

THE NEW LATINO SOUTH: LATINOS IN NORTH CAROLINA



Understanding our Growing Community

Axel Lluch – Governor’s Office of Hispanic/Latino Affairs

3/30/2006

THE NEW LATINO SOUTH ?



3/30/2006



THE NEW LATINO SOUTH

- This topic raises strong emotions & attitudes, as well diverse and polarizing opinions
- Latinos have differences & similarities in cultural, social, political & economic backgrounds
- Most Latinos/Hispanics share a common language, Spanish. Yet there are more: Portuguese, indigenous and others
- The U.S. is a nation of immigrants: Europeans, Asians, Africans, Hispanics, etc...
- Native Americans were here before the nation was founded



THE NEW LATINO SOUTH - Population Growth

Pew Hispanic Center study –July 2005

- **The Southeastern U.S. : highest population growth of Hispanics (1990 –2000) :**
 - North Carolina - 492%
 - Georgia - 300%
 - South Carolina - 211%
 - Alabama - 208%
- **Fast-growing economies are magnets for young, unmarried, mobile Latino immigrants; Post-Katrina effect**
- **Economic growth in the 1990's created jobs for 410,000 Hispanics as well as 1.9 million non-Hispanic workers**
- **The Hispanic school-age population in the South growth areas grew by 322% from 1990-2000 vs. 10% and 18% for white and black population**



THE NEW LATINO SOUTH - Population Growth

- **Hispanics nationwide increased from 22.4mi. (1990) to 40.4 mi. (2004). They are now largest ethnic group in U.S.-14% of t.population** (Pew Center – 2004)
- **Hispanics in N.C. had a 492% population increase from 77,000 to 379,000 (1990-2000); 4.7% of the NC population** (U.S.Census- year 2000)
- **North Carolina's Hispanic population totaled 600,913 or 7% of the state's population in 2004** (UNC-CH Economic Study 2006)



THE NEW LATINO SOUTH - Population Growth

- **Hispanics have the highest fertility rates of all ethnic/race groups: 2.9 vs. 2.0 and 1.8 children per woman** (vs. U.S. aver. & white aver. – U.S. Census)
- **55% of U.S. Hispanics are 2nd. & 3rd. generation native born U.S. citizens** (3/04 - Pew Hisp.Center)
- **In 2004, 55% of NC Hispanics were citizens or legal residents and 45% were unauthorized residents** (UNC-CH Economic Study 2006)



THE NEW LATINO SOUTH - Immigrants

- **Hispanic heritage has been part of our nation: California, Texas, N.Mexico, Utah, Nevada, Arizona & Wyoming were part of Mexico until 1845-48; Florida claimed by Spain in 1500's**
- **Puerto Ricans were extended citizenship in 1917**
- **Immigration Acts 1986 & 1990 legalized many Latinos (legal residency & naturalization)**
- **Some immigrants are given temporary immigration status (TPS) & refugee protection (ex. Cubans, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras)**



THE NEW LATINO SOUTH - Immigrants

- **“Unauthorized” immigrants estimated at 11.5 mi. – 12mi. of 298mi. (3.8 - 4.0% of t.pop.)** (3/06 - Pew Hisp.Center)
- **Many “unauthorized” immigrants arrive with legal visas and overstay (work /student / tourists visas)**
- **Immigration laws presently allow only 140,000 employment-related visas annually for all of U.S.**
- **North Carolina has highest number of legal H2A agricultural guest workers: 6,500-10,000**

