

CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS AND IMMIGRATION IN CHARLOTTE, NC

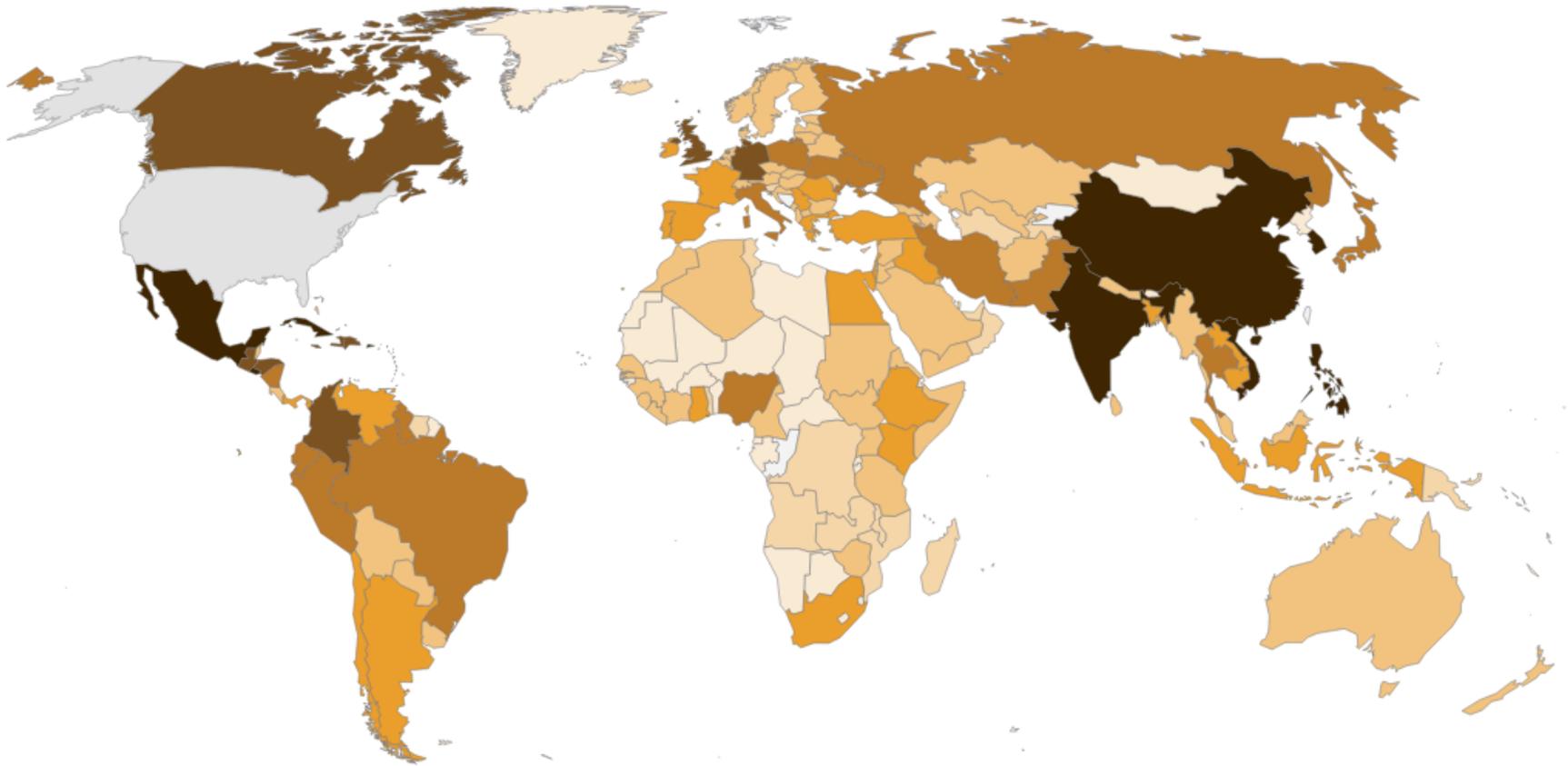


Claire Schuch, PhD Candidate UNC Charlotte
Charlotte Data Day
October 7, 2015

A Country of Immigrants

- Where are you from?
- Where are your parents/grandparents/great-grandparents from?
- What brought them/you to the US/NC?
- Why do people migrate?

