Governing a Diverse Community: Georgia’s Rapidly Growing Hispanic Population

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Latino Growth in Georgia

• almost tripled over the last decade
• nearly half a million Latinos
• as of 2000, nearly twenty Georgia counties had Latino populations over 3,000
• twelve counties experienced at least 500% growth in Latinos from 1990 to 2000
• total Latino population in the southern states is expected to reach 22 million by 2025
## Georgia’s Largest Counties by Latino Population, 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Latino Population</th>
<th>Percent Latino</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gwinnett</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>64,137</td>
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<tr>
<td>DeKalb</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>52,542</td>
<td>7.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fulton</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>48,056</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cobb</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>7.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hall</td>
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<td>Whitfield</td>
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<td>18,419</td>
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<td>Clayton</td>
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<td>17,728</td>
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<td>Muscogee</td>
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<td>8,372</td>
<td>4.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cherokee</td>
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<td>7,695</td>
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<td>Clarke</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6,436</td>
<td>6.3</td>
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</table>
Georgian Attitudes toward Immigration

- Neal and Bohon (2002)
  - Gender, race, type of residence not significant
  - Age
  - Conservatives and moderates
  - Education

  - Southerners
  - Globalization
Peach State Poll (June 2006)

- Immigration on whole is good (67% nation, 53% Georgia)
- Younger vs. older
- “Immigrants get too much assistance from government”
  - 80% Republican
  - 57% Democrat
  - 52% Independent
Opportunities and Challenges for Government

- felt at municipal and county levels
- require new knowledge, tools, and innovative strategies
- need better understanding of cultural, historical and societal foundations that immigrants bring
10 Day Experiential Program

• Atlanta (two days):
  – intensive introduction to relevant topics (Mexican government, cultural norms, societal challenges, immigration facts)
  – cross-cultural training
  – introduction to Spanish language
10 Day Experiential Program

- Monterrey and the State of Nuevo Leon (four days):
  - challenges of emigration
  - politics and electoral reforms
  - NAFTA, labor unions and industry
  - municipal revitalization and economic development
  - women’s and children’s issues
10 Day Experiential Program

- Xalapa and the State of Veracruz (six days):
  - the role of the Catholic Church
  - community policing and police training
  - University of Veracruz public service to poor villages
  - agriculture (coffee, cane, dairy)
  - roundtable with journalists
  - neighborhood associations
  - visits to communities where the majority of men are working in Georgia
Program Participants (21 total)

- 5 County Commissioners
- 2 County Managers
- 1 Staff Member, Association County Commissioners of Georgia
- 5 City Mayors or Council Persons
- 2 City Managers
- 1 Staff Member, Georgian Municipal Association
- 1 Regional Development Center Director
- 1 Graduate Student, Anthropology (UGA)
- 2 Faculty Members, Carl Vinson Institute of Government (UGA)
- 1 Faculty Member, Fanning Institute (UGA)
After Program, Participants will:

• have a better understanding of immigration opportunities and challenges;
• be equipped to effect change within their local communities;
• be part of an international network of public officials facing immigration/emigration issues;
• network with other local government officials from throughout Georgia to share their experiences; and
• aid the Carl Vinson Institute of Government in the creation of a new course addressing Latino opportunities and challenges.
Experiential Learning in Policy Arena

• Rocha (2000)
  – feel more confident:
    • using media to communicate ideas to the public
    • plan and implement a change effort

• Rocha (2006)
  – implement:
    • more likely to have worked on a change effort
    • significantly more likely to be member of coalition
    • been instrumental in organizing activities
The culturally competent government official recognizes that differences may exist in:

- Racial/Ethnic History
- Language
- Verbal & Nonverbal Communication
- Personal Space, Eye Contact & Touch
- Time Orientation
- Family Structures and Dynamics
The culturally competent government official recognizes that differences may exist in:

- Activities of Daily Living and Self Care (clothing and ornaments, food preferences, rituals and customs)
- Economics and Work
- Regional/Spiritual Beliefs & Practices
- Health/Illness Beliefs & Practices
- Privacy and Confidentiality
- Attitude toward Government
Q-Methodology

- invented in 1935 by psychologist
- seeks to understand how people think about a topic
- the scientific study of subjectivity
- related to post-positivism (truth is relative, multiple truths exist, reject observer objectivity)
- intensive methodology, which seeks in-depth understanding
Steps in a Q-Study

1. create sample of communication or conversation about the topic

- two methods
  - unstructured interviews or conversations
  - mine relevant literature

- four dimensions (47 total statements)
  - economic, political, social, cultural
Steps in a Q-Study

2. ask persons of theoretical interest to complete the sort

- 18 individuals
- pre- and post-test
Steps in a Q-Study

3. each person completes the sort in quasi-normal distribution

Name ___________________________ Place of Work ___________________________
Age ____________ Sex ____________ Position/Title ___________________________
Highest level of education ___________________________ City in which you live ___________________________

-5 -4 -3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3 +4 +5
development will all other sustainable development concepts. It is not simply enough to speak of preservation and conservation. Clear understanding among government officials

to speak of preservation and conservation. Clear understanding among government officials

We then decide to write out just the first two factors (since these are the only ones that have been flagged), and we can write these in any order we wish. In this case, we probably want to remember the two factors so that factor one are the only ones that have been flagged), and we can write these in any order we wish. In this case, we probably want to remember the two factors so that factor one

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Steps in a Q-Study

4. sorts are correlated, and correlations are factor analyzed

• PQMethod Software
• www.q-method.org
Steps in a Q-Study

5. clusters of sorts with similar views are identified

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Factors</th>
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Factor A: Federal Reform

- economics drive immigration
- burden on local government budgets
- no special treatment; equal standards
- more active role for federal government
  - change immigration laws to fully incorporate Latino workers in local and state economies
  - US bureaucracy causes difficulty and fear
  - not the responsibility of Mexican government
- cynical about government catering to big business
Factor B: Balance Gov. Response

- Economics/burden on local gov. budgets
- More active role for federal government
  - Change citizenship requirements
- Cynical about government catering to big business
- Role for education (local gov. officials)
- Role for state government
  - No active role in college recruitment
  - State law requiring police to report
- Undocumented should not have same labor rights
Factor C: Separate Space

- Mexicans are recruited in Mexico
- strict border control is not solution
- state should offer health care to everyone
- immigration does not lead to increased crime, decreased quality of life
- Latinos should not assimilate to culture of those around them
- managers do not prefer Latinos over African Americans
Factor D: State Government

- Important role for the state:
  - health care for all
  - invest in education for all
  - invest now or pay later
  - provide driver’s licenses
  - (skeptical of federal ability)

- immigration does not lead to increased crime, decreased quality of life
Factor E: Individual Responsibility

- Latinos should assimilate to culture around them
- We are a country of immigrants—immigration should continue
- Local governments should actively recruit Latino-owned businesses
- No police involvement in immigration affairs
- Georgia economy is not hurt by money sent to Mexico
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>P</th>
<th>Federal Reform</th>
<th>Balanced Government</th>
<th>Separate Space</th>
<th>State Role</th>
<th>Individual Responsibility</th>
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Results

• No movement for three individuals

• "Individual Responsibility" only a pre-factor

• 11 post individuals loaded at least partially on "Federal Reform" (65%)
Conclusions

• Intervention has a definite effect
• For the most part, participants see a role for government
• Realists: recognize the economics of the situation
• Want immigration reform that helps local governments (not just closed borders)
• Worry about control of big business
Further Analyses

• differences based on sex, age, county/city, level of education?
• compare to standard evaluation
• year later: what have participants implemented?
• repeat training
Thank you.