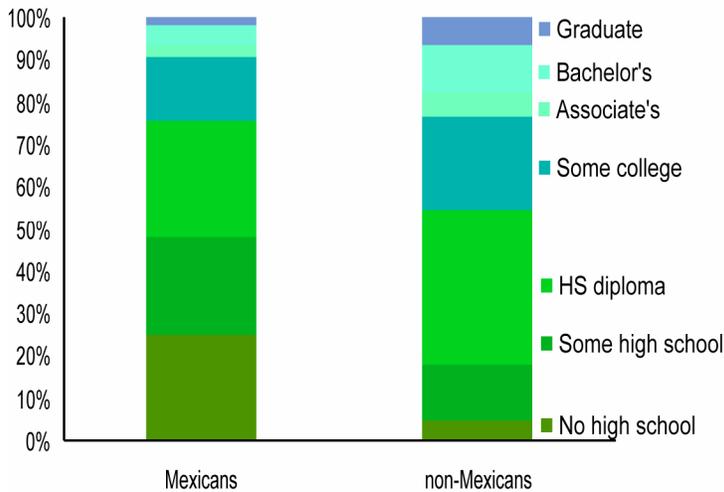


## 2.6 Educational Attainment and School Attendance

Many are aware that Mexicans tend to have lower levels of educational attainment than their non-Mexican counterparts in the United States and here in Indiana. According to a recent *New York Times* article: “One of every four high-school dropouts in the U.S. was born in Mexico, an astonishing ratio given that the proportion of Mexicans in the overall labor force is only 1 in 25.”<sup>i</sup> The extent of the gap in Indiana is no less stunning, as shown in Graphic 2-19.

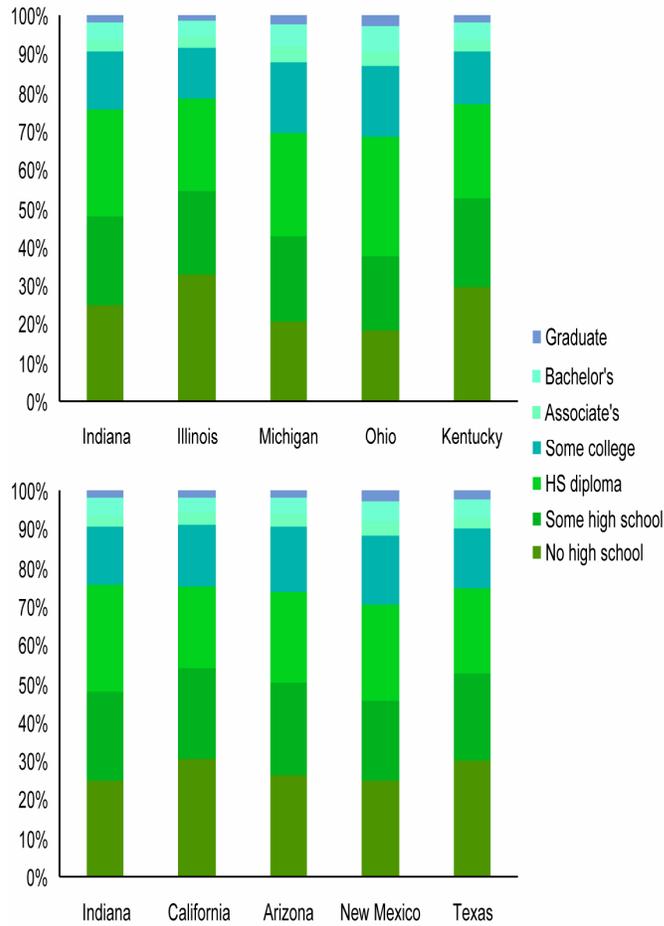
GRAPHIC 2-19. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF THE MEXICAN AND NON-MEXICAN POPULATIONS AGED 18 AND OLDER, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Less than one-fifth of non-Mexican Hoosiers 18 and older were without their high school diplomas in the Year 2000. Almost half of Mexican Hoosiers 18 and older failed to graduate high school or its equivalent. The lack of high school completion translates into lower levels of achievement throughout the educational achievement ladder. Non-Mexicans in Indiana were more than twice as likely to have a college degree of some type.

GRAPHIC 2-20. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF THE MEXICAN POPULATION BY STATE, 2000



Source. U.S. Census Bureau

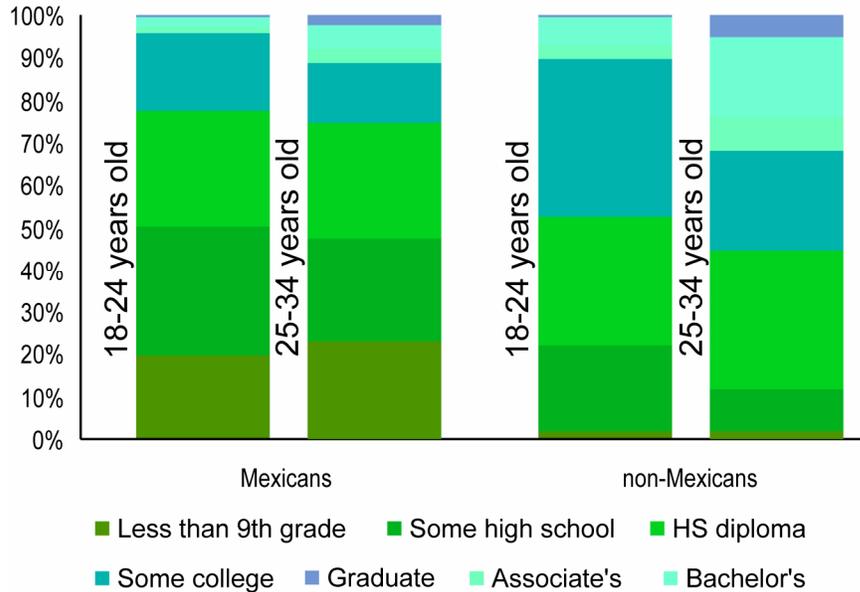
The percentage of Mexicans living in Indiana who completed high school ranks the state about in the middle, as compared to its neighbors and the Border States. The Mexican 18 and older populations in Michigan and Ohio, for instance, were far more educated; and the population in New Mexico was slightly more educated. On the other side of the ledger, the populations in Illinois, Kentucky, California, Arizona, and Texas were less educated—at least when measured according to high school diploma attainment. However, the populations in California, Arizona, and Texas were more likely to possess a college degree—this despite the fact that a greater percentage of the Mexican population in Indiana had at least some college, meaning a smaller percentage who began college in Indiana left with a degree in hand.

One factor of critical importance in the educational attainment discussion is the age-related patterns of attainment. It is one matter if the gap is being driven by older Mexican Hoosiers, with significantly larger attainment among the young promising to close the gap over time. It is another matter, and a far worse one, if the gap is large even among the young ages.

Unfortunately, the latter is true. This is shown in Graphic 2-21. The gap between Mexican Hoosiers who do not have a high school diploma or the equivalent and non-Mexican high school dropouts is less among 18-24 year olds than among 25-34 year olds. The gap is still enormous,

with non-Mexican 18-24 year olds having been more than twice as likely to have a diploma. The percentage who have less than a ninth grade education is particularly shocking. Nearly one in five Mexican 18-24 year olds did not persist to the equivalent of a freshman year of high school.

GRAPHIC 2-21. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF THE MEXICAN 18-24 YEAR OLD AND 25-34 YEAR OLD POPULATIONS, 2000



Source. U.S. Census Bureau

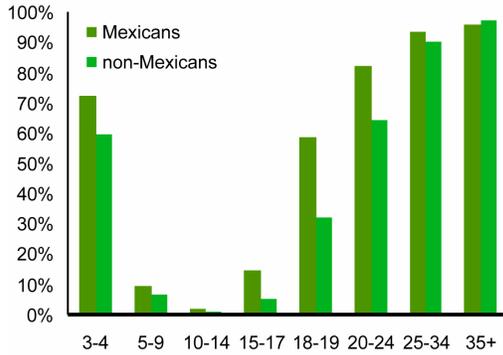
Even at these young ages, the influence of immigration is felt, however. Educational opportunities in Mexico may be fairly considered less than in those in the U.S. One may wish it were otherwise, but the simple fact is that Mexican immigrants will not match up to the educational attainment levels of the native Indiana population.

This issue can be controlled for by examining school attendance rates by age for the population that is here in Indiana. As Graphic 2-22 shows, then, the gap discussed in the prior charts is partly a function of immigration effects; it is also very clearly a function of attitudes and persistence in school among Mexican Hoosiers already living in the state during their school years.

Graphic 2-22 shows a significant gap at the earliest, pre-school ages between Mexicans and non-Mexicans. This is not unexpected due to the differences in income between Mexican and non-Mexican families that will be examined in later sections of this report. What is slightly more surprising is the continuing, albeit fairly small, gap between Mexican and non-Mexican attendance during the K-8 years.

The data from the next age groups highlight the problem facing Mexicans in Indiana and the State as a whole. The gap in attendance becomes very significant in the high school years and then becomes a chasm in the ages associated with college. The gap narrows for those in their mid-twenties to mid-thirties. Finally, Mexican Hoosiers 35 and older were slightly more likely than their non-Mexican peers to attend school. One suspects there are significant differences in the type and level of school being attended, however.

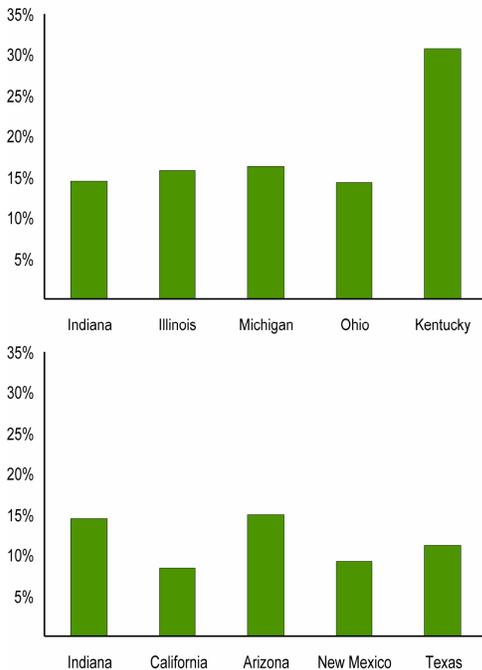
GRAPHIC 2-22. SCHOOL NON-ATTENDANCE OF THE MEXICAN AND NON-MEXICAN POPULATIONS BY AGE, 2000



Source. US Census Bureau

Graphic 2-23 shows how, as difficult as Indiana’s challenge to boosting educational attainment among its Mexican population may be, it is not as steep a challenge as those facing Indiana’s neighbors. Only Ohio has a lower rate of non-attendance among its 15-17 year old Mexican population than Indiana does. Kentucky’s rate of non-attendance is staggering by comparison, more than twice Indiana’s rate. Compared to the Border States, however, Indiana’s 15-17 year old Mexicans fare more poorly. Only Arizona’s rate approaches that typically found in Indiana’s section of the Midwest.