Immigration is political. And personal.



In 2013 , 45,790,000 people living in the United States were born in other countries

○ < 1000 ○ 1k-10k ○ 10k-90k ○ 100k-240k ○ 250k-490k ○ 500k-990k ○ 1m and greater

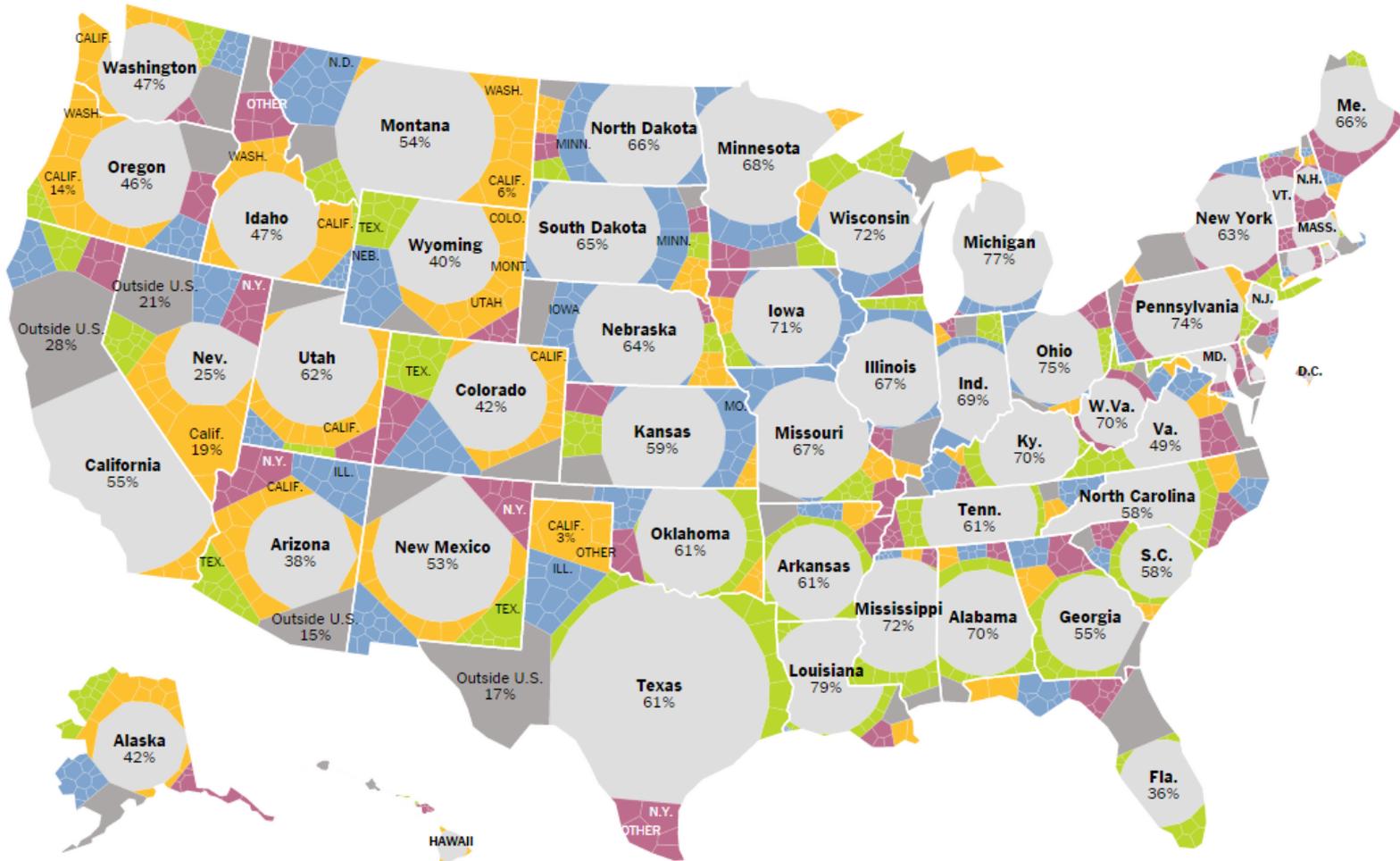
Where people who lived in each state in 2012 were born

Each shape represents where the people living in a state were born. Within a state, larger shapes mean a group makes up a larger share of the population.

