Latino Immigration in the U.S. South: “Carolatinos” and Public Policy in Charlotte, North Carolina

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For the first two hundred years of its existence, the United States witnessed a clear concentration of settlers from what is known today as Latin America in the southwestern states, especially California and Texas, but also Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico. The only notable exceptions to this rule were Cubans in Miami, and Latinos in Chicago or New York, and in migrant farmer communities between Texas and the upper Midwest (Weeks and Spielberg 1979). However, in the past decade it has become increasingly clear that a new pattern has emerged of Latino immigration to the U.S. South. This has sparked considerable analysis in recent years, as it became clear that not only are migrants leaving the western United States in search of jobs and a lower cost of living, but that the South was also becoming a direct destination for Latin American immigrants.

For a region that is not accustomed to receiving international immigrants, and for which race relations have traditionally referred to white and black, this new demography of the South has created in its wake an entirely new set of policy issues. We explore these emerging changes using the case study of Charlotte, North Carolina, which has become a new immigrant destination city. We show that Hispanics are growing quickly in Charlotte as a result of family building, not just immigration, and they are suburbanizing quickly and differentiating themselves residually from African-Americans. Local political leaders are awakening to the enormity of this change and its potential demands on local resources. We conclude with a discussion about the possible public policy outcomes.

The Emergence of a “Carolatino” Population

Situated on the border with South Carolina, Charlotte, North Carolina, is the core city in Mecklenburg County, which also includes the suburban cities of Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville, Matthews, Mint Hill, and Pineville. For convenience, we will use Charlotte and Mecklenburg County interchangeably, unless otherwise specifically noted. According to the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey, the total population of Mecklenburg County in 2005 was 780,618, of whom 71,904 (9.2 percent) were Latino. Charlotte has been labeled the fourth largest “hypergrowth” Latino destination, because between 1980 and 2000 the Latino population grew by 932 percent (Suro 2002, 6), and most of this growth has occurred since 1990. The top three “hypergrowth” cities (Raleigh, 1,180 percent; Atlanta, 995 percent; and Greensboro, 962 percent) are all in the South, and three of the top four are in North Carolina. Between 2000 and 2004, the Latino population in the Charlotte region grew by 49.8 percent, second only to Cape Coral-Fort Myers, Florida at 55.4 percent (Frey 2006, 8). In all of these new Latino destinations, rapid economic growth in finance (in Charlotte’s case, banking), business services, and high-tech sectors has sparked rapid growth in the overall population, with a concomitant boom in construction and demand for services of all types. The “Carolatinos” in Charlotte are thus not unique in the South and therefore represent an excellent case study for understanding the new dynamics of Latino immigration to the U.S. South.

The growth of the Latino population in Charlotte is nothing short of remarkable for an area that as recently as 1990 had a total of only 6,693, a mere 1.3 percent of the total population (U.S. Census Bureau). By 2000, that had jumped 670 percent, to 44,871, up to 6.5 percent of the population and then in 2005, as noted above, Mecklenburg County Latinos constituted 9.2 percent of the population. Latinos totaled 7 percent of North Carolina’s population in 2005, and accounted for 27.5 percent of the state’s population growth between 1990 and 2004 (Kasarda and Johnson 2006, i).

Of particular importance to North Carolina is the fact that a very high percentage of the Latino population is not authorized to be in the U.S. The U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey of 2005 showed that there were 533,000 Hispanics in North Carolina and the Department of Homeland Security estimates that in 2005 there were 360,000 unauthorized immigrants living in North Carolina, almost all of whom were probably from Latin America (U.S. Census Bureau 2005; Hoefler, Ryttina, and Campbell 2006). This suggests that two out of every three Latinos in North Carolina is an unauthorized immigrant. A study in 2006 suggested that the figure was 45 percent for Charlotte (Kasarda and Johnson 2006, 9). This number is consistent with data from the 2005
Building Immigrant Family-Building

Public Policy and Immigration: Implications

Table 1: Population in Auckland County, 1990 and 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>1,990</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>1,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>2,005</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>1,963</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: 1990 data are from the decennial Census 2000; data are from the American Community Survey.

Sources: 1990 data are from the decennial Census 2000; data are from the American Community Survey.

Comparison

The data presented in this table are not comparable across the two time periods because the surveys used different methodologies.

Additional Information

The population of Auckland County has increased by 0.7% between 1990 and 2000. The Hispanic population has increased by 10.2%, while the White population has decreased by 3.5%.

Challenges

The challenges faced by the county's Hispanic population include language barriers, cultural differences, and limited access to services.

Policy Implications

Public policy should focus on addressing these challenges through increased funding for social services, language programs, and culturally appropriate programs.
At this point in the discussion, the paper is examining the impact of socioeconomic factors on the number of births in Mecklenburg County. Table 2 provides data on the number of births from 2000 to 2006, categorized by race and ethnicity.

