



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

Carolina del Norte and the New South: Social work practice with new Latino immigrant communities

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OBJECTIVES

- Illustrate demographic shifts in North Carolina's Latino immigrant population
- Briefly explain history of social work practice with immigrant communities
- Present local immigration enforcement as a case example
- Discuss strengths and challenges social workers face in working to achieve social equity with and for new Latino immigrants



El Nuevo Carolina

- Between 2000-2010 seven Southeast states had Latino populations that doubled
- North Carolina's Latino population increased 111% from 2000 to 2010
- Currently, Latinos account for 8% of NC's population
- Complex settlement patterns and community reception

Pew Hispanic Center, 2011
U.S. Census Bureau, 2010



Social Work with Immigrants

- Have a professional and ethical obligation to serving marginalized populations
- Commitment to working with immigrant populations noted by:
 - National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics
 - Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards

Chang-Muy & Congress, 2009
DeRose, Escarce, & Lurie, 2007



“You can Americanize the man from southeastern and southern Europe, but you can’t Americanize a Mexican”

-declaration by a settlement house director
at the turn of the 19th Century

The professionalization of social work and the creation of formal social service organizations rarely met the specific needs of immigrants and caused de facto exclusion from formal services

Iglehart & Becerra, 1995/2000, p. 5



Theoretical and practice shifts

- Migration and movement patterns
- Acculturation theory and measurement
- Risk and resiliency
- Strengths-based and asset-based approaches

Learning from and engaging with other disciplines is key!



Case Example: Local Immigration Enforcement

- What are 287g communities
- Impacts of local immigration enforcement:
 - Social & Economic
 - Mental health (fear, anxiety, and acculturation stress)
- Social work role
 - Advocacy & treatment

Nguyen & Gill, 2010
Hacker, et.al., 2012
McLeigh, 2010



Key Opportunities for Social Work Action

- Social work education: Responsive practice and community-based or community engaged research efforts
- Interdisciplinary dialogue
- Community engagement and community partnerships



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