Engine of U.S. Population Growth: Latinos and the Changing of America

Rogelio Saenz
University of Texas at San Antonio
Rogelio.Saenz@utsa.edu

Major Messages

• The U.S. population and that of most states is undergoing major demographic transformations.
• Latinos represent the engine of U.S. population change.
• The increasing presence of Latinos in the future population of the U.S. will impact all institutions, including education and the military.
• Challenge to the traditional black-white framework that has dominated U.S.
• Latino growth in U.S. and demographic implications for Mexico and Latin America
• New era?
Latinos: Newcomers in the United States?

- Common view of Latinos as immigrants who have come only recently to this country
- Initial emergence of Latino incorporation into the United States
  - Mexicans in 1848
  - Puerto Ricans in 1920s
  - Cubans and Dominicans in late 1950s-1960s
  - Central Americans in 1970s-1980s
  - South Americans in 1980s-1990s
Who are Latinos or Hispanics?

“’Hispanic or Latino’ refers to a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race.”

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.
Groups Constituting Latino Population in 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mexican</td>
<td>31,798,258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puerto Rican</td>
<td>4,623,716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuban</td>
<td>1,785,547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salvadoran</td>
<td>1,648,968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican</td>
<td>1,414,703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemalan</td>
<td>1,044,209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombian</td>
<td>908,734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spaniard</td>
<td>635,253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduran</td>
<td>633,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuadorian</td>
<td>564,631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peruvian</td>
<td>531,358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicaraguan</td>
<td>348,202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentinean</td>
<td>224,952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuelan</td>
<td>215,023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panamanian</td>
<td>165,456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemalan</td>
<td>126,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombian</td>
<td>126,418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivian</td>
<td>99,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uruguayan</td>
<td>56,884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguayan</td>
<td>20,023</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: There are 3,452,403 persons classified as “All Other Hispanic or Latino,” 31,626 as “Other Central American,” and 21,809 as “Other South American.”
Latinos as the Engine of U.S. Population Change
Latino Population, 1980 to 2010

- 1980: 14,608,673
- 1990: 22,354,059
- 2000: 35,305,818
- 2010: 50,477,594
Percentage Change in the Latino and the U.S. Population by Period

Percentage of U.S. Population Growth Due to Latino Population Growth by Period

- 1980-1990: 34.9%
- 1990-2000: 39.6%
- 2000-2010: 55.5%
### Total Population and Latino Growth by Region, 2000-2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Total % Chg.</th>
<th>Latino % Chg.</th>
<th>% Region Chg. Due to Latinos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>33.1%</td>
<td>100.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>49.2%</td>
<td>60.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>57.3%</td>
<td>46.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
<td>34.3%</td>
<td>60.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>43.0%</td>
<td>55.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: In the Northeast, the non-Latino population declined. The overall regional population increased by 1,722,862 with the Latino population increase being 1,737,862.
Percentage of U.S. Population that is Latino, 1980 to 2010

- 1980: 6.4%
- 1990: 9.0%
- 2000: 12.5%
- 2010: 16.3%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>28.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Highlights of Latino Population: The 1980-2010 Period

- Expanded 3.5 times between 1980 and 2010
- More than 2 of 5 (44%) of persons added to the U.S. population between 1980 and 2010 have been Latino
- Designated the largest minority group in the United States in 2003
Why the Rapid Growth among Latinos?

- Demographic factors
  - Age Structure
  - Immigration
  - Natural Increase (Fertility – Mortality)
Age Structure:
Youthful Latino population with a median age of 27 (versus 41 for whites) in 2009
Age-Sex Pyramids for Latinos and Whites in the United States, 2009
Immigration:
Approximately half of persons immigrating (legally) to the United States since 1990 have come from Latin America (versus 15% from Europe)
Fertility:
High Latina fertility with a Total Fertility Rate of 3.0 (versus 1.9 for whites) in 2007

Mortality:
Latino males outlived white males by 2.3 years while Latina females outlived white females by 2.7 years in 2006
Natural Increase in 2000-2009: A Tale of Whites and Latinos

- Whites
  - About 21 million births and 18 million deaths
- Latinos
  - Approximately 9 million births and over 1 million deaths

Result
- Whites: 1.1 births for every 1 death
- Latinos: 8.9 births for every 1 death

Major implications for the widening of the growth rates between Latinos and whites in the near future
Decomposition of Latino Population Growth in 2000-2009 Period

• 63% due to natural increase (births – deaths)
• 37% due to net immigration (persons entering U.S. – persons leaving U.S.)
Ongoing Latino Demographic Trends
A Demographic Harbinger

In 2009 for the first time, Latino children represented the majority of first-graders enrolled in the state of Texas.
Percentage Share of Latinos and Whites in the Texas Population by Age, 2008

Source: 2008 1% ACS.
Percentage Share of Latinos and Whites in the California Population by Age, 2008

Source: 2008 1% ACS.
Percentage Share of Latinos and Whites in the Arizona Population by Age, 2008

Source: 2008 1% ACS.
Where Are Latinos Concentrated?
12 States with Largest Latino Populations, 2010
[41 million Latinos or 81% of all Latinos in U.S.]
### States Where Latinos Account for 20% or More of Population, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>46.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>37.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>37.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>29.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>20.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 12 States with Largest Growth in Latino Population, 2000-2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Growth in Latino Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>3,047,163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>2,791,255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>1,541,091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>599,532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>549,339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>497,316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>437,953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>421,157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>418,462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>325,572</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>322,531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>314,281</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
12 States with Highest Percentages of Latino Growth, 2000-2010 [Pct. Growth: 92% to 148%]
A Social and Economic Overview of Latinos:
Rogelio Saenz Report titled *Latinos in the United States 2010*
Available at:
Language Patterns