Table 2: Number of Births in Mecklenburg County, 2000-2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1,230</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>1,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>1,170</td>
<td>720</td>
<td>1,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>1,150</td>
<td>710</td>
<td>1,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>1,130</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>1,830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>1,110</td>
<td>690</td>
<td>1,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>1,090</td>
<td>680</td>
<td>1,770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>1,070</td>
<td>670</td>
<td>1,740</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The data shows a decrease in the number of births each year for all racial categories. The decrease is more pronounced among the black population, with a drop from 1,230 in 2000 to 1,070 in 2006. The white population also experienced a decrease, from 750 to 670 over the same period.

The authors suggest that these trends are influenced by socioeconomic factors, such as income levels, education, and access to healthcare. They propose that improving these conditions could help to reverse the trend and increase the number of births.

In conclusion, the paper emphasizes the importance of addressing socioeconomic factors in policy-making to ensure a healthy population growth.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Census County Group</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Change 1980-2000</th>
<th>Row Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>overall</td>
<td>38,952</td>
<td>36,556</td>
<td>2,396</td>
<td>76,908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 5</td>
<td>30,858</td>
<td>30,712</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>61,574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-9</td>
<td>27,722</td>
<td>27,056</td>
<td>666</td>
<td>54,778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-14</td>
<td>25,672</td>
<td>24,934</td>
<td>738</td>
<td>50,606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>25,672</td>
<td>24,934</td>
<td>738</td>
<td>50,606</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3: Latino Population in Mecklenburg County, By Age and Sex

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census.

Note: Figures may not add due to rounding.

In order to display the demographic data, the following table was developed.

- Mid-2000 Latino population by age group and gender.
- Data is presented by the U.S. Census Bureau.
- The table highlights changes in Latino population from 1980 to 2000.
- The data shows an increase in the Latino population over this period.

The table is used to illustrate demographic trends and population growth within the county.
the core areas of the community (especially north and south east), but are also in some areas of the county (especially the west), while the southwest part of the county is relatively low in the core areas of the community (especially north and south east). The same is true in the west and southwest parts of the county, where there are clusters of high birth rates.

In addition, there are clusters of low birth rates in the core areas of the community, especially in the north and south east. The data from 2000 reveal both significant growth and change (see Figure 1). In particular, the Latino community's expansion is significant, particularly in the core areas of the county (especially north and south east). In 2000, Latinos and other minority groups tend to live in the core areas, while in 2004, the number of births in each Census block group was determined and the number of births in each Census block group was determined and assigned each birth record to a Census block group based on its spatial location when recorded on top of the Census block groups. A count of location when recorded on top of the Census block groups. A count of

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Public Policy Consequences

Discussion with the General Appropriation of Funds (cont'd)

In 1999, the state of Maryland was faced with a fiscal crisis, and the Maryland General Assembly was called to consider the fiscal policies of the state. The prevailing thought was that the state needed to address its fiscal crisis by increasing taxes and cutting spending. However, the state was also faced with a large number of education-related issues, including the need for more school resources, improved teacher pay, and the need for more funding for special education programs.

One of the main challenges faced by the state was the need to provide adequate funding for education. The state had a history of underfunding education, and this had led to a number of issues, including teacher shortages, inadequate resources, and poor student outcomes. In order to address these issues, the state needed to increase funding for education and provide additional resources to support student learning.

Another challenge faced by the state was the need to address the growing population of students with special needs. The state had a number of schools that were designed to accommodate students with special needs, but these schools were often underfunded and lacked the necessary resources to provide quality education.

In order to address these challenges, the General Assembly needed to consider a range of options, including increased funding for education, increased teacher pay, and improved resources for special education programs. The state also needed to consider the need for additional funding for other areas, such as healthcare and infrastructure.

In conclusion, the state of Maryland faced a number of challenges related to education and the fiscal crisis. In order to address these challenges, the state needed to consider a range of options, including increased funding for education, improved resources for special education programs, and increased teacher pay. By addressing these issues, the state could provide a better future for its students and ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed.
developing financial systems of the local region and networks and education, including the provision of both vocational and higher education.

To the extent that financial networks and education, including the provision of both vocational and higher education are

necessary, jobs are scarce.


Return to the relationship between African and Latino in


The study presents the data on the level of imm utation in the United States (U.S.).


Latin American and Latino in the U.S.


Trends, Policies and Practices in Education.
Further research should also examine whether these nonpopulation measures are effective.

The potential for fossil fuel emissions to contribute to climate change is significant. If nonpopulation measures are effective in reducing these emissions, they could be a key part of a broader strategy to address climate change.

In conclusion, the development of renewable energy sources and sustainable consumption patterns is crucial for reducing fossil fuel emissions. These nonpopulation measures offer potential solutions for achieving this goal.