

# New Faces: Latinos in North Carolina

A curriculum-based media project about the Latino community's cultural & economic contributions to North Carolina.

## The Changing Hispanic Population in North Carolina

**Directions:** Answer the following questions using the information from the study, *The Economic Impact of the Hispanic Population on the State of North Carolina*. Relevant excerpts from the study are included on pages 2–5 of this handout.

**Access the complete report:** [http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/assets/documents/2006\\_KenanInstitute\\_HispanicStudy.pdf](http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/assets/documents/2006_KenanInstitute_HispanicStudy.pdf)

- 1) Use the information in this handout to complete this chart.

| Year | Hispanic Population of North Carolina |
|------|---------------------------------------|
| 1980 |                                       |
| 1990 |                                       |
| 2000 |                                       |
| 2004 |                                       |

- 2) What was the percentage change in the Hispanic population in North Carolina between 1980 and 1990?
- 3) What was the percentage change in the Hispanic population in North Carolina between 1990 and 2004?
- 4) In this report the authors use the term “Hispanic,” rather than “Latino.” How do they define “Hispanic”? Why did the authors of this study decide to use this term and this definition?
- 5) What percentage of Hispanics in North Carolina are citizens or legal permanent residents of the United States?
- 6) Between 1995 and 2004 what percentage of Latinos in North Carolina came directly from abroad?
- 7) Of these Latinos who came directly to North Carolina from abroad, which country do most of them come from?
- 8) What are the other most common countries of origin of Latin America immigrants to North Carolina?
- 9) Based on the information in the film clips you have seen so far, what are some of the reasons for the increase in the Hispanic population in North Carolina?

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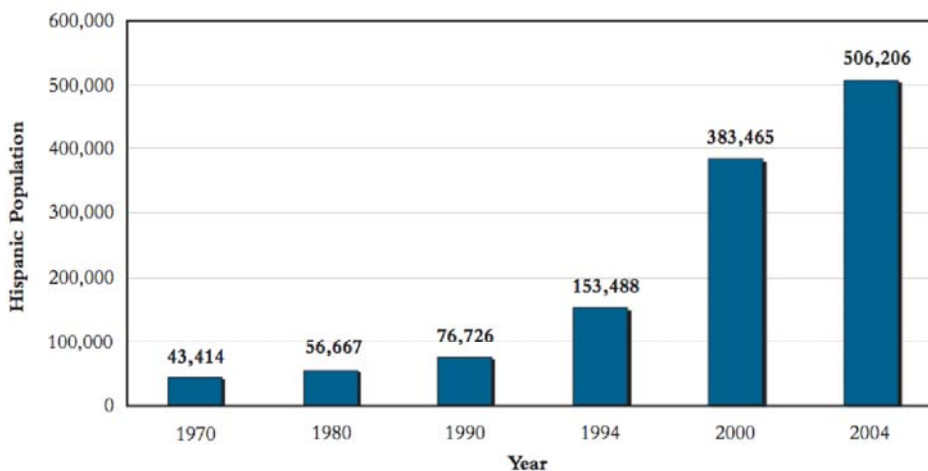
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## The Changing Hispanic Population in North Carolina

Select Figures, Graphs, and Excerpts from  
*The Economic Impact of the Hispanic Population on the State of North Carolina.*<sup>1</sup>

**Figure 1**

GROWTH OF HISPANIC POPULATION IN NORTH CAROLINA, 1970-2004



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Working Paper Series No. 56, September 2002; U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000; U.S. Census Bureau, ACS, 2004

**Table 1**

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGINS OF NORTH CAROLINA HISPANICS, 1995-2004

|  | 1995-1999 | 2000-2004 | Percent of Total<br>1995-2004 |
|--|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| All Hispanics                              | 206,482   | 294,833   | 100.0                         |
| Born in North Carolina                     | 35,404    | 75,497    | 21.6                          |
| All movers from abroad                     | 94,187    | 102,262   | 38.2                          |
| Movers from Mexico                         | 72,166    | 77,434    |                               |
| Movers from other Latin American countries | 19,633    | 24,282    |                               |
| Movers from non-Latin American countries   | 2,388     | 546       |                               |
| U.S. jurisdiction movers                   | 76,891    | 117,074   | 40.2                          |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000; U.S. Census Bureau, ACS, 2004; North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics (NCSCHS), Health Data, 1995-2004

<sup>1</sup> Matrícula Consular identification cards are issued through the Consulate of Mexico in Raleigh, North Carolina. These identification cards are also issued at mobile consulate-sponsored events throughout North and South Carolina. Applicants must provide proof of nationality, identity, and address in the United States. These requirements serve the purpose of ensuring the reliability and security of the consular identification cards being issued.

