



## Study of North Texas Immigrant Communities

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**Dallas International** is a non-profit (501c 3) network  
of over 1,600 ethnic communities and organizations in the North Texas region.  
[www.DallasInternational.com](http://www.DallasInternational.com)

January 28, 2003

## Contents

<b>I. Preface</b> .....	4
<b>II. Executive Summary and Fact Sheet</b> .....	5
<b>III. Structure and Purpose</b>	
A. Introduction.....	9
B. Definition of terms.....	10
C. Purpose of the report.....	11
<b>IV. Immigrants in North Texas</b>	
A. U.S. Census 2000 Data.....	13
B. The appeal of the North Texas region.....	14
C. Profile of the immigrant in the United States.....	18
D. Profile of the immigrant in North Texas	
a. Latino immigrants.....	20
b. Asian immigrants.....	22
c. African immigrants.....	22
d. Middle Eastern/Muslim immigrants.....	23
e. Undocumented immigrants.....	23
f. Contributions .....	24
g. Challenges .....	25
E. Social Awareness and Services to Immigrants.....	27
F. Additional tables and graphs.....	30
<b>V. Questionnaire data from immigrant communities</b> .....	33
<b>VI. Summary and Comments</b> .....	93
<b>VII. Sources</b> .....	97
<b>VIII. About Dallas International</b> .....	100



“The Metroplex and, in particular, Dallas benefit from the large number of ethnic and immigrant groups that have chosen North Texas as their home. Their presence enriches our lives and strengthens the competitive position of our region in an increasingly global and interdependent economy. The challenge facing our community leaders is to weave together these diverse elements so that we may all benefit and prosper from our respective rich heritages. This study achieves an important step by highlighting our international population.”

***James N. Falk, President, World Affairs Council of Greater Dallas***

“America’s great principles of freedom and equality were created by a nation of immigrants. It is the diversity of ideas that we bring to the table that makes the United States such a strong world leader.”

***Dr. Elba Garcia, the first immigrant elected to Dallas City Council***

“Immigrants are the backbone of the service economy in North Texas. In addition, immigrant professionals provide extensive skills and expertise to both entrepreneurship in North Texas and to a number of highly specialized occupations. This is to say nothing of the vibrancy that peoples of different experiences and backgrounds add to the cultural and civic scene of a large metropolitan area.”

***David W. Hartman, Dean and Professor of the School of Community Service at the University of North Texas***

“In an ideal world, awareness of the multitude of cultures, their unique contributions and their challenges would start with the City of Dallas and the surrounding suburban cities. The citizenry could then enjoy the trickle down effect.”

***Sharon DeGarmo, formerly of the Office of International Affairs of the City of Dallas***

“The immigrant brings a much needed, fresh and diverse energy to North Texas’s growth. Today’s highly-educated immigrants bring with them a wide variety of skills and talents. While most of us in America have become complacent, immigrants arrive with fresh dreams, ideas, experiences and determination. They are Americans by choice and not by chance, “true Americans” who have selected this country as the fertile ground in which to plant their abundant seeds and to raise their children. The immigrant always has been the life blood of this great nation.”

***Tunde Obazee, Nigerian community human rights award winner***

## Part I: Preface

By Doug Henry, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Anthropology

University of North Texas

Coordinator, Immigrant Resource Council for Conflict Resolution, a joint project of the UNT School of Community Service and **Dallas International**

A South African proverb made popular in recent years says, “A person is a person because of other people; **I am because WE are.**” It’s a statement that acknowledges the significance of community, compassion, and hospitality. It acknowledges the common debt that we as individuals have to each other—we are who we are because of the power of the many around us. Diversity is strength.

Such is the philosophy and the purpose behind this report, which illuminates the rich cultural mosaic that is North Texas. As the authors point out, Texas has, since its inception, benefited from the unique intersections of people and cultures that call it home. Ours is a spicy chili like no other. The new Texans around us now are no different than those (including early Germans, Mexicans, Anglos, and Indians) who have always made tremendous contributions to our area-- culturally, economically, socially, and politically.

This is also a work that few other organizations besides **Dallas International** are so well situated to produce. Part of the study, for instance, represents painstaking library research into census data, historical records, and demographic collections, and 9 difficult months of survey research. An important fact here is that this was all put together by people who are either new Americans themselves, or who are children or spouses of new Americans. Thus the work itself is an example of the remarkable contributions that immigrants make to our society. Perhaps even more significant, however, is that the surveys themselves would have been impossible to collect without the much more considerable amount of time and effort that had to be invested in relationship-building, and in the development of trust and accountability with the many communities of new Americans that exist in North Texas, a process that **Dallas International** has been working on steadily for the past 8 years. Because it has always recognized the relevance of fostering these relationships and building strong human networks, **Dallas International** has become perhaps uniquely qualified to succeed at such an endeavor.

The study is divided broadly into two parts. The first presents a wealth of eclectic demographic data drawn from diverse sources: the U.S. Census bureau, the Texas State Data Center, news reports, and private foundations. It details why North Texas has been an appealing destination for new Americans, and presents profiles of several of the largest immigrant groups. The second part presents the results of self-report data contributed by the immigrant groups themselves. This addresses an important gap in our knowledge, for little is available that systematically compares the histories of local immigrant groups, their work environments, their home and family lives, and their experiences in the DFW area.

The results reveal a snapshot of what is truly an international region, to be useful for civic and corporate leaders interested in their larger community, and as a handy reference for anyone intrigued by international relations, political science, demography, culture, and the social sciences. As you will read, many of the groups represented in the following pages are not without current difficulties. Especially in these recent times of fear, militarization of our borders, mandatory registration, deportation, and detainees, the message of our challenge written here is clear: to continue forward to a unified future, we must embrace this diversity of our situation, and celebrate it, for (as the African proverb teaches) IT IS US. And so, what follows as a “study of immigrant communities” in North Texas is ultimately less about the study of “others” in our area, and more a guide to learning about ourselves.

Doug Henry, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Anthropology

University of North Texas

## Part II: Executive Summary and Fact Sheet

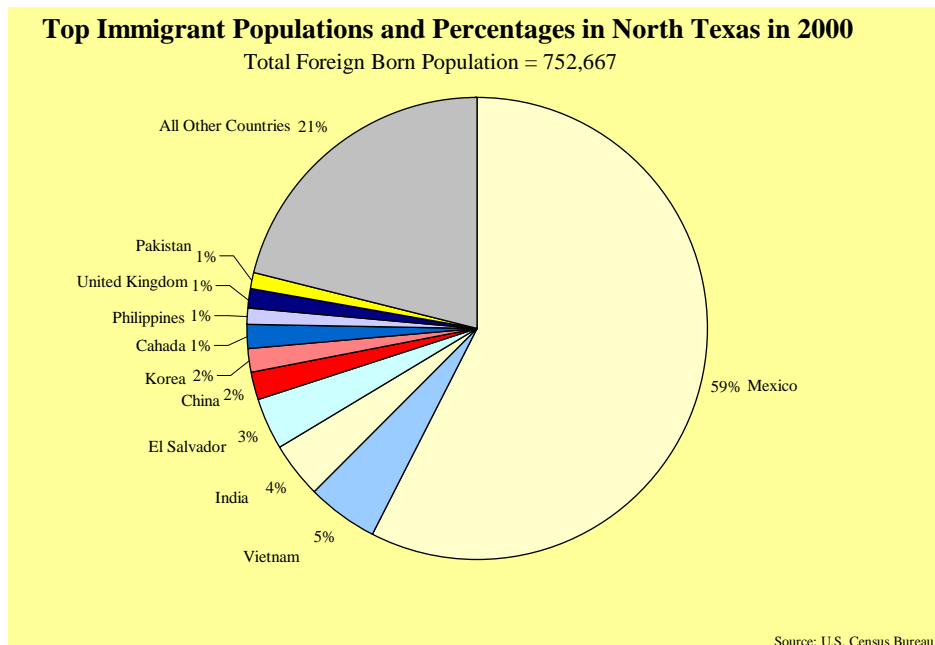
The North Texas Region has welcomed immigrants from around the globe for many decades. From 1990 to 2000 alone, the number of immigrants residing in the region more than doubled, and today North Texas has one of the largest metropolitan concentrations of immigrant communities in the nation.

North Texas is one of the nation's 'hypergrowth centers' of ethnic diversity, home to one of the largest concentrations of immigrant communities in the country. According to U.S. census data, between 1990 and 2000 the immigrant population in this region increased by two and a half times, with a growth rate of 146%. This compares to a 96% increase in immigrant population for Texas, a figure that placed the state in second place in the nation. At the same time, the ethnic diversity in North Texas broadened dramatically to include new communities from Somalia, Tonga, Bosnia, Kurdistan, Iraq, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Tibet and Kosovo.

One in six residents of in North Texas was born in another country. With an average of 2 children per immigrant family suggested by the Census, and with undocumented/uncounted residents factored in, we believe 35% of the total Metroplex population to be immigrants and their children.

New Americans living in this region are a vital component of our social structure, not only because of their high numbers, but also because of their multi-faceted contributions to the local dynamic. Immigrants provide this region with cheap manual labor as well as highly professional expertise, while adding unparalleled cultural enrichment to our schools and communities.

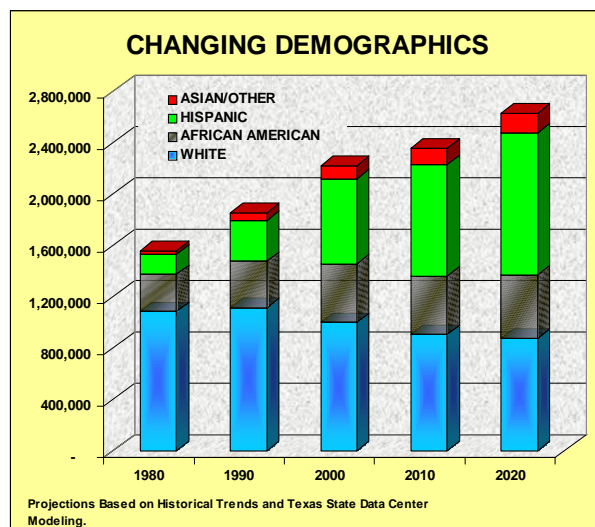
Many significant immigrant contributions, however, go unnoticed by the majority of the population. Quite often, their needs are also overlooked. Perhaps half of our immigrant population is undocumented, while a great portion lives in poverty, does not speak English, has no legal status, and is socially marginalized.



## FACT SHEET: THE GLOBAL FACE OF DFW

### 35% of North Texas' residents were born in another country or are the children of foreign born.

- **Dallas International's** database lists over 1,600 ethnic communities, global arts groups and international-themed organizations in the North Texas region.
- Dallas County ranks fifth in the nation in numbers of Hispanic residents. Practically two out of every 7 residents is Mexican, and approximately three of every 7 is Latino.
- Hispanics now represent 35% of the City of Dallas population. Five out of every 6 immigrants to our region between 1990-2000 were born in Latin America. 85% of the Latino population is Mexican.
- According to immigrant community leaders, North Texas is home to 40,000 Chinese Americans, nearly 100,000 Indian Americans, 150,000 immigrants from Africa and around one million Hispanics.
- 25% of the employees in Texas' high tech industry are from India, and Indian students are the largest body of international students at UNT, UTA, UTD, and SMU.
- In 2010, European-heritage Texans will be a minority in the state.
- 40% of the North Texas' population growth is from immigration. Foreign-born and their children provide 100% of Dallas County's population growth.
- More than half (54.9%) of the Metroplex's foreign-born population were drawn by the strong economy and opportunity for employment since 1990.
- Between 1990 and 2000 the City of Dallas lost 131,000 Anglo residents but gained 210,000 who were foreign-born.
- In 24.2% of the DFW Metroplex homes, English is not the primary language, and 12.6% of Metroplex residents say that they do not speak English well.
- The number of Spanish-speakers has more than quadrupled in the Metroplex since 1980, driven by an influx of Latin American immigration.
- 14% of El Salvador's population resides in the United States, while 10% of México's citizens are here. Mexicans and Salvadorians are the largest Spanish-speaking communities in North Texas. Along with Colombians, they also represent the largest percentage of undocumented (approximately 55% of Mexicans, 60% of Salvadorians, and 70 or 80% of Colombians).
- Dallas and Forth Worth have been designated "ethnic hypergrowth" cities by the Brookings Institute.
- More than 70 languages are spoken in the homes of the 166,000 DISD students, according to the district's Student Primary Language Report. For more than 70,000 students, Spanish is the primary language spoken in the home. Other languages include Vietnamese (745 students), Amharic (Ethiopian) (166 students), Cambodian (133 students) and Yugoslav (128 students).
- Immigrant families are increasingly moving to the suburbs rather than to central downtown areas.
- Asian immigrants as a group are significantly more educated than Latino immigrants. 20% of Texas Asians have graduate or professional degrees and 27.3% of Asians have Bachelors degrees.
- Nearly one in four of New Americans holds a technical, managerial, or professional job.
- One third of immigrants do not have health insurance.
- Immigration accounts for virtually all of the increase in public school enrollment.
- The poverty rate for immigrants and their children is two-thirds higher than that of natives and their children, and that of Latino immigrants is nearly double.
- According to the Mexican Consulate, Dallas is the city with the largest Mexican population growth in the U.S., ahead of Phoenix (second place) and Houston (third place).
- The Hispanic population in Texas increased by 60.27% during the past ten years, while the Anglo population increased by 7.61%.
- 31.5% of Texas Hispanics have less than a ninth grade education, and only 75% of Texas 25 year olds have graduated from high school.



Source: United Way

**Place of birth for the foreign born population-Census 2000  
By State, Region and County**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Texas</b>	<b>N. Texas</b>	<b>Collin</b>	<b>Dallas</b>	<b>Denton</b>	<b>Tarrant</b>
<b>Afghanistan</b>	920	690	243	241	39	167
<b>Argentina</b>	6,024	1,083	183	637	75	188
<b>Armenia</b>	203	188	67	78	11	32
<b>Australia</b>	3,869	1,155	218	572	97	268
<b>Austria</b>	1,818	483	108	207	47	121
<b>Bangladesh</b>	5,463	2,747	442	1,519	293	493
<b>Barbados</b>	871	134	12	68	21	33
<b>Belarus</b>	352	172	19	139	0	14
<b>Bolivia</b>	2,372	594	35	398	44	117
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	4,667	2,462	97	1,371	26	968
<b>Brazil</b>	6,915	2,735	503	1,278	281	673
<b>Cambodia</b>	6,793	3,227	137	1,881	582	627
<b>Canada</b>	36,802	11,093	3,204	3,922	1,266	2,701
<b>Chile</b>	3,880	768	90	435	73	170
<b>China*</b>	69,654	22,426	8,951	7,948	1,437	4,090
<b>China*</b>	38,813	11,876	4,788	4,399	735	1,954
<b>Colombia</b>	22,073	4,131	417	2,191	486	1,037
<b>Costa Rica</b>	3,432	1,192	111	804	51	226
<b>Cuba</b>	16,011	4,515	318	2,567	506	1,124
<b>Czechlovakia **</b>	2,560	840	129	368	87	256
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	3,961	698	28	302	106	262
<b>Ecuador</b>	4,441	1,319	137	749	119	314
<b>Egypt</b>	4,228	1,378	251	470	191	466
<b>El Salvador</b>	101,259	26,271	841	22,351	834	2,245
<b>Ethiopia</b>	5,735	4,120	376	3,477	27	240
<b>France</b>	7,663	2,009	283	1,091	79	556
<b>Germany</b>	39,249	7,479	993	3,195	765	2,526
<b>Ghana</b>	2,993	1,382	47	605	47	683
<b>Greece</b>	2,960	634	99	343	67	125
<b>Guatemala</b>	26,130	7,165	466	5,155	387	1,157
<b>Guyana</b>	2,213	678	95	320	71	192
<b>Haiti</b>	1,353	220	19	105	24	72
<b>Honduras</b>	33,655	8,057	642	6,136	268	1,011
<b>Hong Kong</b>	7,815	2,503	846	824	206	627
<b>Hungary</b>	1,864	607	165	215	112	115
<b>India</b>	78,388	30,030	5,753	16,030	2,911	5,336
<b>Indonesia</b>	3,855	1,108	136	467	113	392
<b>Iran</b>	15,581	6,285	2,238	2,177	733	1,137
<b>Iraq</b>	2,752	1,552	91	910	55	496
<b>Ireland</b>	3,667	977	144	411	79	343

<b>Israel</b>	3,857	1,505	273	851	54	327
<b>Italy</b>	4,774	1,174	240	417	90	427
<b>Jamaica</b>	8,214	2,060	214	979	101	766
<b>Japan</b>	13,070	3,880	819	1,780	332	949
<b>Jordan</b>	3,397	1,376	228	676	85	387
<b>Korea</b>	35,986	14,001	2,265	7,333	1,764	2,639
<b>Laos</b>	8,307	4,672	77	1,828	70	2,697
<b>Lebanon</b>	5,704	1,619	228	659	159	573
<b>Malaysia</b>	3,695	1,315	321	482	156	356
<b>Mexico</b>	1,879,369	433,534	17,479	295,678	15,939	104,438
<b>Netherlands</b>	4,590	909	244	318	85	262
<b>Nicaragua</b>	9,470	1,451	129	911	118	293
<b>Nigeria</b>	20,927	7,342	276	5,200	288	1,578
<b>Pakistan</b>	26,981	8,964	928	4,390	1,450	2,196
<b>Panama</b>	7,514	1,513	158	774	71	510
<b>Peru</b>	9,583	3,529	464	2,193	377	495
<b>Philippines</b>	45,907	9,696	1,251	5,053	648	2,744
<b>Poland</b>	5,497	1,821	280	913	77	551
<b>Portugal</b>	1,180	348	44	140	72	92
<b>Romania</b>	3,833	1,298	181	793	149	175
<b>Russia</b>	6,809	2,741	917	1,215	183	426
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	926	659	58	522	27	52
<b>South Africa</b>	5,603	2,099	420	1,250	182	247
<b>Spain</b>	4,398	1,262	127	662	67	406
<b>Sweden</b>	2,201	1,050	506	397	83	64
<b>Syria</b>	2,249	663	173	193	53	244
<b>Taiwan</b>	23,026	8,047	3,317	2,725	496	1,509
<b>Thailand</b>	7,904	3,050	412	1,341	313	984
<b>Trinidad and Tobago</b>	5,777	985	111	537	93	244
<b>Turkey</b>	2,943	788	140	265	102	281
<b>Ukraine</b>	2,269	1,028	304	502	121	101
<b>United Kingdom</b>	36,076	9,620	2,020	3,702	1,057	2,841
<b>Venezuela</b>	7,246	1,507	184	694	112	517
<b>Vietnam</b>	107,027	36,522	2,675	16,934	2,038	14,875
<b>Yugoslavia</b>	2,443	894	145	262	65	422

\* It is important to note that China has four amounts in this table: China total (including Hong Kong and Taiwan), China excluding Hong Kong and Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Taiwan (which is considered politically different by many, including themselves, but not mainland China)

\*\*Includes Czech Republic and Slovakia



## Part III: Structure and Purpose

### Introduction

**Dallas International's** Study of North Texas Immigrant Communities, although only an overview and non-comprehensive in nature, is born out of the urgency that we make the community at large more aware of the immigrant condition, understanding both the challenges immigrants face and their contributions to our region's development.

