

# Mecklenburg County Latinos: Future Demographic and Political Dimensions

Presented by:

**Owen J. Furueth, Ph.D.**

Associate Provost for Metropolitan Studies and  
Extended Academic Programs

and

**Eric S. Heberlig, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science  
The University of North Carolina at Charlotte



*Charlotte: A Welcome Denied/Charlotte: Una Bienvenida Frustrada*

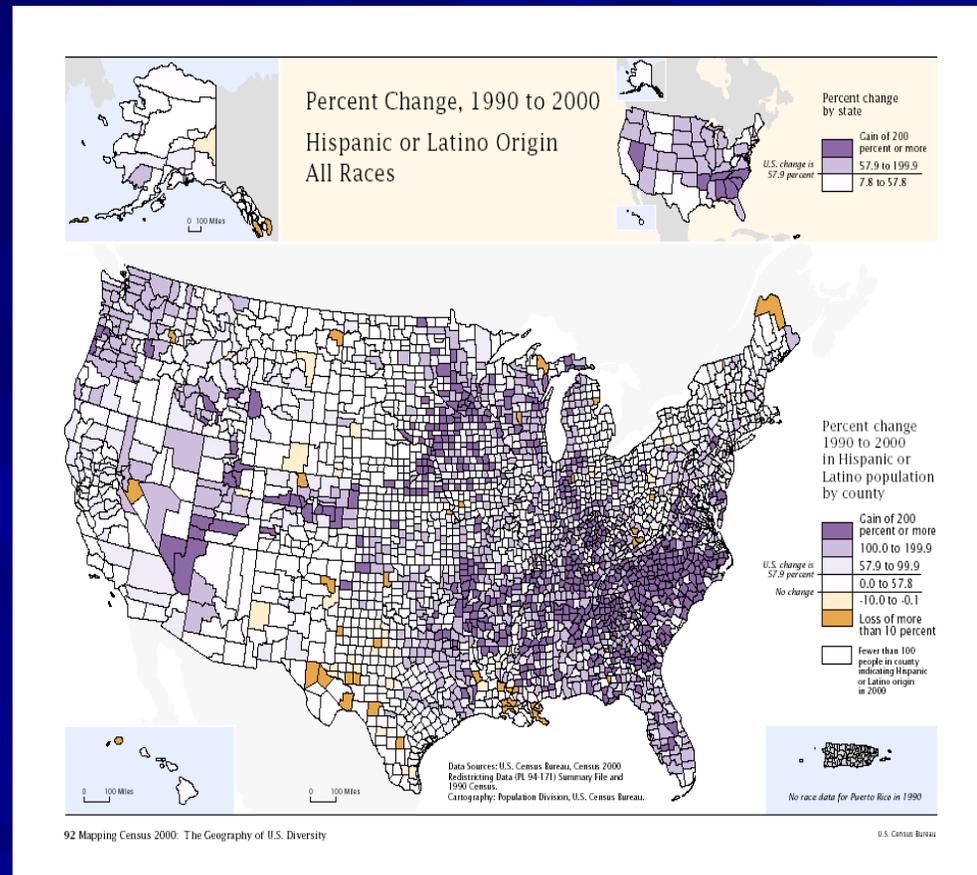
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and Charlotte H.E.L.P.

Levine Museum of the New South

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# National Trends

- Hispanics largest minority group in U.S. (12.5%)
- Hispanics among fastest growing groups in U.S.
- Southeastern United States emerges as region with greatest degree of Latino growth



