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Latino Immigrants in South Bend

Who are Latino Immigrants?

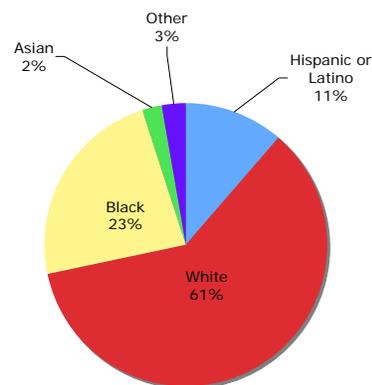
Latino immigrants in South Bend are a growing population that must be better understood as they continue to become a more dominant presence in our midst. In 1990, census data estimated that about 3% of the South Bend population was Latino. In 2000, that percentage had grown to 8%. Over these ten years, the Latino population grew by 157%, while the African-American population increased by only 20% and the Caucasian population decreased by 11%. While the Latino population continues to grow in South Bend, the overall population is actually decreasing. From 2000 to 2006 the population of South Bend has decreased 3.2%. Other data from the American Community Survey in 2006 suggests that the South Bend population has increased to 11% Latino. The Latino population is consistently growing and this trend is not likely to end anytime soon, though it may ebb

and flow under various conditions.

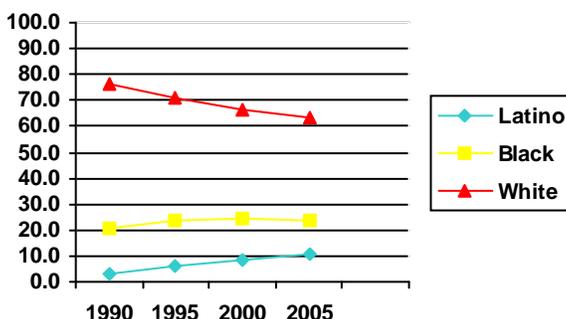
This research brief is designed to paint a very general picture of who these Latino immigrants are, why they have come to the South Bend area, and their lifestyle. It should be noted that Latino immigrants come both from Latin American countries and from other locations in the U.S. While 11% of

South Bend residents are Latino as of 2006, only about 6% of the city's population is foreign-born. Many Latino immigrants come from other areas of the United States, but more immigrants today are coming directly from Latin America to South Bend instead of stopping in other major cities on their way.

This brief aims to foster a greater understanding of Latino immigrants in our community. However, part of understanding the Latino population in South Bend is appreciating the differences that exist among these immigrants. South Bend's Latino population is a heterogeneous one, and the Latino members of our community want to be viewed as such, rather than as one homogenous group of immigrants. The sections of this brief should provide further insight into the important characteristics of South Bend's Latino population and the distinctions that exist between individuals.



South Bend Population by Race and Ethnicity, 2006.
Source: American Community Survey 2006



Population Change in South Bend since 1990 by Race/Ethnicity
Source: www.census.gov

History of Latino Immigration in South Bend



Latino immigrants have been coming to the Midwest for over a century, with variations in the flow and the characteristics of their immigration. In the early 1900s, Mexican and Mexican-American immigrants were recruited to work for Midwestern auto companies, steel plants, and farm enterprises.

Specifically in South Bend, census data shows Latinos residing in the area as early as the 1930s, with their population growing significantly in the

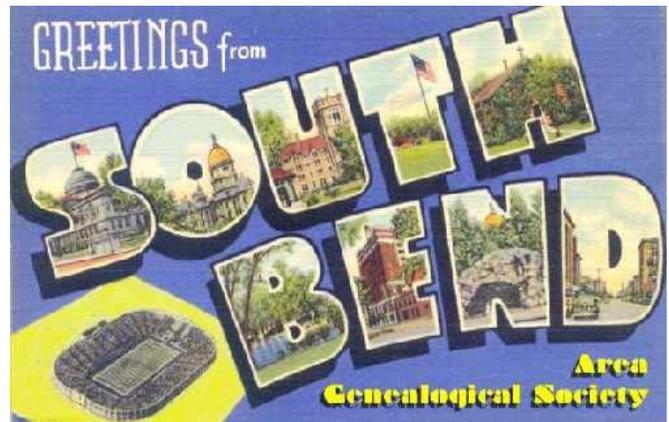
1940s. During this time, Latino immigrants were attracted primarily by the migrant farmwork available in the area. Latino migrant farmworkers continued to come into the South Bend area through the 1950s and 60s, with a rapid influx of migrants after 1965 that has steadily continued. Up until

the late 1980s, Latino immigrants came into St. Joseph County as seasonal migrants who eventually settled here or as industrial workers who relocated to work in the area permanently.