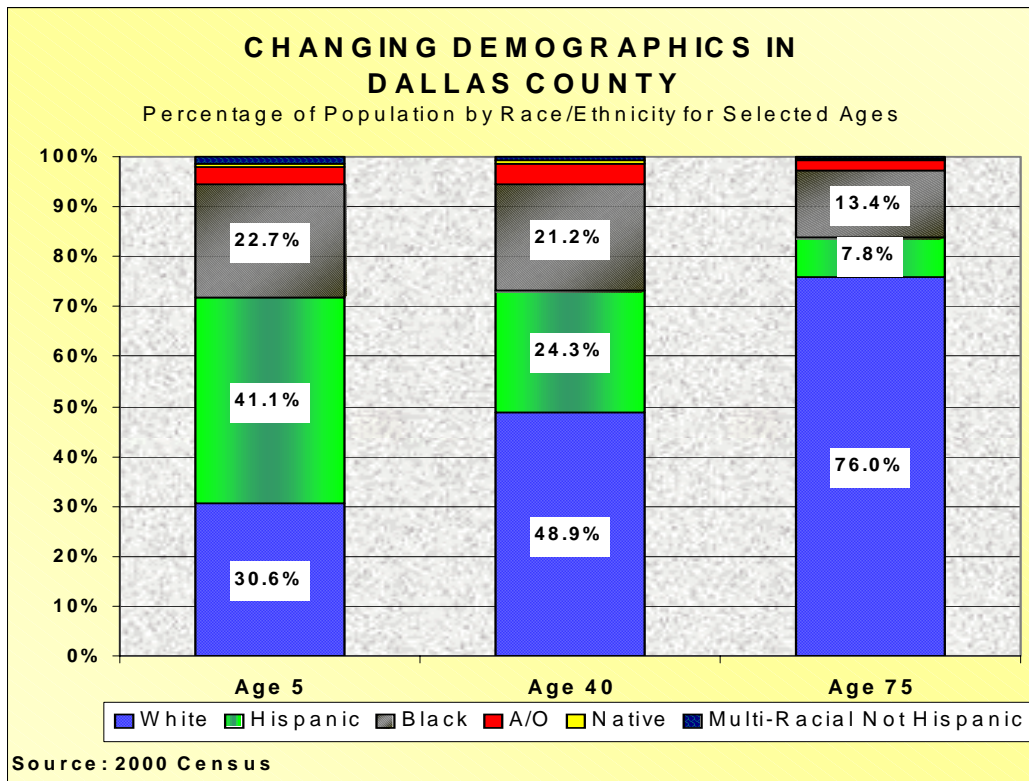
Despite the size and impact of the immigrant population, the information gathered on immigrants in the region is limited to occasional articles in the local newspapers, a few studies on specific immigrant communities, and underutilized census reports. With immigrants relatively invisible and deemed to be of marginal significance by our media and our civic leaders, it is not a surprise that efforts to include them in economic, health, civic, educational and cultural programs lag behind.

We have not seen any study as of yet that goes beyond the census figures to gather both existing and fresh information about this broad spectrum of international communities. **Dallas International**, a network of over 1,600 ethnic and international communities and organizations, feels that such an analysis is crucial to clearly addressing the issues of this region's continued growth and development.

Although this study draws from a variety of sources, it principally interfaces

- Census 2000 data
- information drawn from our own small non-scientific survey of immigrant leaders and representatives
- information from national institutions and investigative studies.

The report includes solid quantitative and qualitative information about immigrant groups, as well as addresses their very important perceptions of their communities. It provides fresh and essential information, such as the size of the immigrant population in North Texas and their relative rates of growth.



Source: United Way

The report also provides crucial data about the locations of particular immigrant communities within the region, the types of jobs or professions they tend to hold, the length of time they have resided in the area, as well as their critical needs and contributions.

## Definition of Essential Terms

In order to correctly interpret the facts and ideas presented in this report, we provide the following definition of terms.

**Immigrant or New American:** *for the purposes of this report, is any person who resides in the United States but was not born in the U.S., in one of its outlying territories, or to U.S. parents. A resident is a person who, regardless of legal status, is staying or attempting to stay in the United States for more than just a temporary period. This definition of immigrant clearly includes foreign-born individuals who, in the past, sought to become citizens or permanent residents under the law and have now achieved that status.*

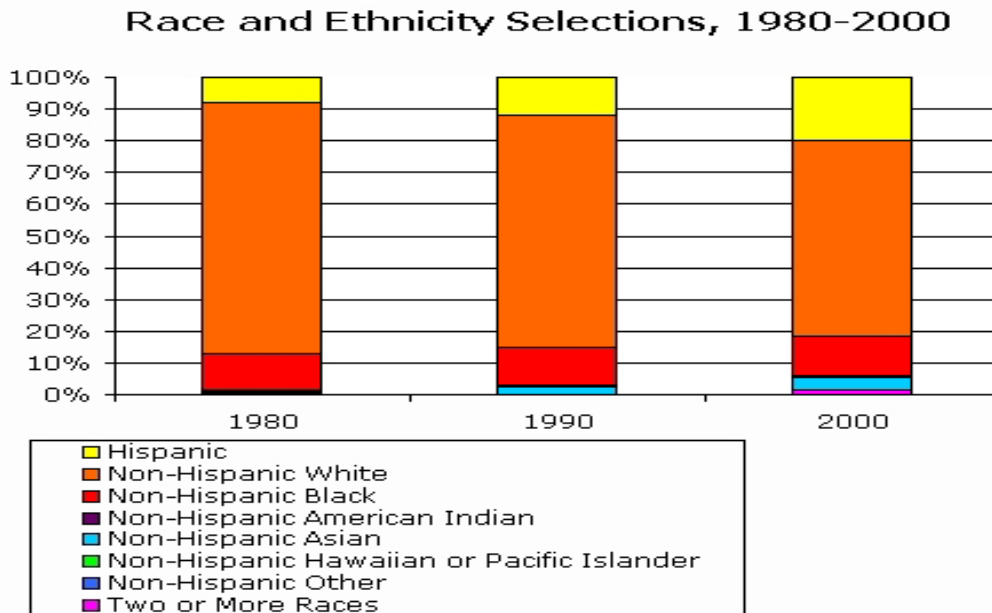
**Refugees and political asylees:** *although in a category of their own, refugees and political asylees are also considered to be immigrants.*

**Hispanic and Latino:** *We use “Hispanic” and “Latino” synonymously to refer to individuals born south of the U.S. border with México.*

**Students and temporary workers:** *are in the United States for long-term temporary periods and are often deeply involved in their respective cultural communities, in volunteer work, and in educating about their history and politics. After earning their degrees, a large percentage obtain jobs and decide to remain in the United States, thus becoming residents. However, this report has not considered them ‘immigrants’*

**North Texas:** *For the purposes of this report North Texas is made up of Dallas, Tarrant, Collin and Denton counties only. There are two reasons for this approach to the region. The first one is that the entire Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex and its surroundings, a highly urban and populated area where immigrants tend to concentrate, is included in this four-county region. The second reason is that community leaders and representatives who have participated in the survey overwhelmingly reside in this metropolitan area, and thus are most knowledgeable of their ethnic communities in this geographic region. It is important to mention that this definition of North Texas is not intended in any way to diminish the significance of immigrant groups or entities in other counties. It only tries to limit a geographical area under examination in a simple and logical manner.*

## Increase in ethnic population in Tarrant County



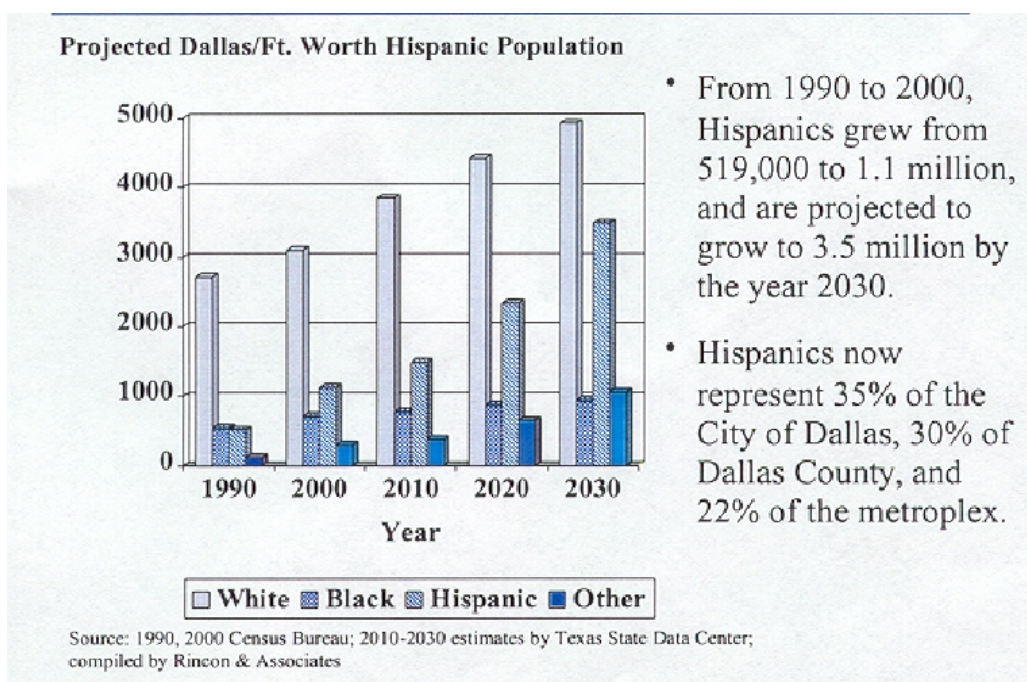
## Purpose of the Report

Immigrants provide an extraordinary array of assets to the Metroplex. Low-wage workers in construction and gardening as well as physicians and high-tech engineers define our region's economic growth. They are a significant labor force with extensive consumer potential. Immigrants also offer their rich cultural traditions in music and the performing, visual, and culinary arts. They are the basis of our area's growth and development.

During one of his early visits to Dallas, México's President Vicente Fox (then governor of Guanajuato state) reminded us that the immigrants his country sent to 'The North' were México's finest. Only the most courageous, the risk takers, he said, would leave the security of their homes and their traditions to seek better lives in a foreign land. "We are sending the United States our strongest and most dynamic, our hardest working men and women."

Unfortunately, many immigrants' noteworthy contributions and substantial needs go unnoticed by the majority of the population. Their presence is overlooked and little is known about their work environments, community activities, beliefs and value systems, and daily lives in general. The purpose of this report is to try to enlighten the community at large about the needs and contributions of the immigrant population by analyzing the gathered information and distributing it to a wide audience. In order for the North Texan region to grow and prosper, it is imperative that the general population recognize and understand the immigrants whose children are filling the desks in our neighborhood schools and whose labor prepares our restaurant dishes and maintains our communications networks. The many challenges that immigrants face, the roles they fulfill, and the issues that motivate them will form the basis for our future level of success and sustained growth. A great portion of the North Texas immigrant population suffers huge challenges on a daily that remain unrecognized and unaddressed. Many live in poverty, do not speak English, have no legal status, and are the victims of prejudice and stereotyping. With the exception of refugees, low-income immigrants receive limited assistance from the local, regional and state governments or from the social service organizations in the area.

At its core, the United States is a nation of immigrants, and it continues to serve as a new homeland for people of all backgrounds and cultures. Immigrants contribute to U.S. society in a variety of ways, such as by culturally enriching our neighborhoods and our workplaces and thus helping us adapt to an increasingly diverse and interdependent global society. The heterogeneous nature of American society is one of its most profound strengths, and our future depends on the manner in which we celebrate and appreciate its diversity. This report seeks to help achieve the task by providing greater visibility for immigrants, promoting their inclusion in our region's activities and planning, and highlighting the value of our increasingly heterogeneous and eclectic society.



Census Statistics showing origin of new area residents	Population	Foreign Born	Europe	Asia	Africa	Oceania	L. America
<b>State of Texas (1990)</b>	16,986,510	1,524,436	110,391	248,878	27,297	4,031	1,056,946
<b>State of Texas (2000)</b>	20,851,820	2,899,642	152,327	466,218	64,470	6,984	2,172,476
<b>Change in Population</b>	3,865,310	1,375,206	41,936	217,340	37,173	2,953	1,115,530
<b>% of Change</b>	22.80	90.20	38.00	87.30	136.20	73.30	105.50
<b>Population of Projection (2010)</b>	25,596,688	5,515,432	210,194	873,357	152,265	12,100	4,465,367
<b>North Texas (1) (1990)</b>	3,560,474	305,996	26,604	77,582	10,566	1,544	172,060
<b>North Texas (1) (2000)</b>	4,589,769	752,667	42,506	162,201	27,718	2,406	506,627
<b>Change in Population</b>	1,029,295	446,671	15,902	84,619	17,152	862	334,567
<b>% of Change</b>	28.90	146.00	59.80	109.10	162.30	55.80	194.40
<b>Population of Projection (2010)</b>	5,916,622	1,851,356	67,913	339,114	72,713	3,749	1,491,752
<b>Collin County (1990)</b>	264,036	15,611	2,370	6,188	462	100	5,254
<b>Collin County (2000)</b>	491,675	65,279	7,927	28,566	2,418	338	22,826
<b>Change in Population</b>	227,639	49,668	5,557	22,378	1,956	238	17,572
<b>% of Change</b>	86.20	318.20	234.50	361.60	423.40	238.00	334.40
<b>Population of Projection (2010)</b>	915,573	272,971	26,514	131,871	12,655	1,142	99,168
<b>Dallas County (1990)</b>	1,852,810	196,328	14,618	42,447	6,739	485	120,840
<b>Dallas County (2000)</b>	2,218,899	463,574	18,701	76,138	17,044	967	346,793
<b>Change in Population</b>	366,089	269,246	4,083	33,691	10,305	371	225,953
<b>% of Change</b>	19.80	136.10	27.90	79.40	152.90	62.20	187.00
<b>Population of Projection (2010)</b>	2,657,322	1,094,601	23,924	136,570	43,107	1,569	995,245
<b>Denton County (1990)</b>	273,525	14,694	1,941	5,911	652	61	5,261
<b>Denton County (2000)</b>	432,976	40,591	3,667	13,884	1,262	164	20,327
<b>Change in Population</b>	159,451	25,897	1,726	7,973	610	103	15,066
<b>% of Change</b>	58.30	176.20	88.90	134.90	93.60	168.90	286.40
<b>Population of Projection (2010)</b>	685,379	112,129	6,928	32,611	2,443	441	78,538
<b>Tarrant County (1990)</b>	1,170,103	79,363	7,675	23,036	2,713	787	40,705
<b>Tarrant County (2000)</b>	1,446,219	183,223	12,211	43,613	6,994	937	116,681
<b>Change in Population</b>	276,116	103,860	4,536	20,577	4,281	150	75,976
<b>% of Change</b>	23.60	130.90	59.10	89.30	157.80	19.10	186.70
<b>Population of Projection (2010)</b>	1,787,492	423,001	19,428	82,507	18,030	1,116	334,466
<b>Dallas City (1990)</b>	1,006,831	125,862	8,089	18,548	4,391	271	87,436
<b>Dallas City (2000)</b>	1,188,204	290,436	11,139	30,459	10,853	440	235,448
<b>Change in Population</b>	181,373	164,574	3,050	11,911	6,462	169	148,012
<b>% of Change</b>	18.00	130.80	37.70	64.20	147.20	62.40	169.30
<b>Population of Projection (2010)</b>	1,402,250	670,203	15,339	50,019	26,825	714	634,015
<b>Fort Worth (1990)</b>	447,619	40,300	2,446	6,608	957	78	28,141
<b>Fort Worth (2000)</b>	535,420	87,120	4,207	11,610	1,199	284	69,074
<b>Change in Population</b>	87,801	46,820	1,761	5,002	242	206	40,933
<b>% of Change</b>	19.60	116.20	72.00	75.70	25.30	264.10	145.50
<b>Population of Projection (2010)</b>	640,443	188,335	7,236	20,398	1,502	1,034	169,547

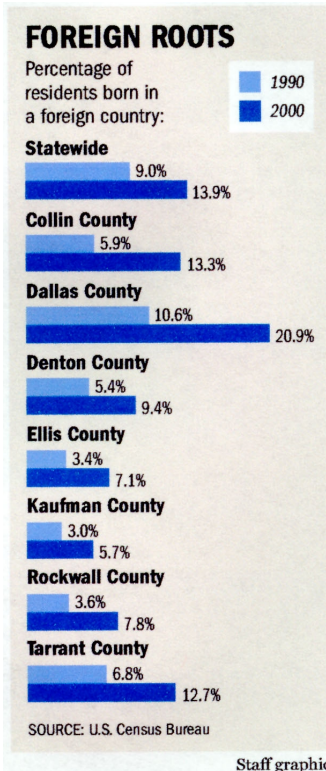


## IV. Immigrants in North Texas

### U.S. Census 2000 Data

Note: Any unfootnoted statistic in this report has been taken from the U.S. Census 2000

