

**FRIDAY SESSION: 8:45–10:15 AM**

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## **Hispanic Immigration in the Rocky Mountain West**

8:45—10:15 a.m.

Friday, March 10, 2006

Sturm College of Law/Frank J. Ricketson Law Building

This discussion addresses the demographic impact of Hispanic immigration in the Rocky Mountain West. Speakers will focus on the challenges of assimilation and civic participation in emerging gateway communities and the policy options available to local governments facing new issues related to work force housing, school services and health care for Hispanic immigrants.

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Moderator: **Michele McGlyn, Esq.**  
Attorney and Land Use Planner  
Clarion Associates  
Denver, Colorado

Panelists: **Susan Downs-Karkos**  
Senior Program Officer  
The Colorado Trust  
Denver, Colorado

**Judith Gans**  
Program Manager  
Immigration Policy at the Udall Center  
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**C L A R I O N**

# HISPANIC IMMIGRATION IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST

## **Best Practices for Immigrant Inclusive Public Policy and Participation**

- **Convene a focus group of Hispanic residents for the purpose of studying and making recommendations regarding outreach to immigrant populations and the creation of an inclusive public participation program.**
- **Recognize the changing demographic landscape and maintain statistics regarding the actual number of Hispanic immigrants present in your community. Recognize that demographic changes influence public policy and funding priorities.**
- **Develop programs that raise community awareness of the immigrant experience; foster relationships between immigrant and native-born community members; create a dialogue and forum for collaboration around matters of mutual concern.**
- **Support initiatives that encourage immigrant leadership in civic and political life.**
- **Remove language barriers by providing Spanish translations of all public communications. Provide a link to web site translations services like (<http://babelfish.altavista.com>) on municipal websites.**
- **Utilize established systems like public schools and service-providers to connect with immigrant families and initiate a dialogue regarding community development and quality of life issues.**

- **Consider the impact of any changes in housing policy on the immigrant community, especially, the availability of affordable housing and protection of extended family dwelling units.**
- **Create multi-sector networks of local businesses, unions, service-providers, faith-based and other community groups, and government agencies to expand opportunities for social, economic and civic opportunities for newcomers.**
- **To the extent lawful, remove citizenship barriers to voter requirements in local elections and citizenship barriers to participation on community boards.**
- **Create immigrant-friendly forums for public input. Consider innovative ways to structure public meetings in order to obtain feedback from people who do not speak English and people who may be intimidated by public-speaking.**

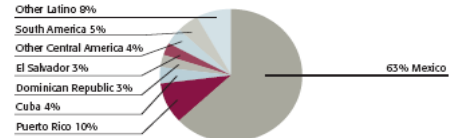
## Hispanic Immigration in the Rocky Mountain West



- Introduction: Significant Issues for Policy-Makers & Planners  
Michele McGlyn, Clarion Associates
- National Policy Issue with Significant Impacts on States  
Judy Gans, Udall Center
- Immigrant Integration in Colorado  
Susan Downs-Karkos, Colorado Trust

## National Origin of US Hispanic Population

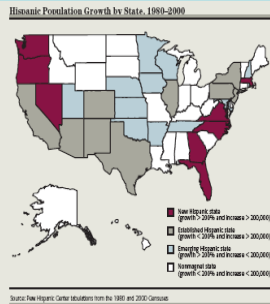
Latino Population of the United States by Place of Origin



Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the 2000 Census

## States with Significant Hispanic Population Increases 1980-2000

- Established Hispanic states (Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico) saw an *increase* in population greater than 200%
- Emerging Hispanic states (Oklahoma, Utah) saw *growth* (% change) greater than 200%
- New Hispanic state (Nevada) *increase and growth* greater than 200%



## Significant Impacts for Policy Makers & Planners

- Schools
- Poverty levels
- Housing

## Schools (1990-2000)

FIGURE 9. States with the Highest Increases in Children of Immigrants in PK to 5th Grade, 1990-2000

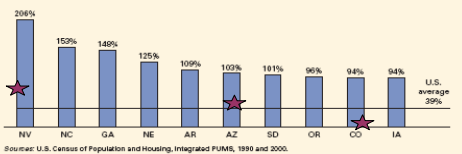
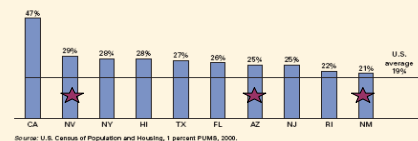


