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EL ESTADO DE LOS LATINOS EN UTAH

A Look at Utah's
Hispanic/Latino Population

FEBRUARY 2021

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A LOOK AT UTAH'S HISPANIC/LATINO POPULATION

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INTRODUCTION

Researchers often examine populations by looking closely at certain demographic characteristics to help understand such groups, which can then inform policy decisions. In 2020, a group of Hispanic civic, business and elected leaders approached Utah Foundation asking us to provide key data related to Utah's Hispanic/Latino population. In addition, this project received support from the Utah Division of Multicultural Affairs.

The metrics in this report are chosen for their connection to the challenges and successes that Hispanic/Latino households might be experiencing, providing a deeper understanding of such households. The metrics may provide insight in crafting policy.

While this report focuses on Hispanic Utahns, it is important to note that it explores a set of challenges that are neither universal to all Hispanic Utahns nor set in stone. Rather, many of these challenges are what one might expect within a group containing a high proportion of immigrants with low educational attainment levels. As educational attainment increases, many of those challenges will subside. Utah is already seeing a rapid increase in graduation rates among Hispanic students. And Hispanic Utahns are currently outperforming their counterparts in the other Mountain States and at the national level in terms of income levels.



KEY FINDINGS OF THIS REPORT

- Hispanic Utahns are younger. The median age for Hispanic Utahns is 25, compared to 31 for all Utahns.
- Some Hispanic Utahns face English language challenges; 3% do not speak English at all and 9% speak it "not well." More than one-third of Hispanic Utahns were born outside of the U.S., primarily in Mexico.
- Hispanic Utahns tend to have poorer educational outcomes and have far lower educational attainment as compared to Utahns in general. One-third of Hispanic Utahns do not have a high school diploma; only 17% have some kind of post-secondary degree.
- Hispanic Utah households have the highest median income of any Hispanic population in the Mountain States. However, the median income overall in Utah is about 25% higher than that of the Hispanic population.
- Among the Mountain States, Utah has the highest disparity in childhood poverty between Hispanic children and the general population.
- Hispanic Utahns are more likely than Utahns in general to rent their homes. This is true even for moderate- and higher-income Hispanics.
- The fall 2020 data on the coronavirus' economic impacts show that Hispanic renters are far more likely than Utah renters in general to be behind on their rent payments.
- Hispanic Utahns are far more likely than Utahns in general to have experienced a loss of income since the pandemic. The fall 2020 data on the coronavirus' economic impacts show that two in five Utahns saw a loss of employment income. For Hispanic Utahns, that impact was three in five.
- A greater proportion of Hispanic Utahns are having a hard time paying usual household expenses during the coronavirus pandemic as compared to Utahns in general.
- Hispanic Utahns are less likely to have health insurance, but are also less likely than Utahns in general to have days with poor physical health.
- Hispanic Utahns are much more likely to report having days with poor mental health compared to Utahns in general.



TERMINOLOGY IN USED IN THIS REPORT

Utah Foundation tends to use the term “Hispanic/Latino” when writing about Hispanic and/or Latino populations, and sometimes simply uses “Hispanic” as a shorthand. While other terms – such as “Latinx” – are used by some researchers, Utah Foundation has determined such terms are not widely accepted or used by Hispanic/Latino people and therefore avoids them in this report.

Some Hispanic/Latino individuals prefer to self-identify as one or the other of the two terms (or according to family nationality). Nonetheless, for readability in this report, Utah Foundation simply refers to Hispanic/Latino populations as “Hispanic” (though includes the term “Hispanic/Latino” in figure heading details).

Source: Luis Noe-Bustamante, Lauren Mora and Mark Hugo Lopez, About One-in-Four U.S. Hispanics Have Heard of Latinx, but Just 3% Use It Young Hispanic women among the most likely to use the term, August 11, 2020, www.pewresearch.org/hispanic/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2020/08/PHGMD_2020.08.11_Latinx_FINAL.pdf.

METHODOLOGY

This report often compares Hispanic/Latino Utahns with Utahns in general. For certain metrics, it also compares Hispanic Utah to the Hispanic populations in the other Mountain States (Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Wyoming), as well as the nation at large.

Furthermore, it examines lower-income groups and/or their peers who have moderate or higher incomes. The term “lower-income” has a wide range of definitions. For the purposes of this report, the term refers to those households earning below 200% of the federal poverty line, as many social services programs provide assistance to individuals and households below the 200% level. The poverty line is based upon the spending for one-third of a family’s income on an “economy food plan” as defined by the Agriculture Department in 1963 – as updated annually by the Consumer Price Index ever since.¹ This equation is then used to set poverty thresholds for income (which is pretax income without non-cash amounts) based upon household size.²

This report draws much of its data from the American Community Survey. Some data are drawn from U.S. Census Bureau tables while most of the data are from



RACE AND ETHNICITY, DEFINED

Though race is often associated with physical phenotypes, for the U.S. Census Bureau, “An individual’s response to the race question is based upon self-identification.” Respondents may choose as many races as they identify with.

Ethnicity, meanwhile, tends to be more related to a person’s culture, usually tied to religion and language. The Census suggests that “Hispanic origin can be viewed as the heritage, nationality, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person’s parents or ancestors before arriving in the United States.”

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, <https://www.census.gov/topics/population/race/about.html>; U.S. Census Bureau, <https://www.census.gov/topics/population/hispanic-origin.html>.

the Census' Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) using the Census' Microdata Access tool. PUMS data are not as accurate as the Census tables but allow for customizable data analysis.

The report also uses the Census' Household Pulse Survey. These are the most up-to-date data in the report. The Census developed and had been administering this tool in response to the coronavirus pandemic and its resultant economic impacts. The data in this report are from the survey administered between October 28 and November 9, 2020.

The report draws from the National Center for Education Statistics, the ACT and the Utah State Board of Education for its education related data.

In addition, the report uses data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) and the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System. These datasets are particularly useful for health-related data. Utah Foundation accessed the BRFSS data using the Web Enabled Analysis Tool from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

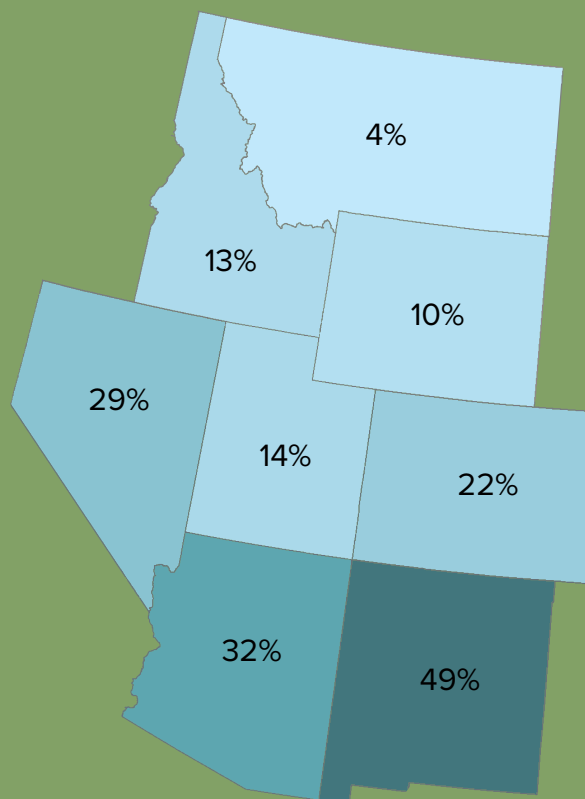
DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

In Utah, 14.4% of residents identify as being Hispanic or Latino.³ That is about 462,000 Utahns. In the U.S., more than 60 million residents self-identify as Hispanic or Latino – or 18.4%. Of the Mountain States, New Mexico has the largest Hispanic percentage (and the nation's largest), at nearly half of its population, while Montana has one of the smallest percentages in the nation. Utah's counties have very different proportions of Hispanic residents as well; they range from 2.5% in Piute County to 18.4% in Weber and Salt Lake counties.⁴ (See Appendix A for a map of Utah's counties by its Hispanic population.) And within counties, the Hispanic proportion fluctuates widely. For instance, in Salt Lake County, the proportion of Hispanic residents ranges from less than 5% in some eastern and southern areas to over 50% in some northern and western areas.⁵ (See Appendix B for a map of Salt Lake County's Census tracts by its Hispanic population.)