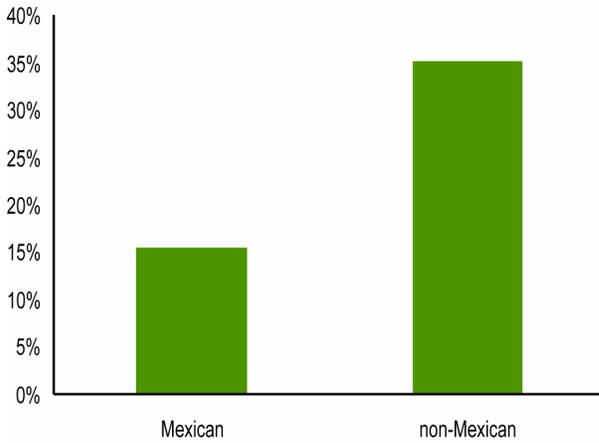
GRAPHIC 2-23. SCHOOL NON-ATTENDANCE OF THE 15-17 YEAR OLD POPULATION BY STATE, 2000



Source. U.S. Census Bureau

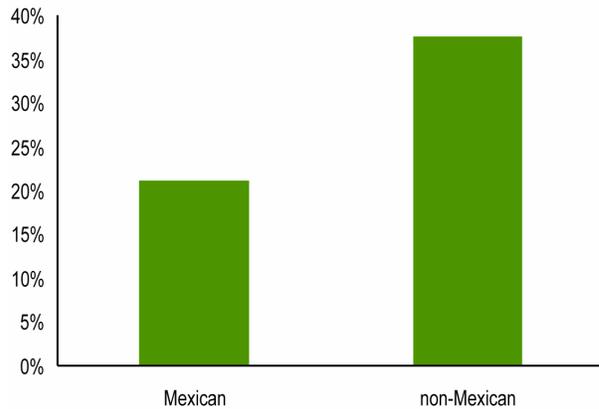
As would be suggested by the prior charts and K-8 and high school drop-out rates, college attendance among Mexican Hoosiers suffers in comparison to non-Mexicans, with a 20 percentage point differential. The gap is less among 18-24 year old females but still large.

GRAPHIC 2-24. COLLEGE ATTENDANCE OF THE 18-24 YEAR OLD MEXICAN AND NON-MEXICAN POPULATION, PERCENTAGE ATTENDING



Source. U.S. Census Bureau

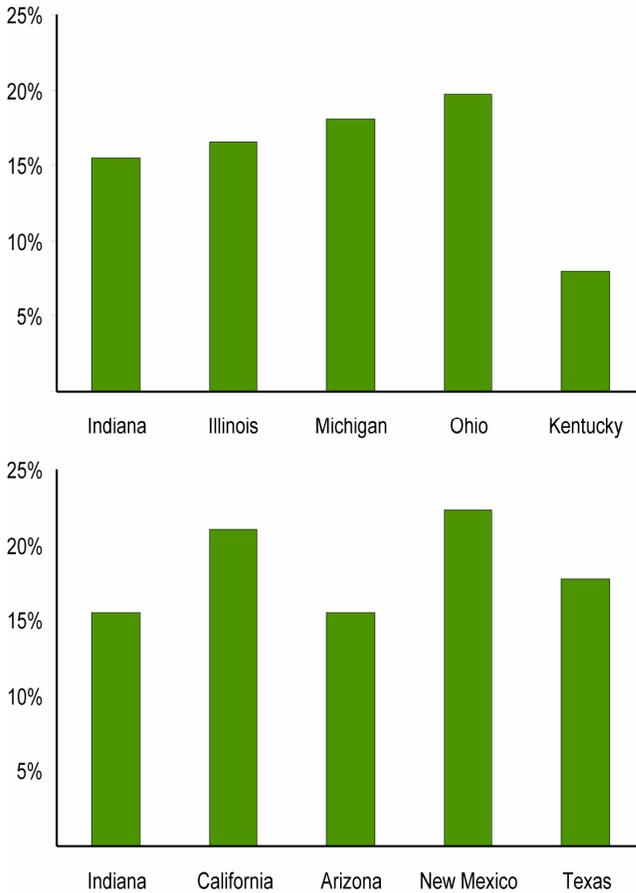
GRAPHIC 2-25. COLLEGE ATTENDANCE OF THE FEMALE MEXICAN AND NON-MEXICAN 18-24 YEAR OLD POPULATIONS, 2000



Source. U.S. Census Bureau

Compared to its neighbors, Indiana's challenge with respect to college attendance is the reverse of high school attendance. Indiana's Mexican 18-24 year olds were less likely to attend college than any neighboring states' except Kentucky. Indiana also lags behind all the Border States except Arizona in this regard.

GRAPHIC 2-26. COLLEGE ATTENDANCE OF THE MEXICAN  
18-24 YEAR OLD POPULATION, BY STATE, 2000



Source. U.S. Census Bureau

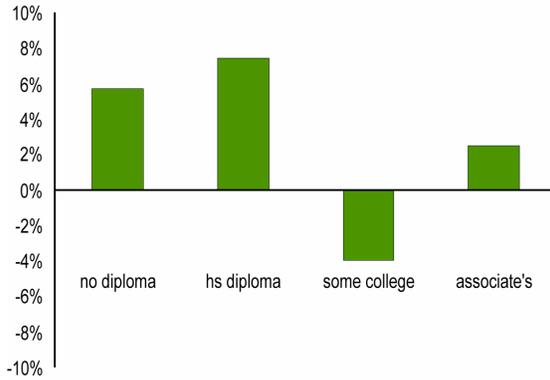
There are a multitude of complex factors driving the achievement gap displayed in the previous charts. One factor worth examining is whether continued education holds as much relative benefit for Mexican Hoosiers as for non-Mexicans. Graphics 27 and 28 examine this question. Continued education, of course, is associated with higher incomes for all Hoosiers. The next two charts detail whether Mexicans and non-Mexicans gain marginal benefits equally, by examining the difference in the two populations' incomes by educational attainment level.

Graphic 2-29 shows one problem. The difference in the percentage of Mexican high school dropouts and non-Mexican high school dropouts earning at or below the poverty line is actually less than the difference among Mexican and non-Mexican high school diploma holders. In other words, while Indiana's Mexican students certainly gain economically from earning a high school diploma, at least in terms of earning an income above the poverty level, they do not do so at the same rate as their non-Mexican peers.

The gap actually reverses itself, however, for Mexicans who go on to at least some college coursework. These Mexican Hoosiers were actually less likely to have incomes at or below poverty level than their non-Mexican peers. Unfortunately, the gap again begins to grow with further education. An Associate's degree holder is more likely to have an income at the poverty

level or worse if he or she is Mexican than if not. In this respect, Mexicans' gain from a Bachelor's degree relative to non-Mexicans' gain is even less.

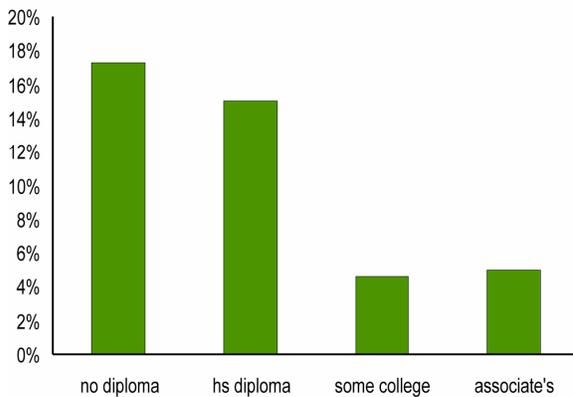
GRAPHIC 2-27. PERCENTAGE OF 18-24 YEAR OLDS WITH INCOMES AT OR BELOW THE POVERTY LINE, MEXICAN DIFFERENTIAL WITH NON-MEXICANS, BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, 2000



Source. U.S. Census Bureau

Moving to include incomes higher up the ladder, the same general pattern is true. At all levels of educational attainment, a Mexican Hoosier is less likely to have an income equal to twice or greater the poverty line. The size of the differential narrows for those with a diploma and narrows further for those who have some college in their background. It begins to widen for those with actual college degrees.

GRAPHIC 2-28. PERCENTAGE OF 18-24 YEAR OLDS WITH INCOMES LESS THAN TWICE THE POVERTY LINE, MEXICAN DIFFERENTIAL WITH NON-MEXICANS, BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, 2000



Source. U.S. Census Bureau

Three key conclusions emerge from this discussion of educational attainment and attendance.

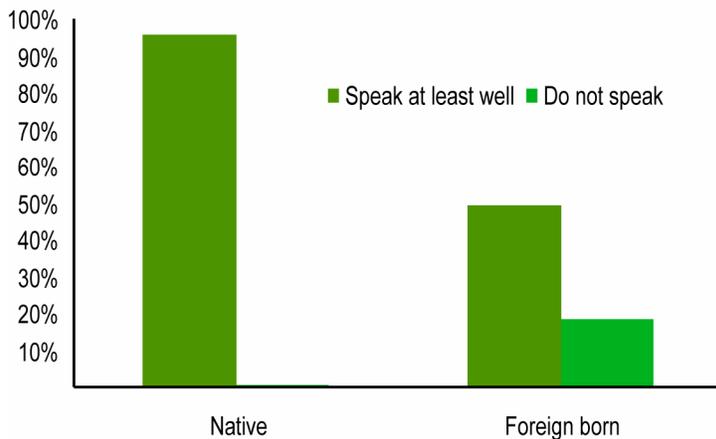
- 1) The single most important policy issue confronting Indiana vis-à-vis the growing Mexican population is in the realm of education. Mexican educational attainment suffers woefully compared to non-Mexican attainment. This is not entirely a result of

- immigration effects. Even for Mexicans who are here during their school ages, there is significantly lower school attendance in the high school and college years.
- 2) The school attendance patterns of young Indiana Mexicans suffer in comparison to young Mexicans in other states.
  - 3) There is reason to believe that Mexicans may perceive a lesser gain from continued education than their non-Mexican peers would. Given the long-established need or desire of many Hispanics and Mexicans for immediate income due to reasons of family poverty and extended family dynamics, this perception must be combated. It is essential, then, to stress and quantify the overall gains from continuing education regardless of the slightly diminished gains for Mexicans relative to their non-Mexican peers.

## 2.7 Language Barriers for Mexicans in Indiana

Central to the relationship between education and the Mexican population is the issue of linguistic ability. As a population with a large segment of immigrants, English is not the native tongue of significant numbers of Mexican Hoosiers. The data suggest this is far less a problem than is often charged, however.

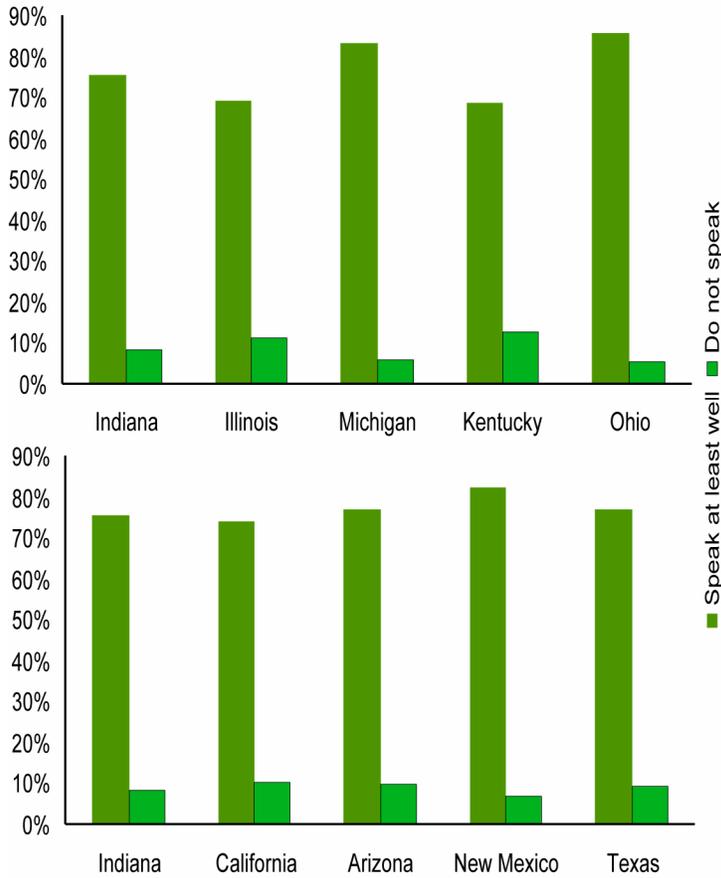
GRAPHIC 2-29. THE ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH FOR THE MEXICAN NATIVE AND MEXICAN FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION, PERCENTAGE BY ABILITY, 2000



Source. U.S. Census Bureau

Graphic 2-29 details the number of native and foreign-born Mexicans who speak English at two levels of sophistication: not at all and at least well. Almost all of U.S.-born Mexicans in Indiana spoke English at least well in 2000. Even for those Mexican Hoosiers who were born outside the country, almost half speak English at least well and more than four-fifths have some competence, which may be surprising given the large share of the foreign-born that entered the U.S. in the years immediately preceding the 2000 Census.