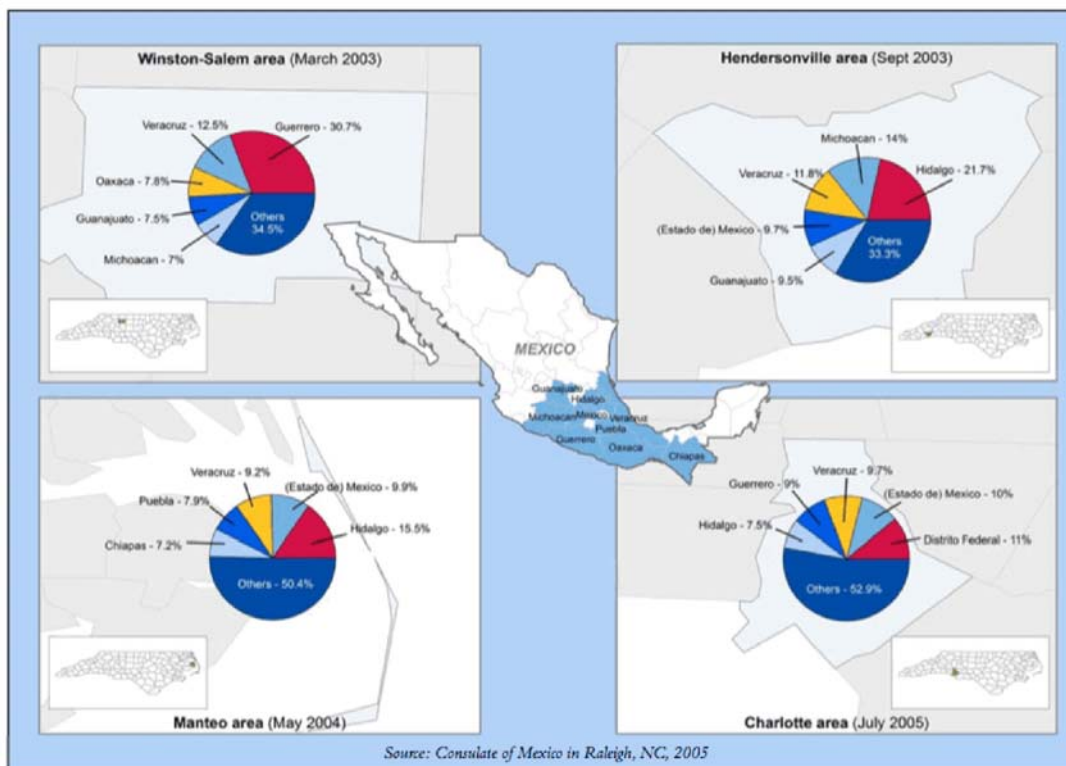
<sup>2</sup> A. Charbonnier, "Taste for dollars hard to resist: economic woes at home force many to migrate," *Durham Herald-Sun*, November 28, 2005.

<sup>1</sup> Excerpted with permission from *The Economic Impact of The Hispanic Population on the State of North Carolina*. Full report available at [http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/assets/documents/2006\\_KenanInstitute\\_HispanicStudy.pdf](http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/assets/documents/2006_KenanInstitute_HispanicStudy.pdf)

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**Figure 2**  
COMMUNITIES OF ORIGIN FOR MEXICAN MIGRANTS  
TO SELECTED NORTH CAROLINA DESTINATIONS, 2003-2005



<sup>3</sup> The top five sending states between 1995 and 2000 were: California (15,600), Florida (11,291), Texas (10,990), New York (7,633), and Virginia (3,374). Between 2001 and 2004, U.S. states generating the largest Hispanic flows to North Carolina were California (19,508), Florida (8,777), South Carolina (8,715), New York (8,045), and Colorado (7,131).

**Table 3**  
LEGAL STATUS OF HISPANICS RESIDING IN NORTH CAROLINA, 2004

| <i>Birth Place</i>                               | <i>Total Population</i> <sup>†</sup> | <i>%</i> | <i>Authorized Population</i> | <i>%</i> |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------|----------|
| All North Carolina Hispanics                     | 600,913                              | 100.0    | 333,564                      | 55.5     |
| Hispanics born in North Carolina                 | 124,283                              | 20.7     | 124,283                      | 100.0    |
| Hispanics born in other U.S. jurisdictions       | 124,392                              | 20.7     | 124,392                      | 100.0    |
| Hispanics born in Mexico                         | 268,952                              | 44.8     | 64,817                       |          |
| Hispanics born in other Latin American countries | 79,524                               | 13.2     | 19,165                       | 24.1     |
| Hispanics born in other countries                | 3,762                                | 0.6      | 907                          |          |

<sup>†</sup> See Appendix A for methodology

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000; U.S. Census Bureau, ACS, 2004; NCSCHS, Health Data and Vital Statistics, 1988-2004; Center for Immigration and Naturalization, 2004

<sup>5</sup> A much higher percentage (58 percent) of the U.S. Hispanic population is native born.

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## The Changing Hispanic Population in North Carolina

Select Figures, Graphs, and Excerpts from

*The Economic Impact of the Hispanic Population on the State of North Carolina.*<sup>2</sup>

### ***How do we define the Hispanic population?***

We follow the U.S. Bureau of the Census in defining Hispanics as those who classify themselves in one of the specific Hispanic origin categories: Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, as well as Central American or South American (Spanish-speaking countries). Persons who identify themselves as "Other Spanish/Hispanic" are those whose origins are in Spain or who identify themselves generally as Spanish, Spanish-American, Hispanic, Hispano, Latino, and so on. Hispanic is an ethnic designation. Hispanics may be of any race.