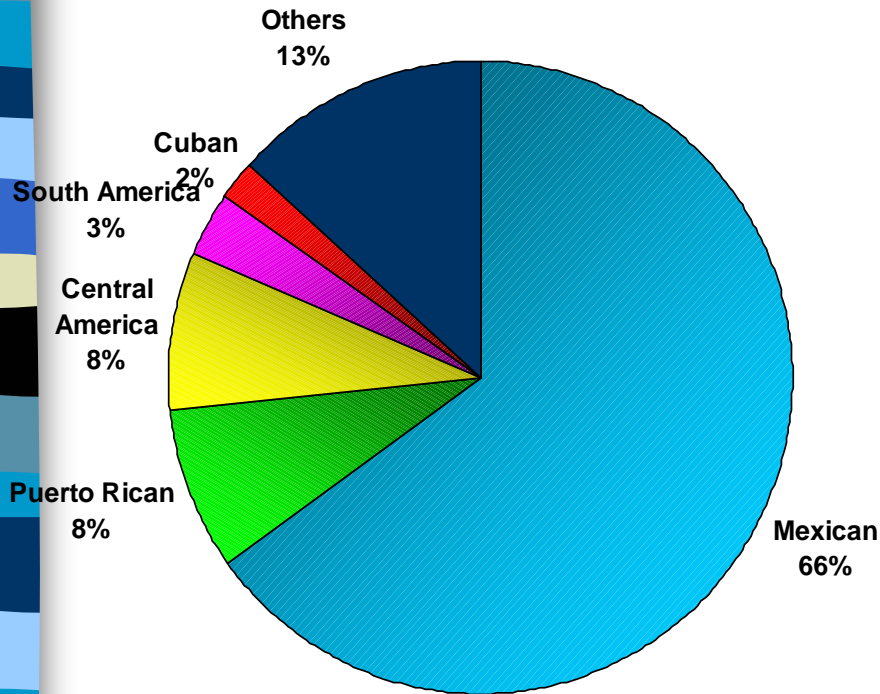


THE NEW LATINO SOUTH - Immigrants

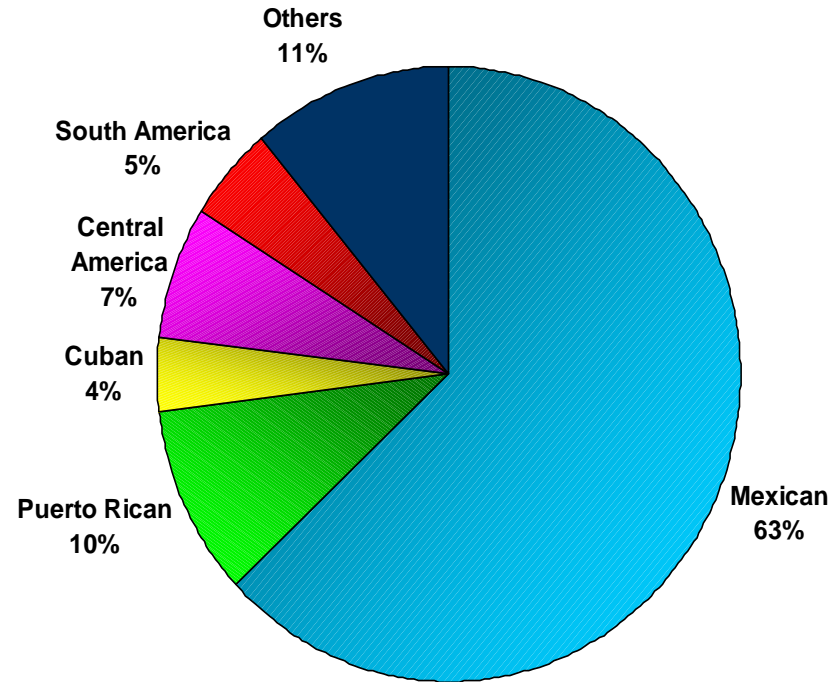
- They are predominantly from Mexico, but come from all Latin American countries
- They also are migrating from other U.S. states
- Initial rural migration with limited education now includes also urban / more educated immigrants
- More permanent immigration & family reunification process also occurring

% Hispanics by Nationality:

North Carolina



Total U.S.