GRAPHIC 2-30. THE ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH FOR THE MEXICAN NATIVE AND MEXICAN FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION, PERCENTAGE BY ABILITY BY STATE, 2000



Source. U.S. Census Bureau

Compared to other states, the English proficiency of Indiana’s Mexican residents ranks about in the middle. There is wide variation in the Midwestern states, with appreciably higher proficiency in Michigan and Ohio and appreciably lower proficiency in Illinois and Kentucky. The percentage of Mexicans who at least speak English well in Indiana is fairly similar to the percentages in the Border States. There is little difference among the percentages who do not speak English at all.

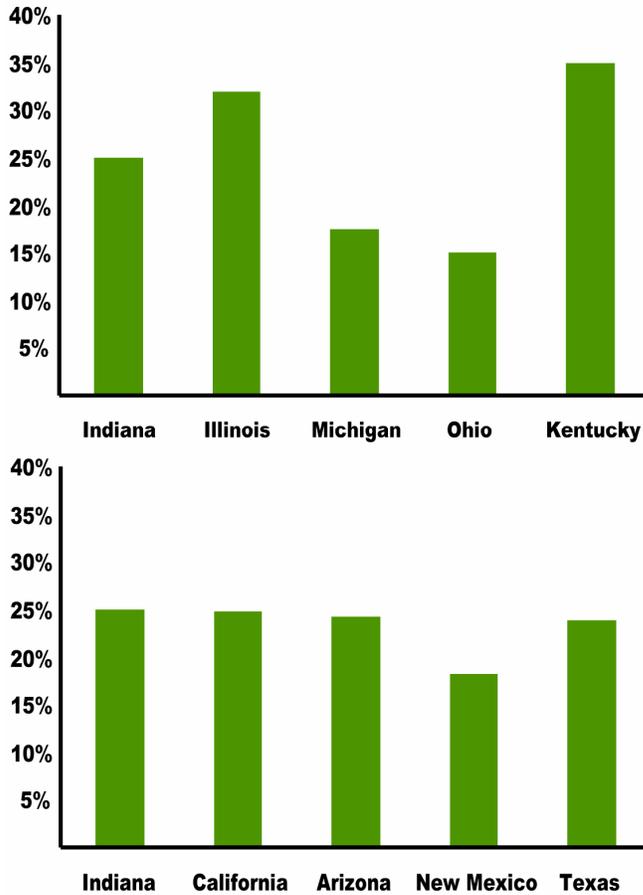
One important way of assessing the linguistic proficiency of populations with heavy immigrant contingents is to examine rates of linguistic isolation. A household is considered linguistically isolated if no member 14 years old or older speaks only English or speaks a foreign language with the inability to speak English “very well.”

In this respect, Indiana appears to be in fairly good shape compared to other states. Only Kentucky has a smaller percentage of its 5 and older Mexican population in linguistically isolated households. No Border State has a lower percentage.

It should be noted, however, that the percentages of the 5 and older Mexican population in linguistically isolated households are fairly small in each case. This is especially true of the

Midwest. Even in California, the epicenter of the Mexican migration north to the U.S., the rate is less than 7 percent.

GRAPHIC 3-31. PERCENTAGE OF THE 5+ POPULATION IN LINGUISTICALLY ISOLATED HOUSEHOLDS, 2000

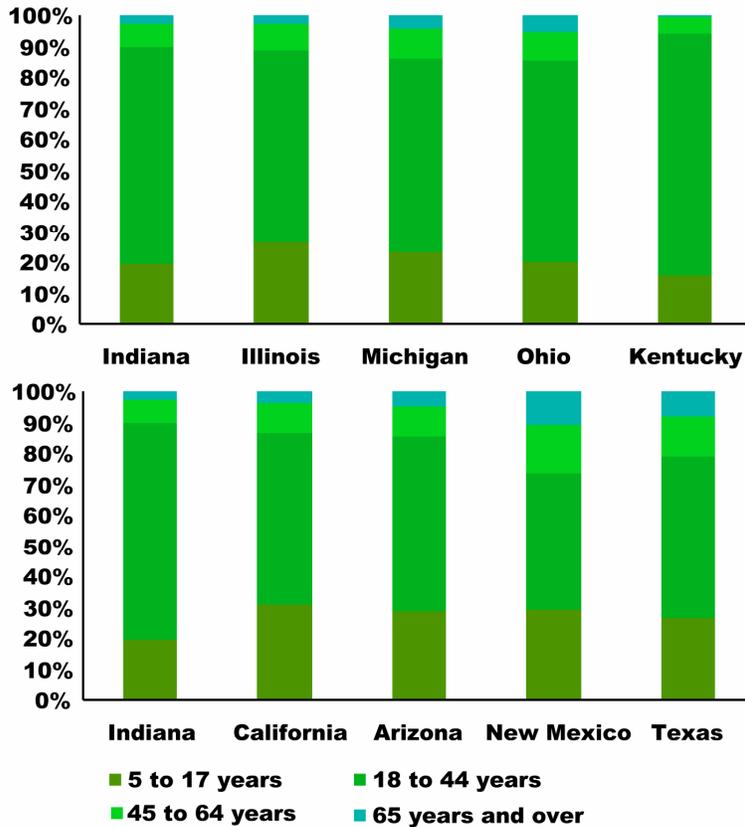


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

To the extent that language is such a crucial issue in boosting the educational attainment and school attendance of the Mexican population, the age structure of the linguistically isolated is important. A low rate among the young removes one of the many impediments to better outcomes.

Among those between the ages of 5 to 17, Indiana's rate of linguistic isolation is fairly low, as shown in Graphics 32a and 32b. Kentucky's is lower than Indiana's but Illinois' and Michigan's are much larger. The gap is considerable compared to the Border States, with Indiana having much lower rates. So, while Indiana currently suffers in school attendance for this population, language does not represent the difficulty in creating marginal gains in attendance than it does in other states.

GRAPHIC 2-32. AGE STRUCTURE OF THE LINGUISTICALLY ISOLATED, PERCENT ISOLATED BY AGE GROUP BY STATE, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

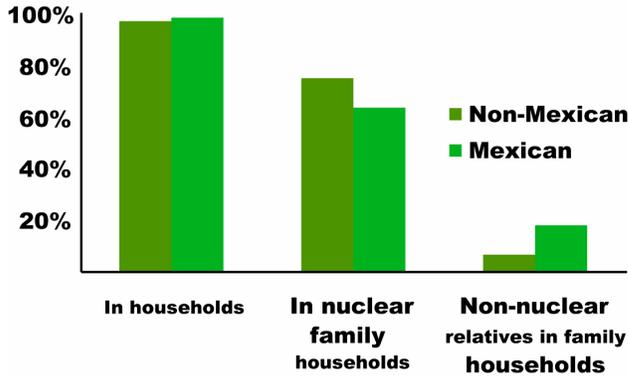
There are two key conclusions from the data on language proficiency and linguistic isolation.

- 1) Language proficiency is not as great a problem among the Mexican community as is often charged. However, accelerated rates of immigration from the foreign-born would certainly lower proficiency.
- 2) Indiana's school attendance among the young is low compared to other states. This does not appear to be the result of greater linguistic isolation. Language barriers are less an excuse for future marginal increases in school attendance and educational attainment than they would be in other states.

#### *Household size*

The prior section introduced the notion of a household. While the concept is fairly self-explanatory, it is worth mentioning that a household is not a *Leave It to Beaver* concept, with only a nuclear family counting as a household. A household includes all arrangements other than group quarters such as medical institutions or prisons.

GRAPHIC 2-33. HOUSEHOLD STRUCTURE OF THE MEXICAN AND NON-MEXICAN POPULATION, 2000

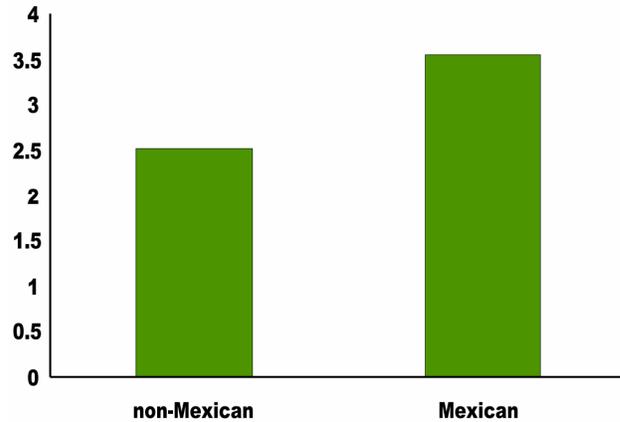


Source. U.S. Census Bureau

As is true of the non-Mexican population, then, almost all Mexicans in Indiana were in households in the Year 2000, as shown in Graphic 2-33. A difference begins to emerge, however, in the percentage of non-Mexican and Mexican Hoosiers who were in nuclear family households; a smaller share of Mexicans lived in a nuclear family arrangement. The difference is made up for in the percentage who live in non-nuclear family arrangements. Mexicans were roughly twice as likely to live in a situation other than a nuclear family household.

Mexican households in Indiana were also larger than non-Mexican households. There was approximately one additional person per Mexican household, as demonstrated by Graphic 2-34.

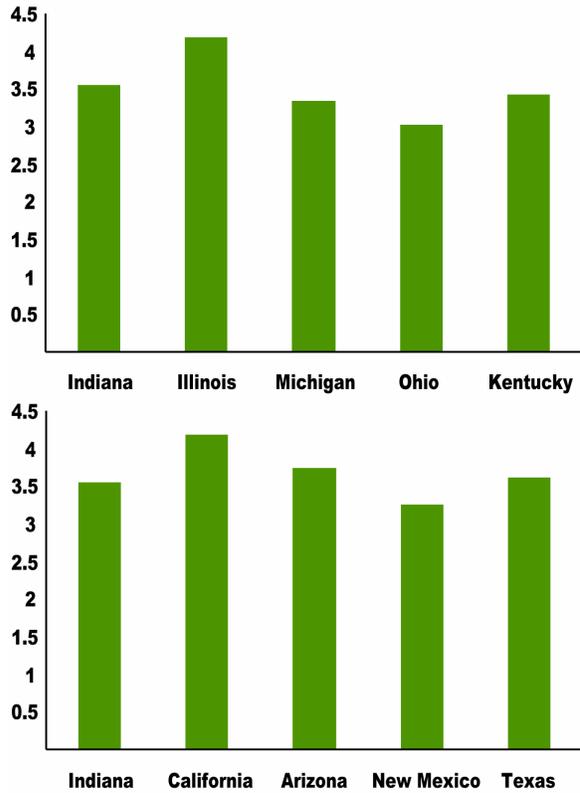
GRAPHIC 2-34. AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE IN INDIANA, 2000



Source. U.S. Census Bureau

Compared to other states, Indiana's Mexican households are neither exceptionally large nor exceptionally small. California and Illinois had roughly an additional member for every two households relative to Indiana. Michigan's, Ohio's, and New Mexico's Mexican households were smaller.

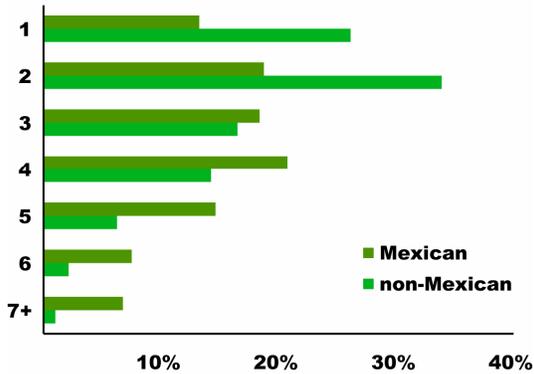
GRAPHIC 2-35. AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE OF MEXICAN HOUSEHOLDS, BY STATE, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Average household size obscures the full extent of the differences between Mexican and non-Mexican household size. The more developed picture is shown in Graphic 2-36. The most common non-Mexican household arrangement included only two people. More than one-third of all non-Mexican households were of this type. The most common Mexican household arrangement included four people. A large gap also exists in the percentage of households that can be considered truly large. The percentage of households with six or more people was roughly three times greater for Mexicans than non-Mexicans.