- The DFW Metroplex has become a thriving gateway for New Americans. The total number of immigrants in the North Texas Region 1 (made up of Dallas, Tarrant, Collin and Denton counties only) had reached 752,667 by the year 2000. It grew almost 150% from 1990, in other words being two and a half times larger than its 1990 equivalent.



from Dallas Morning News

- Although the immigrant sector accounted for only 16.4% of the overall population (roughly 1 out of every 6 North Texas residents was an immigrant), it accounted for over 40% of the region's population *growth*.
  - If the growth pattern observed in the immigrant population between 1990 and 2000 continues, then this sector will jump to around 1,850,000 by the year 2010. As there is an average of two American-born children of immigrants in each household, the impact of this group will be extraordinary.
  - More than half (54.9%) of the Metroplex's foreign-born population settled here since 1990. This was higher than the rate for the state overall (46.1%), reflecting the strong economy and opportunity for employment.
  - Dallas-Fort Worth suburbs are also ethnic melting pots, as the Metroplex shows a large gain in suburban minority share. Both Asian and Latino immigrants now tend to settle in the city's suburbs rather than in central neighborhoods such as Oak Cliff and East or West Dallas. Asian presence is 4.4% in the suburbs, while Hispanics are 15.3% of suburban residents. In Fort Worth/Arlington, the same two groups show a 2.5% and 10.7% presence. Dallas is in 14<sup>th</sup> place in the nation, with 11.6% increase of ethnic presence in the suburbs.
  - In 24.2% of the DFW Metroplex homes, English is not the primary language. 12.6% of Metroplex residents say that they do not speak English well. One in three in Dallas County and one in five in Tarrant County reports that English is not his primary language.
- The number of Spanish-speakers has more than quadrupled in the Metroplex since 1980, driven by an influx of Latin American immigration.
- Latinos, at 56.2%, represent the highest percentage of the immigrant sector in 2000. They also account for 84.5% of the growth of the immigrant population in the last 10 years; in other words, 5 out of 6 immigrants to our region between 1990 and 2000 were born in Latin America.
- Mexican immigrants account for 85% and 67.3% of the Latino and immigrant population respectively. This means that in North Texas, 5 out of 6 Latinos are Mexican and 2 out of 3 immigrants are Mexican. By far the most populous immigrant group with more than 430,000 immigrants, Mexicans doubled their numbers from 1990 to 2000. Today, one out of every eleven residents in North Texas is from México. In Dallas County alone, practically one out of every 7 residents is Mexican-born, and nearly 2 in 7 are of Mexican culture.
- The top five immigrant groups by size are the Mexicans, Vietnamese, Indians, Salvadorans, and Chinese in that order. These five groups combined make up about 75% of the overall immigrant population.
- The top seven most populous immigrant groups in the nation match the same top seven in North Texas. These groups, which are all in either Central America or Asia, are: México, Vietnam, India, El Salvador, China, Korea, and Philippines.

- Although not in the same order, the top seven most populous immigrant groups in the nation match the same top seven in North Texas. These groups, which are all in either Central America or Asia, are: México, Vietnam, India, El Salvador, China, Korea, and Philippines.

### The appeal of the North Texas region

Immigration has become the determinate factor in the “hypergrowth” of the North Texas region. Dallas is considered a ‘hypergrowth city’ by the Brookings Institution because even though its original Latino population was a substantial one, between 1980 and 2000 it experienced an increase of 358 % in the number of Hispanic residents. Similarly, Fort Worth/Arlington is considered a ‘hypergrowth city’ because its increase is 328%.

Immigrants are now skirting traditional areas and settling directly in new places that promise economic and housing opportunities. Precisely for this reason, says Brenda Molina of the **Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce**, the DFW Metroplex’s growing labor market is a magnet for new residents. It is the Southwest’s distribution center, an international gateway for business, and a high tech corporate leader.

Ethnic community leaders agree.

For example, Mexican immigrants cross the Rio Grande and head north to the stronger economic areas of Houston and DFW. Chinese, on the other hand, select the area as their target for secondary migration, transferring here from other areas of the nation.

Other human factors, however, are likely even more important in immigrants’ selection of the DFW area. Leaving one’s country, culture, language and family is a major challenge whose painful lessons can be tempered by a welcoming community that shares the same cultural and value system. This is one reason that DFW has become the U.S. center for Igbo from Nigeria (**Dallas International** reports 15,000 scattered throughout North Texas) who hold their annual convention here each Labor Day weekend. In contrast, Nigerian Yorubas look to Chicago as their cultural center.

Similarly, the Metroplex is the center for Guanajuatences from President Vicente Fox’s central Mexican state. Community leaders report around 300,000 residents from Guanajuato (19% of the total Mexican-born population, according to the Mexican Consulate in Dallas), and chances are that the Mexicans seen in local landscaping and service industries may be from this region. Casa Guanajuato President Tereso Ortiz says that only women and children remain in his hometown of Ocampo, Guanajuato because most of the Ocampo men are working in North Texas. The first courageous ones to arrive here found jobs to be plentiful and their neighbors who sought an escape from México’s limited opportunities for improved economic growth y began to join them.

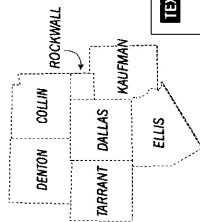
A strong and well-organized cultural community such as the India Association of North Texas, an umbrella for 45 distinct religious and ethnic organizations, can play a major role in supporting new arrivals. The I.A.N.T. offers monthly consular services, health, educational and cultural programs, as well as produces two major festivals that have an total attendance of around 20,000.

Similarly, the Asociación Boricua del Metroplex (Puerto Rico Association), under the dynamic leadership of one dedicated man, revived an inactive organization, created a community, and in its third year offered substnatial scholarships to local ten students.

Demographic figures for the **City of Dallas** show that between 1990 and 2000 the city lost 131,000 Anglo residents but gained 210,000 who were foreign-born. As elderly Anglo residents die, relocate out of the city, or move into nursing homes, immigrant families replace them. Dallas residents of European heritage are now a minority, with 35.6% of the city’s population now from Hispanic origin and 25.9% reported as “black”.

# THE CHANGING FACE OF NORTH TEXAS

The 1990s meant profound changes for Texas, from the Valley to the Hill Country to North Texas. Data from the 2000 census released Friday show that North Texans are better paid, better educated and overwhelmingly more likely to have moved here from other states or countries than they were in 1990.



Key to percentage change, in either direction:  
 25.9% or less    26% to 50.9%    51% to 75.9%    76% or higher

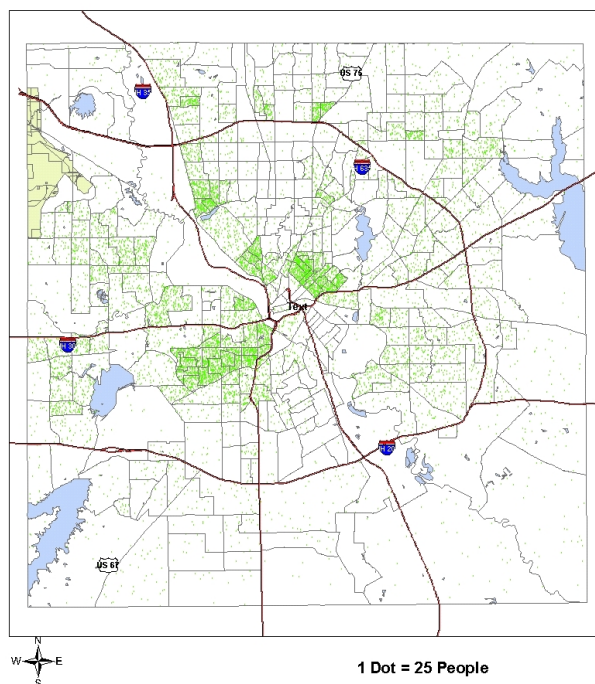
	TEXAS	COLLIN COUNTY	DALLAS COUNTY	DENTON COUNTY	ELLIS COUNTY	KAUFMAN COUNTY	ROCKWALL COUNTY	TARRANT COUNTY
<b>Population</b>	1990 16,986,510 2000 20,851,820	264,036 491,675	1,852,810 2,218,899	273,525 432,976	85,167 111,560	52,220 71,313	25,604 43,080	1,170,103 1,446,219
<b>Median household income*</b>	1990 \$27,016 2000 \$39,927	\$46,020 \$70,835	\$31,605 \$43,324	\$36,914 \$58,216	\$30,553 \$50,350	\$27,280 \$44,783	\$42,417 \$65,164	\$32,335 \$46,179
<b>Percentage of families in poverty**</b>	1990 14.1% 2000 12.0%	3.9% 3.3%	10.4% 10.6%	4.5% 4.1%	10.3% 6.8%	12.3% 7.8%	5.1% 3.8%	8.2% 8.0%
<b>Median value of home*</b>	1990 \$59,600 2000 \$82,500	\$106,600 \$155,500	\$79,200 \$92,700	\$89,100 \$133,200	\$67,900 \$91,400	\$56,600 \$85,700	\$97,900 \$147,100	\$72,900 \$90,300
<b>Median monthly rent*</b>	1990 \$395 2000 \$574	\$526 \$798	\$448 \$647	\$477 \$725	\$420 \$584	\$378 \$533	\$535 \$699	\$430 \$612
<b>Residents who were born in United States</b>	1990 15,250,571 2000 17,727,394	245,806 420,585	1,638,816 1,737,373	255,891 387,294	81,860 102,729	50,426 66,912	24,410 39,360	1,077,193 1,246,978
<b>Residents who were born in foreign country</b>	1990 1,524,436 2000 2,899,642	15,611 65,279	196,328 463,574	14,694 40,591	2,893 7,907	1,571 4,039	931 3,364	79,363 183,223
<b>Residents who have bachelor's degree or higher</b>	1990 2,094,905 2000 2,972,293	64,206 149,417	305,041 368,149	52,505 97,185	6,830 11,546	3,550 5,521	4,600 8,854	173,905 239,285
<b>Mean commute time to work, in minutes</b>	1990 22.2 2000 25.4	25.2 28.4	24.0 26.9	25.6 28.2	25.9 30.3	30.1 35.6	30.5 32.0	22.5 25.8
<b>Percentage of people who drove alone to work</b>	1990 76.5% 2000 77.7%	83.3% 83.5%	76.2% 74.8%	81.4% 82.0%	76.1% 80.8%	73.6% 77.9%	79.2% 83.1%	81.3% 81.3%
<b>Percentage of residents who are divorced</b>	1990 9.1% 2000 9.8%	8.1% 9.0%	11.0% 10.6%	8.5% 9.2%	7.3% 9.1%	8.2% 9.3%	7.4% 8.0%	10.5% 11.3%

\* Not adjusted for inflation    \*\* Poverty level is a family of four, including two children, earning \$17,463 or less annually  
 SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau    JAY CARR/Staff Artist

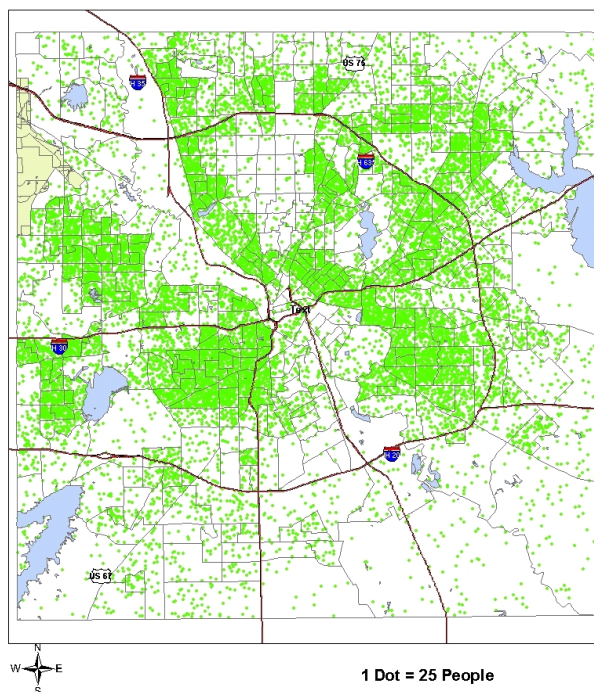
From: Dallas Morning News

Increasingly, New Americans are moving directly to the suburbs such as Irving and Plano, skirting the central cities that formerly drew immigrants from countries like Vietnam and México. Within cities like Arlington, the suburbs are drawing a higher rate of immigrant growth than the downtown areas. In the city of Dallas, Latino population growth in the suburbs was 143% in the past ten years, while in the central district it was only 106% (Brookings Institute, July 2002).

### HISPANIC POPULATION DISTRIBUTION 1990



### HISPANIC POPULATION DISTRIBUTION 2000



Source: United Way

This ‘browning’ of Metroplex suburbs, whether from Hispanics other immigrant populations, has received relatively little coverage. In the past ten years, **Arlington** has nearly doubled its Hispanic population, and is home to the 15<sup>th</sup> largest Vietnamese community in the nation. **Richardson** I.S.D. first recognized its global face in 1990 when it created a new position for District multicultural coordinator within the P.T.A. Today, the Richardson Adult Literacy Council reports 162 languages being spoken in its homes.

The largest minority group in Richardson is the Asian population, making up 11.7% of the population. The number of Asians has more than doubled in the past ten years, as families that place a high value on education move northward toward districts with better schools. Richardson’s west border begins in ‘Little India’, an area of subcontinent food markets, sari palaces, and gold boutiques. When it reaches Greenville it suddenly metamorphoses into ‘Chinatown’, a bustling community centered around the Chinese cultural center that revived an abandoned strip mall through immigrant creativity and economic development. Along its eastern edge it becomes Vietnamese, with Mexican and Central American businesses interspersed at irregular intervals. Hispanics in Richardson represent 10.3% of the city’s population, up from 4.3% in 1990.

In the first home to be restored in **Plano**’s historic old downtown, the Wooden Spoon cultural center and shop proudly celebrates the heritage of Scandinavian settlers in Texas, offering pickled herring along with classes in traditional cookie-making. But today, while Plano expands northward and to the west, the original eastern portion of zip code 75074 in which the Wooden Spoon sits is a heavily Mexican neighborhood. 7,788 Hispanics in this area live in small houses or a few apartment complexes, and work in blue collar jobs like lawn maintenance and cleaning. A Honduran craft shop is now located just a few minutes from the Scandinavian center. Although minorities make up roughly 27% of Plano’s population, only 9.6% of the individuals on the city’s boards and commissions are minorities.

Former Dallas librarian Miriam Rodriguez went to her job interview with the **Irving** Public Library armed with facts from the Census 2000: 1 in 3 Irving residents does not speak English at home, 1 in was



born in another country, and 1 in 5 (or 40,000 people) is not a US citizen. 31% of the city's population is Latino. In her research she discovered that "within a 5 mile radius of the central library the Hispanic population increased 127% from 1990 to 2000, and –most indicative of our changing population -- 22% of today's Irving residents over 25 years have not completed high school."

México-born, Miriam is Irving's first librarian for Spanish-speakers. She organizes cultural, educational and literacy events, and supervises a budget for new library books that is equal to that of English-language books.

**Carrollton's** Belt Line intersection with Josey Lane is a global cornucopia, with the Casa Vieja Colombian restaurant two doors away from a Vietnamese supermarket and facing La Michoacana Mexican meat market. Down the street is the Filipino Community Center, and around the corner a Salvadorian business offers traditional roast chicken. Hispanic population in Carrollton's zip code 75007 has grown by 61%, as compared to 8% for all other races.

The presence of immigrants is noted in **Lewisville** statistics, where the household size is larger than the national average, and where the median age indicates a young population.

The **Hurst-Bedford-Eules** area is another new frontier in business development, as the Metroplex population grows to the north and northwest. Census figures report the Hispanic population here three times larger than ten years earlier (increase of 214%). But in this case, the official figures do not begin to capture the fascinating new face of its residents.

1.9% of **Eules** residents report themselves as "Pacific Islanders", as compared to 0.1% of overall U.S. residents. They form an amazing 26% of the Asian population in the area, and yet, 84% of these "Pacific Islanders" did not report themselves as Samoans, Guamanians, or Hawaiians, the only subcategories available on the census form. **Dallas International's** survey suggests that this is because 3 in every 200 Eules residents is from the South Pacific island of Tonga. Community leaders report that 4,000 Tongans reside in the Hurst-Bedford-Eules area.

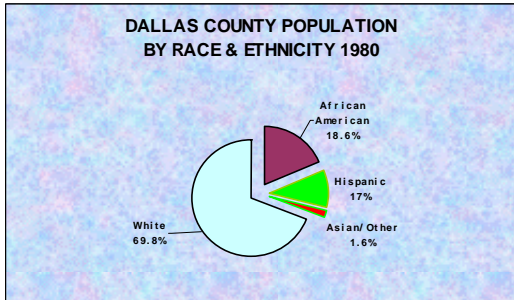
Our survey also shows Eules as a center for immigrants from Somalia. These arrived in two distinct waves, with a large number of the refugees who were transported to the Dallas area in the late 1990s now working as taxi drivers, restaurant employees, or other staff at the nearby DFW airport. Consequently, it is very likely that the 84% increase (nearly double) in 'black' population reported by the census for Eules is a reflection of this Somali refugee community's presence.

The 75069 zip code includes the part of **McKinney** plus the towns of Fairview, New Hope, and Lowry Crossing. The Hispanic population in the area has doubled since 1990, while the total zip code population has grown only by 45%. McKinney proper is included in zip code 75070, and its Hispanic population has grown by 216%.