SELECT A YEAR

1900 | 1950 | **2012**

■ Northeast ■ South ■ Midwest ■ West ■ Outside the U.S.*



Traditional Immigrant Settlement Geography

- Immigrant “Gateway Cities” key entry points for people and goods moving into the U.S.
- Immigrants settle in the poorest and least desirable neighborhoods
- Center City close to job opportunities, forming enclaves



21st Century Gateway: Immigrant Settlement Elements

- **Gateway Cities** – new economies, rapidly growing, interior locations
- **Suburban Settlement** – housing costs, job location, immigrant infill
- Invisiburbs → **ethnoburbs**
- **Heterolocalism** (dispersed settlements)

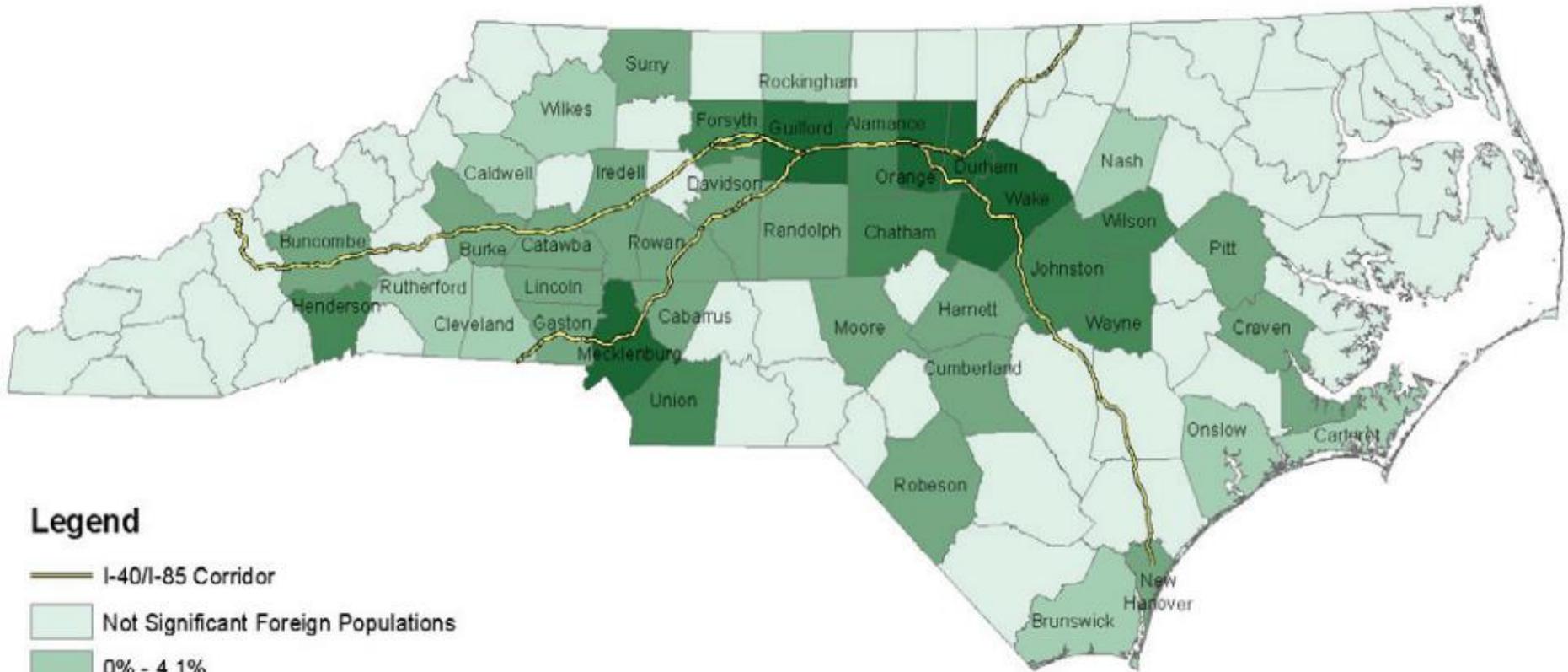


New Urban Destinations



- Between 1990 and 2000, NC experienced the largest percent growth of the immigrant population (274%) of all states.
- The 21st Century new immigrant gateways
- Charlotte: Latino growth rates of over 800% between 1980 and 2000 (Hispanic 'hypergrowth')