As noted by the Census, people who identify as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish also self-identify as being of a number of different races.⁶ Of Utah's Hispanic population, most consider themselves White, while another quarter are some other race without being specific as to that race. It is possible that these respondents simply do not identify with any of the Census' racial classifications (American Indian or

Utah is near the median of the Mountain States for its percentage of Hispanic residents.

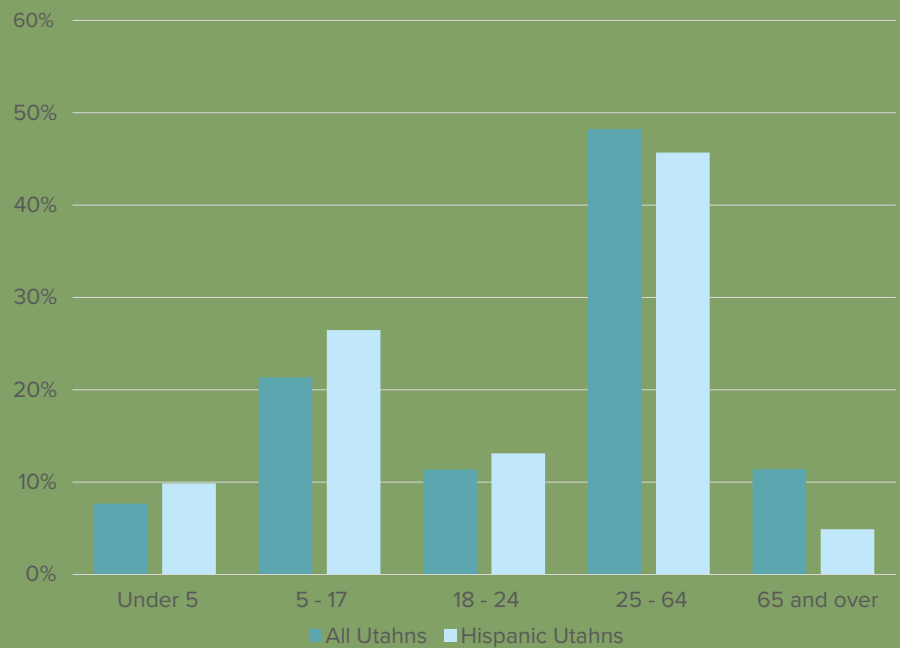
Figure 1: Percent of Hispanic/Latino Residents, Mountain States, 2019



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS.

Hispanic Utahns are more likely than Utahns in general to be young.

Figure 2: Age by Category, All Utahns Compared to Hispanic/Latino Utahns, 2019



Source: U.S. Census, ACS.

Alaska Native; Asian; Black or African American; Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander; or White) or that they do not identify with any race at all, seeing themselves predominately as Hispanic.⁷ (See Appendix C for a breakdown by race.)

Hispanic Utahns tend to be younger than the population at large. (See Figure 2.)

This is significant in that they are nearly as likely as Utahns in general to be within workforce age, less likely to require ageing-Utah services, but more likely to be in elementary and secondary school. (See more under the Education Demographics section.) The median age for Hispanic Utahns is 25.3, compared to 31.2 for all Utahns.

Hispanic Utahns are much more likely than Utahns in general to have become citizens by naturalization. (See Figure 3.) Further, they are even more likely to not be citizens at all. The latter makes them unable to procure the types of social safety net services that can help them thrive.

There are about 250,000 immigrants in Utah, which equates to roughly one in 12 Utahns. In addition, another one in 12 were born in the U.S., but have

More than one third of Hispanic Utahns were born outside of the U.S.

Figure 3: U.S. Citizenship, All Utahns and Hispanic/Latino Utahns, 2018

	All Utahns	Hispanic Utahns
Born in the U.S.	91%	64%
Not a citizen of the U.S.	5%	24%
U.S. citizen by naturalization	3%	10%
Born abroad of American parent(s) or born in a U.S. territory	1%	2%

* Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or the Northern Marianas

Source: U.S. Census, PUMS.

About two in five Hispanic Utahns were born in Utah, compared to about three in five Utahns in general.

Figure 4: Place of Birth, All Utahns and Hispanic/Latino Utahns, 2018

	All Utahns	Hispanic Utahns
Utah	63%	43%
Other U.S. state	27%	21%
Other country	10%	36%

Source: U.S. Census, PUMS.

at least one parent that is an immigrant. Of these immigrants, about 100,000 are undocumented. An estimated 9,000 of those immigrants are DACA or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipients.⁸

Hispanic Utahns are far less likely than Utahns in general to have been born in Utah. (See Figure 4.) About two in five Hispanic Utahns were born in Utah, compared to about three in five Utahns in general. About 36% of Hispanic Utahns were born outside of the U.S.

Utah's non-native Hispanic population is overwhelmingly Mexican in background. (See Figure 5.) For all Utahns, just over 4% of the population is from Mexico, with no other country registering more than 0.4%. For Hispanic/Latino Utahns, just over one quarter were born in Mexico.

Three-quarters of Utahns speak only English in their households. That is the case for only one-quarter of Hispanic Utahns.⁹ Most Hispanic households speak Spanish in addition to English.

Only about 2% of Utahns do not speak English well. However, for Hispanic Utahns, that jumps to 12%. (See Figure 6.) This

The vast majority of Hispanic Utahns born outside of the U.S. were born in Mexico.

Figure 5: Place of Birth, Hispanic/Latino Utahns Born Outside of the U.S., 2018

Mexico	71.4%
El Salvador	5.3%
Peru	4.5%
Guatemala	3.6%
Venezuela	2.8%
Honduras	2.0%
Argentina	2.0%
Colombia	1.7%
Chile	1.7%
Ecuador	1.4%
Dominican Republic	0.8%
Cuba	0.6%
Uruguay	0.6%
Bolivia	0.6%
Panama	0.3%
Nicaragua	0.3%
Costa Rica	0.3%
Other	0.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, PUMS.

Some Hispanic Utahns face English language challenges.

Figure 6: English Speaking Ability, All Utahns and Hispanic/Latino Utahns, 2018

Ability to speak English	All Utahns	Hispanic Utahns
Speaks only English or less than five years old	86%	43%
Very well	9%	36%
Well	2%	10%
Not well	2%	9%
Not at all	0%	3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, PUMS.

Hispanic Utahns are less likely than Utahns in general to have been married.

Figure 7: Marital Status, Utahns and Hispanic/Latino Utahns, 18 and older, 2019, 5-year sample

	All Utahns	Hispanic Utahns
Married	59%	50%
Widowed	4%	2%
Divorced	10%	8%
Separated	2%	4%
Never married	26%	35%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, PUMS.

Hispanic women are less likely to have recently given birth.

Figure 8: Fertility in Previous 12 Months Among Women 15 to 50 Years Old, All Utahns and Hispanic/Latino Utahns, 2019

	All Utahns	Hispanic Utahns
Gave birth to child within the past 12 months	5.6%	4.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, PUMS.

may create a barrier to employment and various socio-economic benefits.

Hispanic Utahns are less likely to be married. (See Figure 7.) This is due in part to the population being younger than Utahns in general for the 18 through 24-years-old range (refer back to Figure 2).

In terms of fertility, Utah women in general are slightly more likely than Hispanic Utah women to have given birth – about 8% compared to under 7%.

HOUSING

Hispanic Utahns are less likely to own a home as compared to Utahns in general. (See Figure 9.) Age differences might be expected to play a part here as well, since the potential to afford a home increases with age. However, there is still a difference in ownership between Hispanic Utahns and Utahns in general for moderate- and high-income households (those earning more than 200% of the federal poverty line).

Hispanic Utahns are more likely than Utahns in general to rent their homes. This is true even for moderate- and higher-income Hispanics.

Figure 9: Housing Tenure, All Utahns and Hispanic/Latino Utahns, All and Those Earning More Than 200% of the FPL, 2018

	All Income Levels		200% FPL and above	
	All Utahns	Hispanic Utahns	All Utahns	Hispanic Utahns
Owned with mortgage or loan*	52%	42%	62%	57%
Owned Free and Clear	15%	10%	16%	10%
Rented	31%	46%	21%	31%
Occupied without payment of rent	1%	2%	1%	1%

*Includes home equity loans.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, PUMS.

Hispanic Utahns are slightly more likely to be “burdened” by their mortgage and rental cost.