GRAPHIC 2-36. MEXICAN AND NON-MEXICAN INDIANA HOUSEHOLDS BY SIZE, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

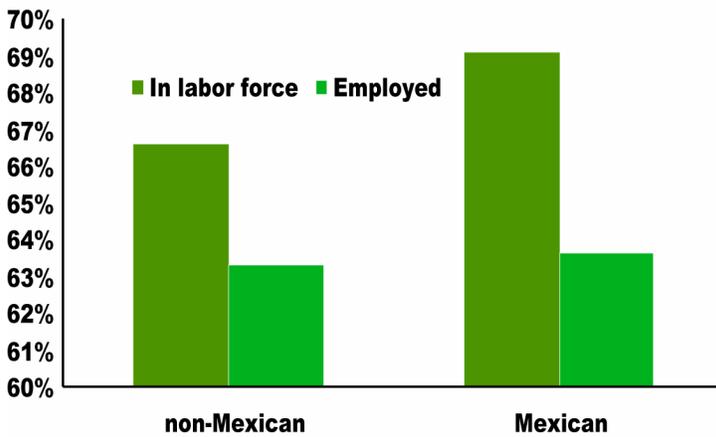
One key conclusion arises from the data on household size.

- 1) The typical household arrangement in the U.S. is changing rapidly, becoming less “typical” by the day. Mexican household arrangements add another layer of diversity to the evolving character of American families and households.

## 2.8 Labor Force and Employment of Mexicans in Indiana

The common perception is that the Mexican population, featuring a sizeable immigrant contingent, is especially likely to work. On the whole, the common belief is true. A slightly greater percentage of the Mexican population is in the labor force than the non-Mexican population. This is shown in Graphic 2-37.

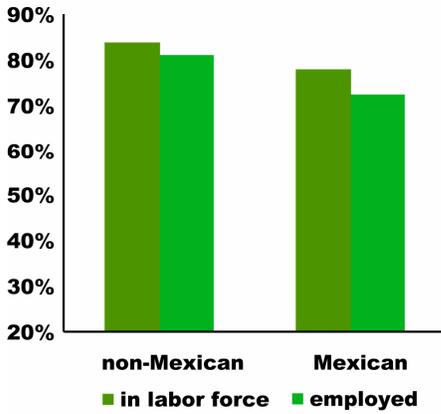
GRAPHIC 2-37. MEXICAN AND NON-MEXICAN LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION AND EMPLOYMENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE 16+ POPULATION, 2000



Source. U.S. Census Bureau

However, age structure drives some of the total labor force participation rates for Mexicans. Graphic 2-39 examines the labor force participation rate and employment-population ratio for 35-44 year old Mexicans and non-Mexicans. At this age, in many ways the peak working ages, Mexicans are less likely to participate in the labor force. It is important to remember, however, that lower levels of educational attainment can be associated with lower levels of labor force participation and higher levels of unemployment.

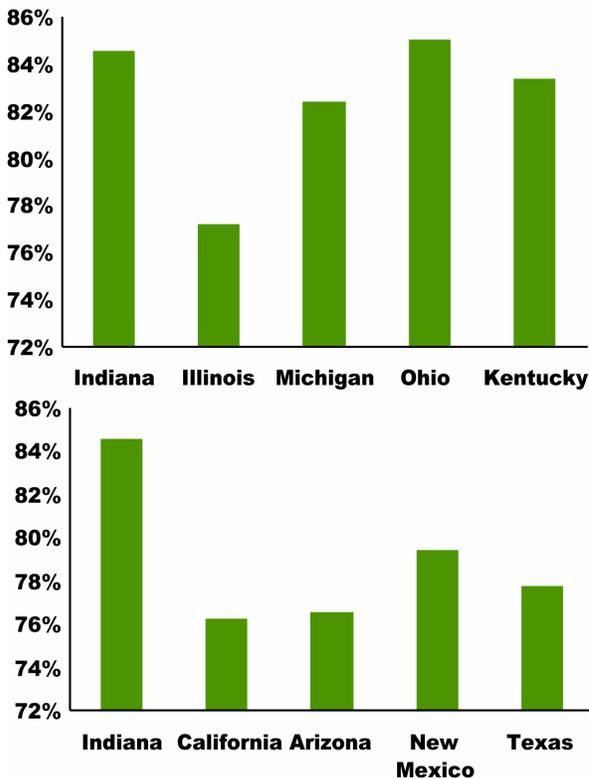
GRAPHIC 2-38. MEXICAN AND NON-MEXICAN  
35-44 YEAR OLD LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION  
AND EMPLOYMENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE  
35-44 YEAR OLD POPULATION



Source. U.S. Census Bureau

While the labor force participation rates of Mexican Hoosiers appear to be lower than that of non-Mexicans, they are nonetheless higher than the rates of Mexicans in other states. Graphics 39a and 39b examine 35-44 year old Mexican male participation rates. Indiana's is higher than all neighboring states' except Ohio. It is significantly higher than the participation rates of Mexicans of this cohort in the Border States.

GRAPHIC 2-39. LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES  
FOR 35-44 YEAR OLD MEXICAN MALES



Source. U.S. Census Bureau

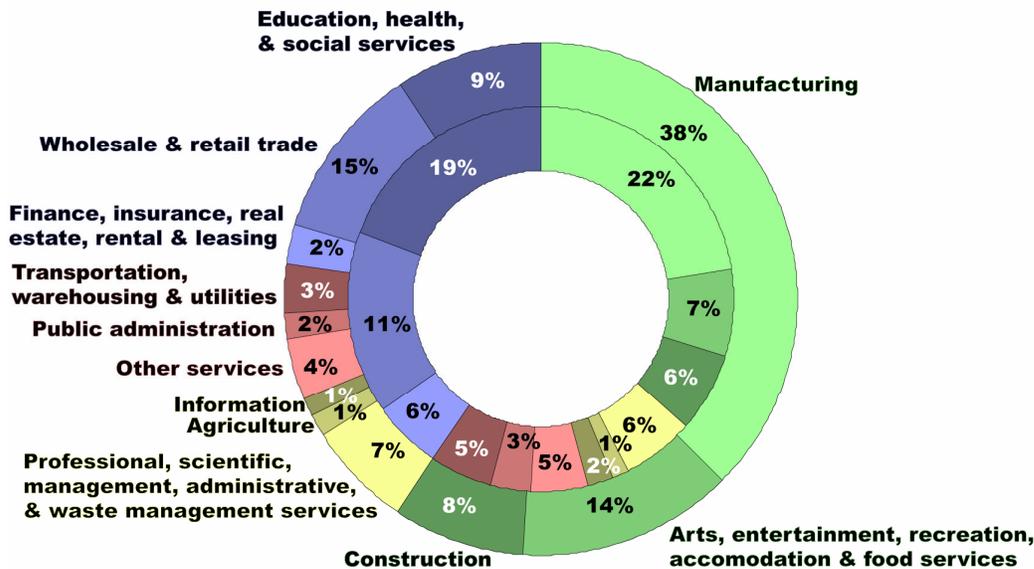
There are two conclusions from the data on labor force participation.

- 1) On the whole, the Mexican population is active in the labor force, though it could be improved in the prime working years.
- 2) Employment rates for Mexicans are lower than for their non-Mexican counterparts.

## 2.9 Employment by Industry and Occupation for Mexicans in Indiana

Perhaps no set of data more challenges the conventionally held perception about Mexicans than industry-level employment. While the belief of many is that Mexican workers cluster in agriculture, retail, and food or personal services, the most common job held by Mexican Hoosiers is in manufacturing. Thirty-eight percent of Mexicans worked in manufacturing in 2000. In contrast, only 22 percent of the non-Mexican population held manufacturing jobs. Agriculture is actually the one industry in which an equivalent share of Mexicans and non-Mexicans work: 1 percent.

GRAPHIC 2-40. EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY FOR THE MEXICAN AND NON-MEXICAN POPULATION, 2000



Source. U.S. Census Bureau

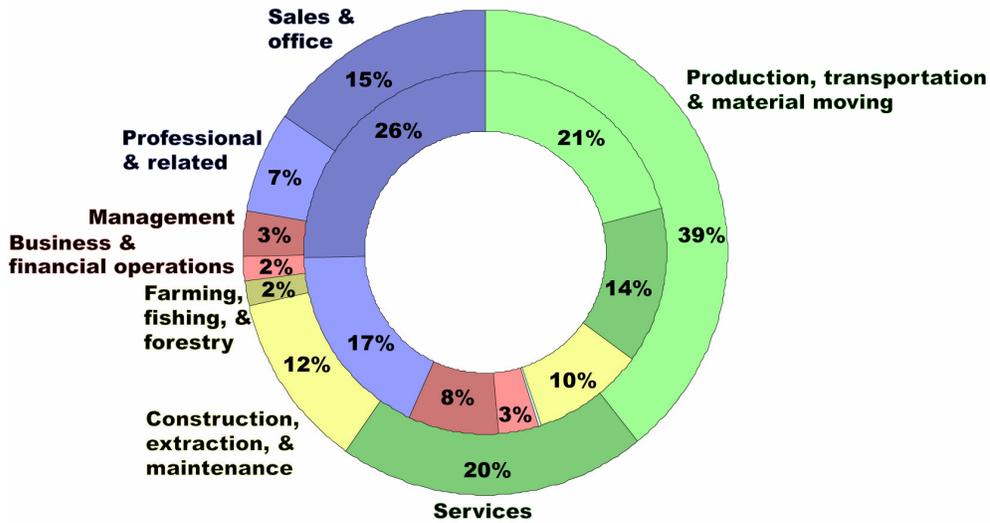
Note. The Mexican population comprises the outer ring

The popular perception is not totally off the mark, however. Mexican Hoosiers are more likely to work in arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services (14 percent versus 7 percent) and professional, scientific, management, administrative & waste management services (7 percent versus 6 percent). Additionally, Mexican residents of Indiana are more likely to work in construction (8 percent versus 6 percent), as is becoming true throughout the nation.

Due to their over-representation in these industries, Mexican Hoosiers are dramatically under-represented in other industries. These include education, health & social services (9 percent versus 19 percent); wholesale and retail trade (11 percent versus 15 percent); finance, insurance, real estate, rental & leasing (2 percent versus 6 percent); transportation, warehousing, and utilities

(3 percent versus 5 percent); public administration (2 percent versus 3 percent); other or unclassified services (4 percent versus 5 percent); and information (1 percent versus 2 percent).

GRAPHIC 2-41. EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION FOR THE MEXICAN AND NON-MEXICAN POPULATIONS, 2000



Source. U.S. Census Bureau  
 Note. The Mexican population comprises the outer ring

As a result of the differences between the industries in which Mexicans and non-Mexicans work, there are large disparities in the occupations held by Mexicans and non-Mexicans. Mexicans are much more likely to work in production, transportation, and material moving occupations (39 percent versus 21 percent); services occupations (20 percent versus 14 percent); construction, extraction, and maintenance jobs (12 percent versus 10 percent); and farming, fishing and forestry occupations (2 percent versus 1 percent).

Non-Mexicans are more likely to work in the remaining occupational clusters: business and financial operations (2 percent versus 3 percent); management occupations (3 percent versus 8 percent); professional and related occupations (7 percent versus 17 percent); and sales and office jobs (15 percent versus 26 percent).