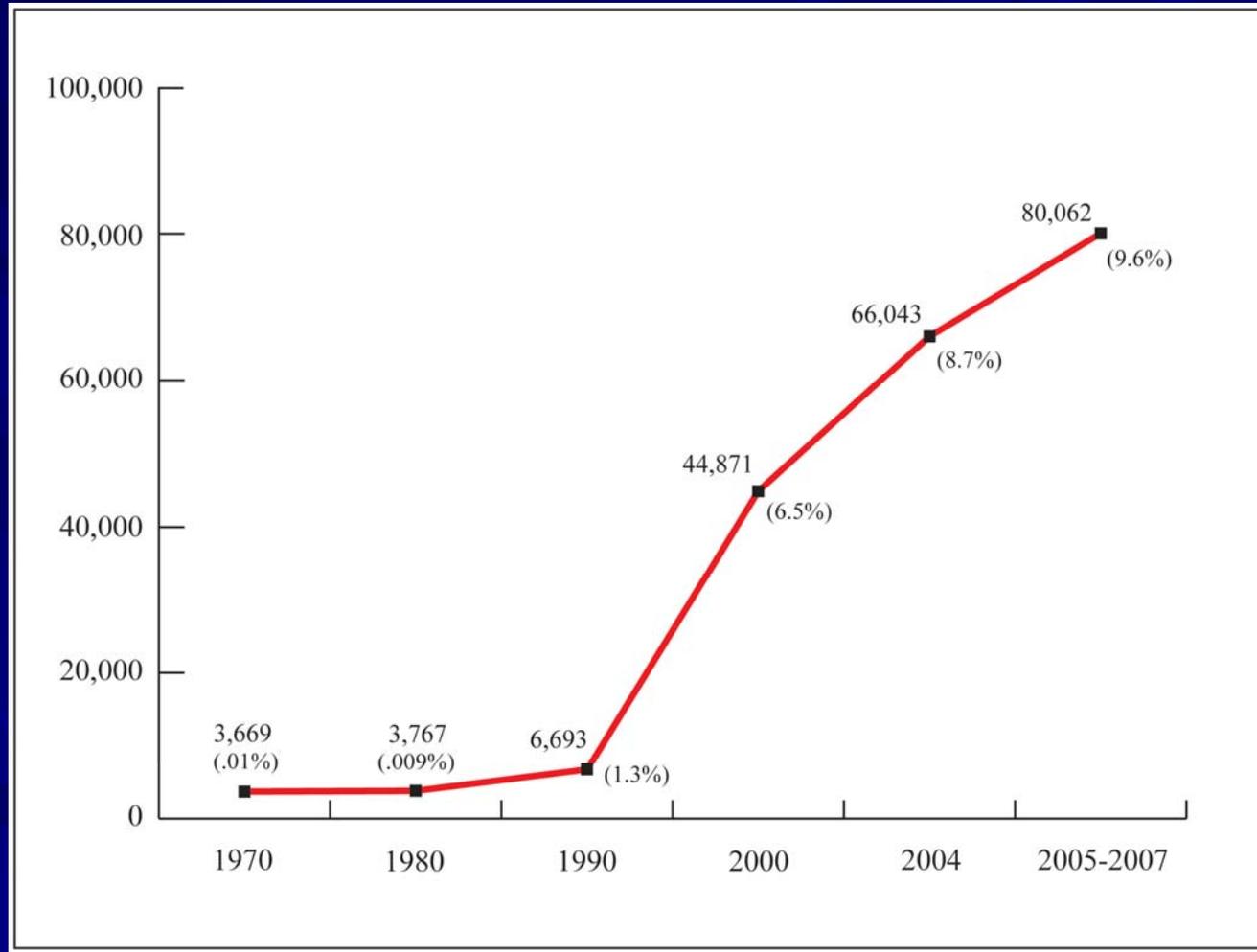
# The New Urban South

Much of that growth occurring in region's cities where broad and expanding economic opportunities attract a growing number of native and foreign born migrants.

- Raleigh/Durham
- Atlanta
- Greensboro
- Charlotte
- Orlando
- Nashville
- Fort Lauderdale
- Sarasota
- Greenville (SC)
- West Palm Beach

Of 18 metropolitan areas designated by the Brookings Institution as Hispanic Hypergrowth, 10 of the top 12 are in the South.

# Mecklenburg County's Hispanic Population Change, 1970 to 2005-2007



# Citizenship Status of Mecklenburg County Latinos

Not a Citizen

57.9%



2000

48.8%



2005-2007 estimates

Born in U.S.A.

31.9%



2000

40.1%



2005-2007 estimates

You-all Latinos – 17.7%

Tar Heel Latinos – 11.6%

## Charlotte and Mecklenburg County Latinos: Settling Out, Settling Down, Settling In

- 86% Latinos lived in Mecklenburg County for at least a year (2005-2007)  
*90% all Mecklenburg County residents for one year*
- 79.2% Latinos in labor force (2005-2007)  
*73.6% all Mecklenburg County residents*
- 35% Latinos own their homes (2005-2007)  
*Up from 25.7% home owners in 2000*
- 14.9% CMS student enrollment (2007-2008)  
*Almost double from 2002-2003*
- 771 to 2,106 Mecklenburg County Latino owned businesses (1997-2002)
- \$35,838,000 annual payroll of Latino owned business in Charlotte (2002)
- Property values in Central Avenue Corridor: 10.25% annual increase  
*Almost twice countywide average*

# Latinos in the Electorate

- 7% of North Carolina population
- 3% of 2008 North Carolina Electorate (*Source: CNN*)
- 24,379 registered Latinos in 2004  
66,883 registered Latinos in 2008 - increase of 42,469
- President Obama's margin in North Carolina: 14,000

# A Pre-emerging Immigrant Gateway

106,622 immigrants in 2007

(One out of every eight Mecklenburg County residents are foreign-born)

- ⑩ 52% from Latin America
- ⑩ 25% from Asia
- ⑩ 11% from Europe
- ⑩ 10% from Africa



# *New South, Nuevo South, Global South*

Which “South” do we want to be?



**Questions?**