Figure 10: Selected Monthly Owner and Renter Costs as a Percentage of Household Income During the Previous 12 Months, All Utahns and Hispanic/Latino Utahns, 2018

Percentage of Household Income	Utahns with a mortgage		Utahns who rent	
	All Utahns	Hispanic Utahns	All Utahns	Hispanic Utahns
Between 0% and 30%	79%	74%	59%	53%
Between 31% and 50%	16%	19%	24%	28%
51% or more	5%	7%	17%	19%

Note: Includes proportion of people that own their homes free and clear, and those that occupied a home but pay no rent. Excludes those that did not report whether they are caught up or did not report whether they had a mortgage or paid rent.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, PUMS.

Hispanic Utah homeowners are more likely than Utahns in general to have a housing burden (paying over 30% of their income). (See Figure 10.) However, that difference evens out when looking only at moderate- and high-income households – where 86% and 87%, respectively, are paying 30% or less on their housing.¹⁰

Hispanic Utah renters are also more likely than Utahns in general to have a housing burden (paying over 30% of their income). (See Figure 10.) However, Utahns are less likely to be burdened than the average Mountain State resident, and Hispanic Utahns are slightly less burdened than their Mountain State counterparts.¹¹

The fall 2020 data on the coronavirus’ economic impacts show that far more Utahns are behind on their rent than their mortgages. And for Hispanic Utahns, almost one in three households are behind. (See Figure 11.)

Also from the fall 2020 dataset, in terms of whether renters lack confidence in their ability to pay the following month’s rent, the situation is even more dire. And for Hispanic Utah renter households, over half lack confidence in paying their rent. (See Figure 12.)

Nearly one-third of Hispanic Utah households are behind on rent.

Figure 11: “Not Caught up...” on Mortgage/Rent, Oct. 28 and Nov. 9, 2020

	All Utahns	Hispanic Utahns
Mortgage	5%	6%
Rent	17%	31%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey.

Hispanic Utahns are more than twice as likely as Utahns in general to lack confidence that they will be able to pay their rent.

Figure 12: “Lack of Confidence in Ability to Pay Next Month’s...” Mortgage/Rent, October 28 and November 9, 2020

	All Utahns	Hispanic Utahns
Mortgage	5%	5%
Rent	23%	52%

Note: Includes “no” and “slight” confidence responses, not “moderate” or “high” confidence. Includes proportion of people that own their homes free and clear, and those that occupied a home but pay no rent. Excludes those that did not report whether they had confidence or did not report whether they had a mortgage or paid rent.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey.

Hispanic Utahns were less likely to have Internet access in 2018.

Figure 13: Access to the Internet, All Utahns and Hispanic/Latino Utahns, 2018

	All Utahns	Hispanic Utahns
Internet access (purchased or free)	93%	87%
No access to the Internet at home	7%	13%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, PUMS.

In 2018, Hispanic Utahns were less likely than Utahns in general to have Internet access in their homes. (See Figure 13.) This is of particular concern under the increase of remote work and learning brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. However, the difference may have narrowed now that school districts are providing Internet hotspots to students without Internet access.

INCOME AND SPENDING

Utahns in general have far higher household incomes than Hispanic Utahns. About 29% of Utah households earn between \$1 and \$50,000 annually, compared to about 46% of Utah's Hispanic households.¹² (See Appendix C for more details.) And of the 462,000 Hispanic Utahns, approximately 53% are below 200% of poverty. That compares to only 37% of Utah's population overall that is below 200%.¹³ In terms of overall household incomes, the median Utah household earns \$75,780 annually compared to the median Hispanic Utah household, which earns \$61,506.¹⁴ However, Utah's median for Hispanic households is higher than the national Hispanic household median and all of the other Mountain States.

The fall 2020 data on the coronavirus' economic impacts show that two in five Utahns saw a loss of employment income. For Hispanic Utahns, that impact was three in five. (See Figure 15.)

While Hispanic Utahns are less likely to be citizens, as a group

Hispanic Utah households have far lower annual incomes compared to Utahns in general, but the highest of Hispanic households in the Mountain States.

Figure 14: Median Annual Household Income, All and Hispanic/Latino Households, 2019

	All households	Hispanic households
United States	\$65,712	\$55,658
Utah	75,780	61,506
Wyoming	65,003	60,988
Colorado	77,127	59,022
Nevada	63,276	54,922
Arizona	62,055	53,061
Idaho	60,999	52,827
Montana	57,153	46,458
New Mexico	\$51,945	\$45,049

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS.

Hispanic Utahns are far more likely than Utahns in general to have experienced a loss of income since the pandemic.

Figure 15: Experienced loss of employment income since March 13, 2020 (for self or household member), October 28 and November 9, 2020

Percent w/ loss of income	All	Hispanic
Utah	41%	58%
United States	47%	57%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey.

Hispanic Utahns are somewhat more likely to receive food stamp assistance.

Figure 16: Yearly food stamp/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) receipt, All Utah and Hispanic/Latino Utah Households, 2018

Percent w/ loss of income	All	Hispanic
Received assistance	11%	16%
Did not receive assistance	89%	84%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, PUMS.

they are more likely to use governmental supports. Hispanic Utahns are more likely than Utahns in general to receive SNAP (food stamp) assistance.

The fall 2020 data on the coronavirus' economic impacts show that an even smaller proportion of Hispanic Utahns than Utahns in general experience a food shortage – which for Hispanic Utahns has remained unchanged since the pandemic.

Also from the fall 2020 dataset, some Utahns are having difficulty paying for usual household expenses. (See Figure 18.) That is the case for 24% of Utahns in general, but for 37% of Hispanic Utahns.

EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUTE

Hispanic Utahns are more likely than Utahns in general to be in the labor force (75.7% compared to 69.7%). As of 2019, the unemployment rate for Hispanic Utahns was 1.7 percentage points higher than it was for Utahns in general – though part of this owes to the higher labor force participation rate. (See Figure 19.) While Utah's overall unemployment rate was the lowest of the Mountain States, Idaho's rate for its Hispanic population was far better than Utah's rate for its Hispanic population.

However, the coronavirus pandemic and the resultant economic fallout has hurt a higher proportion of Hispanic Utahns. (Refer back to Figure 15.)

For those employed Utahns, the Hispanic population has a stronger presence in certain industries than the population in general. This is the case in: manufacturing; art, entertainment and recreation; construction; and professional, scientific and technical services. In terms of manufacturing, Hispanic Utahns are over-represented in many industry sectors, such as the manufacture of pharmaceuticals and medicines. In terms of

Hispanic Utahns fare well in terms of food sufficiency.

Figure 17: Food Sufficiency Prior to March 13, 2020, and in the "Past Seven Days," October 28 and November 9, 2020

	All Utahns	Hispanic Utahns
Food insufficiency pre-pandemic	5%	4%
Food insufficiency in previous seven days	6%	4%

Note: "Sometimes not enough to eat" and "often not enough to eat." Does not include "Enough food but not always the types wanted." Does not include those that did not report.

Source: U.S. Census, Household Pulse Survey.

A greater proportion of Hispanic Utahns are having a hard time paying usual household expenses.

Figure 18: "Difficulty paying for usual household expenses during the coronavirus pandemic," October 28 and November 9, 2020

	All Utahns	Hispanic Utahns
Difficulty paying household expenses	24%	37%

Includes "somewhat difficult" and "very difficult." Does not include "a little difficult" or those that did not report.

Source: U.S. Census, Household Pulse Survey.

Hispanic Utahns are more likely to be unemployed.

Figure 19: Unemployment Rates, All Utahns and Hispanic/Latino Utahns 16 and older, 2019

	All Utahns	Hispanic Utahns
United States	4.5%	5.1%
Idaho	3.3%	3.5%
Colorado	3.7%	4.9%
Utah	3.2%	4.9%
Nevada	5.1%	5.1%
New Mexico	5.5%	5.5%
Wyoming	3.6%	5.6%
Arizona	5.1%	5.8%
Montana	4.1%	9.4%

Source: U.S. Census, ACS.

Hispanic Utahns are more likely than Utahns in general to work in manufacturing, food service (arts, entertainment and recreation) and construction, but less likely to work in the education sector.