IMMIGRANT POPULATION IN NORTH CAROLINA BY COUNTY, 2012



Legend

I-40/I-85 Corridor

Not Significant Foreign Populations

0% - 4.1%

4.2% - 6.8%

6.9% - 10%

10.1% - 14.2%

0 40 80 160 Miles

Immigrants in Mecklenburg County

Total Foreign-Born 13.6% (128,879)

Citizenship Status 32.2%

Entered U.S.

- Before 2000: 50.7%
- 2000-2009: 43.4%
- 2010 or later: 5.9%

Top sending countries: Mexico (21% of foreign-born), India (10%), Honduras (6%), El Salvador (5%), Vietnam (3%), Korea (3%), Germany (3%), Canada (3%).

Region of Birth

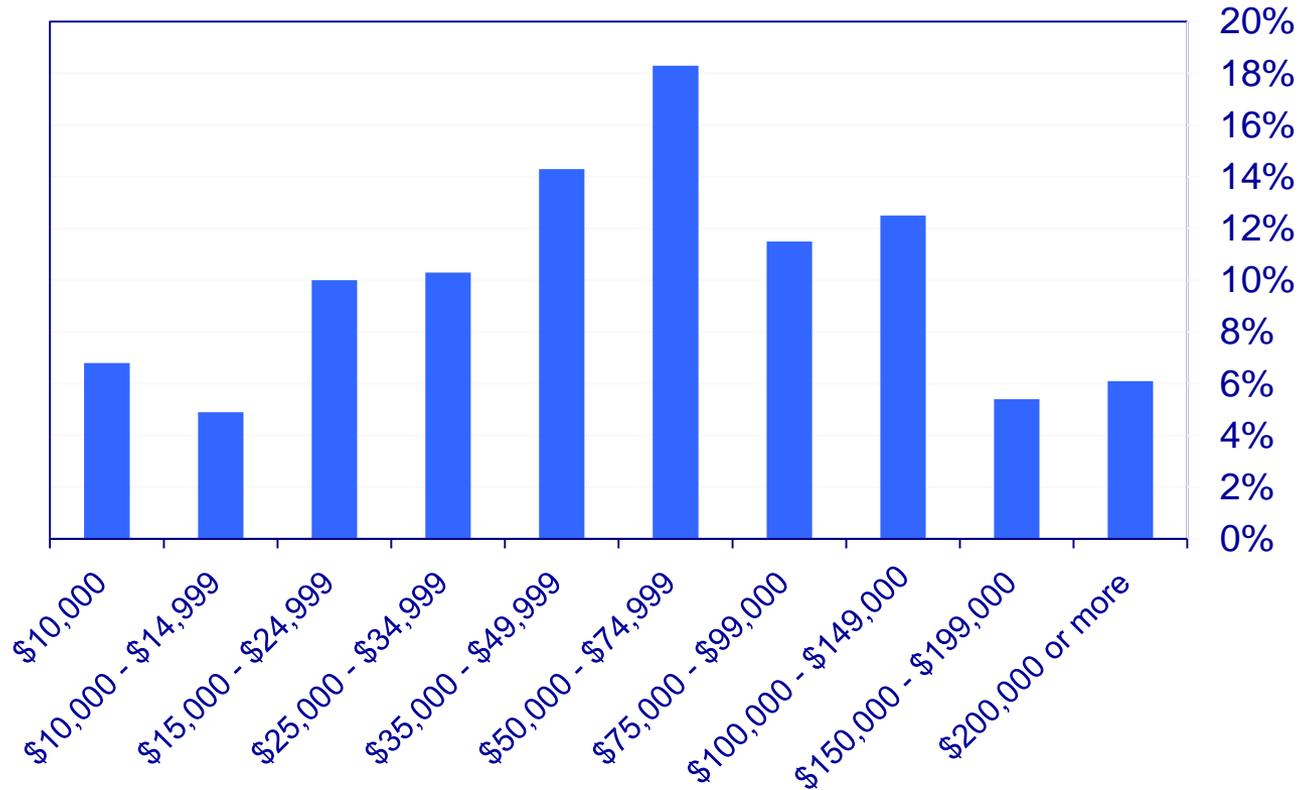
- Latin America 51.5%
- Asia 27.3%
- Europe 10.9%
- Africa 8.4%



Immigrant Income

Median Household Income \$54,417 (U.S. Born: \$56,602)

Immigrants' household income, Mecklenburg



Why Charlotte?