FIGURE 8. States with the Highest Shares of Children of Immigrants in PK to 5th Grade, 2000



## Children of Immigrants 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade

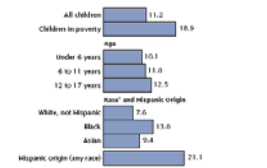
Source: Pew Hispanic Center, *New Demography of America's Schools*

State	Number of children 2000	Percent Change 1990-2000	Share of all children
Colorado	59,000	127%	14%
Utah	30,000	90%	11%
Arizona	123,000	119%	22%
New Mexico	40,000	66%	18%
Nevada	52,000	241%	27%

## Poverty Levels

- Colorado:
  - 52% of Colorado's foreign-born are from Mexico
  - Foreign-born living at or below 150% of federal poverty level= 32%
  - All Colorado residents living at or below federal poverty level= 18%

Figure 7. Unassisted Children by Poverty Status, Age, and Race and Hispanic Origin: 2004 (Percent)



\* Federal surveys show plus respondents the option of reporting more than one race. Therefore, one basic way of defining a race group is possible. A group such as Asian may be defined as those who reported Asian and no other race (the race of Hispanic origin) or as those who reported Asian regardless of whether they also reported another race (the race alone or in combination with other races). This report shows data using the first approach (race alone). The Hispanic population uses the first, but it is the preferred method of presenting and analyzing data. The Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches, information on people who reported more than one race, both to White and non-Hispanic and Black or Hispanic or non-Hispanic Black or other on Asians, is available from Census 2000 through American Factfinder. About 2.2 percent of people reported more than one race in Census 2000.

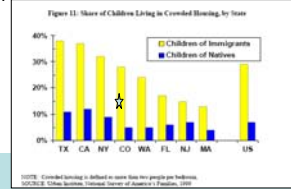
NOTE: For discussion of statistically significant differences between groups, see text.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2004 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

Source: Bell Policy Center 12/29/05

## Housing (Nationally)

- **Renters not Owners:** More than twice as large a share of the Hispanic population (52%) lives in rented housing as among whites (24%)
- **Larger households:**
  - Hispanic parents typically have more children
  - Hispanic households are more likely to include extended family or people who are not part of the householder's family.





## Immigrant Integration in Colorado

presented by:  
Susan Downs-Karkos  
Senior Program Officer  
The Colorado Trust

### Why immigrant integration?

- Most of the current debate centers on immigration – the flow of people – with very little attention paid to what happens once people are here
- Changing demographics in new gateway states
- Economic, social and civic factors
- New needs and new opportunities

### What is immigrant integration?

- Newcomers become part of the fabric of our community
- Mutual responsibility and mutual benefits for both immigrants and their receiving communities
- Building on strengths of all people
- Taking a comprehensive approach
- Communities remain strong and cohesive

### Components of Integration

- Language and education
- Equal treatment and opportunity
- Economic mobility
- Citizenship and civic participation
- Cultural and social interaction

### About The Colorado Trust

- Grantmaking foundation working to advance health and well-being of Coloradans
- Goal areas: strengthening families and affordable and accessible health care
- Initiative-based
- Technical assistance and evaluation included

### The Supporting Immigrant and Refugee Families Initiative

- Based on a recognition that Colorado communities had changed
- Research indicated significant gaps
- Learning that adaptations needed to happen at the local community level
- Understanding that our role is not immigration policy, but helping the people who live here

## The Colorado Trust's approach to immigrant integration:

- Fund 10 community collaboratives by providing planning and implementation grants
- Provide ongoing meeting facilitation
- Work hard to include immigrants
- Look beyond service provision
- View this as a community building effort

## Accomplishments to date

- All 10 communities completed their plans
- Collaboratives have been established in each community
- A few of the common priorities include:
  1. Integration resource centers
  2. Leadership opportunities
  3. School liaisons
  4. Cultural events

## What we've learned about integration from immigrants:

- It's an individualized process; it takes time; sense of loss
- People want to adapt, but not to completely reject their past
- Great motivation to contribute quickly and fully – don't always know the avenues
- Immigrants have to be committed for integration to happen

## What we're learning from communities:

- Integration resonates: urban, rural, and politically diverse communities
- Local governments, including law enforcement, see this need
- Local communities adapt this concept to fit their own context
- This is challenging, long-term work

## What can land use planners do?

- Recognize your critical role in serving entire community
- Take the time to understand the concerns and aspirations of newcomers
- Start to build relationships and tap into existing networks
- Seek informal and formal input from immigrants
- Consider creating an advisory panel

## In the end, it's about

Relationships!