Figure 20: Industry of Employment, All Utahns and Hispanic/Latino Utahns 16 and older, 2018

	All Utahns	Hispanic Utahns
Manufacturing	10%	16%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	11%	15%
Construction	7%	13%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	12%	13%
Retail Trade	13%	12%
Health Care	9%	6%
Finance and Insurance	6%	4%
Accommodation and Food Services	5%	4%
Education Services	11%	4%
Transportation and Warehousing	4%	4%
Wholesale Trade	2%	2%
Administrative and support and waste management services	4%	2%
Social Assistance	2%	2%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	1%	1%
Information	2%	1%
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	1%	0%
Military	0%	0%
Utilities	1%	0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, PUMS.

arts, entertainment and recreation, Hispanic Utahns are over-represented in restaurants and other food services subsector, as well as the traveler accommodations subsector. Finally, within the professional, scientific and technical services sector, Hispanic Utahns are over-represented in the employment, business support and landscaping services subsector, as well as services to buildings and dwellings subsector.

Hispanic Utahns are much less visible in the education services sector, and somewhat less visible in the health care and the finance and insurance industries.

As of 2018, Hispanic Utahns were slightly more likely to drive to work than Utahns in general, and were less likely to work from home. (See Appendix C.) However, since the pandemic, teleworking has made these estimates obsolete. The recent Census data show that about half of households had seen at least one person shift toward remote work in the previous week as compared to 37% of Utah's Hispanic households.¹⁵ Of those who drove in 2018, Hispanic Utahns and Utahns in general had similar length of commutes, with most workers' commuting less than 30 minutes.¹⁶

EDUCATION

Education Demographics

Among Utahns 25 years of age and older, 31% have a high school diploma, GED or less. Hispanic Utahns far exceed that percentage at 64%. (See Figure 21.) The difference is just as stark when comparing Utahns in general and Hispanic Utahns in terms

Hispanic Utahns have far lower educational attainment as compared to Utahns in general.

Figure 21: Educational Attainment, 25 Years and Older, All Utahns and Hispanic/Latino Utahns, 2018

	All Utahns	Hispanic Utahns
Less than high school diploma	6%	33%
High school diploma or GED	25%	31%
Some college but no degree	29%	19%
Associate's degree	11%	6%
Bachelor's degree	21%	9%
Graduate degree	9%	2%

Source: U.S. Census, PUMS.

Utahns are near the median of the Mountain States for the proportion of students that are English learners.

Figure 22: English Language Learner (ELL) Students Enrolled in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools, 2017

Source: U.S. Census, U.S. Department of Education.

Percent ELL	
United States	10%
Nevada	17%
New Mexico	16%
Colorado	12%
Arizona	8%
Utah	7%
Idaho	6%
Wyoming	3%
Montana	2%

of those with bachelor's degrees and more education – 30% compared to 11%. As Utah Foundation research has previously found, the differences in post-secondary attainment levels will tend to have significant implications for not only workers' earnings, but also how well their children perform in school.¹⁷

Lower English fluency can be a rough indicator of the need for a different type and higher level of support for K-12 students. Utah is near the median of the Mountain States in the proportion of K-12 students who are considered English learners.¹⁸ Often referred to as English language learners, these are students with a non-English mother tongue who are at risk of academic failure due to a lack of proficiency in English.

The vast majority of those English learners speak Spanish as their first language.¹⁹ (See Figure 23.)

As with English language deficiencies, lower household income can suggest the need for a higher level of support for K-12 students. There is no single definition declaring who qualifies as a lower-income student. Federal agencies and state governments use different definitions. Commonly used metrics are poverty data from the U.S. Census Bureau and data from schools on whether students are enrolled in free and reduced-price lunch. Many programs use these data to target funding toward schools and districts based upon their numbers and percentages of lower-in-

Spanish speakers make up most of Utah's English learner population.

Figure 23: Most-Commonly Spoken Non-English Languages of Utah Students

Source: National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition.

Percent of ELL	
Spanish	79%
Navajo/Navaho	2%
Arabic	2%
Somali	1%
Vietnamese	1%
Other	15%

Among the Mountain States, Utah has the highest disparity in childhood poverty between Hispanic children and the general population.

Figure 24: Childhood Poverty Rate, six to 17 years old, 2019

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS.

	All Kids	Hispanic Kids
United States	16%	23%
Montana	15%	28%
New Mexico	24%	26%
Arizona	18%	24%
Utah	9%	21%
Nevada	16%	20%
Idaho	12%	18%
Colorado	11%	18%
Wyoming	10%	18%

come students.²⁰ Utah’s childhood poverty rate is the lowest among the Mountain States. However, for Hispanic children, the poverty rate is more than twice as high as Utah’s rate overall. (See Figure 24.)

Education Outcomes

The National Assessment of Education Progress – or NAEP – has been administered to students around the nation by the U.S. Department of Education for decades. It is billed as the “largest nationally-representative and continuing as-

Among the Mountain States, Utah has one of the biggest gaps on national English tests between Hispanic students and students generally.

Figure 25: National Assessment of Education Progress, Average Scale Score, 4th Grade English Test, 2019

	All Students	Hispanic Students
United States	220	209
Wyoming	227	218
Montana	222	214
Nevada	218	212
Colorado	225	208
Utah	225	207
Arizona	216	205
Idaho	223	205
New Mexico	208	203

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2019 Reading Assessment.

essment of what America’s students know and can do in various subject areas,” including the arts, civics, geography, mathematics, reading, science, U.S. history and writing.²¹ NAEP data are available at the state level for grades four and eight. NAEP is administered each odd-numbered year for the mathematics and reading exams and less often for the writing and science exams.

In 2019, Utah students on average outperformed the nation on both of that year’s two administered major tests – reading and math – for both fourth and eighth grades.²²

In 2019, Utah’s student average was close to four other Mountain States (Colorado, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming) on the fourth-grade NAEP reading test. Howev-

er, when disaggregating by ethnicity, Utah’s Hispanic students scored far lower than their Hispanic peers in Montana and Wyoming. (See Figure 25.)

On the 2019 eighth-grade math test, the student averages played out similarly among the Mountain States. Again, Colorado, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming performed close to Utah. However, Hispanic students in Utah had the lowest average math test score of all the Mountain States – far below Montana and Wyoming. (See Figure 26.)

Utah Foundation often uses ACT scores for comparison with other states. The ACT is a standardized test produced by a nonprofit organization of the same name. Nearly 2 million high school students in the 2018 graduating cohort took the test. The test is used to measure high school achievement as well as provide a measure for college admissions. The three-hour test focuses on English, reading, math and science. Each of these is graded on a scale of 1 to 36. The composite score is the average of these four area scores. An important measure within the ACT is the “benchmark” for each of these tests, which is measured to determine college readiness, as each subject area test corresponds to a first-year college course. In 2018, the benchmark for English is a score of 18, for math and reading is 22, and for science is 23.

In the 2019 Utah graduating class, 43,790 graduates took the ACT test. Of those students, 7,109 identified as Hispanic. The average composite score for Hispanic students was 17.3 – compared to 20.3 for all Utah students. Moreover, Utah’s Hispanic students are far less likely than Utah students in general to meet three or more college readiness benchmarks.²³

About four in five of Utah’s Hispanic students graduate under the U.S. Department of Education measure.²⁴ That is lower than Utah’s students in general. However, Hispanic students have been making improvements more quickly than the overall student population, increasing from only 74% in 2015 to nearly 80% in 2019.²⁵

Among the Mountain States, Utah has the biggest gap on national math tests between Hispanic students and students generally.

Figure 26: National Assessment of Education Progress, Average Scale Score, 8th Grade Math Test, 2019

	All students	Hispanic students
United States	282	268
Montana	284	281
Wyoming	286	274
Arizona	280	269
Colorado	285	268
Idaho	286	266
Nevada	274	266
New Mexico	269	264
Utah	285	263

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2019 Math Assessment.

Utah’s Hispanic students graduate at a lower level as compared to all Utah students, but have been improving more quickly than students in general.

Figure 27: Graduation Rates, Utah, 2015-2019

Source: Utah State Board of Education.

	All students	Hispanic students
2015	84%	74%
2016	85%	74%
2017	86%	77%
2018	87%	78%
2019	87%	80%

HEALTH

Physical Health

This section includes data on physical and mental health, and on adults and high school student populations.