The pattern of occupational employment suggests clearly that Mexican Hoosiers are working jobs farther down the occupational ladder, often regardless of industry. Part of this is to the overall economy's benefit and, indeed, is the very reason many Mexican immigrants and domestic-born Mexicans from elsewhere have come to this state: there is truth to the stereotype that Hispanics do the jobs Americans do not want to do or are too well paid to do.

There is a critical difference, however, between temporarily taking a job that represents an opportunity relative to the jobs available in Mexico and permanently being stuck in a job that represents a dead end relative to the jobs available in the United States. Ensuring a more fluid labor and adult education environment which gives Mexican Hoosiers access to long-term workforce opportunities must be a central focus of the State's workforce and economic development strategies. Similarly, ensuring that low-wage, low-skill jobs do not become a multi-generational legacy of Mexicans who come to Indiana for a better life must be a central focus of the State's educational goals for young Mexicans.

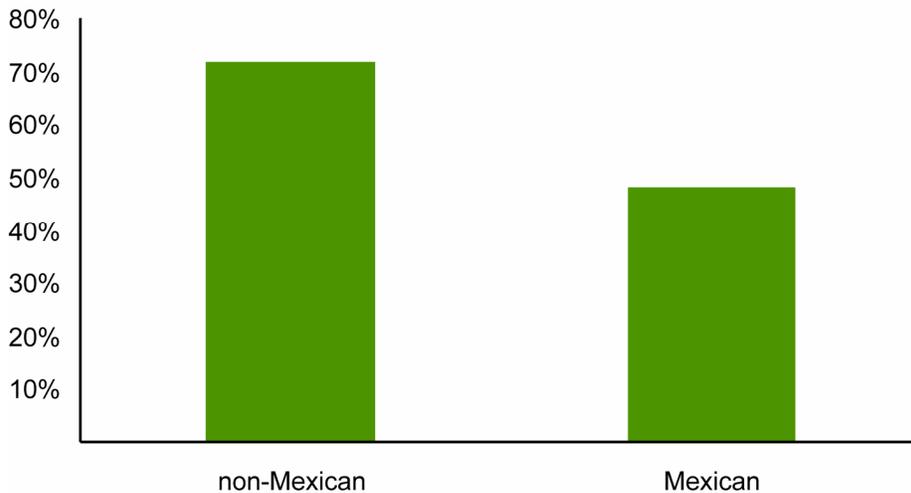
There are two core conclusions that emerge from industrial and occupational employment patterns.

- 1) The types of jobs held by Mexican Hoosiers and the industries in which they are found does not totally match what is often portrayed in media reports about the Mexican community in other parts of the country.
- 2) Despite the slight mismatch between the perception of some and the reality, there is no doubt that a very large share of Mexican Hoosiers work in low-skill, low-wage jobs. There is an undoubted short-term benefit to this fact. Over the medium- and long-term, that state will suffer if the labor market for Mexicans is less dynamic than for non-Mexicans or if generational cycles emerge in the coming decades.

## **2.10 Housing Characteristics for Mexicans in Indiana**

It would probably not be a surprise that a population growing as rapidly as the Mexican Hoosier population would have lower rates of home ownership than their non-Mexican household peers. However, that the ownership rate is as high as it is—approximately half of all Mexican households were owner occupied—may be surprising to some.

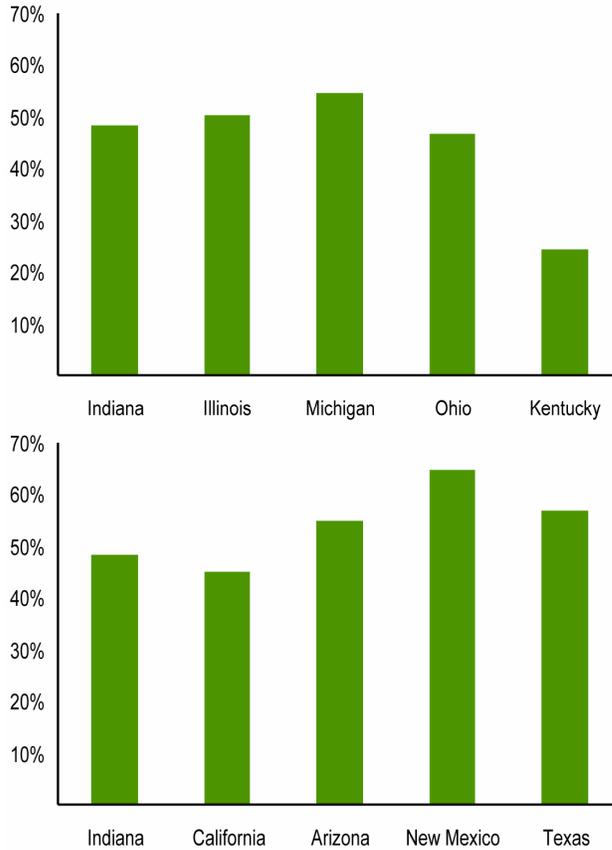
GRAPHIC 2-42. PERCENTAGE OF MEXICAN AND NON-MEXICAN HOUSEHOLDS THAT ARE OWNER-OCCUPIED, 2000



Source. U.S. Census Bureau

That level of home ownership ranked Indiana in the middle of its Midwestern neighbors. Ownership rates were generally higher in the Southwest. Only California, with real estate costs more expensive than any of the other states, had lower rates of ownership than did Indiana. It should be noted, however, that most rates are fairly similar, with only Kentucky appreciably below Indiana's level and only New Mexico and Texas appreciably above it.

GRAPHIC 2-43. OWNER-OCCUPATION RATES FOR MEXICAN HOUSEHOLDS, BY STATE, 2000

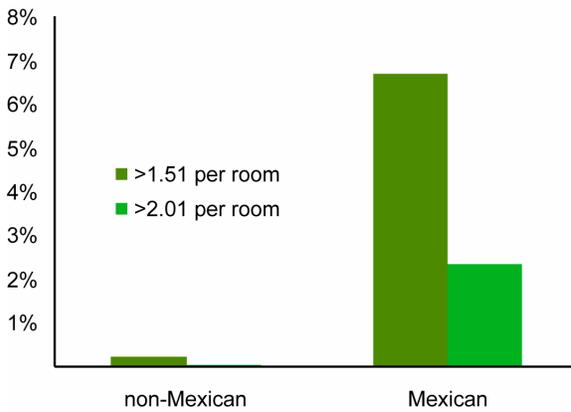


Source. U.S. Census Bureau

The homes that Mexicans do own tend to be more crowded than non-Mexican homes, as demonstrated by Graphic 2-44. Almost no non-Mexican owner-occupied households have more than 1.5 occupants per room. Nearly 7 percent of Mexican households do. The percentage is certainly low in each case, and crowding in Mexican owned housing seems much less an issue than in Mexican rented housing. This is shown by Graphic 2-46.

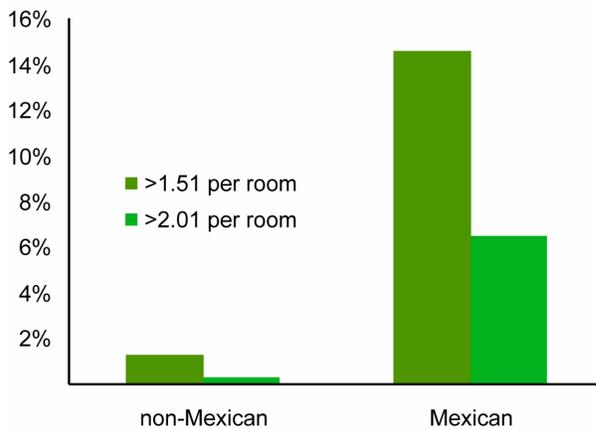
Approximately one in one hundred non-Mexican renter-occupied households have more than 1.5 individuals per room. For Mexican rented households, the ratio is more like one in seven. Six percent of Mexican renter-occupied households have more than two individuals per room.

GRAPHIC 2-44. PERCENTAGE OF OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSEHOLDS WITH MORE THAN 1.5 AND MORE THAN 2.0 OCCUPANTS PER ROOM, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

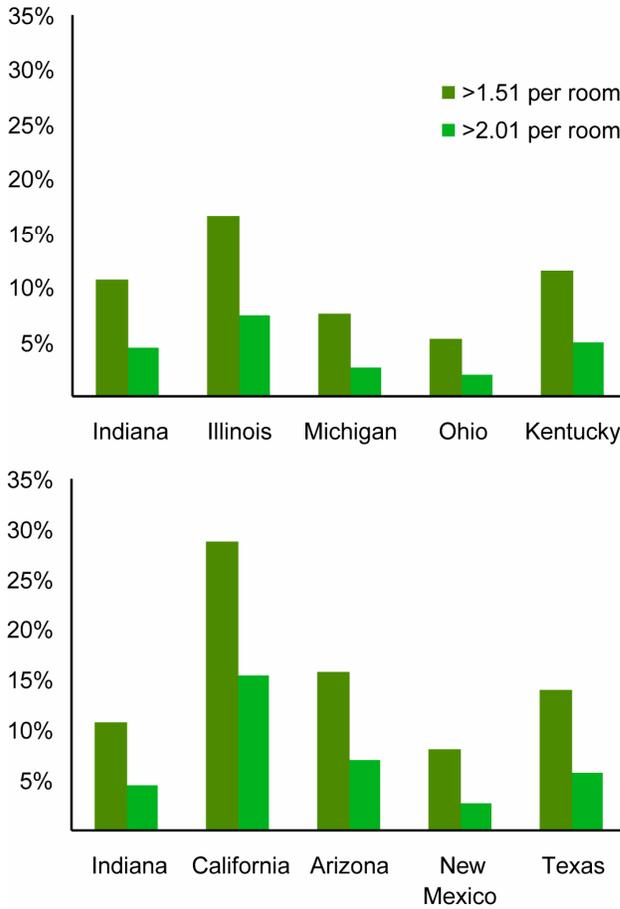
GRAPHIC 2-45. PERCENTAGE OF RENTER-OCCUPIED HOUSEHOLDS WITH MORE THAN 1.5 AND MORE THAN 2.0 OCCUPANTS PER ROOM, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

That rate of density per room ranks Indiana about in the middle of its Midwestern neighbors and the Border States. Mexican housing is more crowded in Illinois and Kentucky but less crowded in Michigan and Ohio. Conditions are more cramped in Arizona and Texas and, especially, California but are roomier in New Mexico.

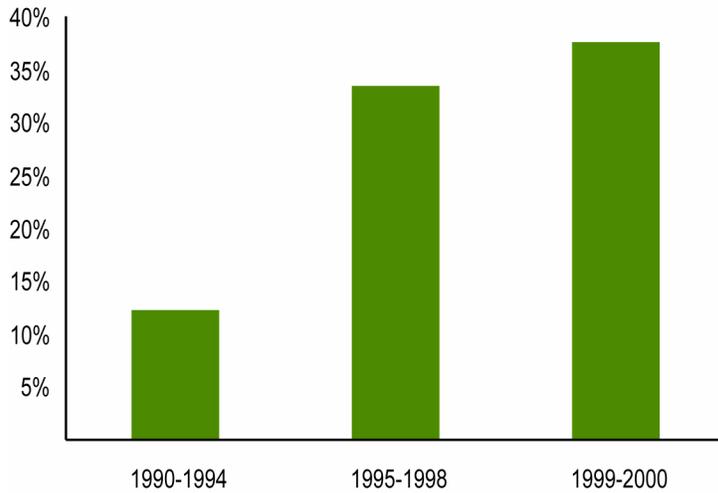
GRAPHIC 2-46. PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH MORE THAN 1.5 AND MORE THAN 2.0 OCCUPANTS PER ROOM, BY STATE, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

As would be expected given the dynamics of the Mexican population, it appears to be highly mobile. In the Year 2000, more Mexican Hoosiers had moved into their current residence in the prior 16 months than had moved in over the four years between 1995 and 1998. Only slightly more had moved into their current residence in the nine years between 1990 and 1998 than moved in between 1999 and April of 2000.

