

Demographic Changes, Latino Workers, and Barriers to Integration: The View from Nebraska
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The main purpose of this presentation is to look at the main barriers inhibiting full economic and societal integration of Latino workers and families in midwestern states such as Nebraska. The presentation begins with an overview of Nebraska's current and most significant demographic changes, especially the growth of the Latino population in rural and urban areas as well as labor markets. It is a well known fact that a significant proportion of Latino workers in the Midwest are concentrated in a small set of industrial niches, particularly food and meat processing. The presentation seeks to highlight what has changed and what has stayed the same since the early 1990s when these workers first arrived to work in such industries in visibly higher numbers, and as they have tried to establish roots in their respective receiving communities. The presentation is largely based on data recently collected for a study on the integration of Latin workers to Nebraska.