Hispanic Utahns are far less likely than Utahns in general to have health care insurance coverage. (See Figure 28.) This does not include those enrolled in Medicaid after Utah's expansion of the program in 2019. Further, Medicaid enrollment after the start of the pandemic was even higher than during the 2019 enrollment period.²⁶

Furthermore, Hispanic Utahns are more likely than Utahns in general to forgo seeing a doctor because of the cost. This is true even when making comparisons by income. (See Figure 29.)

As part of an annual CDC survey, respondents were asked, "Now thinking about your physical health, which includes physical illness and injury, for how many days during the past 30 days was your physical health not good?" Hispanic Utahns have more good health days than Utahns in general. (See Figure 30.) This may be in part attributable to other factors such as age differences. There are also some differences based on income. (See Appendix C for a breakdown by income.)

In looking at certain diseases, Hispanic Utahns are less likely to have diabetes than Utahns in general. This is particularly apparent when looking at differences by income. (See Figure 31.)

Hispanic Utahns are less likely than Utahns in general to have health coverage.

Figure 28: Insurance Coverage, 2018

	All Utahns	Hispanic Utahns
With health insurance coverage	89%	72%
No health insurance coverage	11%	28%

Source: U.S. Census, PUMS.

Hispanic Utahns are more likely than Utahns in general to not be able to see a doctor because of cost.

Figure 29: "Was there a time in the past 12 months when you needed to see a doctor but could not because of cost?", 2018

	All Utahns	Hispanic Utahns
Less than \$50,000	20%	28%
More than \$50,000	7%	15%
All Incomes	12%	24%

Source: CDC, BRFSS Prevalence & Trends Data, WEAT tool.

Hispanic Utahns are less likely than Utahns in general to have days with poor physical health.

Figure 30: Past 30 days, # days physical health not good, 2018

	All Utahns	Hispanic Utahns
0 days	62%	71%
1-9 days	25%	19%
10+ days	13%	10%

Source: CDC, BRFSS Prevalence & Trends Data, WEAT tool.

Hispanic Utahns are less likely than Utahns in general to have diabetes.

Figure 31: "Has a doctor, nurse, or other health professional ever told you that you had diabetes?", 2018

	All Utahns	Hispanic Utahns
Less than \$50,000	14%	11%
More than \$50,000	8%	4%
All Incomes	10%	9%

Note: Includes those who have been told that they have pre-diabetes or are borderline. Does not include women who were only told they had diabetes during pregnancy.

Source: CDC, BRFSS Prevalence & Trends Data, WEAT tool.

In 2018, cancer and heart disease were the top two causes of death for people 45 and older.²⁷ Rates for these diseases are correlated with certain health inputs, such as cigarette smoking. Hispanic Utahns are more likely than Utahns in general to smoke cigarettes, though there is no difference for those earning less than \$50,000 per year. (See Figure 32.)

Exercise is another important input toward health outcomes. The CDC survey asked, “During the past month, how many times per week or per month did you do physical activities or exercises to strengthen your muscles?” Hispanic Utahns were nearly twice as likely as Utahns in general not to have exercised even once in the previous month. (See Figure 33.)

As part of the high school survey, students were asked whether they participated in at least 60 minutes of physical activity on at least one day in the previous week. This was “in any kind of physical activity that increased their heart rate and made them breathe hard some of the time.” Only about one in 10 students said that they did not. This is slightly more common for Hispanic students. When asked about their physical characteristics, Hispanic students were more likely to be overweight than Utah students in general. (See Figure 34.)

Mental Health

The CDC survey asked, “Now thinking about your mental health, which includes stress, depression, and problems with emotions, for how many days during the past 30 days was your mental health not good?” Unlike with physical health, Hispanic Utahns have far fewer good mental health days than Utahns in general. (See Figure 35.) Four in five Hispanic Utahns had 10 or more days with poor mental health in the previous month. Part of this difference may be due cultural differences among Utahns in the likelihood to respond to survey questions related to mental health. There are also some differences

Hispanic Utahns are more likely than Utahns in general to smoke cigarettes.

Figure 32: “Do you now smoke cigarettes every day [or] some days?”, 2018

	All Utahns	Hispanic Utahns
Less than \$50,000	14%	14%
More than \$50,000	5%	10%
All Incomes	9%	13%

Includes those who smoke every day and some days, but not former smokers.

Source: CDC, BRFSS Prevalence & Trends Data, WEAT tool.

Hispanic Utahns are less likely than Utahns in general to exercise.

Figure 33: Did not exercise even once in the previous 30 days, 2018

	All Utahns	Hispanic Utahns
Less than \$50,000	25%	34%
More than \$50,000	11%	15%
All Incomes	16%	28%

Source: CDC, BRFSS Prevalence & Trends Data, WEAT tool. Utah Foundation calculations.

Hispanic Utahns are more likely than Utahns in general to report poor mental health days.

Figure 35: Past 30 days, # days mental health not good, 2018

	All Utahns	Hispanic Utahns
0 days	61%	3%
1-9 days	24%	17%
10+ days	15%	80%

Source: CDC, BRFSS Prevalence & Trends Data, WEAT tool.

In Utah, Hispanic students are slightly less likely to exercise, and more likely to be overweight.

Figure 34: Did not participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity at least once in the previous week/were overweight, 2018

	All Utah students	Hispanic Utah students
No exercise	9%	11%
Overweight	12%	16%

Note: Overweight is for students who were >= 85th percentile but <95th percentile for body mass index, based on sex- and age-specific reference data from the 2000 CDC growth charts.

Source: YRBSS.

Hispanic Utahns are more likely than Utahns in general to report feeling worried.

Figure 36: “Frequency of feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge,” and “Frequency of not being able to stop or control worrying,” Oct. 28 and Nov. 9, 2020

	All Utahns	Hispanic Utahns
Nervous, anxious, or on edge	32%	41%
Not able to stop or control worrying	24%	30%

Note: Includes “more than half the days” and “nearly every day.” Does not include “several days” or those that did not report.

Source: U.S. Census, Household Pulse Survey.

based on income. (See Appendix C for a breakdown by income.)

Furthermore, the fall 2020 data on the coronavirus’ economic impacts show that Hispanic Utahns are more likely to be nervous or unable to control their worrying. (See Figure 36.)

The Mountain States region has the highest suicide rate of any region of the nation. Utah’s suicide rate is fifth among the Mountain States, but sixth in the nation (with Alaska being as high as the top Mountain States). In 2018, 22.2 of 100,000 people committed suicide – 665 people.²⁸

In addition, in 2018, suicide was the second leading cause of death for younger Americans (ages 10-34).²⁹

As part of the high school survey, students were asked whether they attempted suicide (one or more times during the 12 months before the survey). About one in

10 students said that they had (9%). The rate is slightly higher for Hispanic students in Utah (12%).

The students were also asked whether they did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school (on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey). About one in ten students said that they had (9%). The rate is slightly higher for Hispanic students (12%). Nonetheless, Hispanics of any race tend to take their own lives at a far lower rate than non-Hispanic whites and American Indians.³⁰

In 2018, unintentional injury was the leading cause of death for Americans under 45 years of age.³¹ The students were also asked whether they texted or e-mailed while driving a car or other vehicle (on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey, among students who had driven a car or other vehicle during the 30 days before the survey). More than one third said they had. The rate is lower for Hispanic Utah students than for Utah students in general.