2000 Census Data



THE NEW LATINO SOUTH - Jobs

- **NC Hispanics are younger/healthier; 55.3% are working-ages of 18 - 44 vs. 37.3% non-Hispanics**
(Kenan Institute study 2006)
- **Many Latinos work in low-paying/high-risk jobs not often pursued by non-immigrants (law of supply and demand)**
- **They are filling jobs that 76 million “baby boomers” (born 1946-1964) are retiring from**
- **They create jobs by creating new businesses**



THE NEW LATINO SOUTH - Taxes

- Like any U.S. employee they pay soc.security, Medicare, federal & state income taxes
- They also pay sales, property & local taxes/fees
- Soc.Sec.Adm. provides ITIN numbers and retains taxes in suspense files (\$6-\$7bi./yr. in S.S. tax & \$1.5 bi. in Medicare taxes) (SSA estimates-NY Times 2005)
- U.S. estimates range \$50-\$133 billion in direct taxes paid and receiving only \$5 billion in social benefits



THE NEW LATINO SOUTH - Economy

- **Most immigrants send money back to their countries, but don't send money out until they are well-established**
- **U.S. workers born in L.America had a gross income of \$450 bi. in 2003, of which 93% was spent locally** (Inter-Amer.Dev.Bank study 2003)
- **There is a net positive impact to the economy from their economic contributions**
- **Money transfers vs. International aid ?**



THE NEW LATINO SOUTH - NC Economic Impact

(UNC - CH SCHOOL OF BUSINESS STUDY – 2006)

- **NC Hispanics had estimated total after tax income of \$8.3 billion in 2004. With 20% of total sent to Latin America, saved, or used for interest payments, the residual spending had total impact of \$9.2 billion on NC**
- **\$9.2 billion impact to N.C. economy through purchases and tax payments, while net cost to the state budget is \$61 million, \$102 per Hispanic resident, for health care, education and corrections**
- **NC exports to Latin America have increased from \$2.9 billion in 1999 to \$4.1 billion in 2004**



THE NEW LATINO SOUTH- Welfare & Benefits

- Immigrants receive less welfare and benefits than the native-born citizens
- Unauthorized immigrants usually don't seek social services and benefits due to fear of deportation
- Many immigrants are young/healthy so they need less health/welfare services
- Unauthorized immigrants aren't eligible to many federally-funded services (Medicare, SSA, food stamps, etc.) The 1996 Welfare Reform Law prohibited federal funding to legal immigrants residing in the country less than 5 years



THE NEW LATINO SOUTH - Education

- From school years 2001 to 2005, Hispanics students accounted 57% of total growth in the North Carolina public schools (UNC-CH Economic Study 2006)
- Education of illegals? in NC: ESL \$45mi. and \$210mi total of 6 billion budget (0.0000035% of t. budget) (N & O article 2006)
- NC Hispanics have lower educational levels vs. non-Hispanics (median 7.5 vs. 12 yrs of school completed) ; 50% of Hispanics completed less than 8 years of schooling (UNC-CH Economic Study 2006)
- Latino youth educated in the US don't differ much in dropout rates vs. native born (Pew Hisp. Ctr. Jan 04)
- Parental involvement is strongest predictor for academic success of Latinos (Machado-Casas/Zuniga study 2005)



THE NEW LATINO SOUTH - Other Thoughts

- The “Browning” and “Aging” of America: diverse migration & baby boomers starting to retire
- Why aren’t enough teachers, nurses, scientists & mathematicians? (American Idol vs. Nobel Prize)
- Growing Pains vs. Dying Pains in North Carolina?
- My personal viewpoint: “The balance of the ecosystem” human nature will take its course



THE NEW LATINO SOUTH - Challenges

- Language barriers in a global village
- Limited education & high drop out rates
- Post-high school educational access
- Build relationships with non-Hispanics
- Understanding N.C. / U.S. “way of life”
(social competence and integration)
- A post- 9/11 Global World and America
- Comprehensive Immigration Reform



HOW TO REACH OUR OFFICE

Contact us at:

- **Office of Hispanic/Latino Affairs at the Office of the Governor**

919-733-5361

800-662-7952

Axel.Lluch@ncmail.net

Cary.Delaosa@ncmail.net



3/30/2006



THE NEW LATINO SOUTH - Misc.

- **Read N&O Immigration 5-series article**
- **Illegal Immigration: The “carpet” cargo video**
- **Work-related (safety, health, regulations)**
- **Reach out to the Latino community & vice versa**
- **Get involved through local & faith communities**
- **Support non-profit organizations**
- **Contact local, state & federal officials**
- **Develop relationships through neighborhoods, schools, churches, workplace**
- **No “miracle & fast” solutions**