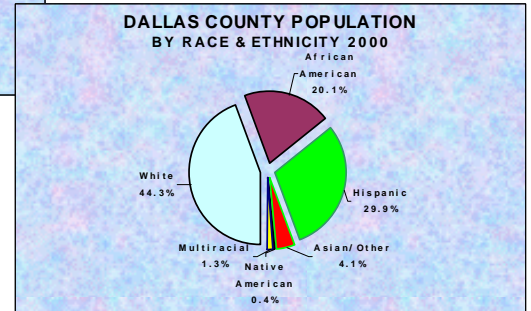
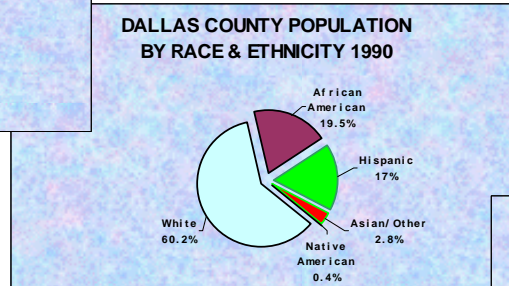
Named by the census as the fastest growing city in the nation, **Frisco's** population expanded 37,762% between 1990 and 2002. In 1997 the city offered the census no data whatsoever on the ethnic communities' economic impact (income from Hispanic and minority owned businesses, payroll, and employees). Today, Frisco Chamber of Commerce President Audie Adkins states that "Our citizens have quite an ethnic diversity, with Spanish, Indo-European and Asian and Pacific languages spoken in our homes." Nevertheless, Ms. Adkins was unaware that the Tawheed Foundation (the area's most significant Iranian Muslim center), the Iranian magazine Parastoo, and the Iranian community's three principal cultural groups are based in her city.

The large number of immigrants moving into this region, because of its huge size, will have a major impact on the kinds of businesses that are necessary to support their special interests and needs, the variety of employees that form the region's labor pool, the types of religious institutions that dot our neighborhoods, the kinds of academic programs that must be made available to our youth, and the expectations that each city and locality must develop for their residents.

## Profile of the Immigrant in the United States



Source: United Way



Immigrants to the United States are no longer settling down in the countryside, but are choosing urban centers as their new homes. Although immigration from Europe has been common for centuries, the ethnic background of new immigrants to this country differs immensely from that of their predecessors.

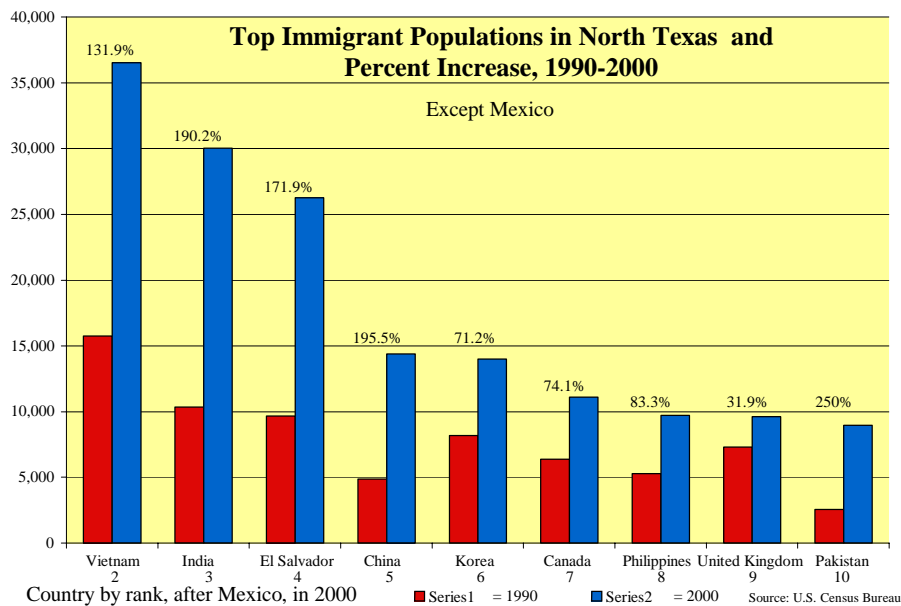
Moreover, current immigrants from Latin America and the Caribbean live much closer to their homelands than past immigrants. Nonetheless,

just like the Italian, Irish, and Polish immigrants of a hundred years ago, today's new Americans bring a strong sense of family, a hard work ethic, and deep spiritual beliefs. What is more, technology makes it easy for them to communicate with each other and their loved ones back home on a daily basis and maintain strong ties with their families and cultures.

Migration to the United States is expensive, but for the average immigrant, the immediate effect of reaching his new home is the equivalent to winning \$10,000. Over a lifetime, the gain is \$300,000 (The Economist, March 11, 2000). Thus, those who can afford the move are most often the well-educated rather than the poor. Moreover, recent arrivals (those who have arrived in the past ten years) are significantly more educated than immigrants in previous years due to the increasing costs of moving. For example, 3/4 of Africa's emigrants have a high education, as do half of Asia's emigrants. 3/4 of Indian immigrants have a bachelor's degree or better. About 30% of highly educated Sierra Leonians live outside their country. In fact, 21% of documented (legal) immigrants have at least 17 years of education, an astonishing figure as compared with only 8% of native-born Americans. (Specific figures for Latinos will be presented later in this report.)

Today, a much higher percentage of new immigrants remain in the U.S. rather than returning home. This is true of graduate students from India as well as undocumented Mexicans. Half of all foreign students who earn PhD's are still in this country five years later. Nearly one in four immigrants holds a technical, managerial or professional job, working in manufacturing, retail trade, business and repair services. They have an above-average share of American jobs in engineering, computer science, and physical science. Immigrants fill gaps that would otherwise persist in the labor force, especially in high-tech companies like Texas Instruments and i2. Nine out of ten new immigrants work in private industry, having a profound impact on some companies, such as the Dallas-based 7-Eleven chain, whose significant foreign workforce allowed aggressive expansion during the past decade (Washington Post, Dec. 2, 2002).

	Total Population	Total Foreign Born	México	Vietnam	India	El Salvador	China	Korea	Philippines	Pakistan
<b>North Texas (1) (1990)</b>	3,560,474	305,996	142,078	15,746	10,347	9,663	4,866	8,177	5,290	2,561
<b>North Texas (1) (2000)</b>	4,589,769	752,667	433,534	36,522	30,030	26,271	14,379	14,001	9,696	8,964
<b>Change in Population</b>	1,029,295	446,671	291,456	20,776	19,683	16,608	9,513	5,824	4,406	6,403
<b>% of Change</b>	28.9	146.0	205.1	131.9	190.2	171.9	195.5	71.2	83.3	250.0
<b>Projection(2010)</b>	5,916,622	1,851,356	1,322,877	84,711	87,156	71,424	42,490	23,973	17,772	31,376
<b>Collin County (1990)</b>	264,036	15,611	3,617	586	703	250	696	546	470	230
<b>Collin County (2000)</b>	491,675	65,279	17,479	2,675	5,753	841	5,634	2,265	1,251	928
<b>Change in Population</b>	227,639	49,668	13,862	2,089	5,050	591	4,938	1,719	781	698
<b>% of Change</b>	86.2	318.2	383.2	356.5	718.3	236.4	709.5	314.8	166.2	303.5
<b>Projection(2010)</b>	915,573	272,971	84,467	12,211	47,080	2,829	45,606	9,396	3,330	3,744
<b>Dallas County (1990)</b>	1,852,810	196,328	99,411	8,084	6,408	8,235	2,451	5,347	3,428	1,389
<b>Dallas County (2000)</b>	2,218,899	463,574	295,678	16,934	16,030	22,351	5,223	7,333	5,053	4,390
<b>Change in Population</b>	366,089	267,246	196,267	8,850	9,622	14,116	2,772	1,986	1,625	3,001
<b>% of Change</b>	19.8	136.1	197.4	109.5	150.2	171.4	113.1	37.1	47.4	216.1
<b>Projection(2010)</b>	2,657,322	1,094,601	879,435	35,473	40,100	60,664	11,130	10,057	7,448	13,875
<b>Denton County (1990)</b>	273,525	14,694	3,541	1,000	758	423	466	664	329	146
<b>Denton County (2000)</b>	432,976	40,591	15,939	2,038	2,911	834	941	1,764	648	1,450
<b>Change in Population</b>	159,451	25,897	12,398	1,038	2,153	411	475	1,100	319	1,304
<b>% of Change</b>	58.3	176.2	350.1	103.8	284.0	97.2	101.9	165.7	97.0	893.2
<b>Projection(2010)</b>	685,379	112,129	71,746	4,153	11,179	1,644	1,900	4,686	1,276	14,401
<b>Tarrant County (1990)</b>	1,170,103	79,363	35,509	6,076	2,478	755	1,253	1,620	1,063	796
<b>Tarrant County (2000)</b>	1,446,219	183,223	104,438	14,875	5,336	2,245	2,581	2,639	2,744	2,196
<b>Change in Population</b>	276,116	103,860	68,929	8,799	2,858	1,490	1,328	1,019	1,681	1,400
<b>% of Change</b>	23.6	130.9	194.1	144.8	115.3	197.4	106.0	62.9	158.1	175.9
<b>Projection(2010)</b>	1,787,492	423,001	307,170	36,416	11,490	6,676	5,316	4,299	7,083	6,058
<b>Dallas City (1990)</b>	1,006,831	125,862	75,507	3,772	2,256	4,271	1,296	1,803	1,238	429
<b>Dallas City (2000)</b>	1,188,204	290,436	208,688	6,325	5,339	10,443	3,101	2,686	1,562	1,331
<b>Change in Population</b>	181,373	164,574	133,181	2,553	3,083	6,172	1,805	883	324	902
<b>% of Change</b>	18.0	130.8	176.4	67.7	136.7	144.5	139.3	49.0	26.2	210.3
<b>Projection(2010)</b>	1,402,250	670,203	576,777	10,606	12,635	25,534	7,420	4,001	1,971	4,130
<b>Fort Worth (1990)</b>	447,619	40,300	26,068	2,129	646	391	342	390	333	284
<b>Fort Worth (2000)</b>	535,420	87,120	64,469	4,195	1,417	946	565	897	779	401
<b>Change in Population</b>	87,801	46,820	38,401	2,066	771	555	223	507	446	117
<b>% of Change</b>	19.6	116.2	147.3	97.0	119.3	141.9	65.2	130.0	133.9	41.2
<b>Projection(2010)</b>	640,443	188,335	159,439	8,266	3,108	2,289	933	2,063	1,822	566



### A profile of North Texas immigrants: Latinos

Latino immigrants to the DFW area now account for around 12% of the total population. Although within this group, the fastest growth is from Central and South America, Mexicans are 80% of the Hispanic population. Nationwide, the population with the highest percentage of increase from Colombia, and that may be true for the North Texas region also.

Latino immigrants in North Texas are the base of our economic ladder, filling service jobs in hotels, restaurants, construction. They are critical to the region's growth and economic success. In fact, forty-six % of construction workers in Texas are Hispanic. "The North Texas boom is among the most robust in America, infusing the region with a [Hispanic] workforce that has become the backbone of the service, construction and manufacturing industries." (DMNews. March 31, 2001) The region's economy and services would be paralyzed without them.

Whether they are fleeing political turmoil in Colombia or economic crisis in Argentina, Latino immigrants in the Metroplex feel that life here is better than it was at home. It offers them more economic security (the minimum wage in the U.S. is \$5.15 an hour, whereas in México many people earn \$5 a day, in Argentina 30% of the work force is unemployed, and across Latin America costs of basic expenses are higher than in the U.S.). There are also more opportunities to get ahead, and they believe that their children will find better education and employment here.

Still, the life of Latino immigrants is not easy. "Getting across the border typically is a harrowing, daunting and costly undertaking, with smugglers charging up to \$2,000 per person. Death from exposure, beatings, rapes and robberies is common, immigration analysts say." (DMNews. March 31, 2001). (Actually, current cost of hiring a coyote from Central México averages \$2,000, while from El Salvador it is \$7,000.)

Both single men and families alike frequently live in substandard, crowded apartments. Between five and eight men often share a single-bedroom apartment, while two families (often ten people live in a single two-bedroom home or apartment.) Dallas is the Texas metropolitan area with the highest percentage of crowding, with 34.9% of all Latinos living in a crowded household. Fort Worth-Arlington is also listed as one of the areas with a shortage of economical housing units, and 25.9% of its Latino residents are considered 'crowded'.

Furthermore, Latino immigrants report experiencing subtle and obvious forms of unfair treatment because of their ethnic background. We believe local comments to correctly mirror national studies that show 45% of Latinos believing they are treated disrespectfully, 41% feeling they receive poorer service, and 30% being insulted or called names. Discrimination by other Latinos within the DFW Latino community, primarily by American-born Latinos is also reported as a significant problem. 83% of those in the nationwide study reported this, with almost half saying that it is a major dilemma (Pew Hispanic Center, Dec. 2002).

Latinos often worry about their children's cultural values. 90% believe that their language is the most important element of their culture and should be preserved. This is not difficult because their clustered neighborhoods make it easy to interact without using English, and because new immigrants continue to arrive daily. These circumstances, as well as the proliferation of Spanish-language media (three excellent Spanish-language television stations, 21 radio stations and around 20 newspapers) suggest that Spanish will continue to be their language of choice (Doublebase Mediamark Research, 1998). Furthermore, cheap travel and geographical proximity mean that those with legal status can easily return home one or more times a year.

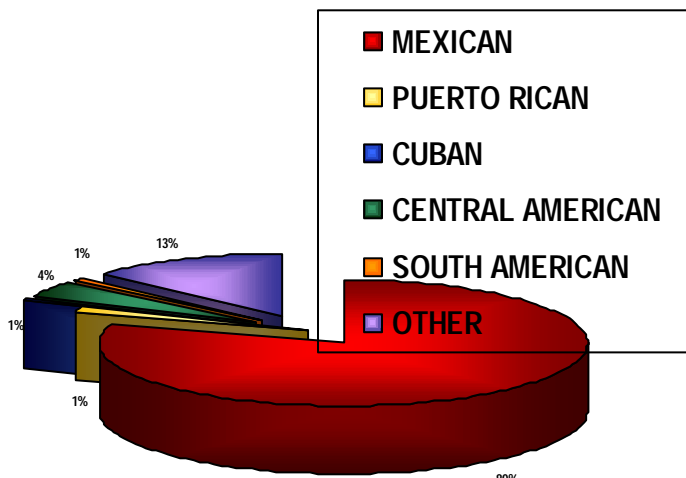
Nonetheless, Latino immigrants realize that English is essential to their success. Their ability to learn English depends on many factors, including their interaction with English-speakers on the job, their ability to leave their Spanish-speaking neighborhoods and their age. Younger immigrants, those with a high school or college education, and those whose employment or housing demands constant interaction with English-speakers, are more successful at making the linguistic transition.

Without English skills, communication difficulties can adversely affect their quality of life. 29% of Latino immigrants report having problems communicating with their health care providers (Kaiser Family Foundation).

English proficiency impacts frequency of medical care, ability to help children with homework and to communicate with their teachers, understanding of civic rules and responsibilities, and much more.

Seventy-one percent of American Latinos are Catholic (Hispanic Chamber of Commerce), and most Catholic churches in the Metroplex have added a Spanish-language service to address a community that is now become primarily Hispanic. The Catholic Diocese realizes that its greatest challenge is to meet the changing demographics of its community. In most Latino churches, classroom and worship space is saturated, and sometimes services must be held in the open

DFW Hispanic Population by Origin



Source: Univisión

air.

Family, socializing with friends, happiness and festive events are important in the Latino culture, and the family is the highest priority and greatest source of satisfaction. Watching sports is also an important pastime.

In general, Latinos who choose to emigrate are better educated than those who choose not to leave home. They are three times more likely to have a secondary education and twice as likely to have completed college as their home country compatriots (Pew Hispanic Center, Dec. 2002).

35% of South American immigrants have completed a college education, a rate as high as that of the native population of the US. In fact, they are twice as likely as Mexican immigrants to have completed high school or college. The countries sending a higher proportion of college educated immigrants are Brazil (39%), Argentina (33%), Peru and Cuba (33%) (Pew Hispanic Center, Dec. 2002)

México's educational system is producing an increasing number of professionals, and 12% of México's population with higher education and 30% of Mexicans with PhD's are in the U.S. (The Economist, Sept. 2002) Nevertheless, the community of Mexican and Central American immigrants is generally poorer than other Metroplex residents. They have higher dropout rates in school and in college, primarily because they arrive without diplomas and do not try to complete their education here. About two thirds have not finished high school. Most have no credit cards, and one in three has no driver's license (Washington Post survey). The large number of immigrants with low levels of education means that the region has an

abundant supply of workers with less than a high school degree. Mexicans and Central Americans are the Latinos least likely to work in managerial or professional occupations and are the poorest of all Latino immigrant communities.

80% of Latino immigrants are working and they rely on welfare programs the least of all immigrant groups (Washington Post). Still, the annual median earnings of immigrants are only about 77% of their native-born neighbors (Center for Immigration Studies, Dec. 7, 2002). Hispanics do not feel financially secure, and they are the first to report loss of jobs or income in times of economic slump. Nevertheless, the typical Mexican household sends an average of \$258 a month in remittances to family in their country of origin (Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago).

In cities like the DFW Metroplex that have experienced 'hypergrowth' of Latinos, males outnumber females by 24%. Cities with older Latino communities, such as Miami and Los Angeles, show more balanced gender ratios, since over time full families and a third-generation join the original males (The Brookings Institution, July 2002).

### **A profile of North Texas immigrants: Asians**

From Chinese engineers in Plano, Indian computer programmers in Richardson and Filipino nurses in Dallas, Asian immigrants earn high wages, increase the North Texas region's average household income and contribute significantly to the tax base. Asian-American households have an income level 40% above that of the national average and higher than that of other races. However, within Texas, Dallas trails Houston in Asian population, business and political clout.

Asians are much more entrepreneurial than immigrants from non-Asian nations. 26.6% of Korean New Americans are self-employed, and they have essentially renovated the entire Royal/Harry Hines wholesale/retail area. Asian Americans have a higher percentage of people working in technical, managerial and professional jobs. Asian women work predominantly in executive, professional and administrative support jobs, while Asian men tend to hold executive and professional positions.

