Kim (2021) reported that the census has included supplementary categorizations for Latinx individuals, including designations such as "Mexican," "Puerto Rican," and "Cuban." However, the system demonstrated a limitation in its ability to recognize individuals of varied national and ethnic origins, encompassing those originating from Central and South America. This phenomenon possesses the capacity to engender insufficient quantification and diminished involvement in governmental, societal, and political processes.

As per a report published by NPR, Latinx individuals represent the second-largest racial or ethnic group in the United States. Notwithstanding, they are confronted with disparities in healthcare, education, and economic opportunities (Lo Wang, 2021). According to the report, the

COVID-19 pandemic has had an unequal effect on the Latinx community, which is marked by increased rates of infection and restricted access to healthcare. As per the report, individuals who self-identify as Latinx are more susceptible to poverty and restricted access to quality education and employment opportunities (Lo Wang, 2021).

Despite facing various challenges, Latinx individuals have made noteworthy contributions to the economy, media, entertainment, arts, and literature of the United States. According to a report the Latinx community has a buying power of over \$1.9 trillion, which makes them avid consumers of media and entertainment and an essential economic force (What's the U.S. Census & Why's It so Important?, 2019). The Latinx community has also contributed to American literature through writers like Junot Diaz, who has portrayed the experiences of a young Dominican-American boy growing up in the US in his book *Drown*. Conversely, it is pertinent to mention that African descendants and Indigenous populations in Latin America persistently encounter social, political, and economic marginalization across the region. This includes limited possibilities for education and work. "A 2010 Ethos Institute study found that only 5.3% of executives in large businesses in Brazil were Afro-descendants and Indigenous communities frequently lacked access to basic infrastructure services such as potable water and electricity" (Americas Quarterly, 2015). The observation has been made that outcome disparities persist across nations, despite the implementation of initiatives designed to address social, political, and economic marginalization. Moreover, the absence of dependable race and ethnicity-based disaggregated data in the region has impeded a comprehensive comprehension of the complete scope of this marginalization.

A recent analysis suggests that Latinx people in the United States have been able to capitalize on their expanding economic, social, and political influence in spite of the extraordinary difficulties

that have been affecting Latino communities in the United States. The report found that the Latinx population's purchasing power is expected to top \$1.9 trillion by 2023 (A. M. Perry et al., 2022), and the Latinx generation in the US has different priorities and values compared to previous generations.

As per a study conducted by Florida Atlantic University, Latinx individuals exhibit a higher propensity to initiate their entrepreneurial ventures as compared to other ethnic and racial groups. Furthermore, businesses owned by Latinx individuals have a substantial influence on job generation and economic expansion. Latinx millennials are more likely to be bilingual and bicultural, with strong ties to their heritage and identity.

Diversity, education, and social justice are prioritized. “Latinx voter turnout reached 11.7 million in 2018, up from 6.8 million in 2014, and they are part of the nation's youngest minority group with a median age of 28, compared to 38 in the general population” (*What’s the U.S. Census & Why’s It so Important?*, 2019).

The Latinx community has also made significant contributions to the US economy. The results of a study carried out by Florida Atlantic University indicate that individuals of Latinx origin exhibit a greater propensity for entrepreneurship when compared to other racial or ethnic cohorts. The study also stated that Latinx-owned businesses had a significant impact on job creation and economic growth (Coleman, 2023).

The Latinx generation in the US has different priorities and values compared to previous generations. According to a report by UCLA, Latinx millennials are more likely to be bilingual and bicultural, with strong ties to their heritage and identity. The report also stated that Latinx millennials value education, diversity, and social justice (Newcomer, 2020).

According to Kim's (2021) analysis of the 2020 US Census data in San Diego, a significant proportion of Latinos in the county, approximately 45%, identified as "some other race." This finding highlights the potential limitations of the census in capturing the complexity and diversity of individuals' racial identities. The conventional structure of census inquiries fails to align with the manner in which individuals of Latino origin encounter and interpret distinctions pertaining to race. According to Kim's (2021) findings, there was a significant decline of over 50% in the count of Latinos and Hispanic individuals in the county who identified as "white alone" in the recent census compared to the 2010 census. Moreover, a considerable proportion of almost 52% of Latinos in the county identified as two or more races, which suggests an increasing awareness of racial identity within the Latino community.

To summarize, Latinx individuals residing in the United States encounter a range of political challenges, encompassing but not limited to disparities in healthcare, education, and economic opportunities. Notwithstanding, the significant contributions made by them to American society have resulted in remarkable impacts on the economy, arts, and literature. The Latinx community prioritizes education, diversity, social justice, and representation in the fields of media and entertainment. They demonstrate a sustained commitment to engaging in social activism and advocacy, striving to safeguard their civil liberties and effecting constructive change for the betterment of society's future.

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