

Information About Latinos in the United States and Immigration Concerns

Prepared by César Carhuachín for the Presbytery Meeting on May 16, 2006

1. Latinos established themselves in the United States about a century before the Anglo-Saxon colonies arrived from Europe. Four centuries after the European colonies were established, during which they shared residence with the Latinos on the same land, it's ironic that Latinos are still considered foreigners and immigrants.¹
2. During the 500 years of establishment in North America, Latinos, with their various traditions, have remained relatively concentrated in Arizona, California (Los Angeles), Colorado, Florida (Miami), Illinois (Chicago), New Mexico, Texas (Houston) and New York (New York City). The Latino population in these eight states is about 90% of the Latino population on a national level.²
3. There are more than 40 million Latinos in the United States. We represent almost 15% of the national population (more than 285 million).³ Today, the United States is the second country in the world (after Mexico) in which Spanish is spoken more.
4. More than 50% of the Latinos are under the age of 25 (being the youngest ethnic group), with a high level of natural growth and whose percentage of population growth is the largest among the different ethnic groups in the United States.⁴ Latinos are the number one ethnic minority group whose percentage of the national population is growing the fastest.
5. There are more than 12 million undocumented immigrants in the United States. From this total number, Latinos represent 78%: 56% (or 6.2 million) are from Mexico; 22% (for a total of 2.5 million) are from other countries in Latin America; 13% (for a total of 1.5 million) are from Asia; 6% (a total of 600,000) are from Europe and Canada; 3% (a total of 400,000) are from Africa. North Carolina and Arizona are the two new destinations for the majority of undocumented immigrants.⁵
6. The majority of the Latinos who come to the United States are traditionally Roman Catholic, but nonetheless, many of them belong to, or convert to in the United States, other churches, including protestant, evangelical and Pentecostal. Among those who are not Roman Catholic, the Latinos prefer the charismatic liturgy and often show fundamental tendencies in their theological perspectives.⁶
7. The total population in North Carolina is 8,063,874. The population of those who are of Latino race and origin is 434,048. Of that number, there are 284,473 Mexicans, 35,352 Puerto Ricans, 4,853 Cubans and 109,370 who are from other Hispanic countries. Little more than 5% of the population in the state is Latina (female).⁷
8. North Carolina has 300,000 undocumented immigrants who represent 3% of the total population of undocumented immigrants. They are characterized as having less education, lower income, lack insurance and are at the high end of poverty. But contradictorily, they are helping the growing economy in the most important metropolitan areas such as Charlotte-Gastonia-Concord, Durham and Raleigh-Cary. That's to say, the Latino workers produce much more wealth for others than they receive in return.⁸

9. Latinos contribute to the United States economy in enormous numbers. In 2004 alone, Latinos contributed 9.2 billion dollars to the economy in North Carolina. If this trend continues, in 2009 the Latinos will contribute more than 18 billion dollars to the North Carolina economy. Latinos cost the state of North Carolina 817 million dollars annually (public schools, health care, corrections). But, annually the Latinos pay 756 million dollars in taxes (both directly and indirectly). Therefore, the Latinos really only cost the state 61 million dollars. If one notes the contributions made to the state by the Latinos, then the 61 million dollars is insignificant.⁹
10. Charlotte has a population of 573,079. The Latino population is 49,942 (9%), being the majority of ethnic minorities presented here. Of those, 27,905 are Mexican, 1,281 are Puerto Rican and 20,756 are from other Latin American countries. Mecklenburg County has had a 500% growth increase in the Latino population.¹⁰
11. A large part of the Latino population is formed by persons who have come here without their spouses or children, and who are dedicated exclusively to work and earning money to send back home to their families.
12. Seven reasons you should support the immigration reform in favor of the undocumented immigrants:
 - a. To declare criminals by a law for the 12 million undocumented persons that the illegal immigration problem in the United States *will not resolve itself*. They are workers who are in an illegal migratory condition, but “they are not illegal persons.”
 - b. Building a wall between the United States and Mexico border will cost billions of dollars but *will not resolve the problem of the 12 million undocumented persons nor will it completely resolve the problem of illegal immigration*.
 - c. With a comprehensive migratory reform that would offer *legal migratory status for the 12 million undocumented persons who are already living and working in the United States*. This is according to criminal record, paying taxes, etc. with the purpose of obtaining their citizenship in the future, if they can learn English, etc.
 - d. With a comprehensive migratory reform, *one can know who is who among the undocumented persons*. The *security of the nation is protected* this way.
 - e. With a comprehensive migratory reform *one can obtain much more federal and state access for paying taxes* so that it would not been possible to hide the cash purchases or items bought under a different name.
 - f. With a comprehensive migratory reform *it avoids the 12 million undocumented persons feeling exploited and abused in the human social rights* by thousands of people and companies who take advantage of them.
 - g. With a comprehensive migratory reform *the immigrants can reunite with their families or travel to their countries to visit as many times as they want*. This will preserve the personal and family values.

¹ Juan González, *Harvest of Empire. A History of Latinos in America* (New York, NY: Penguin Group, 2000), capítulo 1.

² www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/Profiles/Single/2002/ACS/Tabular/040/04000US041.htm

(visto el 06/05/04).

³ http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DTTable?_bm=y&-geo_id=01000US&-ds_name=ACS_2004_EST_G00_&-mt_name=ACS_2004_EST_G2000_B03001 (visto el 05/03/06).

⁴ Juan Gomez-Quinones, "Hispanic Americans" en *The Oxford Companion to United States History*, editado por Paul S. Boyer (Oxford, NY: University Press, 2001), 338 y Jorge Chapa, "Hispanic Population" en *Encyclopedia of the U.S. Census*, editado por Margo J. Anderson (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2000), 241-242.

⁵ Jeffrey S. Passel, *The Size and Characteristics of the Unauthorized Migrant Population in the U.S. Estimates Based on the March 2005 Current Population Survey* (Washington D.C.: Pew Hispanic Center, 2006), 5 y Rakesh Kochhar, Roberto Suro y Sonya Tafoya, *The New Latino South: The Context and Consequences of Rapid Population Growth* (Washington, D.C.: Pew Hispanic Center, 2005), i-iii, 2,5,14, 28.21.

⁶ Ver observaciones similares en: Martin E. Marty, *Religión & Republic. The American Circumstance* (Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 1987), 270; Justo L. González, *Mapas para la historia futura de la iglesia* (Buenos Aires, Argentina: Ediciones Kairós, 2001), 101-103.

⁷ www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/Profiles/Single/2002/ACS/Tabular/040/04000US371.htm El reporte de la American Community Survey Profile no incluye a los que viven en instituciones ni universidades.

⁸ Jeffrey S. Passel, *Unauthorized Migrants: Number and Characteristics* (Washington D.C.: Pew Hispanic Center, 2005), 11. 17. Casi dos tercios (68%) de la población indocumentada viven en ocho estados: California con 24%, Texas con 14%, Florida con 9%, New York con 7%, Arizona con 5%, Illinois con 4%, New Jersey con 4% y North Carolina (3%).

⁹ John D. Kasarda and James H. Johnson, Jr. *The Economic Impact of the Hispanic Population on the States of North Carolina* (Chapel Hill, NC: Kenan-Flagler Business School, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2006).

¹⁰ www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/Profiles/Single/2002/ACS/Tabular/155/15500US37120001191.htm y www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/Profiles/Single/2002/ACS/Tabular/155/15500US37120001192.htm