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"I remember my first Christmas. A resettlement agency, a church group, came and dropped off a gift on our doorstep. I got my very first toy that day. They also gave us food and a large turkey. We had no idea what to do with the turkey, but it was wonderful."

-- Vietnamese immigrant woman

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"When I traveled to Mexico and I saw a car with Colorado plates, my heart was with them. I feel I'm part of that community."

-- Mexican immigrant woman

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"Our attitude toward immigration reflects our faith in the American ideal. We have always believed it possible for men and women who start at the bottom to rise as far as their talent and energy allow. Neither race nor place of birth should affect their chances."

-- Robert Kennedy





## Immigration

*A National Policy Issue  
With Significant Impacts on States*

Presented by  
**Judith Gans**  
Immigration Policy Project Director

## Topics

- Global and national context
  - Legal structures
  - Numbers, countries of origin, categories
- Key issues
  - Economic impacts
  - Costs and contributions
  - National security
- Policy debates and prospects for reform

## A World-Wide Phenomenon

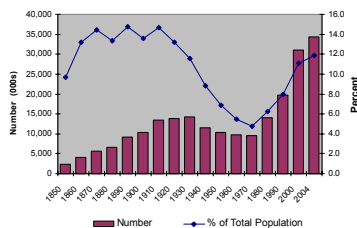
- UN estimates 190 to 200 million immigrants ... **≈ 3.3% of the world's population**
  - 30% in the Americas (Canada & US = 42 million immigrants)
  - 20% in Europe
  - Remaining 50% around world with largest share in Asia
- Cause *and* consequence of global economic integration ... in everything *except* labor
- Global remittances estimated at **\$150 billion** per year

Source: Papademetriou, Demetrios G., "The Global Struggle with Illegal Immigration: No End in Sight", Washington DC: Migration Policy Institute, September 1, 2005.

## U.S. Laws Limit Economic Migration

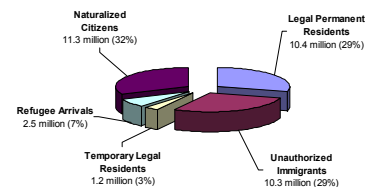
- Architecture of family reunification
- Economic migration laws seek to:
  - Minimize competition with U.S. workers
  - Provide for scarce labor
    - Seasonal agricultural workers
    - Other seasonal workers
    - High skilled workers

## Immigration to the U.S. Growing



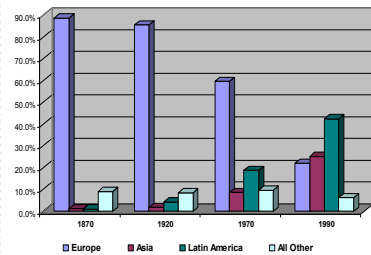
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## 35.7 Million Foreign Born in U.S. (2004 estimates\*)



\* Estimates based on 2004 Current Population Survey. Published in Passel, Jeffrey, "Unauthorized Migrants: Numbers and Characteristics", Pew Hispanic Center, Washington, DC, June 2005. [www.pewhispanic.org](http://www.pewhispanic.org)

## More and Different Countries of Origin



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Significant Demographic Impacts

- 20% of U.S. births occur to foreign-born mothers
- Directly and indirectly, immigration accounts for  $\approx$  60% of U.S. population growth

Source: Bean, Frank & Gillian Stevens, *America's Newcomers and the Dynamics of Diversity*, New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2003.

## Economics of Immigration

### Immigrants Embedded in Labor Market

- Slow U.S. population growth, tight labor markets, and high wages
  - Between 1996 and 2000 (Economic boom)
    - U.S. economy generated 14.3 million new jobs
    - U.S. population increased by 12.3 million people *including immigration*
- Strong 'pull' factor**
- Between 1990-2001, immigrants accounted for **over 50% of growth** in the civilian labor force

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2002

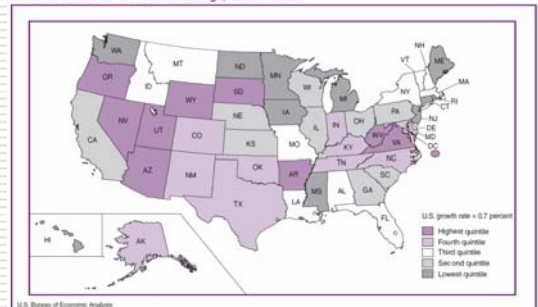
## Changed Profile of U.S. Labor

- Increases in proportion of low-skilled *and* high-skill labor
  - Some crowding out of native-born workers
  - Providing for scarce labor (i.e. agricultural labor, high tech workers)
- **In the Short Run:** Lowers wages of some native born workers
- **In the Long Run:** Shifts the mix of economic output with little or no impact on wages

Source: Hanson, Gordon O., "Why Does Immigration Divide America: Public Finance and Political Opposition to Open Borders", University of San Diego and NBER, March 2005.

