

## STATE RANKING

Colorado had the 8<sup>th</sup> largest Latino population in the U.S.<sup>1</sup>

## K-12 POPULATION

In Colorado, **28%** of the K-12 population was Latino.<sup>2</sup>

## STATE POPULATION

In Colorado, **21%** of the state population was Latino.<sup>3</sup> Projections show a continued increase.

## MEDIAN AGE

The median age of Latinos in Colorado was **26**, compared to **38** for White non-Hispanics.<sup>4</sup>

## DEGREE ATTAINMENT

In Colorado, **18%** of Latino adults (25 to 64 years old) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to **46%** of all adults.<sup>5</sup>

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

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

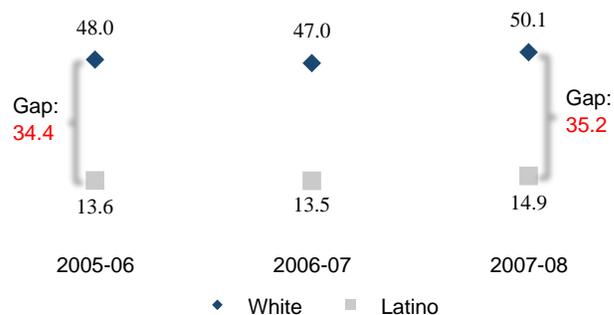
## Equity Gap in Degree Completion

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

Colorado	2007-08		
	Latinos	Whites	Equity Gap
Graduation Rates	41.4	51.3	9.9
Completions per 100 FTE Students	15.7	18.8	3.1
Completions Relative to the Population in Need	14.9	50.0	35.2

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

Completions Relative to the Population in Need: 2006 to 2008



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

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

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

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

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

## Degrees Conferred

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

- the number of Hispanics who earned an undergraduate degree in Colorado increased about 13% from 2006-08, while all other race/ethnic groups increased 8%.
- Colorado had one of the largest increases in degrees conferred to Latinos over 3 years among the top 10 states enrolling Latinos.

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

## Examples of What Works for Latino Students

There are institutions in Colorado showing success in enrolling, retaining, and graduating Latino students. The following are examples of institutional programs with evidence of effectiveness in serving Latino students nominated for Examples of *Excelencia*.

### **Cumbres Teacher Preparation Program - University of Northern Colorado**

Cumbres is a teacher preparation program that recruits students who are committed to working with Hispanic school children, language minority students, and children of poverty in public schools. UNC students in the Cumbres teacher preparation program are pursuing a specific endorsement in bilingual education or Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL), in addition to an endorsement and licensure in K-12 education. While the program is not targeted solely at Hispanic students, enrollment in the program is more than 50% Hispanic. Fall 2008 Hispanic enrollment was 8% university-wide vs. 51% in the Cumbres Program; retention rates for Hispanic students was 65% university-wide vs. 85% in the Cumbres Program; graduation rates for Hispanic students was 46% university-wide vs. 58% in the Cumbres Program. (<http://www.unco.edu/cumbres/>).

### **System-Wide Pre-Collegiate Development Program – University of Colorado**

The Pre-Collegiate Development Program (PCDP) is designed to motivate first-generation Latino students (grades 6-12) to pursue postsecondary education, while focusing on academics, but also addressing other variables that influence college enrollment. Currently, there are more than 1,300 students participating in the high school program, where Latinos make up 78% of the programs enrollment. PCDP has placed 95% of the program's graduating seniors into higher education from 1988 to 2005, with 94% of these students pursuing their post-secondary careers at four-year institutions, with the remaining 6% attending two-year institutions, with graduation rates from the University of Colorado at about 82% in six years. (<https://www.cu.edu/content/k12outreach>).

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

## Ensuring America's Future partners in Colorado:

National Conference of State Legislators: [www.ncsl.org](http://www.ncsl.org)

State Higher Education Executive Officers: [www.sheeo.org](http://www.sheeo.org)

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE): <http://wiche.edu>