• Foreign-born Latinos more likely to speak only Spanish than U.S.-born Latinos
  • Foreign-born Mexicans (52%), Central Americans (48%), Dominicans (45%), and Cubans (43%)
• U.S.-born Latinos are more likely to be monolingual English speakers compared to foreign-born Latinos
• For almost all subgroups, regardless of nativity status, the largest segment of the population are bilingual speakers
Socioeconomic Patterns

- Foreign-born Latinos lag behind their respective native-born counterparts in high school graduation rates, occupational socioeconomic index, median family income, and possession of health insurance.
- Generally foreign-born individuals have lower unemployment rates than U.S.-born persons.
Stratification Within Latino Populations

- **Top**
  - South Americans, Cubans, Other Latinos
- **Middle**
  - Central Americans
- **Bottom**
  - Puerto Ricans, Mexicans, Dominicans

**NOTE**
- Foreign-born South Americans, Cubans, and Other Latinos do better than U.S.-born Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, and Dominicans
Latinos Compared to Whites

- Large majority of Latinos—especially Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, and Dominicans—lag significantly behind whites socioeconomically.
- U.S.-born South Americans and Cubans do better than whites with respect to levels of high school completion and median family income.
Epidemiological Paradox AKA Mexican Immigrant Paradox

• Despite low socioeconomic status of Latino population and low health insurance coverage, Latinos, especially Mexicans, have low mortality rates and high life expectancy even compared to whites

• Explanations
  • Migrant selectivity from home country
  • Protective immigrant culture and lifestyle
  • Methodological and data limitations
Impact of Economic Crisis

- Latinos and whites experienced about 4% increase in unemployment rates between 2000 and 2009
  - U.S.-born Latinos greater increases in unemployment compared to foreign-born Latinos
- After adjusting for inflation, median family income of Latinos (-7.1%) decreased faster than that for whites (-5.9%) between 1999 and 2008
  - Median incomes of foreign-born Latinos declined faster than those of U.S.-born Latinos
Major Demographic Implications in the Other America: Mexico and Beyond
Aging of the Population

- Major drop in TFR in Mexico
  - 1960: 7.3
  - 1970: 6.8
  - 1980: 4.7
  - 1990: 3.3
  - 2000: 2.4
  - 2010: 2.3

- TFR in Latin American and Caribbean in 2010: 2.2
Selective Outmigration from Latin America

• Drawn from younger segments of the population
  – Teens to 30’s
Declining Births and Net Outmigration of Young Adults = Aging of Population
Percentage of Mexico’s Population 60 and Older: 1950 to 2050

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pct. 60+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>14.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2050</td>
<td>24.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fuente: INEGI; U.S. Census Bureau World Projections
New Origins: Counterpart to New Destinations

• Attention in U.S. to new destinations, places (many of these rural) located in regions of U.S. where Latinos have historically been absent

• NAFTA has uprooted small-scale corn producers who cannot compete with U.S. corn growers, many of these located in indigenous areas of Mexico that have historically had low migration
  – New Origin states include Chiapas, Oaxaca, and Yucatan
New Era of Latino Demography in U.S.?

- Immigration has been an important feature of Mexican-origin and Latino population growth in U.S. throughout 20th century (exception being Depression era)
- Constant flow of Mexican and Latin American newcomers
- New pattern: flow of Mexican and Latin American immigration to U.S. has been reduced dramatically
- Temporary or long-term?
Possible Implications if Immigration Reversal Long-Term

- Share of U.S. citizens among Latino population will rise?
  - Political implications
- Probability of greater integration of Latinos?
  - White ethnic groups have experienced upward mobility when immigration of their national-origin groups halted
  - Issue of color
- Alteration in cultural and language retention among Latinos?
- Maintenance or erosion of transnational ties to countries of origin?
Implications for Status of Latinos as the Engine of U.S. Population Change?

• Likely to continue
  – Latinos continue to be very young
  – No signs that other racial/ethnic groups will experience significant increases in fertility
Despite overall low socioeconomic standing of Latinos...

• Buying power of Latinos more than doubled over past decade (108% versus 52% for U.S.)

• The $1 trillion buying power of Latinos in 2010 is larger than economies of all but 14 countries

• Latino buying power expected to increase from $1 trillion in 2010 to $1.5 trillion in 2015 (11% of U.S. total buying power)

Source: Selig Center for Economic Growth (University of Georgia)

Concluding Thoughts
Despite these trends....

- Latinos continue to be seen as perpetual foreigners despite having long historical roots in the U.S.
- Latinos continue to be ignored in much of social and political life in the U.S.
  - Mass media
  - Political dialogue
The Reality

- U.S. institutions will increasingly be affected by and dependent on Latinos in the coming decades.
  - Military institution
  - Business community
  - Higher education system
  - Political institution
  - Health care system
  - Religious institution
  - Housing institution
Implications for Higher Education

• Future higher education cohorts will increasingly come from Latino population
• Major challenge: leakage in the Latino educational pipeline
  ➢ Dropout rates among youth of 50% or higher not uncommon [national tragedy; loss of such much human potential]
• Higher education institutions need to play a leading role in creation of K-16 programs for Latinos
• Need improvements in recruitment, retention, and graduation of Latino college students
Latinos: A National Asset

• Latinos ignored in many social and political domains in the United States
• Need to view Latino population as an asset not a liability
• Invest in education of Latino youth
• Case of Dalton, Georgia
El Fin