A telescopic view of population change in Mecklenburg County

Women’s Impact Fund
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Growing numbers, Changing faces

Mecklenburg County, Elements of Population Growth 1980-2008
Data Source: US Census Bureau. Graph: Patrick Jones, GES Cart Lab.
Changing places …

Total county population growth between April 2000 and July 2009 is 218,261 persons

- Natural increase: 79,856
- Total migration: 142,330
  - Domestic: 106,499
  - International: 35,831
Charlotte, NC as New Gateway

We are among small set of US metros labeled pre-emerging immigrant gateways

* For Mecklenburg County …

- **10,147** Foreign born residents in 1980 (2.5% of total population)
- **17,875** Foreign born residents in 1990 (3.5% of total population)
- **68,349** Foreign born residents in 2000 (9.8% of total population)
- **117,421** Foreign born residents in 2008 (13.2% of total population)

* Data does not capture persons who declined to participate or were not surveyed by the US Census. As such, data should be considered as undercounts.
Residential distribution of foreign born 1990 and 2000

Mecklenburg County, Census Tracts, GIS Cartography by Paul McDaniel, Ph.D. Student UNCC
Primary Latin American stream

51.4% of Mecklenburg foreign born from Latin America (2008)

Within that group:

- 41.8% Mexico
- 12.4% Honduras
- 11.6% El Salvador
- 7.5% Ecuador
- 5.4% Columbia
Secondary global streams

Of Mecklenburg County’s foreign born …

- 25% from Asia
  *India, China, Vietnam*

- 11% from Europe
  *UK, Germany, Russia*

- 10% from Africa
  *Kenya, Liberia, Ethiopia*
Global causes, local impacts

- Migration a rational act
- Balance of push and pull factors
- Linked to changes at global, national and local scales
- Impact of immigration, however, felt locally

Source: Mecklenburg Area Partnership for Primary-care Research (MAPPR)
Settlement and Adjustment

Education; Health Care; Law Enforcement; Social Services; Identity; Community …
Charlotte at the Crossroads …

City of Welcome?  City of Exclusion?