Immigrants in 2010 Metropolitan America: A Decade of Change

National Immigrant Integration Conference

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United States immigrant population in 2010

40 million

13% of the population

Net increase of 8.8 million between 2000 and 2010
At the turn of the 20th century immigration levels were high then tapered.

Source: Brookings Institution calculation of U.S. Census Bureau data
Mid-century losses followed the Great Depression

Source: Brookings Institution calculation of U.S. Census Bureau data
Growth in recent decades, beginning in the 1970s reverses and exceeds mid-century losses; a slowing during the 2000s.

Source: Brookings Institution calculation of U.S. Census Bureau data
Nine metropolitan areas experienced a doubling of their foreign-born population

Source: ACS 2010
21 metros gained over 100,000 immigrants

Source: ACS 2010
22 metros grew at a slower rate than the 100 largest metro areas (27 percent)

Not shown: Honolulu, HI

Source: ACS 2010
Immigrant settlement became less concentrated during the 2000s as metropolitan areas with relatively small immigrant populations grew quickly.
Numeric and percent change in immigrant population in largest 100 metros

Circles are sized according to numeric change and colored according to percent change:
- Gain of 500,000 immigrants
- Gain of 100,000 immigrants
- Gain of 10,000 immigrants

- 0 – 26.9% change
- 27.0 – 48.6% change
- 48.7 – 84.0% change
- 84.1 – 140.2% change

Source: Authors' analysis of Census 2000 and ACS 2010 data
By 2010, 51 percent of immigrants nationwide lived in the suburbs of large metropolitan areas, up from 48 percent in 2000.

Source: Brookings Institution analysis of decennial census and ACS 2010 data
Some metropolitan areas are more suburbanized than others, and immigrants’ settlement patterns reflect that broader trend.

Of the 100 largest metros:

- In 14 immigrants are more suburbanized.
- In 78 immigrants are less suburbanized.
Region of Origin of U.S. Immigrants, 2010

- **Mexico**: 29%
- **Asia**: 28%
- **Other Latin America & Caribbean**: 24%
- **Europe**: 12%
- **Africa**: 4%
- **Other**: 3%
Demographic tipping point: Half of all U.S. births are non-white in 2010; white infants are less than 50 percent of the population in 14 states.
At the county level, percentage of infants under age 1 who are non-white shows geographic diversity within states.
The context for immigration has changed since 2000. How will we move forward to encourage immigrant integration?