Why Charlotte?

■ Economy

- Bank of America phenomenon (early 1990s turning point)
- Need for both workers across occupational spectrum

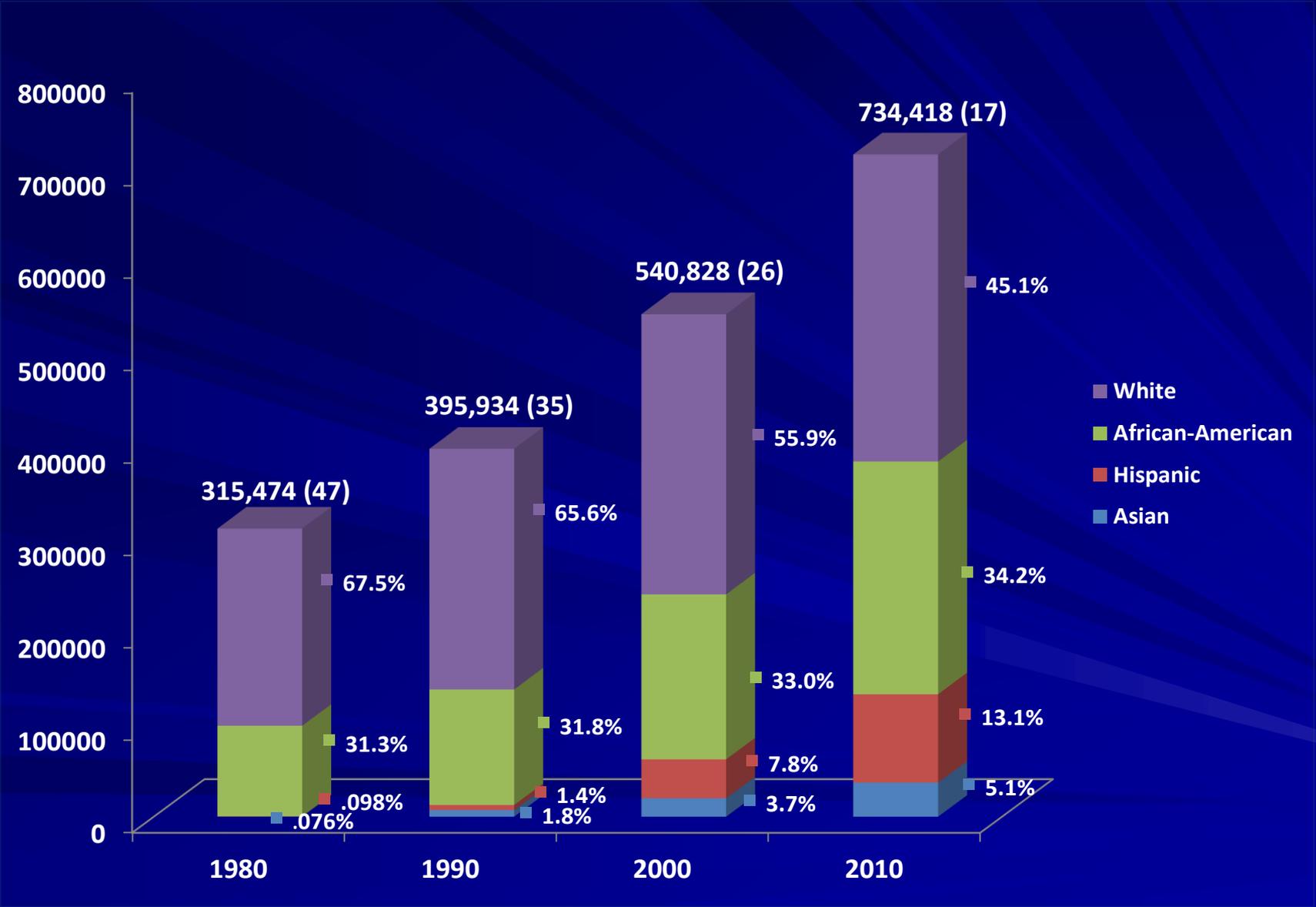
■ Landscape of Opportunity

- Entrepreneurship encouraged
- Year-round employment
- Female employment opportunities