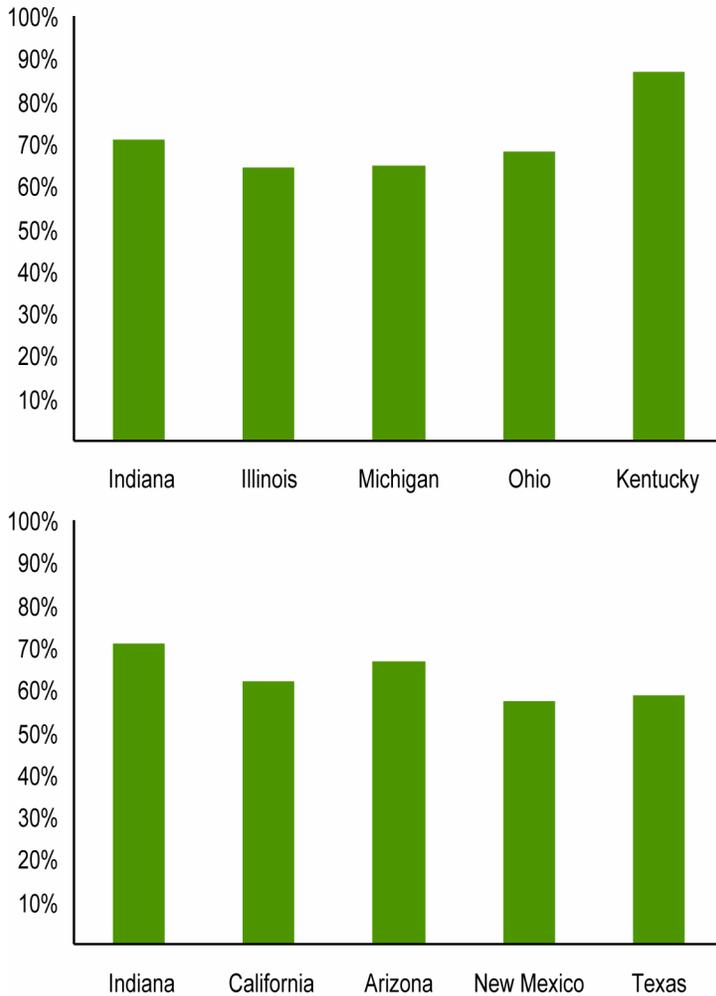
GRAPHIC 2-47. SHARE OF MEXICAN HOUSEHOLDS THAT MOVED INTO THEIR YEAR 2000 -OCCUPIED UNIT BY YEAR MOVED IN, 2000



Source. U.S. Census Bureau

This rate of mobility is fairly high compared to other states. Of the Midwestern states, only Kentucky, with its large percentage of new immigrants, had a higher percentage of Mexicans who had moved into their Year 2000 residence between 1995 and 2000 than did Indiana. No Border State had a higher rate than Indiana.

GRAPHIC 2-48. SHARE OF MEXICAN HOUSEHOLDS THAT MOVED INTO THEIR YEAR 2000 -OCCUPIED UNIT BY BETWEEN 1995 AND 2000, BY STATE



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Three conclusions arise from the data on home ownership and rental arrangements.

- 1) Mexican Hoosiers' rates of home ownership are lower than non-Mexicans but are higher than many might assume.
- 2) Mexican households that are renting face relatively crowded conditions.
- 3) Indiana's Mexican population appears to be especially mobile, which has important implications for public policy. For example, high mobility is known to negatively effect student achievement. Additionally, building community capital is more difficult.

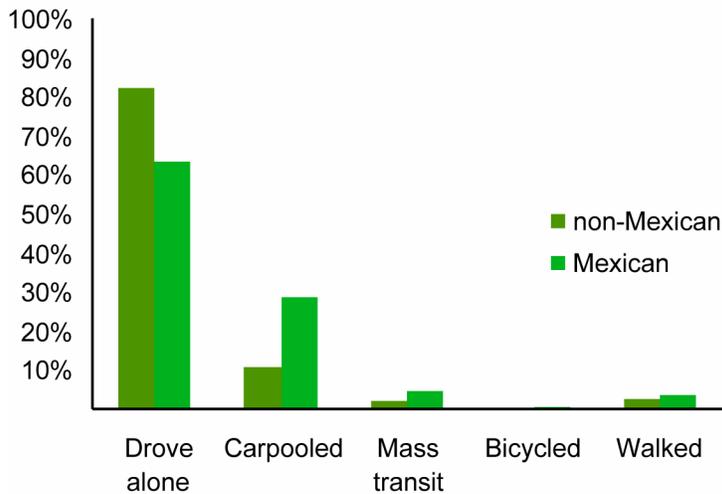
## 2.11 Transportation for Mexicans in Indiana

One of the issues affecting workforce and economic development is transportation. It is often overlooked; however, absent robust mass transit offerings, access to an automobile is critical to participating in a dynamic labor market.

This is always a worry when considering poorer, lower-skilled populations. Automobiles are expensive to purchase, expensive to maintain, and keeping legal ability to drive them involves considerable expense as well. This latter issue can be particularly onerous for immigrants.

Fortunately, data suggests that Mexican workers have good access to automobiles in their journeys to work, as shown in Graphic 2-49. Very slightly higher percentages of Mexican Hoosiers than non-Mexicans used public transportation, walked, or bicycled to work. Most took a car. The chief difference between the two populations was in the extent to which they drove to work alone or carpooled. Nearly 30 percent of Mexican workers carpooled while only slightly more than 10 percent of non-Mexican workers did. Still, with about the same share of the Mexican labor force possessing access to an automobile as of the non-Mexican labor force, transportation does not appear to be a critical issue confronting Mexicans in Indiana.

GRAPHIC 2-49. TRANSPORTATION TO WORK IN 2000 FOR WORKERS 16 AND OLDER BY PERCENTAGE USING TRANSPORTATION TYPE

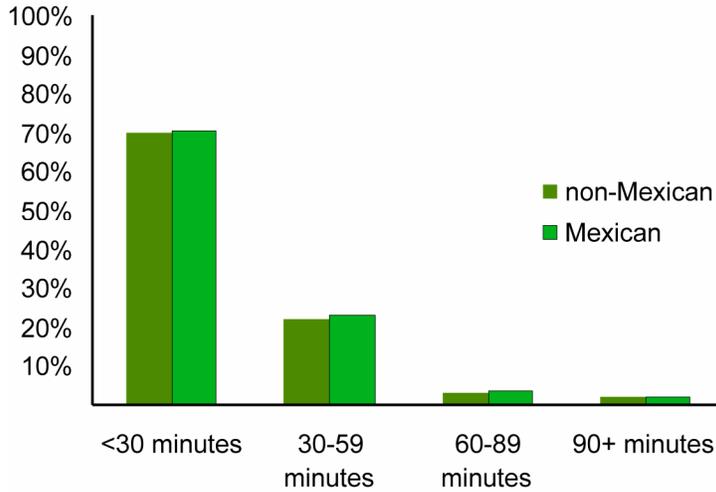


Source. U.S. Census Bureau

Another major challenge that sometimes arises in providing job opportunities for lower-skilled populations is the amount of time it takes to journey to work. Long journeys have any number of implications—greater risk of missing or being late to work, deleterious effects on family life—that may need addressed in the policy arena.

However, there are almost no differences in the amount of time taken by Mexican Hoosiers to travel to work versus the amount of time taken by non-Mexican Hoosiers. This is shown in Graphic 2-50.

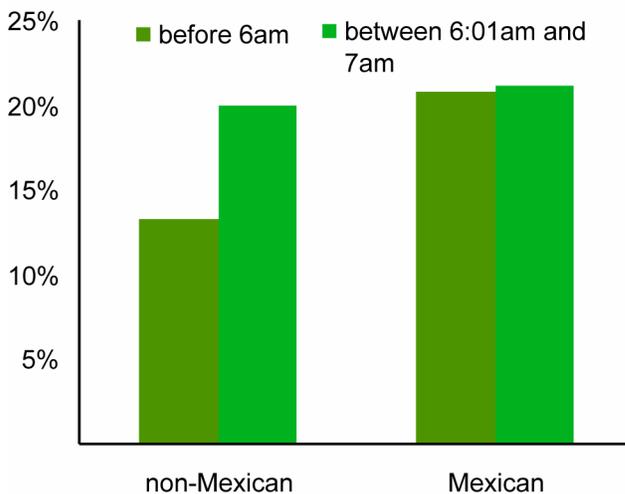
GRAPHIC 2-50. TRAVEL TIME TO WORK IN 2000 FOR WORKERS 16 AND OLDER



Source. U.S. Census Bureau

Another major consideration is when individuals must leave for work. A particularly early departure time can create family pressures, reduce labor market flexibility for spouses or partners, and lead to difficulties for children. In this respect, the data is less encouraging. A higher percentage of Mexican Hoosiers must leave for work by 6 a.m. This is not unexpected for a population with a large share of low-skill workers. It nonetheless poses a challenge.

GRAPHIC 2-51. TIME LEAVING FOR WORK IN THE YEAR 2000 FOR WORKERS 16 AND OLDER



Source. U.S. Census Bureau

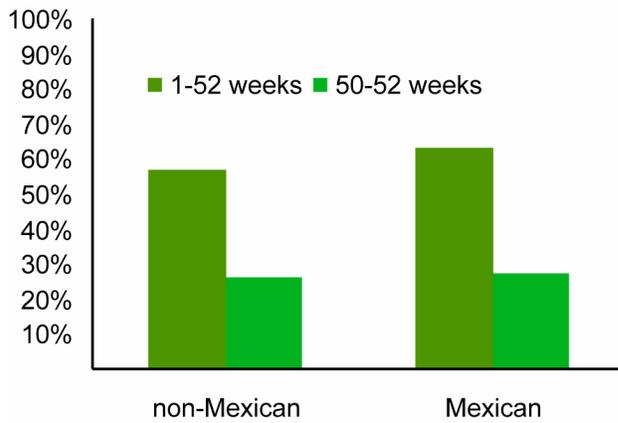
Two key conclusions are apparent in the data on transportation.

- 1) There will always be policy discussions about transportation—whether to fund better mass transit, whether to build more roads, etc. There is nothing about the growth in the Mexican population that holds a particular bearing on these general discussions.
- 2) The key difference between Mexican and non-Mexican Hoosiers is the greater percentage that must leave very early for work. Even then, the gap between the two populations is hardly vast.

## 2.12 Work Context

Mexican workers in Indiana are more likely than non-Mexicans to work full time. Nearly two-thirds reported working 35 or more hours per week. However, a nearly equal proportion of Mexicans and non-Mexicans worked full-time year round. This hints at an important underlying dynamic in the structure of work for Mexican Hoosiers: a large share work multiple part-time jobs. As will be examined in later charts, this has profound implications on the incomes received by Mexicans and non-Mexicans.