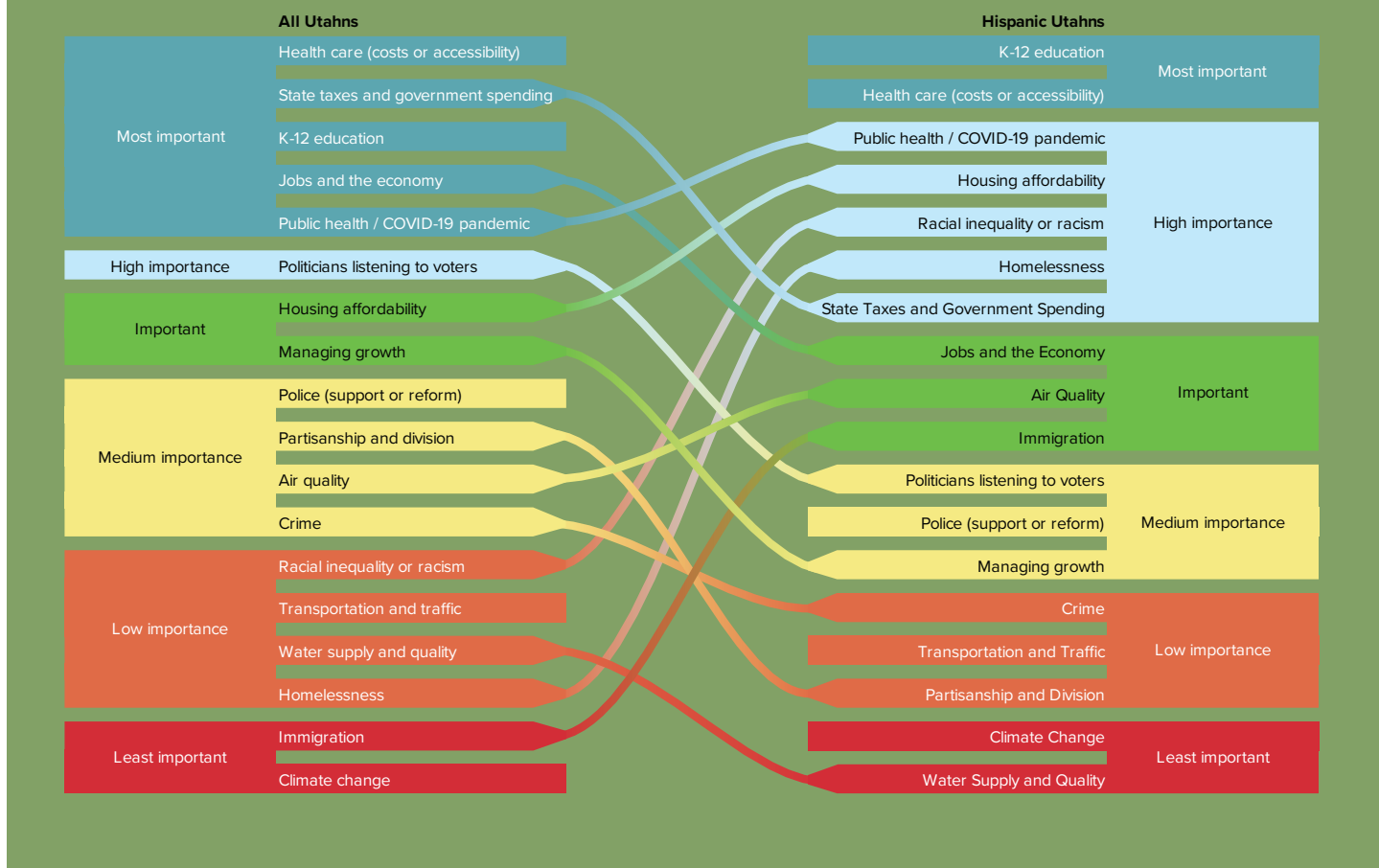
HISPANIC UTAHNS’ PRIORITIES

Each gubernatorial election year since 2004, Utah Foundation has sought to understand what is important to voters through its Utah Priorities Project. The project uses surveys to inform candidates for elected office, elected officials, civic leaders and others on voters’ priorities. The 2020 survey was unique in that it was undertaken twice: once in late winter before the impact of the coronavirus had been realized across the United States, and again in the summer after the initial peak of the virus. (See Utah Foundation’s *What’s on Utah’s Mind: Voter Issues and Concerns in 2020* for more information on project methodology.)

There were certain priorities in which Hispanic voters differed from the Utahns in general to a noteworthy degree. Utah’s Hispanic registered voters were twice as likely to rank homelessness and racial inequality or racism as their top priority when compared to other voters. Homelessness had a likelihood of topping the list of 7% for Hispanic voters but only a 3% likelihood for other voters. Similarly, racial inequality or racism had a likelihood of topping the list for 8% of Hispanic voters but only a 3% likelihood for other voters. At the other end of the spectrum, Hispanic voters tended to be less concerned about water supply

Education and health care were the top areas of concern for Hispanic Utahns in 2020.

Figure 37: Utah Priorities Project Ranking of Issues, 2020



and quality; on average, the likelihood of a Hispanic voter ranking water supply and quality as most important is 1% compared to a 4% likelihood for other voters. (See Figure 37.)

CORONAVIRUS

Infection Rates

Hispanic Utahns represent 14% of the state's population, but comprised 24% of the coronavirus cases recorded in the state as of mid-December. While data explaining these rates have not been well established, there are several possible explanations as to why Hispanic Utahns have higher rates, including geographic location, household size and employment.

Hispanic Utahns may live in geographical areas where the coronavirus is more widespread. Utah Foundation overlayed a map of Salt Lake County's Census tracts that had a higher density of Hispanic Utahns with a map of coronavirus incidence rates. This illustrated the relationship between geography of the coronavirus and Utah's Hispanic population.

Utah's Hispanic households tend to be larger and multi-generational. On average, they contain 3.5 people, while Utah non-Hispanic white households contain 3 peo-

ple.³² Since household exposure accounts for at least one third of the coronavirus' spread in Utah³³ (the single largest factor), larger household size might play a part.

Based on national trends, Hispanic Utahns may be less likely to work in jobs that could be performed remotely.³⁴ Furthermore, a study of Utah cases found that the industries with the highest number of cases (manufacturing; wholesale trade; construction; retail trade; administrative, support, and waste management; accommodation and food services, and; transportation and warehousing) were far more likely to experience those cases with their Hispanic workers.³⁵ So Hispanic workers were much more prevalent in those non-remote industries, but were also more likely to be infected with the coronavirus.

Other factors may come into play as well. As a result, “shelter-in-place and stay-at-home policies were not equally effective for all [Utah] populations.”³⁶ Utah's disparity in infections is not unique and tracks with many other states.³⁷

Hospitalization and Mortality Rates

While Hispanic Utahns are much more likely than Utahns in general to contract the coronavirus, they are only slightly more likely to be hospitalized or die from it. Why? About 77% of Utah's deaths have been Utahns 65 or older.³⁸ However, only 4% of Utah Hispanics are over 64, compared to 11% of Utahns in general.³⁹ While there is not enough data to break down deaths by age and ethnicity in Utah, national data indicate mortality rates are far higher for Hispanic people when accounting for age.⁴⁰

Masks

As part of a 2020 statewide survey, Utah Foundation asked voters about mask mandates. About 42% of voters thought the state should mandate mask wearing in public, while another 21% felt that, instead of the state, businesses should mandate

mask wearing on their properties. Hispanic Utah voters were far more likely to support a state mandate. This may relate to the disproportionate manner in which the coronavirus is infecting Hispanic Utahns.

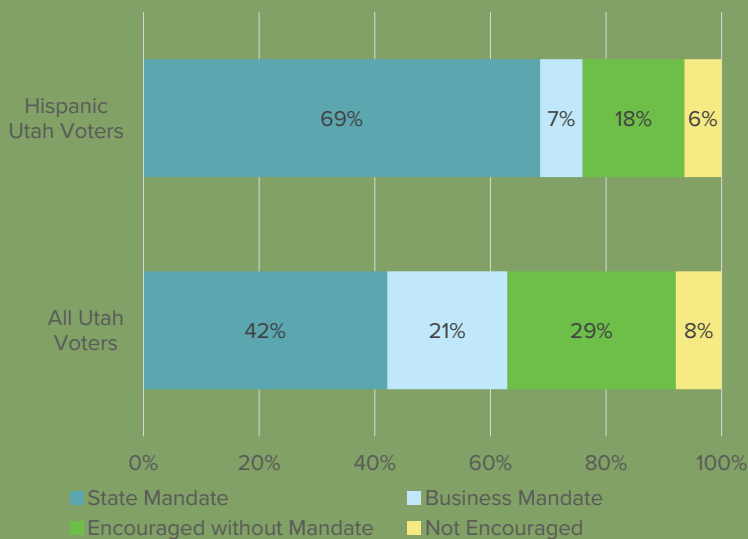
Legal Needs Gap

In 2020, Utah Foundation released a report focusing on the legal needs of lower-income Utahns – or the roughly 26% of Utah's population living at or below 200% of the federal poverty line. The purpose of the report was to inform the public of Utahns' civil legal needs and provide research to help stakeholders with informed decision-making on the future allocation of funding for legal resources. The report drew from Utah Foundation surveys administered in both English and Spanish.

When analyzing the 19 total issue types by their overall likelihood of legal needs, financial legal issues tops the list for the random-survey sample.