Education remains a highly valued element in Asian families, and the number of Asian males with a bachelors degree is nearly double the national average. Altogether there are about 28,000 Asian students in the Metroplex. Forty five Asian youth were mentioned on the Dallas Morning News Valedictorian and Salutatorian list for 2002. Plano has drawn large numbers of Asian families because it is perceived by many as the best school district in the area. It has the highest SAT and the highest percentage above the State SAT Criterion, plus the largest Asian enrollment in the state. Plano now has 3000 more Asian students than Arlington and 4000 more than Richardson, and its Asian student base increased by 15% in 2002 (DISD, 2002).

At the same time, DISD's Asian enrollment is down 15%, RISD is down 5%, Garland is up 5%. Arlington, Carrollton, and Mesquite are stable (DISD, 2002).

Asians are more likely than African Americans and Latinos to choose residences in the suburbs rather than in central downtown areas. Educators believe that this choice is related to the higher quality education available in suburban school districts.

### **A profile of North Texas immigrants: Africans**

Some of the most significant brain-drain losses due to migration are from Africa: 75% of those emigrating from Africa have some level of college education. For example, 30% of all highly educated Ghanaians and Sierra Leoneans are believed to live abroad. (The Economist, Dec. 2002) With already less than five % of the residents of most African countries attending college, this means that some of the poorest countries in the world are subsidizing an education system that ultimately benefits the U.S., the world's richest nation.

The DFW Metroplex has the largest Igbo (Nigerian) population in the nation. Large numbers of Eritreans and Ethiopians are also present, having fled famine and war during the 1980's and arriving here as immigrants and refugees. The Somali conflict brought additional numbers of refugees during the 1990's, and a small number of young adult males from Sudan were resettled more recently. Immigrants escaping the tragic events in Central Africa tend to be those countries' educated elite, as the U.S. refugee program has not been extended to that region.

## **A profile of North Texas immigrants: Middle Eastern/ Muslim**

At the turn of the previous century, most Middle Eastern immigrants to the United States and the North Texas region were Lebanese-Syrian Christians. Today less than 40% are from any of the 21 Arab countries. They are also increasingly Muslim, growing from 15% of the total Middle Eastern immigrant population in 1970 to 79% in 2000 (Center for Immigration Studies, Nov. 2002).

Local Muslim organizations estimate the number of Muslims in North Texas to be about 100,000. Unfortunately, there is no way to corroborate this number, as there is nearly a complete absence of cultural groups representing immigrants from Arab countries. Attempts to create a council of mosques or Muslim organizations have not met with success, and there is very little communication or interaction between the more prevalent Sunni centers and those who are Ismaeli, Sufi, Shiite or other Muslim groups. However, there are more than 20 mosques in the region, and in the past ten years, new mosques and expansion programs have been constructed in Plano, Carrollton and Richardson, and the number of Islamic Centers in the Metroplex doubled.

Middle Eastern immigrant residents of the DFW Metroplex are extremely varied ethnically, originating in every country where Muslims live. Most have fled dictatorship, tyranny, persecution, civil strife, war, and poverty. They are significantly younger than the national average and more heavily weighted toward males. Among the Muslim nations, the leading source of New Americans is Pakistan, with Iran and the various Arab countries probably in second place.

Approximately 10% of Middle Eastern immigrants are undocumented (INS and Census Bureau). 40% of the undocumented arrived on temporary visas (as tourists or students) and never returned home. Many immigrants from countries like Somalia and Iran fled prison, torture or fear of death by hiring smugglers who transported them to Dallas across the Mexican border. For some, the arduous journey takes a year or more, and enroute they stop in other countries such as Guatemala or Turkey before arriving in Mexico. Many of these subsequently qualified for political asylum.

Muslim immigrants are exceptionally well-educated. 52% hold graduate degrees. Increasingly, Arab students sense that their countries of origin will remain politically limited and economically backward, and see remaining in the U.S. as the preferable alternative to returning home, even though they may not approve of this country's actions relative to their cultural region. Between 75 and 90% of Muslim and Middle Eastern medical students at North Texas hospitals end up staying in the country or in the region. Female students from countries like Bangladesh and Pakistan, where education for daughters is valued but which restrict their behavior and require conformity to traditional family values, are especially likely to remain (Center for Immigration Studies, Aug. 2002).

Muslim immigrants are also increasingly pious. Perhaps 20% limit themselves to *halal* (Islamic kosher) meat, and numerous new groceries serving the Middle Eastern immigrant population surround most of the area's mosques. Fifteen years ago, it was an extremely rare occurrence to see a young Muslim woman wearing *hijab* (head veil) in public. Now, it is not uncommon to see schoolgirls in Muslim dress shopping with friends in the area's malls.

Five full time Islamic schools operate in the Metroplex, and there are over twenty Islamic centers. However, area mosques are not staffed well, and services to youth, refugees, and the poor are in need of development. There are few paid, full-time employees, and perhaps half of the Muslim centers have no paid staff even on a part-time basis.

The rate of poverty among Muslim and Middle Eastern immigrants is double that of native-born Americans. This may be due in part to 11% of the nation's total from this region being admitted as refugees (Center for Immigration Studies, Aug. 2002).

19% of Middle Eastern immigrants own their own businesses, as compared to 10% of immigrants from other regions and 11 % of natives (Center for Immigration Studies, Aug. 2002).

## **A profile of North Texas immigrants: Undocumented**

One quarter of the total number of immigrants nationwide and 55% of the Mexicans are believed to be undocumented (The Economist, Nov. 2, 2002 and Migration Information Source), while 7% are refugees and political asylees. 41% are non-immigrant overstays that entered legally on a temporary basis and failed to depart. 91% of these overstays are non-Latino (INS, quoted in Migration Information Source, May, 2002).



# Legal Status of Immigrants

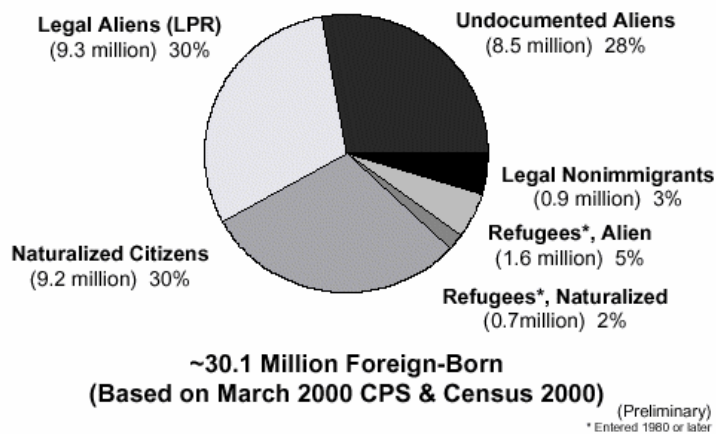


Figure 4. Legal Status of the Foreign-Born Population, 2000

Source: Urban Institute.

1.2 million are undocumented in Texas, and in the DFW Metroplex, about 400,000 (or more) are undocumented. About 80% of the Mexicans that arrived during the 1990's may be undocumented. Nationwide, Mexicans alone represent 55% of the total undocumented population. (Migration Information Source) The remainder of Latin America accounts for another 22%. A major portion of the Metroplex population from El Salvador and Guatemala is undocumented. Colombian leaders estimate 70 to 80% of their community to be undocumented.

The number of undocumented Middle Easterners and Asians in North Texas is insignificant.

Two thirds of all unauthorized migrants did not complete high school (Pew Hispanic Center, Dec. 2002)

## A profile of North Texas immigrants: Contributions

The DFW Metroplex's economy is highly dependent on immigrant labor. The last decade of growth would have been stunted without the new arrivals, who during that period accounted for half the growth in the labor force (Northeastern University Center for Labor Market Studies). Because nearly half the immigrant population is estimated to be undocumented, the base of our continued economic prosperity and development has been built on residents with no legal status. In addition, nearly 43 % of all job openings by 2010 will require only a minimal education, at a time when native-born Americans are obtaining college degrees in record numbers and are unlikely to accept positions requiring minimal education (American Immigration Law Foundation, Sept. 2002). Thus, there will be a higher demand for immigrant labor.

The availability of inexpensive newcomers and undocumented workers helps reduce the costs of producing a wide range of goods and services, and thus benefits business owners, investors, and consumers (Pew Hispanic Center, Dec, 2002). These benefits are due to the low wages of the workers, which translate into greater profit for employers as well as lower prices for shoppers and vendors. Furthermore, the availability of these laborers raises the living standards of the middle class and wealthy by bringing household and yard services within their reach.

"The embarrassing secret [of American society] is the importance of illegal immigrants to daily life. Without them, the domestic life of middle-class [DFW residents] would fall apart, food prices would climb steeply as produce rotted in the fields, hotel rooms would stand uncleaned, swimming pools would become septic tanks, and taxis would disappear from the streets. In short, the [region] would grind to a halt." (The Economist, March 11, 2000)

The US educates about one-third of all foreign students who seek education outside their own countries. Half of all students who get PhDs in the United States are still here five years later. The result is that a small percentage of educated immigrants abroad may earn as much as the sum of the earnings of their more numerous nationals at home. Perhaps a third of highly educated Ghanaians live abroad, and three-quarters of Jamaica's population with higher education can be found in the United States alone (The Economist, Jan. 4, 2003). The one million Indians in the United States accounted for only 0.1 % of India's population but earned the equivalent of 10 % of India's national income in 2000.

Nearly one in four of New Americans holds a technical, managerial, or professional job (Northeastern University Center for Labor Market Studies). New Americans are also highly entrepreneurial; 25 % of new companies in America have been started by Chinese, Middle Eastern, and Indian immigrants. However, despite this trend, the large amount of immigrant-owned establishments often goes unnoticed. For example, the South Asian population, although especially large, is markedly invisible in the Metroplex. It revitalizes



blighted and declining areas where no other entrepreneurs wish to locate, such as the Royal/Harry Hines neighborhood (now owned by Koreans and Pakistani Ismaelis), and the Greenville/Belt Line strip in Richardson (now Chinese).

### Profile of the North Texas immigrant: Challenges

Both documented and undocumented immigrants face a variety of challenges on a daily basis. First and foremost, they often live in dire economic conditions. Immigrants and their children account for about one-third of those living in poverty in Texas and almost one in four persons living in poverty in the nation. (Center for Immigration Studies, Nov. 2002). For example, as our largest immigrant group, Latinos represent 12% of the total US population but constitute 23.1% of those living in poverty. In fact, the poverty rate for immigrants and their children is two-thirds higher than that of natives and their children. This could pose a great problem because the children of immigrants who have grown up in poverty, whose parents are in low-wage jobs or out of work, could potentially become hostile and alienated in the future.

### Poverty status 1999 by place of birth by citizenship status

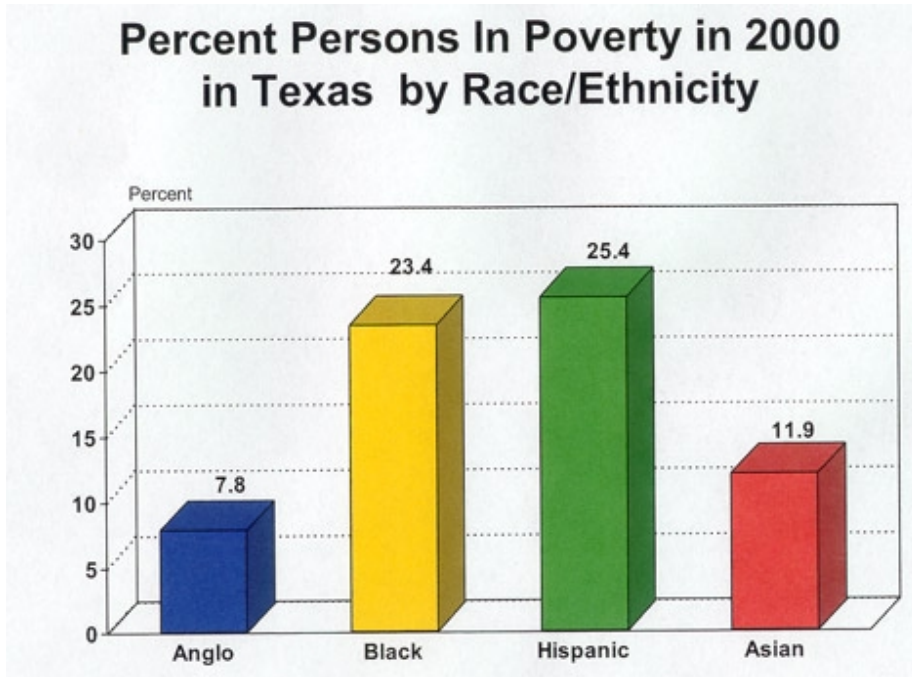
	Texas	North Texas	Collin County	Dallas County	Denton County	Tarrant County	Dallas City	Fort Worth City
<b>Total</b>	20,287,300	4,517,105	488,777	2,183,570	423,375	1,421,383	1,167,205	520,748
<b>Native total</b>	17,410,610	3,768,481	423,678	1,722,470	383,396	1,238,937	878,216	433,961
<b>Foreign born total</b>	2,876,690	748,624	65,099	461,100	39,979	182,446	288,989	86,787
<b>Naturalized citizen total</b>	909,216	194,026	22,230	101,911	13,971	55,914	55,452	23,647
<b>Not a citizen total</b>	1,967,474	554,598	42,869	359,189	26,008	126,532	233,537	63,140
<b>Income below poverty level</b>	3,117,609	495,578	23,784	293,267	28,039	150,488	207,493	82,953
<b>percentage of total</b>	15.37	10.97	4.87	13.43	6.62	10.59	17.78	15.93
<b>Native component of it</b>	2,418,961	354,792	16,728	199,128	22,238	116,698	139,658	64,247
<b>percentage of native total</b>	13.89	9.41	3.95	11.56	5.80	9.42	15.90	14.80
<b>Foreign born component of it</b>	698,648	140,786	7,056	94,139	5,801	33,790	67,835	18,706
<b>percentage of foreign total</b>	24.29	18.81	10.84	20.42	14.51	18.52	23.47	21.55
<b>Naturalized citizen</b>	143,951	19,139	1,010	11,717	838	5,574	7,682	3,290
<b>percentage of naturalized total</b>	15.83	9.86	4.54	11.50	6.00	9.97	13.85	13.91
<b>Not a citizen</b>	554,697	121,647	6,046	82,422	4,963	28,216	60,153	15,416
<b>percentage of not a citizen total</b>	28.19	21.93	14.10	22.95	19.08	22.30	25.76	24.42

“The gap between Latino per capita income and that of the nation remains substantial, and is larger now than in 1985. This makes it more difficult for them to purchase a home, invest in personal savings and pay for higher education for their children.” (William C. Velasquez Institute, 2000)

The most challenging kind of immigration is one that moves from rural areas like Guanajuato, Kurdistan or Somalia to a complex modern society, particularly when the low wages offered to these unskilled immigrants are inadequate and condemn their children to poverty and struggling inner-city schools. Children of the rural unskilled have problems in the job market. They frequently turn to petty crime when they do not feel part of the society. We are creating our region’s future in the manner in which we address the needs of the children of New Americans, and if society fails to integrate the next generations, these costs may stretch far into the future.

Just as the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) began to loosen immigration law, especially with México, 9/11 sent everything into a tailspin. Now, with U.S. policy transforming itself daily and the INS becoming part of the Department of Homeland Security, families of immigrants are facing new challenges that make visiting and immigrating to the U.S. and much more difficult. Moreover, the new policies affect the local job market and economy extensively, from corporations that are accustomed to bringing in highly skilled foreign workers to agricultural businesses that rely on cheap immigrant labor. A third group that is impacted and encumbered by the new policies is the foreign student community, on which our local universities depend.

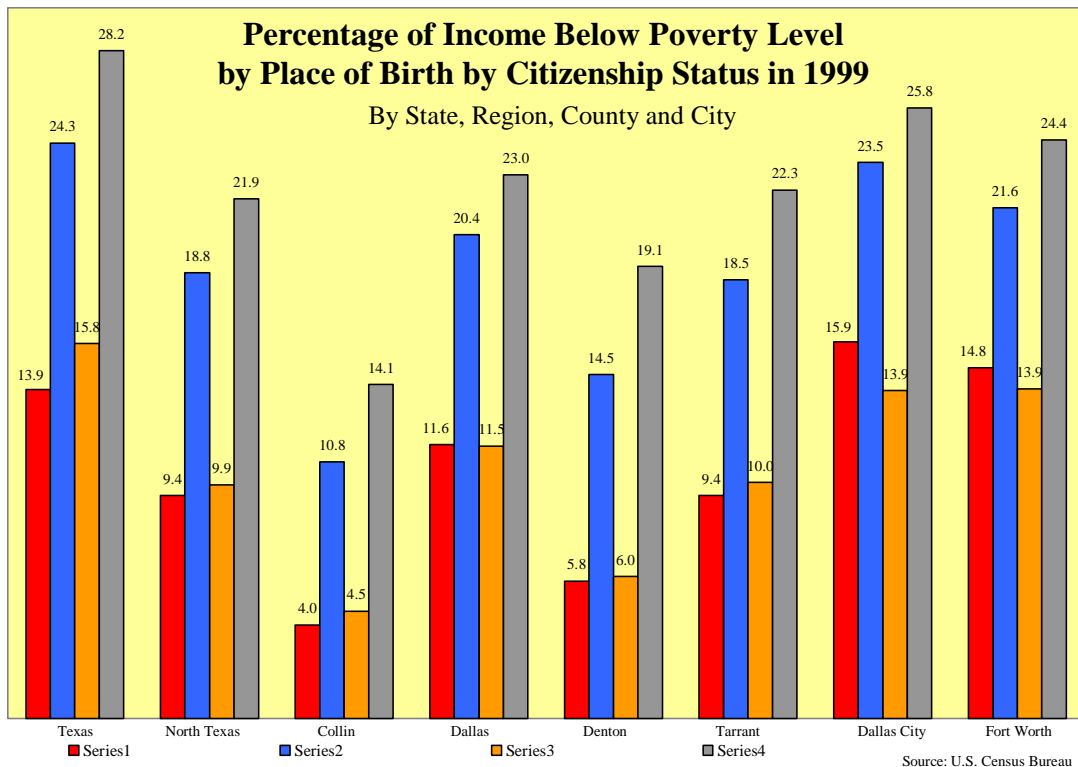
Many foreign students and the universities they attend are scrambling to stay in compliance with the frequently changing and sometimes misinterpreted regulations promulgated by the INS. Applications for university admission and the actual arrivals of students are down across the Metroplex, leading to the threatened survival of individual academic departments on which local industry depends.