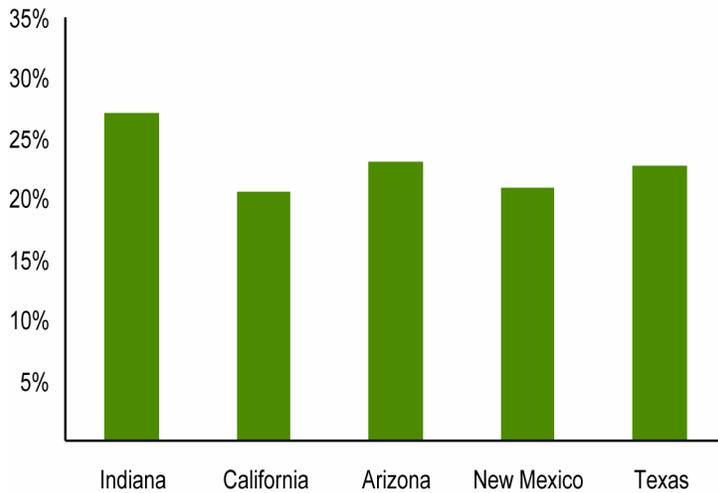
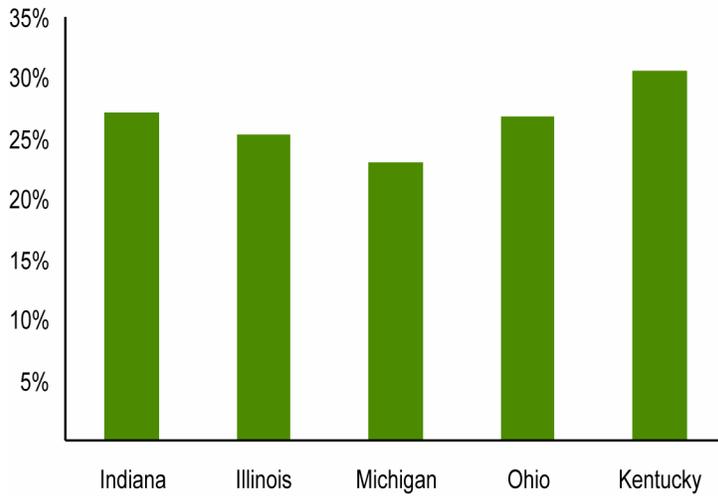
GRAPHIC 2-52. SHARE OF THE 16 AND OLDER POPULATION IN 1999 WHO WORKED 35+ HOURS PER WEEK BY WEEKS WORKED



Source. U.S. Census Bureau

The opportunity for Mexicans to work full-time, if not necessarily in a single full-time job, appears to be better here in Indiana than in other states. The share working at least 35 hours per week year-round was roughly the same in Ohio as in Indiana, and was greater in Kentucky. But the proportion was significantly lower in the Border States.

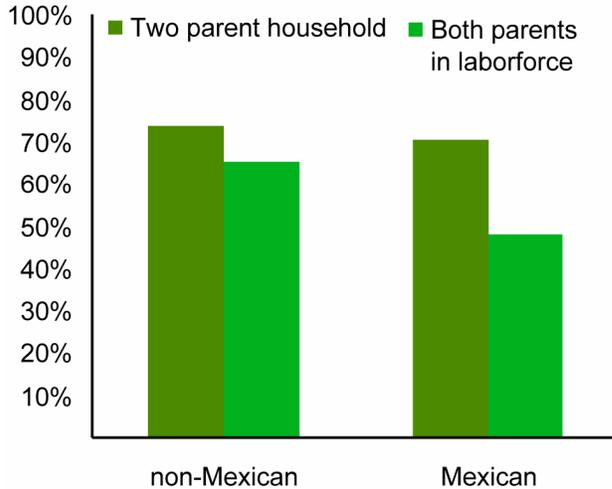
GRAPHIC 2-53. PERCENTAGE OF THE 16 AND OLDER POPULATION WORKING 35+ HOURS PER WEEK FOR 50-52 WEEKS IN 1999, BY STATE



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Graphic 2-54 explores the nature of work and family in the Mexican Hoosier population. It shows the proportion of families that are two-parent families—the proportion is slightly lower for Mexican Hoosiers—and then examines the rate at which both parents in such families participate in the labor force. In this latter respect, there is a large difference between Mexican and non-Mexican families. Two-parent Mexican families are much less likely to have both parents in the labor force than are two-parent non-Mexican families.

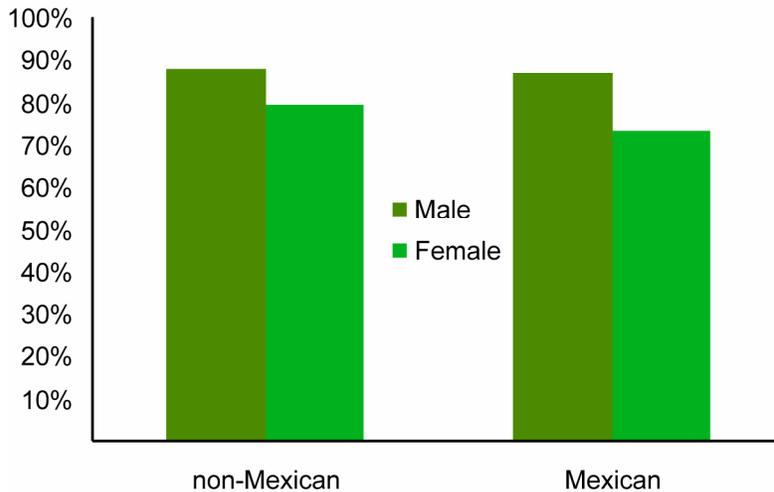
GRAPHIC 2-54. PERCENT OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN IN 2000 THAT WERE TWO-PARENT FAMILIES AND PERCENT OF CHILD-REARING TWO-PARENT FAMILIES IN WHICH BOTH PARENTS ARE IN THE LABOR FORCE



Source. U.S. Census Bureau

The same theme is characteristic of single-parent families. Mexican male family-heads of single-parent families are slightly less likely to be in the labor force than their non-Mexican peers. The gap is larger for female family-heads of single-parent families.

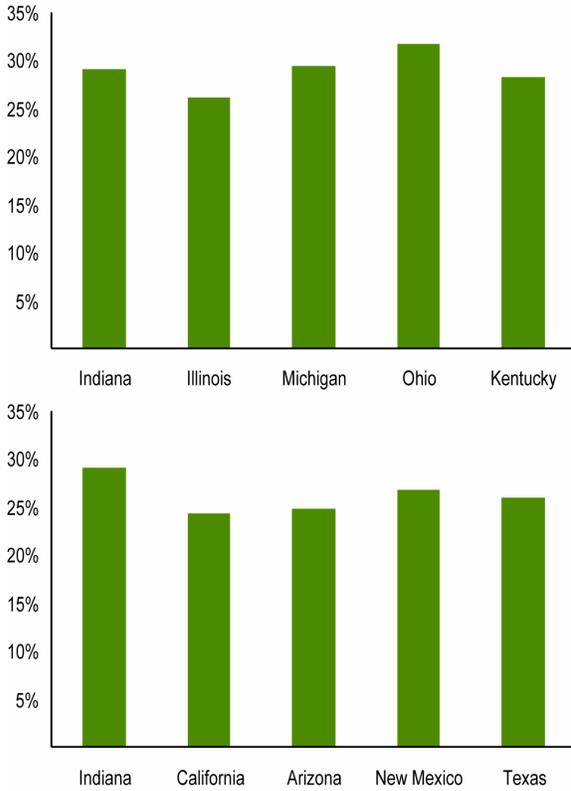
GRAPHIC 2-55. PERCENTAGE OF MALE SINGLE-PARENTS AND FEMALE SINGLE PARENTS IN THE LABOR FORCE, 2000



Source. U.S. Census Bureau

Despite being lower than for non-Mexicans, the rate at which both parents in two-parent Mexican families in Indiana join the labor force is high relative to other states. While Michigan's rates are higher, and Ohio's are significantly higher, Illinois' and Kentucky's are slightly lower. All the Border States' rates are lower.

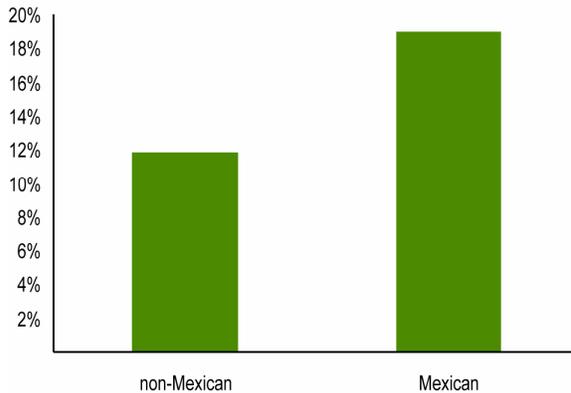
GRAPHIC 2-56. PERCENTAGE OF ALL MEXICAN FAMILIES  
IN 2000 THAT WERE TWO-PARENT FAMILIES IN WHICH  
BOTH PARENTS WORKED



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Graphic 2-57 details a crucial difference between Mexican and non-Mexican families: Mexican families are far more likely to send at least three members out into the workforce. This is consistent with several themes and data findings in this report. The high drop-out rate, for example, would clearly be associated with the alternative of work. The greater number of families with three or more workers helps drive the higher labor force participation rate demonstrated earlier, despite lower rates of participation at the prime working ages.

GRAPHIC 2-57. PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES WITH THREE OR MORE WORKERS IN 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

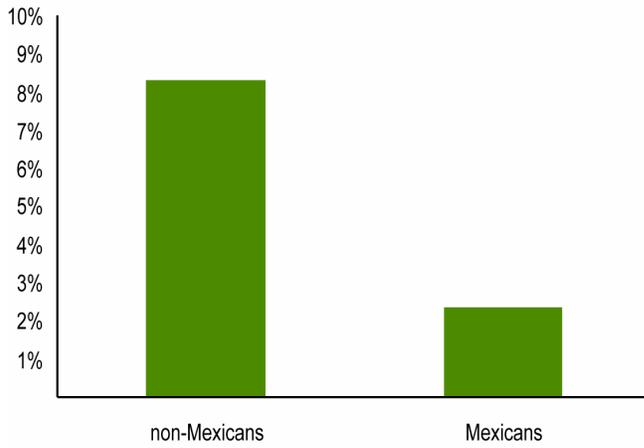
An important issue related to the work context discussion in this section is the rate at which people work for themselves. Entrepreneurship is becoming an increasingly valuable source of economic growth for communities and states. Dynamic economies are associated with high rates of locally-owned new business growth; static economies are not.

It is hardly surprising that Mexican Hoosiers own their own businesses at far lower rates than their non-Mexican entrepreneurial peers, as shown in Graphic 2-58. What may be more surprising to some, and should be viewed with alarm by all, is the degree to which Indiana's rates of Mexican self-employment are lower than any other states, as shown in Graphics 59a and 59b.

The consistently higher rates in the other states kill the notion that Indiana's low rate of Mexican entrepreneurship is solely a function of a new, commonly immigrant population. The foreign-born are more important in the growth of Kentucky's Mexican population, for example, but Kentucky has the highest rate of Mexican entrepreneurship of any Mexican-destination state.

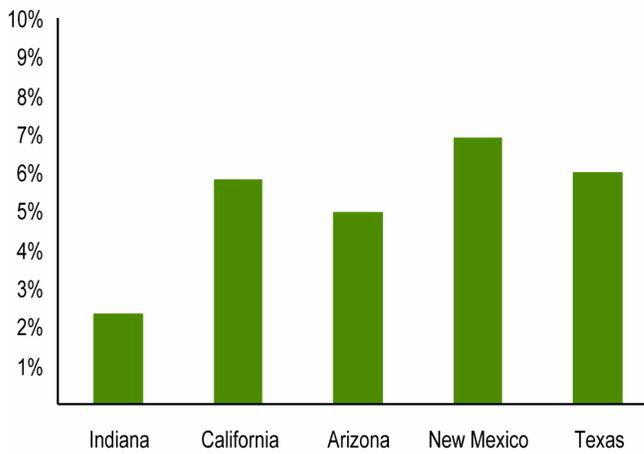
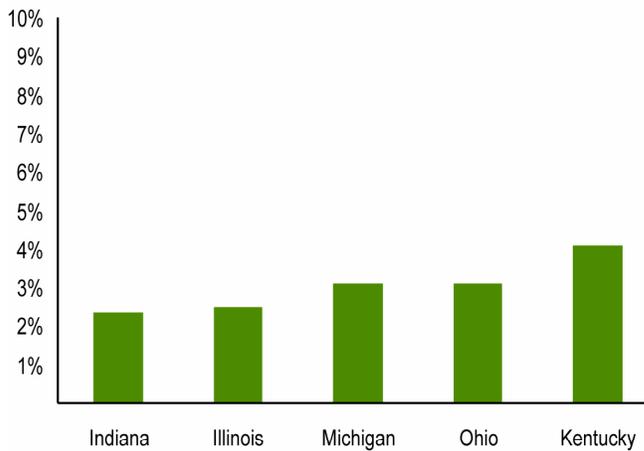
Instead, it appears likely that the low rates of Mexican self-employment are driven by the factors that have been cited as impeding entrepreneurial growth for all Hoosiers. Earlier sections discussed the need to provide mechanisms of opportunity for Mexicans to improve their workforce status. Enhancing entrepreneurship rates must be critical to this effort.

