

POL 168: Chicano/Latino Politics

Professor Brad Jones

Fall Quarter 2009

Assignment 1: Latinos in Geographic Context

Overview

In this assignment, I'm asking you to do some analysis of demographic data related to the Latino population. The objective of the assignment is to give you the opportunity to become familiar with demographic statistics as they relate to Latinos. In the course of the assignment, you may learn something about your particular hometown, as well other places in the U.S. I'm going to ask you to compile data supplied by the Census Bureau, compile the data in easy-to-read tables of your own creation, and then summarize/analyze the results. You will need to address the following questions/do the following tasks.

1. What is the extent of the Latino population in your hometown?
2. What is revealed in the population trends in your city (i.e. what sorts of things might you learn based on the information you collected)?
3. How does your hometown **compare to a comparably sized city/town from a non-border region** (border region for these purposes are: California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas). The data used for this comparative analysis should be the three bold-faced items below.
4. What things do you learn about the differences between the overall Latino population vs. Latino VAP?

Your grade will be based on your ability to systematically present these demographic statistics in a way that allows me to easily understand the questions asked above. This project is due October 8 (Thursday, in class). No late submissions will be accepted.

Getting the Data

To collect the relevant data, follow these steps. First, determine what your hometown is (easy!) and then find a comparably sized town in a non-border region. For example, Davis, CA is roughly comparable to Chapel Hill, NC. Comparability should be based on roughly similar population sizes.

1. Start at <http://factfinder.census.gov>.
2. Click on "Data Sets" on the left side of the screen.
3. Select the Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3).

4. Where it says “Select from the following”, choose “Detailed Tables.”
5. A new page will load. Change the “geographic type” to “Place.”
6. Enter the state name (for most of you, this will be California).
7. A list of cities will load. Scroll down and select your particular city. When you find it, click the “Add” button.
8. Your city should appear in the box at the bottom under the header **===Place===**.
9. To gather data on spoken language, choose tables PCT62H and PCT63H.
10. To gather data on overall population and VAP, **return to step 2 above and select Summary File 1** and then select table P4 and P6.
11. To gather data on CVAP (citizen voting age population), **return to step 2 above and select Summary File 4** and then select table PCT44, then select Hispanic (of any race).
12. To establish population growth, 1990-2000 in Latino population and VAP, **in step 2 above, select the 1990 Census data, Summary File 1.**
- 12a. Select tables P010 (total pop), PO13A, PO13B (by age).
- 12b. Use data from 1990 and 2000 to create percent increase.
- 12c. Based on the **90 – –00** growth rate, estimate the 2008 population for the items given below.

Information to Collect

Please collect the following data for your city; *only collect the bold-faced items for your comparison city*:

- **Overall population growth 1990-2000.**
- **Latino total population growth 1990-2000.**
- **Latino VAP growth, 1990-2000 (sorry, this one may be tedious!)**
- Percent Latino among city population 2000.
- Percent Latino among VAP 2000.
- Percent Latino among CVAP 2000.
- Estimate of Latino population 2008.
- Estimate of Latino VAP population 2008.
- Total Latino foreign born population 2000.

- Proportion of Latinos who are citizens 2000.
- Percent of Latinos who “Speak only English.” 2000
- Percent of Latinos who “Speak other Languages.” 2000

Grading Criteria

Your grade will be based on the depth and level of your analysis, your ability to present the data in systematic form, and the quality of your writing. To minimally satisfy the requirements of this assignment, I would imagine a page-length no less than five pages would be in order including tables. Papers that are table-dominated will be downgraded. Analysis and interpretation of the data is what I am looking for. Specifically, I’m looking for some understanding of population trends and in particular, an awareness of how your hometown compares to a non-border state city.