“Employers get cheap and plentiful labor and employees who, although badly-paid, earn much more than they would at home. Many of those gardeners and cleaners live in conditions that would shame a [wealthy metropolis like DFW].” (The Economist, March 11, 2000)

One third of immigrants do not have health insurance—2.5 times the rate for natives. (Center for Immigration Studies, Dec. 7, 2002) For example, Latinos have the highest rate of non-coverage of all ethnic groups in Texas (39.18%)

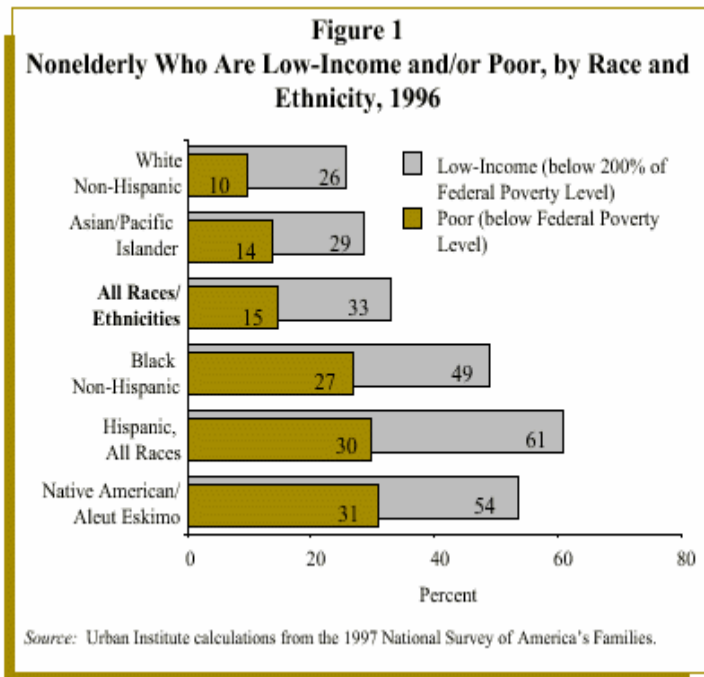
as compared to 14.40% of Whites. Specifically, 56.8% of Guatemalan immigrants, 53.7% of El Salvadorian, and 53.4% of Mexican have no health insurance. 95% of the increase in the uninsured population since 1989 is due to New Americans. (Center for Immigration Studies, Nov. 2002). This lack of insurance is a significant problem for New Americans, one that is augmented due to certain health issues. Latino and



Asian-Pacific residents are nearly twice as likely to have diabetes as Anglos of similar age, and HIV/AIDS is the third leading cause of death for Latino men (Community Voices).

As the average household income of Hispanics and other New Americans is less than the average native-born household income, older and central parts of the city may see a decline in tax revenue. This decline occurs at a time when these areas need more money to provide services for their expanding population.

The decline in revenue from taxes also poses a major problem for schools, because immigration accounts for virtually all of the increase in public school enrollment. Approximately 26% of Texas children have immigrant mothers (Center for Immigration Studies, March 2002). Since most immigrant families have lower incomes than natives, their tax contributions are unlikely to entirely offset the costs they impose on schools. Consequently, school districts are becoming more and more strained to meet the needs of large new student populations with these limited budgets.



The key to immigrants' successful integration and economic survival is language. Being fluent in English boosts immigrants' earnings by around 17% (The Economist, Nov. 2, 2002). Nonetheless, demographers predict that an emerging majority of *non*-English speakers in North Texas will create unique political and social challenges. (FW Star Telegram May 20, 2002) For example, communities will have trouble delivering services such as health care to families that don't speak English. Moreover, there will be a personal challenge to professionals who cannot work as such because of the language barrier.

**A profile of North Texas immigrants: Social Awareness and Services**

Despite the diversity of the North Texas region, the community in general remains unaware of the existence and condition of large sectors of the immigrant population. Many of these immigrant

groups have lived in the region for decades but they have not been able to fully assimilate and be socially accepted. Even though the reasons are many and complex, certain points can be generalized: a large number of immigrants live in poverty, do not speak English, have limited access to education and don't know where to seek help.

In comparison with other sizeable metropolitan areas around the country, North Texas lags behind in its support for immigrants and immigrant services. New York, San Francisco, Chicago and others have greater support from most sectors of society. Immigrant advocacy groups in all of these cities are more numerous, better funded and better organized. The end results are farther reaching with services positively impacting a larger number of immigrants and building greater awareness in the community. Despite restrictions on its moneys, the civic sectors in these cities— both state and local – provide considerable funds for numerous programs of various immigrant advocacy organizations as well as for groups that provide social services and education to immigrants.

In the city of New York, over three hundred employees in various metropolitan and private organizations represent and serve the particular needs of immigrants. The New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC) is an umbrella advocacy organization with 16 full time employees that connects 200 groups representing one of the largest and most diverse newcomer populations in the United States. The NYIC's membership includes immigrant rights advocates, immigrant community leaders and service providers, numerous community-based ethnic and non-profit human service organizations, as well as leaders from

labor, academia and the legal professions. Utilizing this multi-ethnic, multi-racial and multi-sector base, the NYCIC provides the opportunity for members to collaborate and implement strategies to address their common concerns.

The NYCIC develops materials to educate newcomer communities on important issues and has produced over a million copies of dozens of brochures and fact sheets on the new immigration and welfare laws, employment discrimination, the citizenship process, school registration, and immigration status issues - in as many as twelve languages. They also provide advocacy and information to the ethnic and mainstream media on important community issues and offer immigrants and refugees themselves an extensive program of trainings, workshops, community education events, and technical assistance.

The NYCIC coordinates efforts for ESL classes, has registered nearly 200,000 new citizens to vote, and presents civic engagement initiatives. It provides civic education materials to tens of thousands of new citizens, and encourage their active engagement in New York's civic life and political processes.

Another large immigrant organization in New York is the New York Association of New Americans (NYANA), a social service resettlement agency with around 400 employees that provides a wide range of programs supporting immigrants and refugees. The services for refugees include financial assistance, paid utilities for four months, adjustment counseling, health care, English language classes, job searching and job training skills. Non-refugee immigrants are also entitled to some of these services but not all of them because of federal assistance restrictions. Immigrant legal services are offered to all immigrants at an affordable cost. Additionally, NYANA has a microenterprise development program based on small loans up to US\$35,000 a year and technical assistance and training that offers immigrants the opportunity to own a small business.

In San Francisco, the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) provides legal counsel and advice to attorneys working in immigration cases or to immigrant advocacy and community groups. More than 80 % of their budget, which is around US\$ 1 million, comes from private foundations. The center also supports itself by offering seminars, materials and consultations for attorneys. Moreover, the 18-member staff benefits greatly from cooperation from government officials at all levels.

Similarly in Chicago, the Midwest Immigrant and Human Rights Center (MIHRC) representation in a variety of immigration related issues to low-income immigrants. Legal counsel is an additional service. The center, which has been going for 18 years, also provides immigration assistance to asylum seekers and refugees. Among the 25-member staff and two operating locations are 5 licensed attorneys. Although MIHRC only receives a small percentage of its budget from state and local government sources, it benefits greatly by having government officials – including legislators and state agencies' representatives – support their work by serving on task forces and committees that are created to solve problems related to immigrant and refugee issues in the state. MIHRC exists under the umbrella of an anti-poverty, human rights and social organization called the Heartland Alliance.

Working in collaboration with the MIHRC to provide services and advocacy for immigrants is the Illinois Coalition for Immigration and Refugee Protection, which brings together 97 immigrant organizations. Local church, labor and fair housing organizations join hands with these groups to support initiatives for immigrants, while numerous websites link ethnic community groups and promote joint endeavors.

These are only a few examples of the strength of immigrant advocacy in other metropolitan regions. Unfortunately most of the services offered and level of support in these cities do not exist in North Texas. The Dallas Fort Worth Metroplex can boast no organization other than **Dallas International**, a 100% volunteer network that attempts to be a voice for all ethnic communities. Others, such as Catholic Charities through its Immigration Counseling Services and Migration & Refugee Services divisions, offer limited services relating to a few areas of needs.

Until **Dallas International's** formation, even the most basic indexes of services, such as contacts information for major immigrant communities, locations of ESL classes and civic and health guides were unavailable to residents and to new immigrants alike. When schools or civic groups wished to find ethnic performers, their only option was to request assistance from one of the ethnic chambers of commerce, organizations that were set up to network for business and not to address cultural issues. Similarly, the Office of International Affairs did not maintain any sort of database of international communities and organizations, and was often unable to respond to the most basic queries.

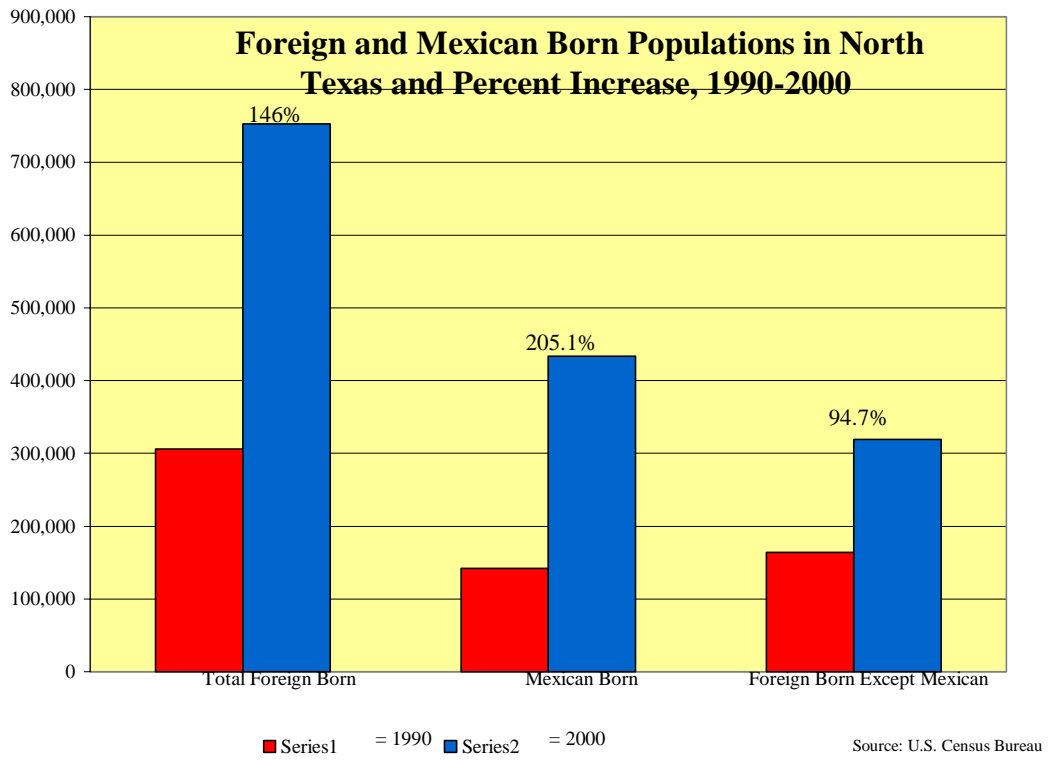
In the face of such a vacuum of information, **Dallas International** has prepared a list of over 110 sites offering ESL (English as a Second Language) courses, and has posted contact information for over 300

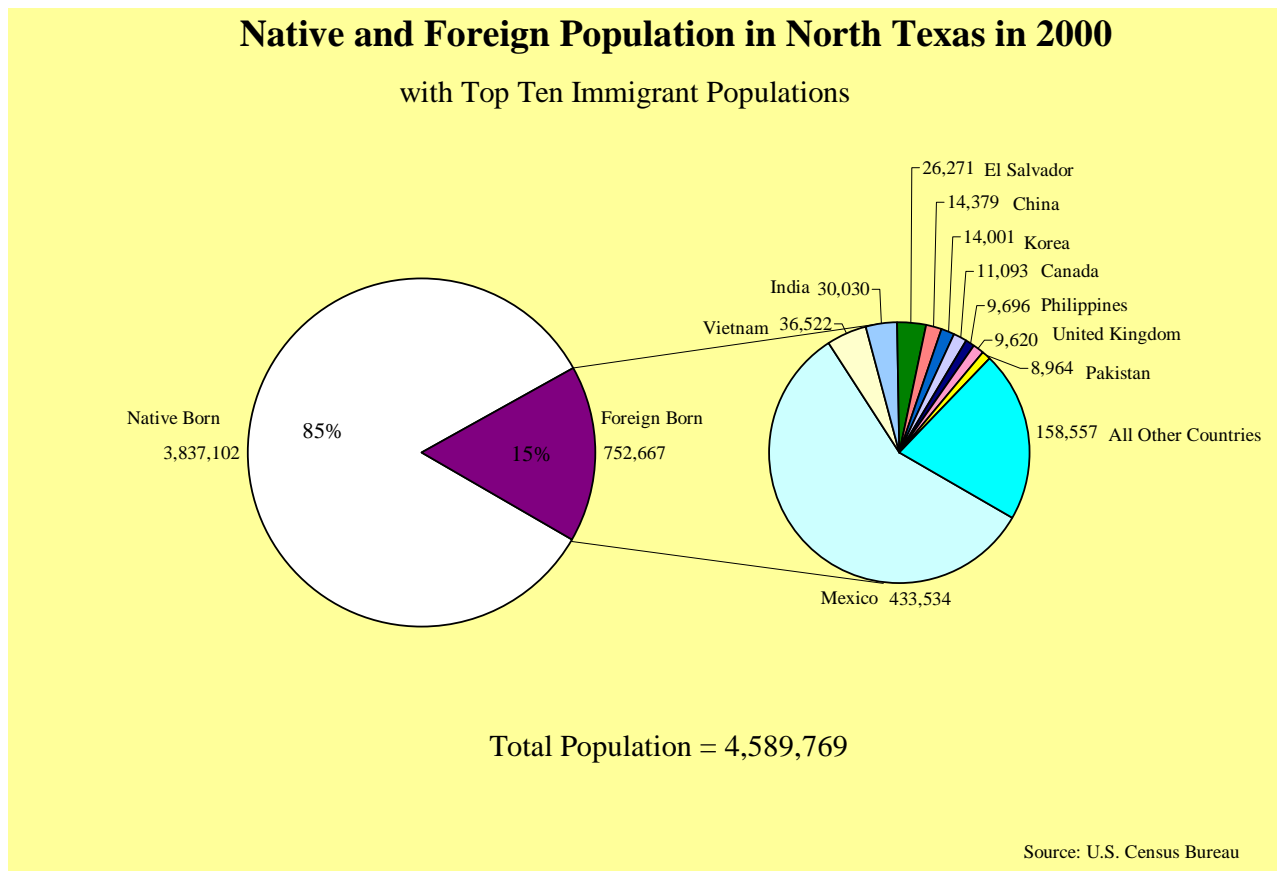
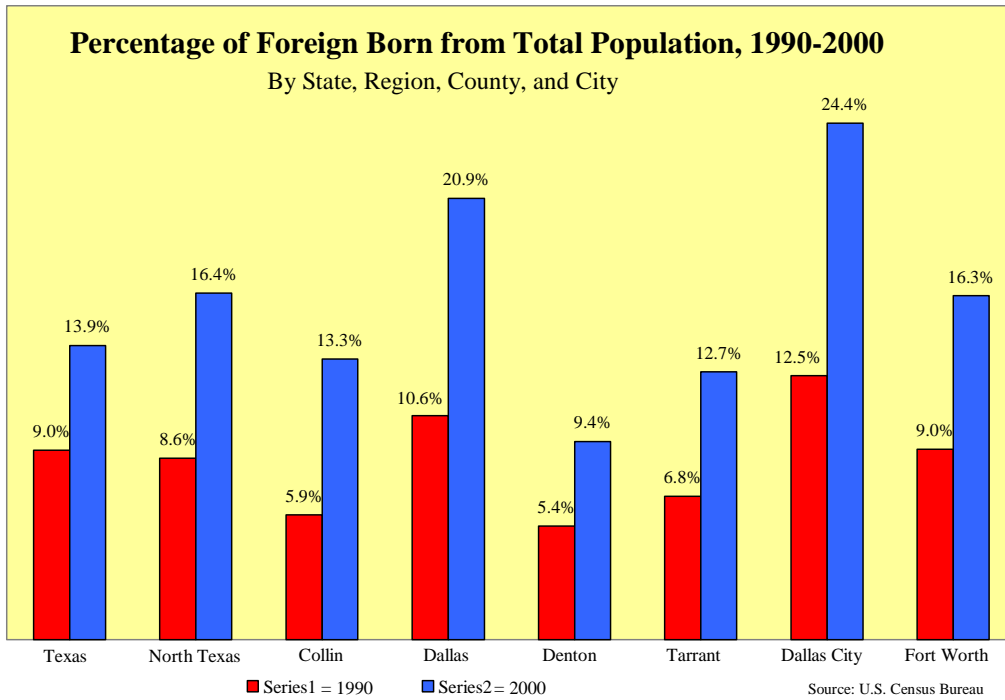
ethnic performing groups and grass-roots immigrant and international community organizations on its website. Its Immigrant Resource Council for Conflict Resolution (partnered by UNT) supports the human rights of immigrants by providing expert witnesses for court cases, cultural mentors and translators to resolve misunderstandings and assist new arrivals, and interventions in situations of cultural crisis.

**Dallas International** also maintains a database of over 1,600 ethnic, immigrant, and global organizations and also produces the Dallas International Festival. It is a 501 c3 nonprofit staffed completely by volunteers.