GRAPHIC 2-58. PERCENTAGE OF WORKERS WHO WERE SELF-EMPLOYED IN 2000



Source. U.S. Census Bureau

GRAPHIC 2-59. PERCENTAGE OF MEXICAN WORKERS WHO WERE SELF-EMPLOYED IN 2000, BY STATE



Source. U.S. Census Bureau

The key conclusions that arise from the data in this section are:

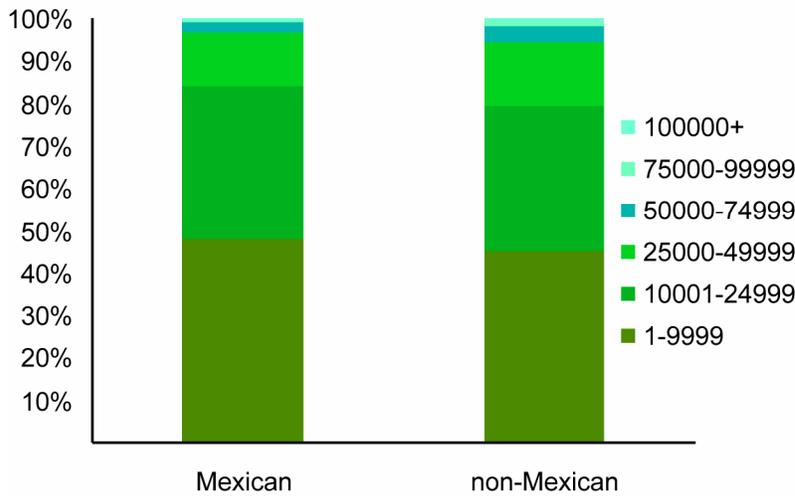
- 1) Mexican Hoosiers average full-time work more often than non-Mexicans. However, they work full-time year-round at roughly equivalent rates. This is largely a function of the difference between the nature of full-time work for Mexicans and non-Mexicans. Full-time hours are more commonly reached by holding multiple part-time jobs in the Mexican workforce. There are enormous implications from this reality, from reduced or non-existent benefits to reduced stability, of which all Hoosiers must be aware.
- 2) Mexican child-rearing family-heads in Indiana are less likely to work than their non-Mexican counterparts. However, overall labor force participation is boosted by other dynamics that make families with more than two workers more common among Mexicans than non-Mexicans.
- 3) Self-employment among Mexican Hoosiers is worryingly low.

### **2.13 Income for Mexicans in Indiana**

The effects of the issues discussed in the prior pages of this report reveal themselves strongly in the incomes earned by Mexican Hoosiers. That these incomes are lower is no surprise and can be understood by the most direct figure. Per capita income in 1999 for non-Mexicans was \$20,605. For Mexicans, the figure was \$12,315.

The data do not suggest that this disparity is driven by biased wages. Graphic 2-60 displays the incomes received by part-time Mexican and non-Mexican workers. A slightly higher share of Mexican part-time workers made less than \$10,000 dollars in 1999 than did non-Mexicans part-time workers. A higher percentage of non-Mexicans made relatively large incomes for part-time work. The differences were not vast, however.

GRAPHIC 2-60. COMPOSITION OF THE NON-FULL-TIME WORKFORCE BY INCOME CATEGORY, 1999

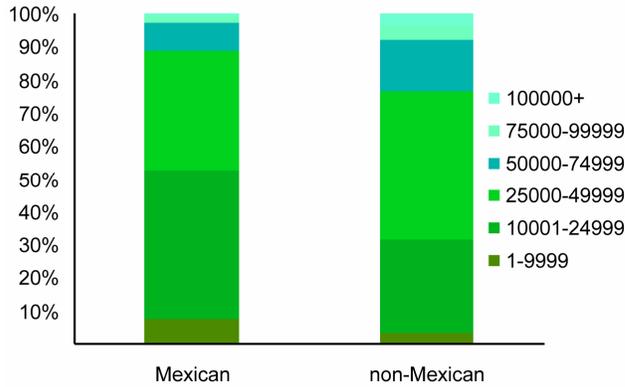


Source. U.S. Census Bureau

Where vast differences between Mexican and non-Mexican workers do emerge is in the remuneration received for full-time work. This is shown in Graphic 2-61. Less than half of Mexican full-time workers earned at least \$25,000 in income. More than two-thirds of non-Mexican full-time workers did. Just more than 10 percent of Mexican full-time workers earned more than \$50,000 in income. Just less than 25 percent of non-Mexican full-time workers did.

Part of the disparity is occupationally driven. Mexican Hoosiers are more rarely found at the top of the occupational and income ladder. The disparity is also driven by the dynamic through which full-time Mexican work is actually often the product of multiple part-time jobs. These part-time jobs do not necessarily pay Mexicans worse than non-Mexicans, as Graphic 2-60 shows. But two-part time jobs often do pay worse than one full-time job. This is part of the lesson in Graphic 2-61.

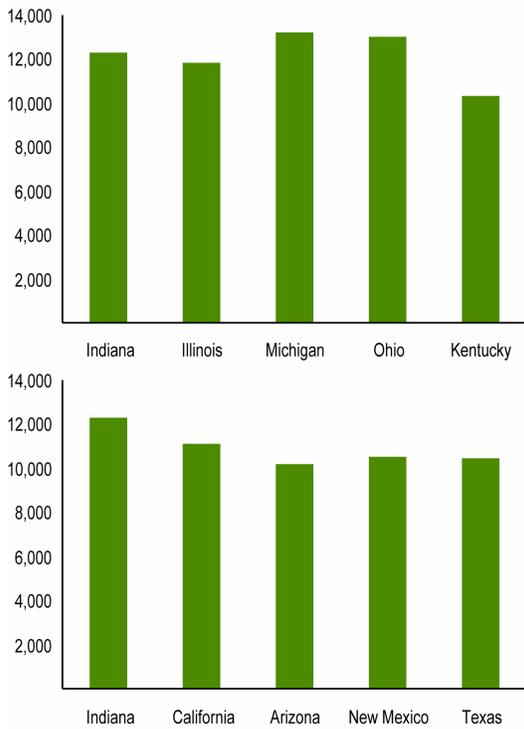
GRAPHIC 2-61. COMPOSITION OF THE FULL-TIME WORKFORCE BY INCOME CATEGORY, 1999



Source. U.S. Census Bureau

The result of these disparities is the difference in per capita income cited at the beginning of this section. While it may be hard to take any comfort in that disparity, per capita income for the Mexican population in Indiana does compare favorably with other states. In the Midwest, Indiana ranks between Michigan and Ohio with higher incomes and Illinois and Kentucky with lower incomes. Indiana's per capita Mexican income is significantly higher than any of the Border States. As later sections will show, Indiana's cost of living is also significantly less than many of these states. So long as Indiana's Mexican incomes are relatively high, then, the State may fairly expect to see growth in its Mexican population that is relatively high.

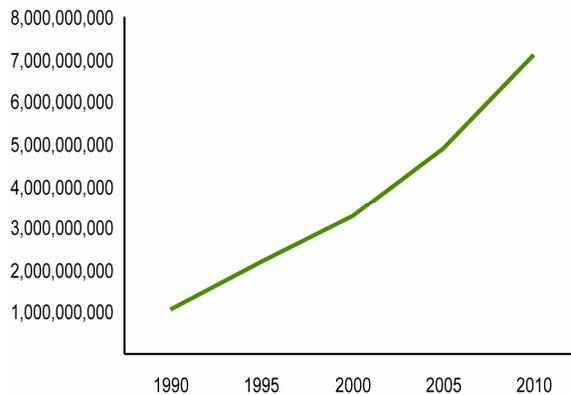
GRAPHIC 2-62. PER CAPITA INCOME OF THE MEXICAN POPULATION BY STATE, 1999



Source. U.S. Census Bureau

Remembering the growth in the Mexican population is important when considering the full effects of the income data discussed in this section. Incomes are much lower among Mexican Hoosiers but population growth is much higher. The result is rapidly accumulating buying power, as shown in Graphic 2-63.

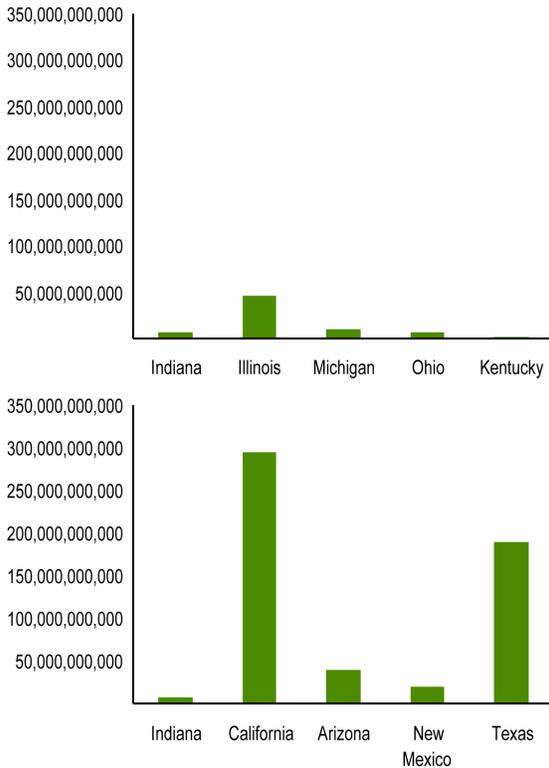
GRAPHIC 2-63. HISPANIC BUYING POWER IN INDIANA, 1990-2010



Source. U.S. Census Bureau, Selig Center for Economic Growth/  
University of Georgia, Sagamore Institute for Policy Research  
Note. Datapoint for 1995 is a linear interpolation of 1990-2000 trend

While data showing Mexican-only buying power is not available, this report estimates that Mexicans contributed 69 percent of Hispanic buying power in the Year 2000. For Hispanics as a whole, buying power grew by 212 percent between 1990 and 2000, from approximately \$1 billion dollars to \$3.3 billion. Between 2000 and 2010, Hispanic buying power is projected to increase by a further 117 percent, from \$3.3 billion in 2000 to \$4.9 billion in 2005 to \$7.1 billion in 2010. Due to population growth, Mexicans will contribute an ever growing share of this accumulating fuel for Indiana's economic growth.

GRAPHIC 2-64. PROJECTED YEAR 2010  
 HISPANIC BUYING POWER BY STATE



Source. U.S. Census Bureau

The accelerating growth of Hispanic and Mexican buying power in Indiana still does not put Indiana in the same stratosphere as states with larger Hispanic populations. Compared to its Midwest neighbors, Indiana’s position is expected to rank in the middle. Year 2010 Hispanic buying power in Indiana—\$7.1 billion—is projected to rank ahead of Ohio’s \$6.4 billion and below Michigan’s \$10.3 billion. However, compared to the more than one-half trillion dollars in projected buying power in the Southwest—led by California’s \$294 billion—Indiana’s Hispanics have a lot of catching up to do.

There are several important conclusions from the data on income and buying power.

- 1) Mexican incomes are less than non-Mexicans. This is clearly a product of occupational disparities and work structure.
- 2) Mexican Hoosier incomes appear to be relatively high compared to those of Mexicans in other states. This should guarantee a continued, if possibly accelerated, flow of Mexicans into Indiana in the years ahead.
- 3) Through sheer force of population growth, Hispanic and, by extension, Mexican buying power is rapidly accumulating in Indiana, to over \$4 billion by 2005. The more the State can improve occupational and job-structure opportunities to its Mexican residents, the more their buying power will increase beyond current projections.

<sup>i</sup> Roger Lowenstein, “The Immigration Equation,” *The New York Times Magazine* July 9 2006.