### ***What has been the trend in Hispanic population growth in North Carolina?***

Paralleling national trends, North Carolina's Hispanic influx began in the 1960s, grew slowly in the 1970s and 1980s, and has increased exponentially since 1990 (Figure 1). The growth from under 44,000 in 1970 to the American Community Survey (ACS) estimate of 506,206 in 2004 represents a 1,066 percent increase, compared to a 355 percent increase in the nation's Hispanic population during this same period. Many believe that the 506,206 number from the 2004 ACS significantly underestimates the actual number of Hispanics in North Carolina. Our research supports this contention. We estimate that a total of 600,913 Hispanics resided in the state in 2004 (Appendix A). According to our calculations, Hispanics accounted for 27.5 percent of the state's population growth between 1990 and 2004. They now make up 7.0 percent of the state's residents, up from 1.1 percent in 1990.

### ***From where do North Carolina's Hispanics originate?***

Hispanic residents of North Carolina originate from three sources: those moving directly to the state from Mexico and other Latin American countries; those moving from other U.S. jurisdictions; and those born in North Carolina. Between 1995 and 2004, 38.2 percent came directly from abroad, 40.2 percent migrated from another jurisdiction, and 21.6 percent were born in North Carolina (Table 1). Of those Hispanics coming from abroad, nearly three quarters (73 percent or 149,600) came from Mexico.

Our analysis of applications for Mexican identification cards (Matricula Consular) revealed that the majority of Mexican newcomers to North Carolina come from nine states in Mexico: Guerrero, Veracruz, Guanajuato, Michoacan, Hidalgo, Oaxaca, Estado de Mexico, Puebla, and Distrito Federal.<sup>1</sup> As Figure 2 shows, N.C. immigrants from these Mexican states tend to follow established migration streams leading to settlement in specific areas within the state.<sup>2</sup> Most of the remaining Hispanic movers from abroad come from other parts of Latin America (21 percent or 43,915). Data compiled by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on immigrant admissions indicate that the key sending countries include: El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua in Central

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America; Colombia, Peru, and Ecuador in South America; and Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory sending mainly military personnel and their families, and the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean. A very small percentage of Hispanic newcomers to the state (1.4 percent or 2,934) come from countries outside of Latin America. Hispanic movers from other U.S. jurisdictions come to North Carolina primarily from metropolitan areas within certain U.S. immigrant gateway states.<sup>3</sup> Between 1995 and 2000, as Figure 3 shows, the largest numbers moved from the following six metropolitan areas: Los Angeles (5,589), New York (5,040), Houston (3,623), Orange County, California (2,733), Chicago (2,254), and Washington, D.C. (2,116).

## ***Where do Hispanics reside in North Carolina?***

Hispanic newcomers to North Carolina—both movers from abroad and movers from other U.S. jurisdictions— have settled primarily in the state's metropolitan communities (Table 2).

## ***How large is the unauthorized Hispanic population in North Carolina?***

By virtue of either having been born in North Carolina (20.7 percent) or in another U.S. jurisdiction (20.7 percent), 41.4 percent of the state's Hispanics are U.S. citizens.<sup>5</sup> The remaining 58.6 percent of the state's Hispanic population are foreign-born and either have become naturalized citizens, obtained a visa, or have migrated to North Carolina without legal authorization (Table 3). Due to the undocumented nature of entry, the unauthorized proportion of the foreign-born Hispanic population is difficult to estimate. Our estimate was derived by matching Hispanic movers from abroad to North Carolina between 1995 and 2004 with Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) data on those receiving formal authorization during this period. Of the 196,449 Hispanics who immigrated to North Carolina between 1995 and 2004, 47,390 received some form of authorized documentation. Thus, we estimate that 76 percent of Hispanic immigrants to the state over the past ten years were unauthorized. When calculated on the basis of all Hispanic residents of North Carolina (including those born in the state and other U.S. jurisdictions), unauthorized residents constitute 45 percent of North Carolina's Hispanic population.

## ***Do North Carolina's Hispanics fit the typical demographic profile of an immigrant population?***

Immigrant households tend to differ from nonimmigrant households in three ways. First, immigration streams typically are disproportionately populated, at least initially, by males traveling alone. Women and children usually follow after the male immigrants gain a foothold in the labor market. Throughout the 1995-2004 period, males constituted over half of the Hispanic migration into North Carolina (Table 4). During the economic boom of the late 1990s, when the demand for labor in North Carolina was especially strong, they accounted for almost two-thirds of the flow. Since 2000, the gender ratio is moving toward becoming more balanced, although males still account for over half of the in-migration. The relatively weak economies of Mexico and Central America, which continue to drive Hispanic males to North Carolina in search of jobs and higher wages, are largely responsible for the persistent gender imbalance.