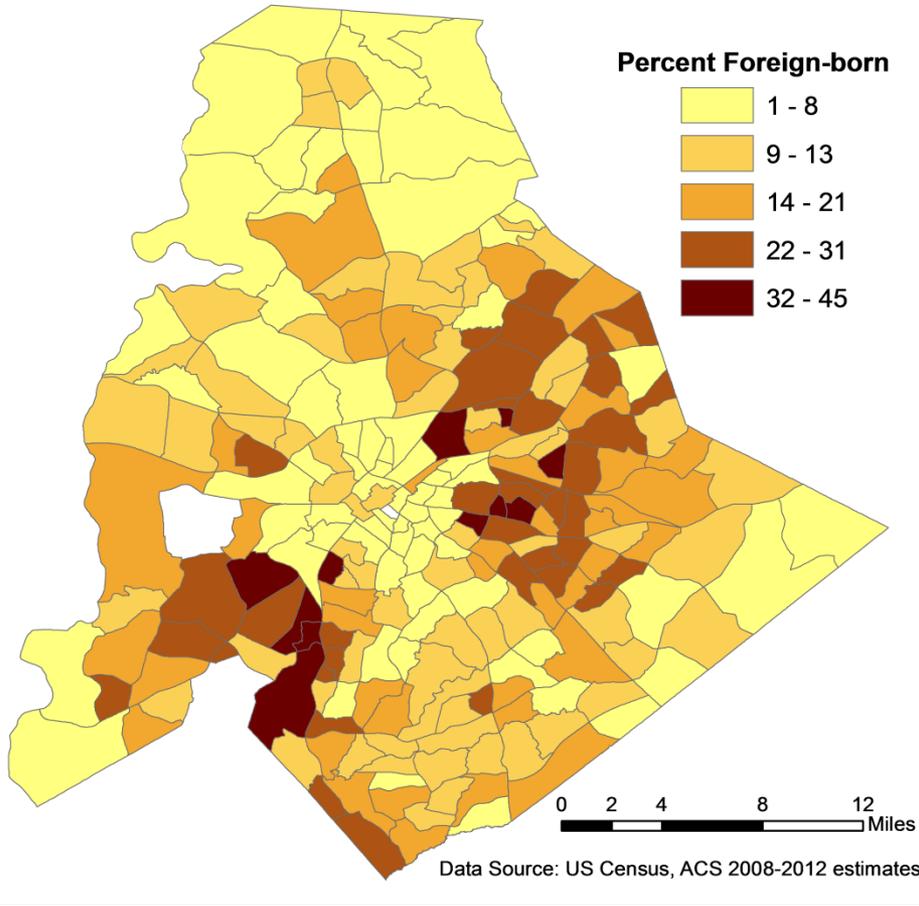
■ Welcoming

- Charlotte: little immigration history or experience
- Expansive labor market
- Immigration non-political issue