Hispanic Utah voters are substantially more supportive of a state-imposed mask mandate.

Figure 38: Overall Voter Views on Masking, July 2020



Source: Utah Foundation survey.

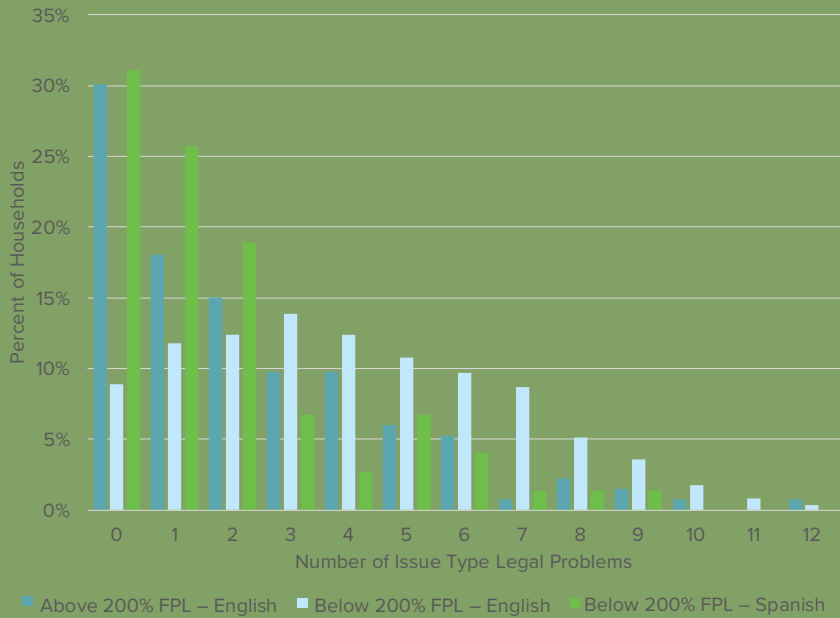
In terms of the percentages of legal needs per respondent household by issue type, Spanish-survey takers look more like English-survey takers that are from higher-income households than they do English-survey takers that are from lower-income households. (See Figure 39.)

Under one in 10 of the survey respondents (75) indicated that someone in their household was born outside of the U.S. Our random-sample survey question of all those 75 households asked whether anyone in the household faced issues “such as: getting residency, citizenship or work permits; receiving bad legal advice; afraid of calling the police; reporting discrimination or harassment; or applying for benefits because of immigration status.” Approximately 15% of the households had faced such issues.

Our online survey asked more-detailed questions. By far the most common issue was that people “needed help with becoming a citizen, legally living or working in the U.S., DACA status, or bringing a family member to the U.S.” (See Figure 40.)

In terms of legal needs per households, Spanish-survey takers look more like English-survey takers that are from higher-income households than they do English-survey takers that are from lower-income households.

Figure 39: Number of Issue Types per Household



Note: “FPL” is the federal poverty line.
Source: Utah Foundation survey.

Respondents with immigration issues are most likely to need help with obtaining citizenship or legal status.

Figure 40: Immigration Issues, Online Survey Respondents

** Or anyone who represents themselves as being qualified to offer immigration-related legal advice or services, but who have no such qualifications.*

Note: There are a total of 316 random-sample online survey responses and 832 non-random online survey responses procured with the assistance of 2-1-1 information and referral.

Source: Utah Foundation survey.

	Random sample	Larger sample
Needed help with becoming a citizen, legally living or working in the U.S., DACA status, or bringing a family member to the U.S.	63%	63%
Needed to plan for the care of children or family members due to fear of being held or deported by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).	13%	3%
Had problems related to not having a driver’s license.	13%	19%
Were afraid of calling the police, reporting discrimination or harassment, or applying for benefits because of immigration status.	13%	13%
Were detained or deported by immigration.	0%	3%
Received bad information from a notario.*	0%	0%
Total respondents with an issue.	11	32



Given the large proportion of immigrants among that population and significant new ground to cover in educational attainment, it can be hoped that these numbers will improve over time. However, some of these metrics would seem to suggest the need for public sector intervention, most notably those pertaining to educational outcomes and attainment.

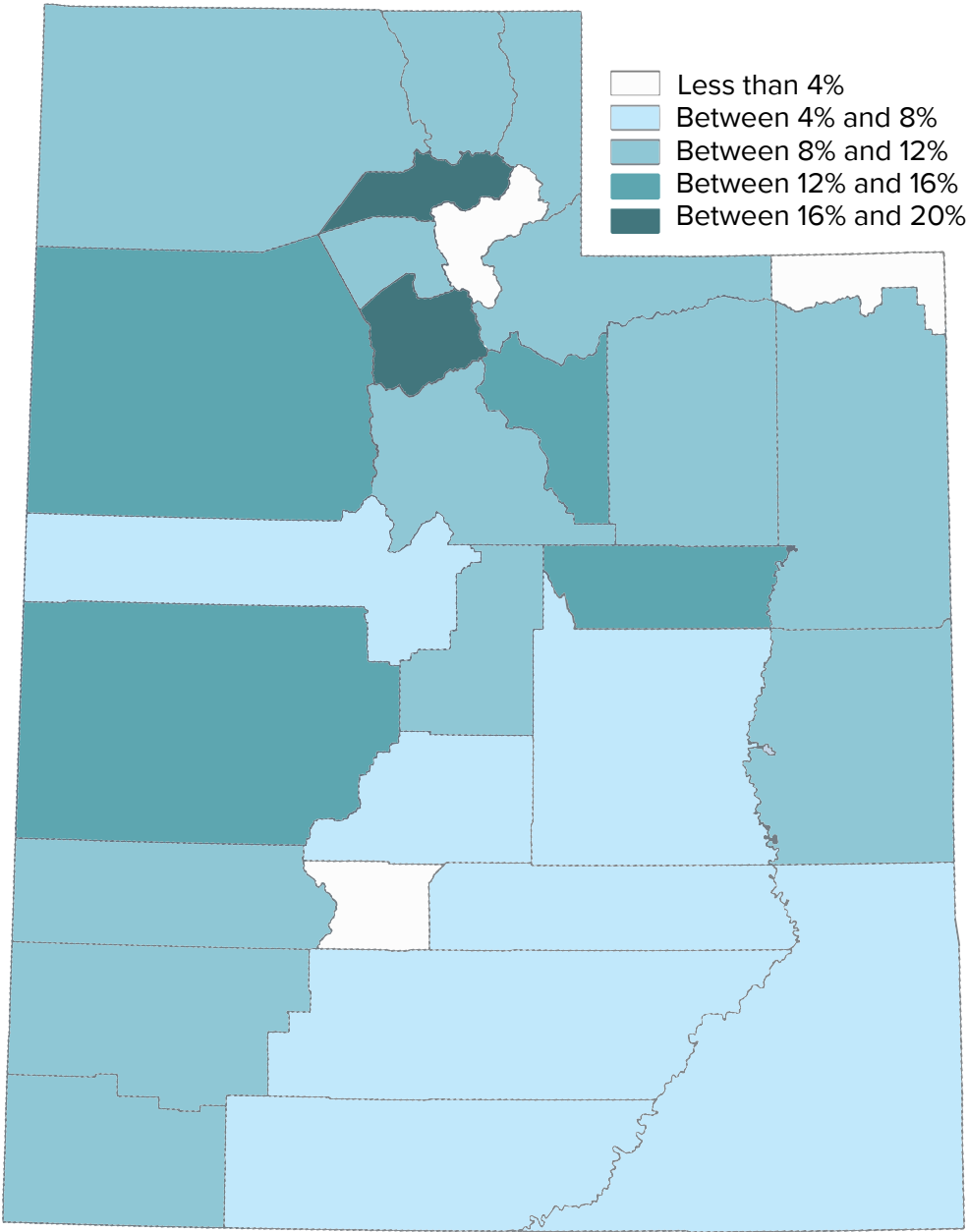
CONCLUSION

On balance, Utah's Hispanic population faces more economic and social challenges than does the overall Utah population. These challenges come in many forms, including educational attainment levels, employment, income, housing cost burden and health. Hispanic Utahns are more likely to rent – even when taking income into account – and the coronavirus' economic impacts have affected their ability to pay those rents. Hispanic Utahns have lower income as compared to Utahns in general, and were more likely to have experienced a loss of income during the pandemic. However, Utah's Hispanic households have the highest median income of the Hispanic households in the Mountain States.

Hispanic Utahns have poorer educational outcome as compared to Utahns in general, and have far lower educational attainment after high school. Hispanic Utahns are also less likely to be insured. Hispanic Utahns seem to have fewer poor physical health days, but far more poor mental health days, as compared to Utahns in general.

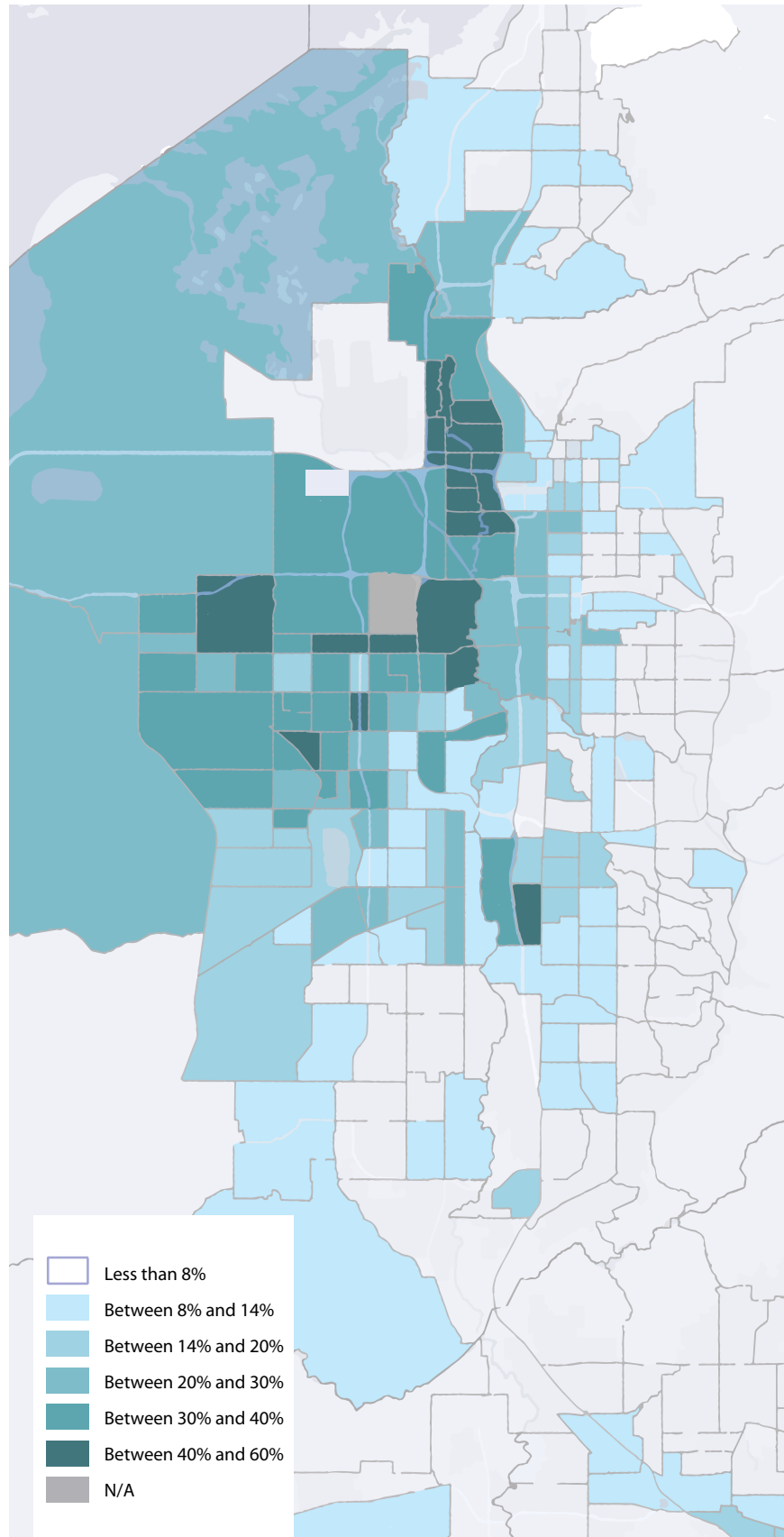
It is important to keep in mind that this overview of data on Utah's Hispanic population represents a snapshot in time. Given the large proportion of immigrants among that population and significant new ground to cover in educational attainment, it can be hoped that these numbers will improve over time. However, some of these metrics would seem to suggest the need for public sector intervention, most notably those pertaining to educational outcomes and attainment. This report is meant to offer the baseline data to provide insight in related policy discussions.

APPENDIX A: UTAH’S COUNTIES BY HISPANIC/LATINO POPULATION



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS.

APPENDIX B: SALT LAKE COUNTY CENSUS TRACTS BY HISPANIC/ LATINO POPULATION



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS.

APPENDIX C: ADDITIONAL FIGURES

Figure C1: Race Categories, Hispanic/Latino Utahns, 2019

	Hispanic Utahns
White alone	67%
"Some Other Race" alone	26%
White and "some other race"	2%
Other	5%

Source: U.S. Census, PUMS.

Figure C2: Annual Household Income, All Utah and Hispanic/Latino Utah Households, 2018

	All Utah Households	Hispanic Utah Household
Between \$1 and \$50,000	29%	46%
Between \$50,001 and \$100,000	38%	36%
More than \$100,001	33%	19%

Source: U.S. Census, PUMS.

Figure C3: Commuting (Journey to Work), 2018

	All Utahns	Hispanic Utahns
Car, Truck, Or Van	87%	90%
Worked at Home	5%	3%
Walked	3%	3%
Bus or Trolley Bus	2%	2%
Bicycle	1%	0%
Other Method	1%	1%

Source: U.S. Census, PUMS.

Figure C4: Past 30 days, # days physical health not good, 2018

	Less than \$50,000		More than \$50,000		All Incomes	
	All Utahns	Hispanic Utahns	All Utahns	Hispanic Utahns	All Utahns	Hispanic Utahns
0 days	56%	70%	66%	73%	62%	71%
1-9 days	24%	20%	25%	18%	25%	19%
10+ days	20%	11%	9%	9%	13%	10%

Source: CDC, BRFSS Prevalence & Trends Data, WEAT tool.

Figure C5: Past 30 days, # days mental health not good, 2018

	Less than \$50,000		More than \$50,000		All Incomes	
	All Utahns	Hispanic Utahns	All Utahns	Hispanic Utahns	All Utahns	Hispanic Utahns
0 days	56%	4%	64%	2%	61%	3%
1-9 days	23%	16%	25%	20%	24%	17%
10+ days	21%	80%	11%	78%	15%	80%

Source: CDC, BRFSS Prevalence & Trends Data, WEAT tool.

ENDNOTES

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- 3 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019, 1-year survey, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=hispanic%20latino&g=0100000US,04000.001&tid=ACSDT1Y2019.B03003&moe=false&tp=true&hidePreview=true>
- 4 U.S. Census Bureau, 2019, 5-year sample, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=utah%20counties%20hispanic&g=0400000US49.050000&tid=ACSDP5Y2019.DP05&moe=false&hidePreview=true>.
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- 17 Utah Foundation, *Making the Grade? K-12 Outcomes and Spending in Utah*, August 20, 2019, www.utahfoundation.org/reports/making-the-grade-k-12-outcomes-and-spending-in-utah/.
- 18 U.S. Department of Education, 2020, Digest of Education Statistics 2019, Table 204.20. English language learner (ELL) students enrolled in public elementary and secondary schools, by state: Selected years, fall 2000 through fall 2017.
- 19 National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition, Utah, www.ncela.ed.gov/t3sis/Utah.php
- 20 Utah uses the federal free and reduced-price lunch enrollment count on October 1 of each year for its “economically disadvantaged” definition. (See Utah Administrative Code, Rule R277-708, Enhancement for At-Risk Students, <https://rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r277/r277-708.htm>.) Eligibility in the program is higher than the federal poverty line; reduced-price lunch is 185% of poverty while free lunch is 130% of poverty. Not all students who qualify are enrolled. Some families may not know about the program or simply do not want to enroll. Utah is at the bottom of the Mountain States for the proportion of students who are enrolled in the free and reduced-price lunch program.
- 21 National Center for Education Statistics, NAEP, <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/participating/> (accessed June 13, 2019).
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