

Overlooked Talent Pools Data Series

Hispanics & Latinos in STEM



Demographic Snapshot of Hispanics & Latinos in the United States

Definition of Hispanic or Latino:

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget defines Hispanic or Latino as, “a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race.” Hispanic and Latino are often used interchangeably but have slightly different meanings.



In 2019, there were more than **60 million**

Hispanics living in the United States, which accounts for **18.5%** of the total population.

The population of Hispanics is expected to **increase by 25%** by 2030.

U.S. Census Bureau, 2019: Excelencia in Education, 2019

Hispanics made up **52%** of all population growth in the U.S. over the last decade.

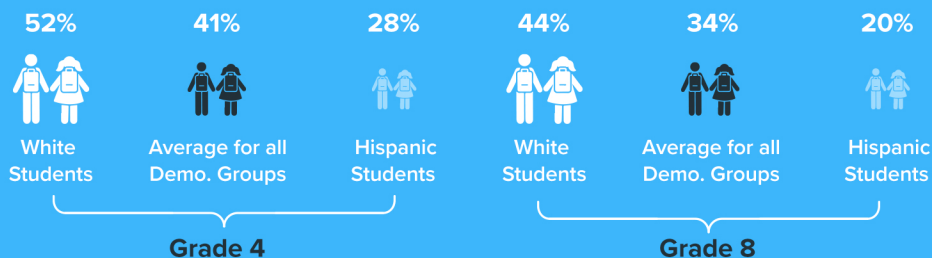
25% of the K-12 population in the U.S. is Latino.

Pew Research Center, 2020

Hispanics & Latinos in K-12 STEM

Hispanic students are **less likely than their peers** to be proficient in math.

Percent of students scoring “proficient” or above in math (2019)



Hispanic students **take fewer STEM courses** in general compared to their White and Asian peers.

Percent of high school seniors taking 7 or more STEM courses, by race & ethnicity (2017-18)



Student Research Foundation, 2020

Hispanics & Latinos in Postsecondary STEM

A little under half of Hispanic & Latino students are first-generation college students.

Percent of first-generation college students, by race & ethnicity (2015-2016)



Excelencia in Education (2019)

According to a study published in 2019, the rate of white, black, and Hispanic/Latino students entering STEM majors was about equal. However, **37% of Hispanic & Latino students** switched majors before graduation compared to **29% of white students**.

Riegel-Crumb, C., King, B., & Irizarry, Y. (2019)

Hispanics & Latinos in the STEM Workforce

Hispanics are underrepresented in both the STEM workforce and among all occupations.

Percent of Hispanics in Science & Engineering occupations (2017)



National Science Foundation, 2020

Hispanic STEM workers make, on average, less than their White & Asian peers.

Median annual salary among science & engineering highest degree holders working full time, by race and ethnicity



National Science Board, 2018