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.

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
University of Arizona, Tucson
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 proving 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

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

- Poverty levels
- Housing

Children of Immigrants 6th-12th Grade
Source: Pew Hispanic Center, New Demography of America’s Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Number of children 2000</th>
<th>Percent Change 1990-2000</th>
<th>Share of all children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>59,000</td>
<td>127%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>123,000</td>
<td>119%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>52,000</td>
<td>241%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**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%

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!
“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

“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

“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 \( \approx 3.3\% \) 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

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

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

Unauthorized Immigrants
10.3 million (29%)

Legal Permanent Residents
10.4 million (29%)

Naturalized Citizens
11.3 million (32%)

Temporary Legal Residents
1.2 million (3%)

Refugee Arrivals
2.5 million (7%)

### More and Different Countries of Origin

![Bar chart showing the proportion of births from different countries over time.](image)

**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau

### Significant Demographic Impacts

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


### 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 G., “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:** Personal Income: Percent Change, 2001-2003

**Source:** U.S. 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

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

Most Unauthorized Immigrants From Latin America

Illegal Immigration Matters...

- To immigrants themselves
- To the United States
**Immigration Status Impacts Employment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Average Family Income</th>
<th>Native-born Workers</th>
<th>Unauthorized Workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>$47,700</td>
<td>$47,800</td>
<td>$27,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family income</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.96</td>
<td>2.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per person</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.29</td>
<td>$24,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family size</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$20,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income per person</td>
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<td></td>
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**Immigration Status Impacts Income**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Family Income</th>
<th>Native-born Families</th>
<th>Legal Immigrant Families</th>
<th>Unauthorized Families</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>($47,700 - $27,400)</td>
<td>$25,300</td>
<td>$44,600</td>
<td>$61,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2,400</td>
<td>$1,060</td>
<td>$2,540</td>
<td>$3,060</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Immigrant Admission Should Be</th>
<th>Immigrant Rights Should Be</th>
<th>Immigrant Status Secured</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classic Exclusionists</td>
<td>限制权利的限制</td>
<td>限制权利的限制</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom Tancredo (R-CO)</td>
<td>限制权利的限制</td>
<td>限制权利的限制</td>
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<td>Free-Market Expansionists</td>
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<td>Jeff Flake (R-AZ)</td>
<td>限制权利的限制</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restrictive Nationalist Egalitarians</td>
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<td>Diane Feinstein (D-CA)</td>
<td>限制权利的限制</td>
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<td>Expansive</td>
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<td>Edward Kennedy (D-MA)</td>
<td>限制权利的限制</td>
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Major Themes and Conclusions

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