

2021 Allegheny County Latinx Community Needs Assessment

Overview

The Latinx population of Allegheny County is growing fast. It is important to understand this community's demographics, geographic locations, and how our social, health and human services systems are and are not meeting their needs, so we can strengthen families and advance the health and wellness that are crucial to supporting the local Latinx community.

In 2016, the Latino Family Center and Casa San Jose conducted a study of the Latinx community in Allegheny County. Since then, the Latinx population has grown and changed. In order to better understand the diversity of this community and its needs, in 2020 the Latinx community asked Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) to commission a new study. In 2021, a needs assessment was conducted by Metis Associates Inc., which was awarded the contract in January 2021 through a competitive solicitation process. The needs assessment, which is available in Spanish and English, was published in January 2022.

Read the full report here:



**Allegheny County
Department of
Human Services**

Created by the Office of Equity and Engagement
January 2022

Timeline



Key Findings



The Latinx population of Allegheny County is growing fast.

Allegheny County grew by 2% between 2010 and 2020. By contrast, the Latinx population (those classified as Hispanic or Latino by the Census Bureau) grew by 80% or 34,325 people in the latest Decennial Census.



The population is diverse racially, ethnically, and in terms of where they reside within the County.

Between 2010 and 2020, the Latinx population increased in all areas of the County, particularly in northern, western, and southern suburbs.

Hola

Greater language access is needed.

Community members asked for more services provided directly in Spanish, more consistent and readily available translation of written materials and interpretation services, and greater access to classes for learning English.



Clearer information about government services is required.

The community wants more centralized information about the services that are available.



Residents mostly experience bias and exclusion in institutional forms.

The types of racism and ethnic bias that emerged most frequently across the focus groups related to finances, employment, and immigration-related court services.



Many of the services that are most needed in the community include the provision of basic needs.

The community is calling for more food banks, cash assistance (e.g., rental assistance), help to find jobs, accessible health services (e.g., dental and behavioral health), and culturally responsive services.

Methods

Interviews

Metis Associates Inc. interviewed 12 community leaders from the following organizations and sectors:

Pittsburgh Hispanic Development Corp.

University of Pittsburgh Small Business Development Center

Salud Para Niños, UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh Public Schools ESL program

Casa San Jose

Latino Community Center

AIU3 Latino Family Center

Xion Church

Mooncrest Neighborhood Programs

Focus Groups

Focus groups were assembled with the help of community members who were trained as facilitators and notetakers. There were nine focus groups with 92 people represented from the following groups:

A community knitting group that meets regularly in association with Casa San Jose;

Adults connected with Latino Community Center;

Parents connected with Allegheny Intermediate Unit

Middle-school-age students associated with Casa San Jose;

High-school-age students related to the Latino Community Center;

A group of all men;

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people;

A group of people from Mooncrest; and

People associated with the Catholic Church in Beechview.

Service Utilization Analysis

DHS conducted an additional analysis of Latinx public service utilization within Allegheny County, which was released as a data appendix to Metis Associates Inc.'s final report. DHS's analysis looks at participation rates of people identifying as Latinx in the following service areas:



Data revealed that Latinx communities show higher rates of involvement in programs which help young children prepare for school and/or help families with mentoring and support (such as early childhood services and family centers).

At the same time, Latinx communities have lower rates of involvement with child welfare services. For more information about service utilization rates for the Latinx community in Allegheny County, please go to www.alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/Resources/Immigrants-Refugees/More-about-Immigrants-and-Internationals.aspx.