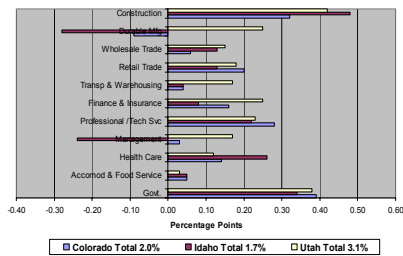
## Income Growth Has Varied

Chart 1. Personal Income: Percent Change, 2004-IV-2005:1



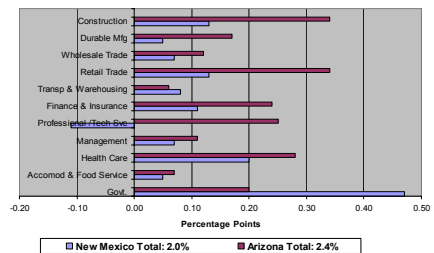
## Sources of Income: Colorado, Idaho and Utah

4th Quarter 2004 to 1st Quarter 2005)



## Sources of Income: Arizona and New Mexico

4th Quarter 2004 to 1st Quarter 2005)



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

## Impacts Not Uniform

- Net economic impact is small (positive) **but...**
  - Large impacts on income *distribution*
  - Distribution impacts shape opinions about immigration
- Benefits and costs distributed unevenly
  - Owners of capital, owners of land, and employers gain most
  - Taxpayers in high immigrant-receiving states bear fiscal costs

Source: Hanson, Gordon C., "Why Does Immigration Divide America: Public Finance and Political Opposition to Open Borders?", University of San Diego and NBER, March 2005.

## Costs and Contributions

## Debates Over Costs and Contributions

- State and local impacts
  - Taxes paid vs. services used
    - Social service benefits
    - Education
    - Health Care
- Federal impacts
  - Taxes paid vs. services used
    - Social Security
    - Federal social service benefits

## Net Fiscal Impacts Are Conditional

- Low-skilled immigrants:
  - earn relatively low wages
  - contribute relatively little in taxes
  - legal low-skilled immigrants make greater use of public assistance programs than natives
- Net fiscal impact depends *both* on:
  - Size and mix of immigrant population
  - Generosity of state public services

## Fiscal Impacts Vary Across the U.S.

- Tax structures and spending policies of U.S. states vary significantly
  - California and New York have high state income taxes and generous public benefits
  - Florida and Texas have no state income tax and provide far fewer benefits
- States also vary in the size of immigrant populations

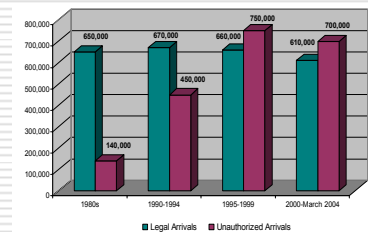
## Political Challenge

Immigration increasingly equated with *illegal* immigration

## Causes of Illegal Immigration... "Economic Incentives Trump Legal Structures"

1. Global economic integration
2. Inadequate provision for *legal* economic immigration
3. Failure to sanction employers for hiring unauthorized immigrants due to:
  - i. No reliable means for verifying employment eligibility
  - ii. Inadequate funding of interior enforcement;
  - iii. Limited political will due to U.S. labor needs

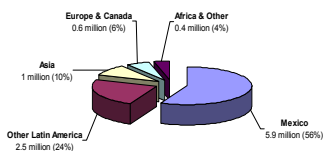
## Unauthorized Arrivals Have Exceeded Legal Arrivals Since the Mid-1990s



Estimates based on 2004 Current Population Survey. Published in Passel, Jeffrey, "Unauthorized Migrants: Numbers and Characteristics", Pew Hispanic Center, Washington, DC, June 2005. [www.pewhispanic.org](http://www.pewhispanic.org)

## Most Unauthorized Immigrants From Latin America

(Share of estimated 10.3 unauthorized immigrants)