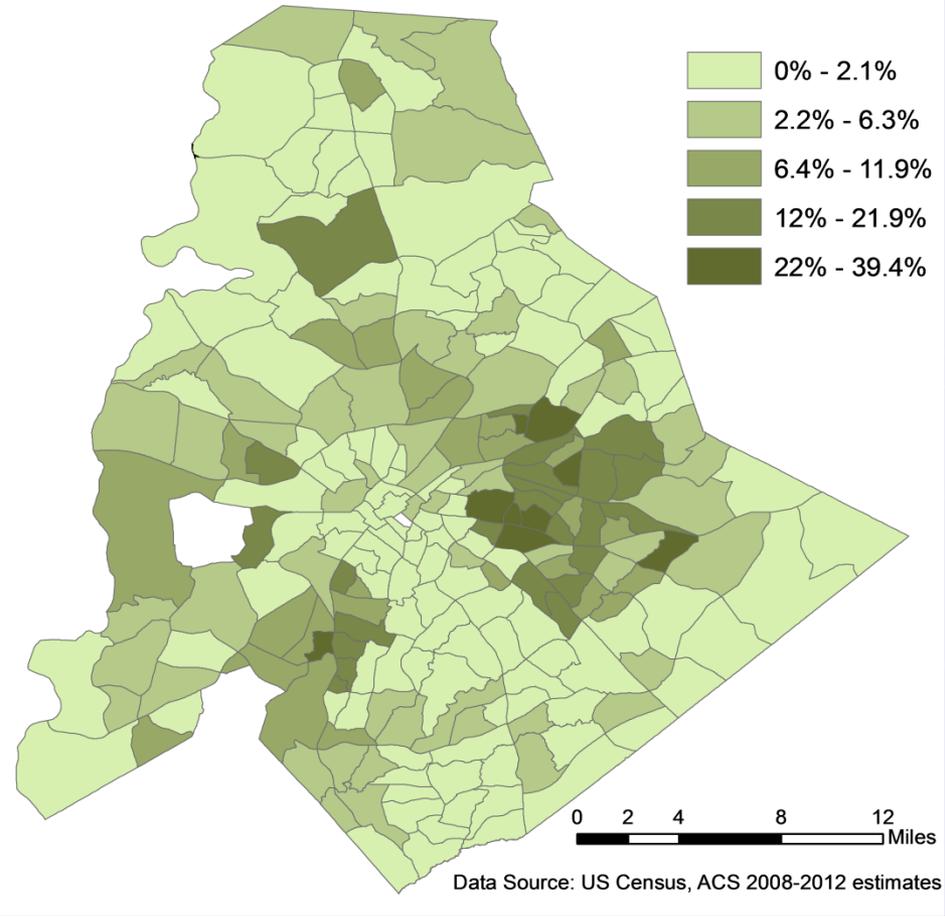
Charlotte's Transformation from Old South to New South



Percent Foreign-born by Census Tract, Mecklenburg County



Percent Hispanic/Latino of the Total Population by Census Tract, Mecklenburg County



Implications and Trends for Charlotte



■ Opportunities:

- Revitalization of business and residential districts
- Growing entrepreneurial activity
- Cultural diversity
- New ideas, skills, talents

■ Challenges:

- Costs of service provision
- (Perceived) job competition
- Ethnic and racial tensions

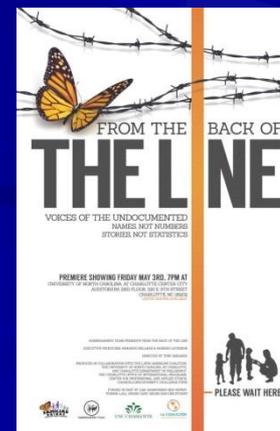
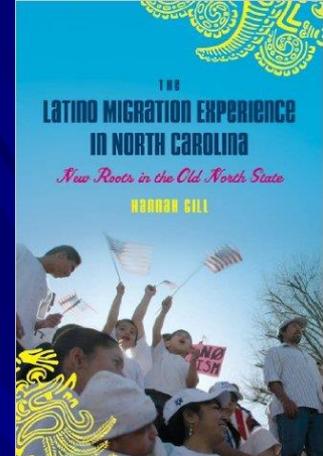


Immigrant experiences

- Common ground, e.g.
 - Home sickness, questions of belonging
 - Need for support
- Differences, e.g.
 - Education level, SES
 - Degree of trauma
 - Documentation status
- Public, political responses and receptivity

Local Initiatives and Resources

- Welcoming Cities initiative
- Charlotte's Immigrant Immigration Task Force
- Levine Museum of the New South: *Nuevolution! Latinos in the New South* exhibit, Sept. 2015 – Oct. 2016
- Building Integrated Communities (BIC)
- Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency
- International House
- Latin American Coalition



Conclusions

- People migrate for economic, political, educational, social/familial, and environmental reasons.
- The US started as, and continues to be, a 'country of immigrants'
 - New geographies of migration, settlement patterns
- Charlotte-Mecklenburg is diversifying.
- Migration influences us all. How do we react to it?

Questions?



Thank you

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