**F. Additional tables and graphs**

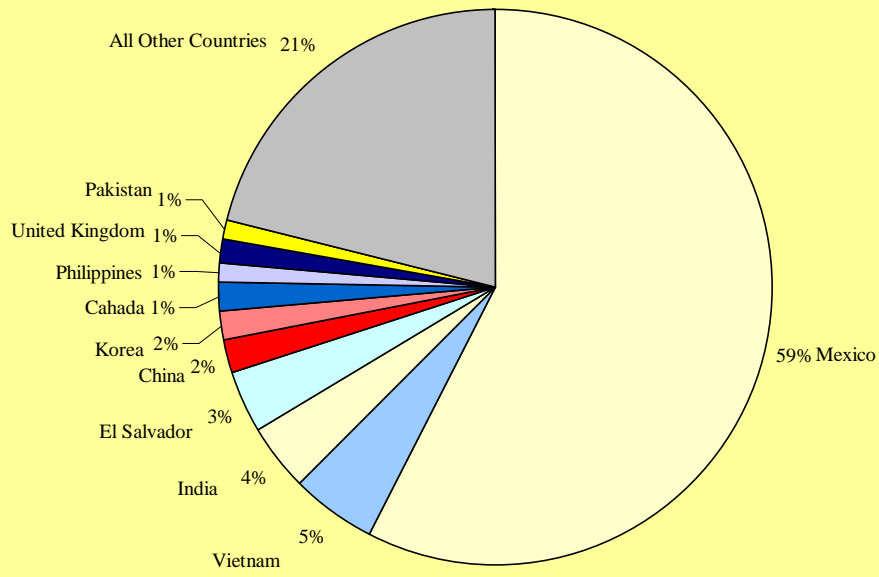
(prepared for **Dallas International** by Alonso Sanchez)





## Top Immigrant Populations and Percentages in North Texas in 2000

Total Foreign Born Population = 752,667



Source: U.S. Census Bureau



## Part V: Questionnaire Data

*This section of the report deals with the perceptions of immigrant leaders and representatives. These comments are neither scientific, nor comprehensive. Leadership of all major immigrant groups were repeatedly invited to participate in this survey. Absence of data from certain international groups signifies that their leaders chose not to respond. The insights shared by participating leaders assist us profoundly in understanding the reality of the immigrant condition, and we are very grateful for their continued support.*

The current flow of immigrants to North Texas began around 40 years ago. Of course, there have been immigrants moving to the region for centuries, but children of earlier arrivals who are now deceased are no longer viewed as immigrants. Major immigrant groups noted in this area have maintained a steady flux of migration; however, international economic crisis and regional political turmoil have directly impacted immigration. For example, a significant number of Salvadorans arrived since 1980 as a result of the political instability in their country. Similarly, wars in Southeast Asia and the Horn of Africa produced refugees who were resettled in the North Texas region.

- **Education:** The educational level of immigrants is starkly distinct between two main communities: Asians and Latinos. For the most part, Asian immigrants to this region are consistent with nationwide patterns of Asian immigration: they are relatively well educated, with many holding bachelor's and graduate degrees or migrating to the region to seek one higher education. This seems particularly true of the Chinese, Indian, and Pakistani groups. On the other hand, the Latinos, mostly Mexicans and Salvadorans, are generally less educated, and may be illiterate or have finished years of some elementary, junior high or high school.
- **Employment:** The jobs that most immigrants perform are naturally divided according to their educational levels. Many Asians perform more highly skilled technical jobs in the information technology, engineering, medical, and management fields. A few of them, in particular the Chinese, work in the restaurant business. Retail businesses are popular among the Pakistanis, Indians, and Arabs. Central Americans, on the other hand, generally work in construction, manufacturing, restaurants, housekeeping, and some in agriculture. Their presence in these fields is crucial, they are respected for the high quality of their work, and few of these industries could continue to operate without them. There is also a small group of professionals from all of Latin America who work in health care, management, and in technical fields. The small African minority mainly works in retail and wholesale trade, plus the professional and service industries.
- **Legal status:** Nearly 50% or more of the Mexican and Salvadorian and over 70% of the Colombian populations appear to be undocumented, and many leaders suggest that the Census figures on these communities are inaccurate because many residents were fearful of responding. On the other hand, more than 95% of the Indian and Chinese community members are legal residents.
- **Communication with country of origin:** Most immigrant groups, regardless of region, economic status, and educational level maintain a fairly regular communication with their countries of origin. Many feel strong bonds to their nuclear families back home and communicate frequently with them by telephone. Moreover, Mexicans and Central Americans regularly send money back home. Returning home for a visit is important to all immigrant groups, although the frequency of such travel depends on a combination of legal (status), distance to one's country of origin, and economic factors. For example, while Asians seem to plan home visits every two to five years, Mexicans travel home more frequently, at least once every six months.

## ARGENTINE COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	Argentina
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	5,000
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	1,083
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	political instability, economic hardship
<b>Years in this region</b>	5-20 years
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	Irving, Plano
<b>General level of education</b>	some college
<b>Employment</b>	professionals, housekeeping, sales
<b>Principal religions</b>	Catholic, Jewish, Protestant
<b>Languages</b>	Spanish, English
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	
<b>Community newsletter</b>	1
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	5

Argentines take pride in being individualistic rather than in joining organized group activities. Because of this, it is not easy to generalize about their presence in North Texas. While their numbers in the Metroplex are not large—about 3,000 legal residents and an equal number of undocumented immigrants -- their cultural impact is significant. Although few Central and South American cultural or community organizations are visible in 2002, the *Centro Cultural Argentino* supports numerous social activities, a theater group, a tango club, and a film association. In addition, an Argentine folkloric dance society and an Argentine tango band contribute to the general cultural level of the Metroplex. Also, several Argentine coaches are involved in local soccer academies and soccer clinics.

Argentines who emigrated in the 70's generally did so to escape the military dictatorship that tortured and killed from 10,000 to 30,000 people. On the other hand, those who arrived in the 80's left their country in seek of more favorable economic conditions. Most recently, arrivals within the last 3 years undoubtedly have been fleeing the high unemployment and poverty levels that were produced by a decade of unprecedented corruption.

Argentines tend to reside in the newer and better-developed areas of the DFW Metroplex. However, about 3,000 undocumented new arrivals have settled in the poorer areas of Irving. The latter, principally families from Mendoza, were recruited by a *coyote* (immigrant smuggler) who put them to work selling door to door for commission under near-slavery conditions, as well as doing telemarketing. Many of these undocumented Argentines have college degrees but accept whatever jobs are available, such as in sales, office cleaning, telemarketing, or as nannies. Very little communication exists between these 'poorer country cousins' and the well-established earlier arrivals.

Argentine immigrants are primarily young adults, although many of the earliest arrivals are now in their 50's. The latter are balanced evenly between male and female, and are generally prosperous and well-adjusted to the North Texas cultural environment. They tend to be politically conservative and financially successful. This group includes lawyers, businessmen, physicians, and high-tech administrators. The majority is from the Buenos Aires Metroplex, home to 30% of the Argentine population. Many of them currently reside in Plano, and most travel regularly to Argentina - often several times a year.

Argentina's population is of European origin, allowing Argentines to blend in relatively easily with the Anglo majority population of Texas, more so than other Latinos of predominantly Indian or African ethnic origin. A high percentage of local Argentines in their 20's and 30's is male, a fact that suggests that more young men than women are driven to leave their country by desperation and lack of opportunities.

Immigrants from Argentina enjoy being up to date with the latest technologies. 33% are college graduates.

Argentines are often perceived by other Latinos as being “arrogant” and identifying with Europe rather than the South American continent whose culture and language they share. Jokes about Argentine egos are classic among comedians. However, the fact is that after a decade of economic decline, Argentina has in many respects finally integrated into the rest of Latin America, sharing problems such as unemployment, malnutrition, and a lack of opportunities (such as in education).

#### **Other Social Characteristics**

<b>Age Distribution</b>	primarily young adults
<b>percentage of men and women</b>	60% men, 40% women
<b>Ties to country of origin</b>	nuclear family remains
<b>Frequency of travel to country of origin</b>	every 2 years
<b>Estimate of undocumented</b>	60-70%

## BANGLADESHI COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	Bangladesh
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	10,000
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	2,747
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	better opportunities, education
<b>Years in this region</b>	25 years
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	Plano, Richardson, Garland, Irving, Arlington, Ft. Worth
<b>General level of education</b>	Bachelor's degree, some graduate degree
<b>Employment</b>	professional, retail, education, clerical, restaurant, hotel, health, retail, management, technical
<b>Principal religions</b>	Islam
<b>Languages</b>	Bengali
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	weekly radio program
<b>Community newsletter</b>	none
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	2

Bangladeshis began arriving to North Texas in the early 1970s, after independence was declared in 1971. Since then, immigrants have continued to come over, often because of political instability but mostly in search of better opportunities and education. Many have dreams of sending their children to the finest educational institutions of the world. The middle-class sells property to pay for their journeys to America and to get situated here. Most immigrants first come to New York City or to the New England states, and then, once they start a family or relatives begin to arrive, they migrate internally to North Texas.

Many families send their sons to the United States with what little money is available with the hope that they will receive a good education and help the family back home. As is the case in similar Middle Eastern immigrant communities, the result is an excess of young men in the region and a shortage of young women from whom to select a marriage partner. Thus, because relations with the extended family 'back home' are very close and constant, young people are frequently brought together by relatives back home or friends living in the diaspora. Arranged marriages, with the bride being selected by the groom's family in Bangladesh, are common. Currently, within the second generation, a new form of arranged marriages has emerged, in which parents introduce their children and let love blossom.

Because it is the son's responsibility to care for his elderly parents, the older generation frequently moves in with the younger members of the extended household. Even when the grandparents spend only part of the year with their son or daughter, they maintain traditions in the home and connect their U.S.-born grandchildren with their language, religion, and heritage. Even though they may not speak English, they are respected and consulted, and their influence counterbalances the lack of child-centered religious or cultural activities within the Pakistani OR BANGLADESHI? community. It is a better financial investment to bring one or more parents for an extended visit to the U.S. than to purchase tickets for the nuclear family residing here to travel back home. Nonetheless, most Bangladeshi children spend the summers or holiday break with their extended families every two to five years.

Most Bangladeshi immigrants are Muslim and feel a strong bond to Muslim community. They are involved in helping resettle refugees arriving from Bosnia, Kosovo, and Afghanistan by donating money and offering other services. Despite these ties, cultural and social activities within the Bangladeshi community are limited and that there is little cohesion among its members.

The American-born second generation blends easily with its peers, and is markedly successful in school.

Very few Bangladeshis are undocumented as a result of expired tourist and student visas.

### Other Social Characteristics

<b>Age distribution</b>	primarily young adults and middle-aged
<b>percentage of men and women</b>	60% men and 40% women
<b>Ties to country of origin</b>	phone relatives and members of nuclear family monthly
<b>Frequency of travel to country of origin</b>	2-5 years
<b>Estimate of undocumented</b>	less than 5%

## BOSNIAN COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	Bosnia
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	2,500
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	2,462
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	Refugees from war
<b>Years in this region</b>	1-5 years
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	Dallas, Garland
<b>General level of education</b>	high school
<b>Employment</b>	manufacturing, industrial work, restaurant, health care, housekeeping
<b>Principal religions</b>	primarily Islam, plus Orthodox and Catholicism
<b>Languages</b>	Serbo Croatian
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	none
<b>Community newsletter</b>	none
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	none

The first Bosnians to arrive in Dallas were four families that were resettled in Oak Lawn in 1993. The first group of Bosnians referred to themselves as "Bosnians from the former Yugoslavia." They included a traumatized woman believed to be a survivor from a rape camp and several young concentration camp internees who were in extremely poor physical condition. Their severe physical and emotional states, plus the lack of family support or local ethnic community to receive them, made their resettlement more difficult than would have been expected. A British study of Bosnian refugees in 2002 reported that Bosnians who remained in their country throughout the genocide and devastation suffered less emotional trauma than those who were evacuated to England.

Many Bosnians began their new lives working at Dallas Semiconductor and similar industrial and manufacturing plants. More highly-educated Bosnians, such as college professors and physicians, found resettlement more rapid. Many of the new arrivals over forty years of age still have only limited English skills, a fact which of considerable concern for them. Their children, on the other hand, achieved extraordinary and rapid success in school in spite of being placed in run-down inner city schools whose level of instruction was one

Only two years after arrival, even the language these immigrants used to describe themselves had changed. "Bosnians" were divided into Bosnian Muslims, Bosnian Croats (Catholics) and Bosnian Serbs (Orthodox). Many mixed marriage families found themselves ostracized here in Dallas. Because of the division within the community, an early attempt to form a Bosnian Refugee Relief Association was sabotaged by local interests, and no cultural or arts organization has endured. Moreover, there has been little support from the third-generation Yugoslav immigrants already established in the area, although two well-established members of the former Pan-Slavic Association did become involved intensively on a personal level assisting these new arrivals.

Like many other refugees from socialist countries, some Bosnian refugees were reluctant to accept entry-level position jobs. Moreover, they were demanding of volunteers who stepped forward to help them, and the initial help offered was mistrusted and sometimes abused. Eventually, the survival methods developed under the totalitarian Yugoslav political system gave way to a more honest approach, and economic and personal progress became more rapid. Bosnians' relatively high level of education and European culture ultimately promoted a rapid assimilation into their new culture. As parents and siblings joined the first arrivals, extended families of Bosnians began buying homes. Many of the first high school graduates, being outstanding scholars, have won full scholarships to America's best universities.

### Other Social Characteristics

<b>Age Distribution</b>	primarily middle-aged
<b>percentage of men and women</b>	50% men, 50% women
<b>Ties to country of origin</b>	close relatives remain, send money back regularly
<b>Frequency of travel to country of origin</b>	every 2-5 years
<b>Estimate of undocumented</b>	less than 5%

## CAMBODIAN COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	Cambodia
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	11,500
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	3,227
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	fleeing war, political oppression and political instability
<b>Years in this region</b>	20-40 years
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	Arlington, Carrollton, Dallas, Fort Worth, Garland, Mesquite, Richardson
<b>General level of education</b>	elementary school for women ages 40-60 high school for men ages 40-60 college degree for people in their 30s
<b>Employment</b>	industrial work, professional, housekeeping, restaurant, clerical/office
<b>Principal religions</b>	Buddhism, Evangelical Christianity, Methodist
<b>Languages</b>	Khmer, English, French
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	
<b>Community newsletter</b>	
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	

Cambodians have lived in North Texas for over 40 years. Like other South-East Asian communities, they migrated in high numbers to the United States because of the destabilization to the region caused by the U.S.-Vietnam War (in the late 60s and 70s). The atrocities of the Khmer Rouge regime had a devastating effect on the country, and the subsequent Vietnamese invasion of the country at the end of 1978 exacerbated the situation and created a huge wave of refugees.



Most Cambodians in North Texas migrated here directly from their native country, many of them originating in the cities of Battambang and Phnom Penh. This community maintains communications with relatives back home, but is generally not in close contact with other Cambodians in the region, even though a yearly Cambodian New Year Festival held at the community's temple in Duncanville is said to draw thousands of immigrants from Texas and surrounding states.

Immigrants from these communities have problems finding affordable medical care. Like many other groups, they also have a hard time filling out their income tax forms. The older generations also are concerned about the preservation of their native culture. They hope that the younger generations, most of who were born in the United States, will be able to preserve their heritage. This concern has motivated many Cambodians to study their culture, including classical and folk dances that different groups perform regularly around the Metroplex. Interestingly, the leader in this movement is an Anglo-American computer teacher at an East Dallas school who has studied the culture and dance intensively, has trained two generations of young dancers, and owns the most extensive collection of Cambodian artifacts and costumes in the region.



Cambodian students are viewed as diligent, respectful, and eager to learn. Many of them have become technology specialists with significant experience and/or graduate degrees that provide expertise in this professional field. Four Cambodians who began their new lives in Dallas cleaning classrooms are now head custodians or facilities supervisors in Dallas ISD, while many in the younger generation hold M.A.'s and M.B.A.'s.

**Other Social Characteristics**

<b>Age Distribution</b>	evenly distributed
<b>percentage of men and women</b>	50% men and 50% women
<b>Ties to country of origin</b>	many: have close relatives there
<b>Frequency of travel to country of origin</b>	every 5-10 years
<b>Estimate of undocumented</b>	less than 5%

## CHINESE COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	People's Republic of China/Republic of China/Hong Kong
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	40,000
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	30,473
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	political instability, came to study and stayed, more opportunities
<b>Years in this region</b>	1-10 years
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	Plano, Richardson, Garland, Fort Worth, Carrollton, Arlington
<b>General level of education</b>	graduate degree
<b>Employment</b>	professional, technical
<b>Principal religions</b>	Christianity, Catholic, Buddhist
<b>Languages</b>	Madarin, Cantonese, Taiwanese, other dialects
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	4 free weekly newspapers and two for-sale newspapers
<b>Community newsletter</b>	
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	around 60, plus 40 schools and churches

Since 1950, around 250,000 ethnic Chinese immigrants have come to America as college or graduate students. 85% of all immigrants from Taiwan, as well as "intellectual immigrants" from mainland China have remained in this country (U.S. News & World Report, July 10, 2000).



The local ethnic Chinese population is quite diverse, having its origins in urban China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Vietnam. New Americans from the People's Republic of China are more recent, and organizations representing these groups are less developed, have fewer members, and have less influence in the region.

The DFW Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce is the most powerful local organization, being comprised of numerous prosperous civic and business leaders who contribute considerable time and money to community and cultural affairs and to charitable efforts. Taiwanese Americans in the Metroplex are becoming highly politically involved, and 2002 marked the election of the first Chinese American to public office in North Texas, when restaurateur Joe Chow was elected to the Addison City Council.

Most Chinese have selected the DFW Metroplex for their place of residence after settling first in another area of the United States.

The majority of Chinese immigrants in North Texas work as professionals in scientific or technical areas. Many are owners or employees of small businesses. 500 Chinese restaurants have opened across the Metroplex. There is also a significant number who are physicians, lawyers, accountants, and professionals. They tend to be less active politically as compared to Hispanics, African Americans, Jews, and other ethnic groups.