The late 1980s saw changes in the makeup of the Latino population of South Bend, in part because of the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986. Prior to the 1980s, most of the Latinos coming into South Bend arrived from other U.S. cities

like Chicago. These Latinos immigrated to large cities before making their way to St. Joseph County. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, because of the influence of IRCA, immigrants were more likely to come straight from their countries of origin, namely Mexico. Many Latino immigrants who had come to South Bend to do migrant farm-work were now able to bring family members who had stayed behind into

the United States. The time period following the Immigration Control and Reform Act also brought about a change in the type of work that Latino immigrants came to do in South Bend, with a trend away from migrant farm-work and towards light industrial work and jobs in the service industry. These changes also reflected the shifting demands of the South Bend economy at this time.



“Mexican migration to the Midwest thus has continued for over a century, has usually occurred as a result of vigorous recruitment by employers, and has often contributed to economic growth in the region.”

Why are they coming?

Latino immigrants have been coming into the South Bend area for well over fifty years now, primarily because of job opportunities. Originally, many Latinos arrived in St. Joseph County to work as migrant farmers and eventually settled in the area, often bringing their families with them. The choice to settle permanently was usually related to desires for job stability and a steady income. Today, Latinos seeking many of the same securities continue to come into the area to fill jobs in light industrial

labor, food processing, and service industries. Additionally, Latino immigrants cite greater opportunities for themselves and for their children as major reasons for coming to the South Bend area.

Latino immigration is certainly inspired by the possibilities it entails for immigrants, but it benefits other residents of South Bend as well. As the book *Apple Pies & Enchiladas* points out, “Mexican migration to the Midwest thus has

continued for over a century, has usually occurred as a result of vigorous recruitment by employers, and has often contributed to economic growth in the region.” Specifically in South Bend, the relationship between Latinos and the rest of the city is a reciprocal one, as immigrants respond to the demands of the economy and fill jobs that are available to them. The entire city benefits from the contributions of immigrants.

Where are they coming from?



come from the same country, are not all the same. It is important to recognize individual differences in the population to fully appreciate the diversity of the Latino community in South Bend.

The individuals making up the 8 to 11% of the South Bend population that is Latino may be foreign-born or native-born. Of the foreign-born residents of the city, who make up 6.4% of the population, 33% were born in Mexico and another 20% hail from other Latin American countries.

After Mexico, Canada is the country sending the most foreign-born immigrants to South Bend, but only 4% of the foreign-born population comes from Canada.

Significantly, less than 40% of the Latino population in South Bend is foreign-born. The majority of Latinos in the area were born here or elsewhere in the United States. These statistics suggest that Latino families are growing in the U.S. and in South Bend, as do other statistics re-

garding age and family life. There are clearly many differences within the Latino population not only in terms of origin and how they arrived here, but also with regard to their current lives in South Bend.

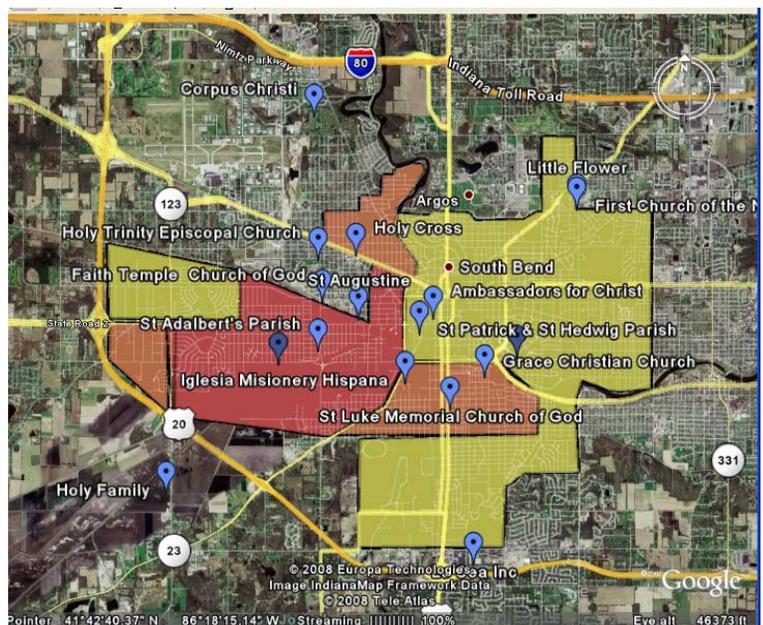


Latinos in the South Bend area are primarily of Mexican descent. According to 2000 census data, 8.5% of the South Bend population is Latino and nearly 78% of the Latino population is Mexican. That is, 6.6% of the total population of the city is of Mexican descent. Only 0.3% of the total population is Puerto Rican, 0.1% is Cuban, and 1.5% is of any other Latin American origin. However, the members of the Latino population, even if they

Where are they living?