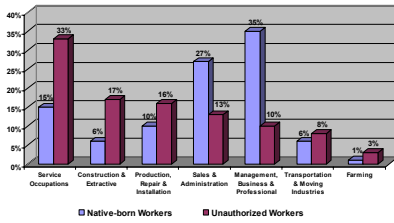


\* Estimates based on 2004 Current Population Survey. Published in Passel, Jeffrey, "Unauthorized Migrants: Numbers and Characteristics", Pew Hispanic Center, Washington, DC, June 2005. [www.pewhispanic.org](http://www.pewhispanic.org)

## Illegal Immigration Matters...

- To immigrants themselves
- To the United States

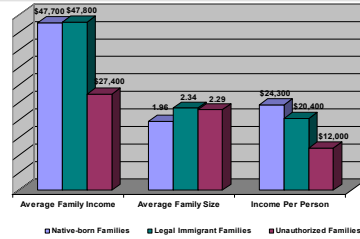
## Immigration Status Impacts Employment



Estimates based on 2004 Current Population Survey. Published in Passel, Jeffrey, "Unauthorized Migrants: Numbers and Characteristics", Pew Hispanic Center, Washington, DC, June 2005. [www.pewhispanic.org](http://www.pewhispanic.org)

## Immigration Status Impacts Income

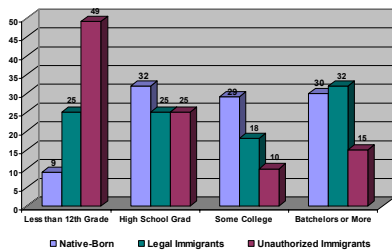
(Incomes, 2003 Family Size 2004)



Estimates based on 2004 Current Population Survey. Published in Passel, Jeffrey, "Unauthorized Migrants: Numbers and Characteristics", Pew Hispanic Center, Washington, DC, June 2005. [www.pewhispanic.org](http://www.pewhispanic.org)

## Immigration Status Impacts Educational Attainment of Children

(Share of each group's 18-24 year old population, 2004)



Estimates based on 2004 Current Population Survey. Published in Passel, Jeffrey, "Unauthorized Migrants: Numbers and Characteristics", Pew Hispanic Center, Washington, DC, June 2005. [www.pewhispanic.org](http://www.pewhispanic.org)

## Illegal Immigration Matters to the U.S.

- Failure to control borders:
  - Undermines sovereignty & rule of law
  - Creates national security risks
  - Undermines formulation of coherent policy
  - Makes the border a dangerous place

**"It is difficult to open the front door without closing the back door."**

## Immigration and National Security

- National security requires more than border control
  - The 9/11 terrorists entered legally
  - Enforcement not a substitute for intelligence
- Yet... border control imperatives are obvious

## Enforcement and National Security

- Ambivalence about enforcement
  - Focus at border while interior enforcement is minimal
  - No reliable system for verifying immigration
- Ambivalence about controlling immigration – control modulated through
  - Limits to **visible** categories
  - Adjustments to numbers of temporary visas
  - Adjustments to enforcement intensity

## Politics of Reform

- The system is understood to be broken
- Political stalemate
  - "Enforcement before reform" vs.
  - "Reform in order to enforce"
- What to do with 11 million unauthorized immigrants?
  - "Earned regularization"
  - "Amnesty"

## Temporary Worker Programs

- One mechanism for economic immigration
- Debates over existing unauthorized population
- Limited provision for *permanent* economic immigration

## 'Importing' Labor is Complicated

- Workers vs. citizens
- Facilitates:
  - Limiting rights
  - Social divisions
  - Inherent power imbalance

## Politics of Immigration Debates

	<i>Immigrant Admission Should Be</i>	
<i>Immigrant Rights Should Be</i>	<i>Expanded or Maintained</i>	<i>Restricted</i>
<i>Expansive</i>	<b>Cosmopolitans</b> Edward Kennedy (D-MA)	<b>Nationalist Egalitarians</b> Diane Feinstein (D-CA)
<i>Restrictive</i>	<b>Free-Market Expansionists</b> Jeff Flake (R-AZ)	<b>Classic Exclusionists</b> Tom Tancredo (R-CO)

\*From Tichenor, Daniel, *Guiding Lines: The Politics of Immigration Control in America*, Princeton University Press, Princeton University, 2002.

## Major Themes and Conclusions

- Today's immigration reflects a global economy
- Economic and fiscal impacts are complex
- Current laws reflects complex political cross-currents and interests
- Reform will be difficult and political voice is uneven