Chinese residents in the Metroplex generally travel home every 2-5 years. Most maintain close communication with their family members back home. Fourteen Chinese weekend schools (4 of which form the Sun Ray network of non-profit parent-based programs in several rented schools) stress Chinese culture and the achievement of high academic skills.

Because of the diverse background of the Chinese Americans in the U.S. (and North Texas), it is difficult to generalize about their characteristics. Chinese from mainland China tend to socialize closely together and have certain political points of view favoring China. People from Taiwan are very fragmented depending on their background (Taiwan-born versus China-born). Moreover, ethnic Chinese from Hong Kong and Southeast Asian countries have different viewpoints and needs than those from China and Taiwan. As a result, this community is significantly fragmented and does not speak with one unanimous voice.

**Other Social Characteristics**

<b>Age Distribution</b>	primarily middle-aged (34-60 years old)
<b>percentage of men and women</b>	50% men and 50% women
<b>Ties to country of origin</b>	close relatives remain, phone monthly, send money regularly
<b>Frequency of travel to country of origin</b>	some travel once a year and some do not at all
<b>Estimate of undocumented</b>	5-10%

## COLOMBIAN COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	Colombia
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	25,000
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	political instability, guerilla warfare, economic hardship
<b>Years in this region</b>	varies considerably
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	Fort Worth, Garland, Plano, Addison, Carrollton, The Colony, Dallas, Irving
<b>General level of education</b>	high school and college
<b>Employment</b>	Wholesale, sales, health care, clerical/office, management
<b>Principal religions</b>	Catholicism, Protestantism
<b>Languages</b>	Spanish
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	none
<b>Community newsletter</b>	none
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	none

### Other Social Characteristics

<b>Age Distribution</b>	evenly distributed
<b>percentage of men and women</b>	40% men, 60% women
<b>Ties to country of origin</b>	nuclear family and close relatives remain, send money regularly, phone relatives weekly
<b>Frequency of travel to country of origin</b>	some travel once a year, those without legal status cannot visit
<b>Estimate of undocumented</b>	70%

## CUBAN COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	Cuba
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	1,000
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	4,515
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	political oppression, economic hardship, religious intolerance
<b>Years in this region</b>	varies considerably
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	Fort Worth, Garland, Mesquite, Plano, Richardson
<b>General level of education</b>	Bachelor's degree
<b>Employment</b>	education, health care, artist
<b>Principal religions</b>	Catholicism, Protestantism
<b>Languages</b>	Spanish
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	none
<b>Community newsletter</b>	none
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	none

The first Cuban immigrants came to this country in 1959, shortly after Fidel Castro's overthrow of the Batista dictatorship. They had generally been highly educated and prosperous, working in Cuba as lawyers, government officials, and professionals. However, they gave up those lives because, nearly unanimously, they opposed the new rebel government with its multitude of social and economic reforms.

The early arrivals feel little in common with recent refugees, who are generally from the lower economic strata, may be darker skinned, and who often benefited from Castro's revolutionary government. Many of these latest arrivals, even though they may have suffered political restrictions or even imprisonment, speak favorably of Fidel and the Triumph of the Revolution. They were the Cubans who benefited from land reform programs, educational opportunities and free medical services. Most of these later arrivals left their country in search of improved economic conditions as the U.S. Embargo limited availability of basic foods and consumer goods, and may lament the lack of social services available to residents of this country. The local Cuban community is split by socio-economic and political differences as well as by generational concerns.

Because all levels of education in Cuba are completely free and the literacy rate is the highest in Latin America, Cuban immigrants and refugees are skilled professionals specializing in health care and education. 33 % of Cuban immigrants to the US have college degrees, and 73% have graduated from high school.

Although the Church World Service branch office in North Texas (Refugee Services of North Texas) held the U.S. government contract for Haitian and Cuban refugee resettlement for years, Cuban refugees have always held a very low profile in this region. There are no Cuban cultural organizations in the North Texas region, although Cuban musicians are very popular due to salsa becoming increasingly popular throughout North Texas.

With the average monthly salary in Cuba around \$10, remittances back home are even more important within the Cuban community than in other immigrant groups. Dollars sent home by family members in the United States are the second largest source of income for Cuba. Under the U.S. government's recent loosening of travel restrictions, Cuban immigrants are permitted to visit the island once a year, and a few do so, although the earliest wave of immigrants is reluctant to return.

### Other Social Characteristics

<b>Age Distribution</b>	primarily middle-aged and elderly
<b>percentage of men and women</b>	55% men, 45% women
<b>Ties to country of origin</b>	nuclear family and close relatives remain, send money regularly, phone relatives weekly
<b>Frequency of travel to country of origin</b>	every year or less frequently
<b>Estimate of undocumented</b>	less than 5%

## CONGOLESE COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	The Democratic Republic of Congo
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	3,500
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	refugees from war, political instability, economic hardship, political oppression, came to study and stayed
<b>Years in this region</b>	20-40 years
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	Arlington, Bedford, Dallas, Euless, Grand Prairie, Hurst, Irving
<b>General level of education</b>	high school, bachelor's degree
<b>Employment</b>	retail, artist, clerical, professional
<b>Principal religions</b>	Catholicism, non-denominational Christian
<b>Languages</b>	French, Lingala, Swahili, Kikongo, Tshiluba
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	none
<b>Community newsletter</b>	none
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	none

The Congolese community is concentrated from Irving westward through Euless, Bedford, Arlington and Grand Prairie. For thirty-two years, the tenacious dictator Mobutu ruled that vast and rich country with a grip of iron. During his brutal rule, Congo's per capita GDP declined more than 40% as hyperinflation and corruption spread. In addition, the subsequent civil war after Mobutu's self-exile has claimed 3 million lives in the past 4 years. Because of this, many Congolese immigrants in the region have arrived as exiles or as political asylees (while others remained here after finishing their degrees in a U.S. college).

The U.S. Refugee Program has accepted and resettled few Central Africans; consequently, those who have found a way to immigrate on their own tend to be the highly educated elite rather than the village people who lack the financial and legal support necessary to find a way to begin a new life in the U.S.

### Other Social Characteristics

<b>Age Distribution</b>	primarily young adults (18-34) and middle aged (34-60)
<b>percentage of men and women</b>	
<b>Ties to country of origin</b>	phone regularly to members of nuclear family and relatives
<b>Frequency of travel to country of origin</b>	every 2-4 years
<b>Estimate of undocumented</b>	

## EL SALVADORIAN COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	El Salvador
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	80,000
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	26,271
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	economic hardship, political instability, political oppression, refugees from war
<b>Years in this region</b>	10-20 years
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	widespread
<b>General level of education</b>	some high school
<b>Employment</b>	restaurant, housekeeping, construction, manufacturing, hotel
<b>Principal religions</b>	Catholic, Protestant
<b>Languages</b>	Spanish
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	none
<b>Community newsletter</b>	none
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	2, plus many soccer teams

Spread across the northern half of the DFW Metroplex, an estimated 80,000 Salvadorians have found a safe haven from the political oppression, massacres and violence that devastated their country. Between 1978 and 1992 the U.S. government propped up military dictators who erased villages and convulsed the nation in violence and war. Most Salvadorean immigrants over the age of 30 fled the scorched earth policy of the Salvadorian dictatorships during the years of the civil war. Many still live with the memories of family members being taken away during the night.

More recently, economic hardship, drought, shortage of employment opportunities and natural disasters have driven thousands of additional young men and some women (and even unaccompanied teenagers) to flee to *El Norte* (The North). Today, 14% of the Salvadorian population resides in the United States.

The current cost for passage to Dallas—a dangerous and uncertain voyage that may bring death or failure—is approximately \$7,000. Approximately 30-40% of the Salvadorian population in the Metroplex is undocumented. There are few elderly or over-55-year-olds in the region, because the challenge of making the trip is considerable and the economic benefit for that age is diminished.

Poorly educated and lacking English skills, most Salvadorians begin their new lives working as busboys in restaurants. The area's many Mexican and ethnic restaurants, groceries, seafood/meat markets rely on the cheap and compliant labor of countless thousands undocumented Salvadorians and other Latinos, who accept substandard conditions without complaint as they pay off the *coyotes* who guided them to the Metroplex. Hotels, factories and construction are additional possibilities for employment.

In spite of their entry-level jobs, Salvadorians sent home \$1.75 billion in remittances in 2002 (The Economist, Jan. 4, 2003).

Fear of imprisonment and deportation by the INS (*La Migra*) keeps many Salvadorian immigrants living in isolation, afraid to participate in large public events or to attend cultural activities such as the Independence Day Celebration held in a local park. Until recently, many did not enroll their children in school for fear that any official record would result in their deportation.

The overwhelming need of this community is the legalization of their status. They maintain hope that the TPS (Temporary Protected Status) will result in their favor, a hope exacerbated by the federal government's tightening of restrictions on immigration in the wake of the Sept. 11 attack. TPS grants persons from designated countries the ability to remain in the U.S. and also to obtain authorization to work. The purpose of TPS is to provide a safe haven in cases of natural disaster, civil war, and similar crisis situations. To be



eligible, individuals must have resided in the U.S. continuously since February 13, 2001, and have been physically present continually since March 9, 2001.

The long hours spent at several jobs that are required to pay off their *coyotes*, support their families back home, and survive have left Salvadorian immigrants with little time to study English. Finding jobs remains a challenge for the undocumented in the current economic downturn.

### Other Social Characteristics

<b>Age Distribution</b>	primarily young adults and middle-aged
<b>percentage of men and women</b>	65% men, 35% women
<b>Ties to country of origin</b>	close relatives remain, send money back regularly
<b>Frequency of travel to country of origin</b>	some travel often (primarily those with legal status) and some do not
<b>Estimate of undocumented</b>	30-40%

## ETHIOPIAN COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	Ethiopia
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	36,000
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	Political instability
<b>Years in this region</b>	10-20 years
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	scattered throughout the region
<b>General level of education</b>	high school, technical school, bachelor's
<b>Employment</b>	hotel, retail trade, management, health care, wholesale trade
<b>Principal religions</b>	Ethiopian Orthodox, Islam
<b>Languages</b>	Amharic, Oromina, Tigrina
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	none
<b>Community newsletter</b>	none
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	4

Many Ethiopian immigrants have fled their country because of discrimination based on ethnic or tribal origin. In Ethiopia, those who do not belong to the ruling ethnic group are not allowed to pursue working and educational opportunities freely and fairly. Moreover, random killings based on ethnicity have been prevalent during this time.

Currently estimated at 36,000 people, most Ethiopians arrived as refugees during the severe famine that gripped the country in the mid 1980's. At the same time, Ethiopia was in the middle of a bloody and expensive civil war that ended in 1991 with the overthrow of the Marxist regime that had been established in 1975. During that period, educational and employment opportunities were limited to certain 'in-favor' tribes, while random killings based on ethnicity and nationalization of private property terrified the population.

Ethiopians in North Texas come from all over their country and have moved here both directly from Ethiopia and from other areas in the United States where they first migrated. Immigrants from this group are primarily middle-aged (34-60 years old), most of them having left Ethiopia when they were young as a result of their country's political instability in the last 27 years. Members of the Ethiopian community generally remain connected with each other, and they take part in associations that bring them together. In Dallas, there is a high concentration of Ethiopians around Jupiter and Walnut Streets as well as in the Greenville and Park Lane area.

This community is employed heavily in the hotel industry. They hold positions from front desk and reservations to top management. Ethiopians also have retail jobs and own small businesses and stores. These characteristics allow them to provide essential support to the service industry in the area. Additionally, their presence in this sector allows them to have regular contact with people and leads to an important exchange of information. Culturally, they enrich the area by providing dances and concerts on a regular basis as well as offering ethnic foods at Ethiopian restaurants. Their greatest needs are educating their children and being accepted socially.

Many refugees with limited English skills and those from a pastoral culture began their lives in North Texas working as housekeeping staff in hotels. Taxi driving is also a popular 'first position' for Ethiopians, and many are employed in fast food stores, especially in 7-11 markets. Parking lot attendants are frequently Ethiopian. Others with technical or professional training have become small businessmen or health care employees.

Ethiopian groceries, restaurants and small service businesses dot the eastern stretch of Park Lane in Dallas, the center of the Ethiopian community in North Texas. A variety of churches, both Orthodox and protestant, unite and serve the Ethiopian community.

#### **Other Social Characteristics**

<b>Age Distribution</b>	primarily middle-aged (34-60)
<b>percentage of Men and Women</b>	
<b>Ties to Native Country</b>	some have close ties and some don't
<b>Frequency of Travel to Native Country</b>	some travel often and some don't
<b>Estimate of Undocumented</b>	Less than 5%

## GERMAN COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	Germany
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	50,000
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	7,479
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	economic hardship, political oppression, refugees from war, international marriage
<b>Years in this region</b>	since the early 1800s
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	scattered throughout the region
<b>General level of education</b>	technical school, some college
<b>Employment</b>	technical, management, wholesale trade, scientific, education, professional
<b>Principal religions</b>	Lutheran and Reformed (Presbyterian), Roman Catholic, Jewish
<b>Languages</b>	German
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	none
<b>Community newsletter</b>	none
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	about 10

Germans were one of the first immigrant groups to move to America, arriving in Jamestown in 1608. More recently, between 1919 and 1930 430,000 war refugees from Germany emigrated to the United States. Between 1933 and 1945 a subsequent exodus of 130,000 fled, primarily German Jews and political dissidents, among them Albert Einstein. During World War II, 1.8 million Germans died, the Germany economy was devastated, and the Soviet annexation of East Germany led to political oppression. Consequently, emigration from Germany was not for economic advantage but rather for survival. In addition, a significant number of German women moved to the U.S.A. as war brides after marrying American soldiers serving in military bases in Germany.

For many years, German was the principal foreign language offered in United States schools. Nevertheless, until 1938 in Texas the teaching of German was banned.

German immigrants have lived in North Texas since before the establishment of the Republic of Texas. In fact, most German descendants here are third and fourth generation Americans. Most of these New Americans selected North Texas as a site for secondary migration after arriving in the U.S.A. They are very well assimilated into the overall community, to the point that few maintain contact with other members of the German community, and many have little



desire to do so. Nevertheless, the accessibility of cheap flights from DFW Airport to their country allows them to stay in touch with their relatives and/or cultural roots.

The 1990 Census lists Americans of German ancestry as the largest ethnic group, with 57.9 million, whereas the Americans of Irish ancestry numbered 38.7 million, and the English were 32.7 million.

The German community is generally well educated, with most immigrants having at least some college education. They hold jobs as engineers, automobile mechanics, financial and real estate managers, wholesale food suppliers, as well as college professors and experienced bio-medical researchers. Their technical expertise in such areas as rocket science and air plane design are beneficial to the defense industry.

Culturally, German immigrants were involved in the foundation of many highly regarded art and music associations, such as the Dallas Symphony and the Art Department at the University of Texas. The Dallas Goethe Center organizes more than 50 cultural events every year in which German, Austrian and Swiss artists come to the region.

One of the main concerns of the German community is its children's education.

### **Other Social Characteristics**

<b>Age Distribution</b>	the original immigrants are mostly elderly now
<b>percentage of men and women</b>	40% men, 60% women
<b>Ties to country of origin</b>	distant and close relatives, business partners remain, phone relatives weekly, some don't have close ties
<b>Frequency of travel to country of origin</b>	once a year or every two years
<b>Estimate of undocumented</b>	less than 5%

## ICELAND COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	Iceland
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	60
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	came to study and stayed
<b>Years in this region</b>	20-40 years
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	Wylie, Richardson, Ft. Worth, Garland, Irving
<b>General level of education</b>	
<b>Employment</b>	restaurant, clerical
<b>Principal religions</b>	Lutheran
<b>Languages</b>	Icelandic
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	none
<b>Community newsletter</b>	none
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	1

The smallest of all communities responding to this survey, the local immigrant population from Iceland is estimated at sixty people, which --surprisingly--comprises the Icelandic Association of North Texas. 80% are women who came to study a generation ago and stayed in this country. They are all from the southern part of Iceland (not surprisingly, since Iceland's highland interior is uninhabited). Most Icelandic Americans living in this region are Lutherans, highly educated, tend to work in office positions, restaurants, health care, and industry. Knowledge of English is nearly universal in Iceland, and because the basic value system is similar to that in the U.S in its emphasis of freedom and individualism, acculturation is relatively easy.

### Other Social Characteristics

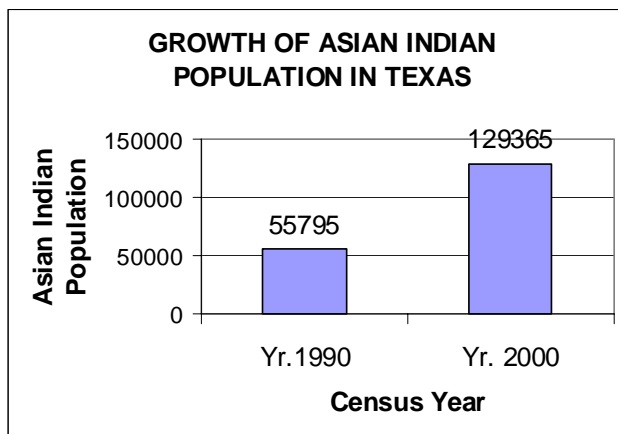
<b>Age Distribution</b>	primarily middle aged (34-60)
<b>percentage of men and women</b>	20% men, 80% women
<b>Ties to country of origin</b>	members of nuclear family remain, phone relatives weekly
<b>Frequency of travel to country of origin</b>	travel once a year
<b>Estimate of undocumented</b>	less than 5 %

## INDIAN COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	India
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	100,000
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	30,030
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	economic hardship, religious intolerance, political oppression
<b>Years in this region</b>	20-40 years
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	Arlington, Euless, Fort Worth, Garland, Irving, Plano
<b>General level of education</b>	Bachelor's degree
<b>Employment</b>	restaurant, professional, industrial worker
<b>Principal religions</b>	Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Jainism, Christianity
<b>Languages</b>	Hindi (different dialects), Gujrati, Tamil, