LATINO IMMIGRATION IN NORTH CAROLINA: A DEMOGRAPHIC AND SPATIAL OVERVIEW

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Latinos in the I-85 Corridor: Shifting Geographies of Educational Opportunity
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Presentation Outline

- 21st Century Demographic Framework
- North Carolina and the Nuevo South
- Remaking North Carolina
- Latino Settlement and Place-Making: Myths and Reality
America’s 21st Century Demographic Frame

- 2005-2050, U.S. population grow (48%) 438 million
- 82% growth immigrants and their descendants
- Foreign-Born Population in 2014
  - Mexico (28%)
  - China (5.7%)
  - India (4.8%)
  - Philippines (4.5%)
  - Vietnam (3.1%)
  - El Salvador (3.1%)
  - Cuba (2.7%)
### Changing Geography for Hispanic Americans, 2000-2014
(National Change 42.24%)

#### “Traditional” Hispanic States
(percentage total population, 2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### New Hispanic Destination States
(rank) *percentage change*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Dakota</td>
<td>201%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Dakota</td>
<td>180%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>175%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>166%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>165%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>149%</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>145%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>140%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>136%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>125%</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hispanic Population Geography in North Carolina, 2014

- Three Settlement Nodes
  - Military Base Counties (1970s-1980s)
  - Rural-Agricultural Counties (1980s-present)
  - Urban Counties (1990s–future)
## 2000-2014 Trend: Hispanic North Carolinians are Urban

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Hispanic Population</th>
<th>Percentage Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mecklenburg (1)</td>
<td>128,473</td>
<td>(25.5%/20.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wake (2)</td>
<td>99,706</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forsyth (4)</td>
<td>46,066</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durham (6)</td>
<td>39,332</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guilford (3)</td>
<td>39,139</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland (5)</td>
<td>35,801</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnston (13)</td>
<td>24,257</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union (8)</td>
<td>23,948</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onslow (12)</td>
<td>22,678</td>
<td>(51.4%/41.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Statewide</strong></td>
<td><strong>894,276</strong></td>
<td><strong>(9%)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 Population Estimates*
Recent Hispanic Migration Streams to Charlotte

- Rural to urban migration (Southern roots)
  - slowing in rural manufacturing and labor intensive agricultural work
  - broader opportunity base in urban areas

- Out-migration from traditional immigrant gateways (New York City, Los Angeles, Houston, Chicago)
  - economic opportunities
  - discrimination and political tension over immigration
  - declining quality of life

- Direct international immigration
  - poverty, social and political exclusion, lack of access to mechanisms for upward mobility, etc. … push people to leave place of birth
Why Charlotte?

- Economy
  - growing service-based economy
  - need for both workers across occupational spectrum
  - Bank of America phenomenon (early 1990s turning point)

- Landscape of Opportunity
  - entrepreneurship encouraged
  - year-round employment
  - female employment opportunities

- Welcoming
  - Charlotte: little immigration history or experience
  - expansive labor market
  - Immigration non-political issue
Charlotte’s Transformation from Old South to New South

Charlotte population by race/ethnicity

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census and American Community Survey 1-year estimates
Foreign Born from Latin America
Mecklenburg County Census Tracts, 2014

Number Foreign Born from Latin America
- 0 - 100
- 101 - 300
- 301 - 500
- 501 - 1000
- 1001 - 2452

Data: ACS 5-year estimates, 2014
Implications and Trends for Charlotte

- Immigrants are positive agents of change
  - revitalization of business and residential districts
  - maintenance of property values
  - growing entrepreneurial activity
  - supporting global business activity

- Immigrants create problems
  - costs of service provision
  - job competition
  - ethnic and racial tensions
  - spaces and places of identity

- 2005 Mayor’s Immigrant Study Commission
- 2013 Immigrant Integration Task Force
PowerPoint Presentation is available at: www.mseap.uncc.edu/presentations