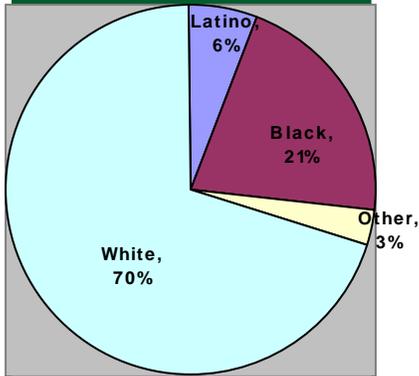
The map to the right shows a breakdown of Latino residency in South Bend as measured by the percentage of Latino students in various school districts. The pink area of this map highlights the part of the city with the highest concentration of Latino students, and presumably of Latinos overall. The west side of South Bend (the area between Chapin Street and Mayflower Road, along Sample Street and to the immediate north and south) has the most highly concentrated Latino population in the city. However, the majority of South Bend school districts have at least 10% Latino pupils, indicating that Latinos are spread throughout the entire city.

- Schools with 30% to 50% Latino pupils
- Schools with 15% to 30% Latino pupils
- Schools with 10% to 15% Latino pupils



Latino Churches and Latino Student Density in South Bend Area

Households in South Bend by Race and Ethnicity, 2006



Source: ACS 2006

Median Earnings by Sex and Race, South Bend, Population 16 Years and Older with Earnings in the Past Twelve Months

	Latino	White, Non-Latino
Total	\$16386	\$26689
Male	\$16292	\$32021
Female	\$17431	\$20924

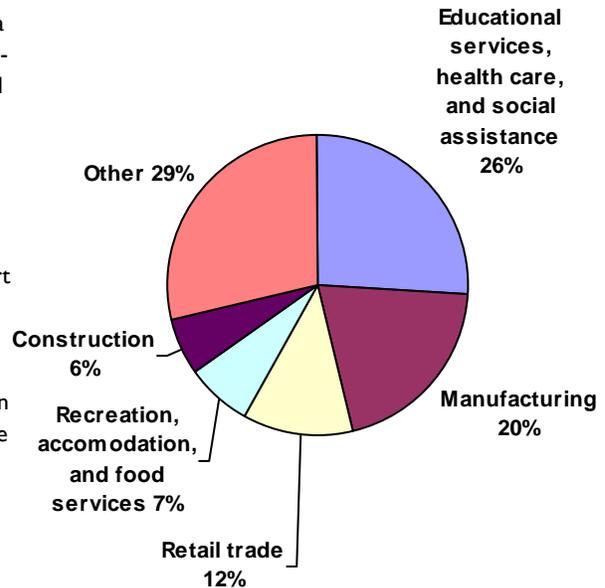
*data in 2006 inflation-adjusted dollars
Source: ACS 2006

What is their economic situation?

Latinos in the South Bend area are not an economically advantaged population, as evidenced by the disparity between their median earnings and those of the white, non-Latino population. According to data from the 2006 American Community Survey (shown in the chart below, left), white, non-Latino median earnings are over \$10,000 greater than median Latino earnings, and white, non-Latino males make nearly double the median earnings of their Latino counterparts. According to 2000 census data, per capita income for the South Bend Latino population was \$9,921; per capita income for the total population was \$17,121.

Household income for Latinos in South Bend as of 1999 was between 15 and 35 thousand dollars per year. It is important to note that, according to 2000 census data, households among the Latino population are larger than those of the South Bend population overall, with an average household size of 4 for Latinos and only 2 for the total population. Thus, while Latinos make up 11% of the South Bend population according to the 2006 American Community Survey, they live in only 6% of the households in the city (as seen in the graph above, left). In other words, households with more people are bringing in less income annually than other South Bend households. The living situations of Latinos are distinct from the general population, and thus their economic situation is

Employment by Industry in South Bend, 2006



Source: ACS 2006

distinct as well. It should be noted that most immigrant groups, not only Latinos, tend to live in larger groups when they first immigrate and assimilate to the city's household size norms with time, so this particular distinction may change gradually.

Nearly 23% of Latino individuals in South Bend live below the poverty level, compared to only 16% of the total population. Approximately 42% of the Latino population over age 16 was in the labor force as of 2000 census data, while nearly 48% of the total South Bend population over age 16 was working. This may account for some of the disparity, but the significant differences in

median earning capacity for Latinos and white, non-Latinos are important to note.

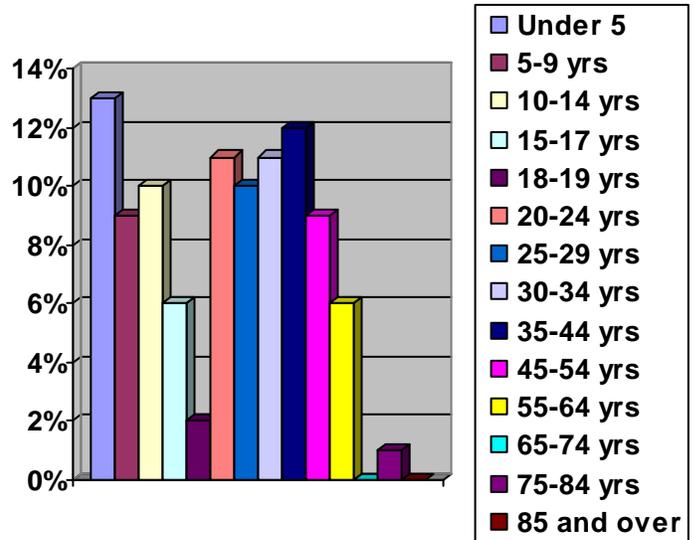
As mentioned earlier, Latinos have come to South Bend to fill the demands of the city's changing economy. The graph above shows employment by industry in South Bend as of 2006 for the total population, and other census data suggests that Latinos fill many of the jobs that are now available in the area. Over 30% of Latinos work in construction or manufacturing. Another 20% work in wholesale and retail industries, while over 15% work in personal service jobs, including domestic work. Certainly the limited earnings potential of jobs that Latinos hold in South Bend also accounts for some of their economic conditions.

How old are they?

According to 2000 census data, the Latino population in South Bend is generally younger than the population overall. The median age of the Latino population is 22, while the median age of the total population is 33 and the median age of the white population is 37. The graph to the right shows the age breakdown of South Bend Latinos as of 2006, when over 50% of the Latino population was under 25 years of age. Thus, the Latino population

here is growing not only as adults migrate into the area, but also as immigrant families grow and expand.

Currently, the percentage of senior citizens in the Latino population is quite low, which suggests a few possible explanations: they have not been settled here long enough to reach senior citizenship, they are retiring elsewhere, or they have higher mortality rates than other population groups.



Age Breakdown of South Bend Latino Population
Source: ACS 2006

What can we expect?

The Latino population in South Bend has been growing steadily for many years and it is not expected to stop growing or to diminish in the near future. Latinos made up only 3% of the South Bend population in 1990 and 8% of the population ten years later in 2000. As of 2006 data from the American Community Survey, 11% of the South Bend population is Latino, and this percentage is sure to continue to grow as it has over the past 18 years. Work by the Indiana Business Research Center projects that the Latino population in South Bend will continue to grow over the next 15-20 years, reaching nearly 13% by 2025. These estimates are based on the 2000 census data. More recent data, which suggests that Latinos already make up 11% of the population, indicates that there may be even more growth than predicted over this time period.

However, the rate at which the La-



tino population will increase in the future is somewhat difficult to estimate. The numbers will depend not only on the employment and educational opportunities available in the area, but also on the changing values concerning reproduction and family size. We can expect Latinos to have smaller families in the future as they abandon rural family norms and assimilate to U.S. norms.

As we look towards the future, it is important to note the tendencies towards transnationalism that are

evident in the Latino community. Although few immigrants will return permanently to their countries of origin after coming to the U.S., they are likely to have strong network ties and connections that reach far beyond South Bend. The Latino population here is fluid in nature, and is heterogeneous as well, and we must strive to understand them better as they continue to grow and to fill an important place in our community.

For More Information, please see:

Social and Economic Conditions of the Spanish Origin Population in South Bend, IN
by Jim Faught, 1974.

Apple Pie & Enchiladas: Latino Newcomers in the Rural Midwest
by Ann V. Millard and Jorge Chapa, 2004.

The State of Latino Chicago : This is Home Now
By Timothy Ready and Allert Brown-Gort, University of Notre Dame, 2005.

<http://www.census.gov/>

http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en

<http://www.city-data.com/city/South-Bend-Indiana.html>

<http://www.southbendcityplan.org/PDF/CCR/Appendix%20C.pdf>

<http://www.incontext.indiana.edu/2007/august/5.html>



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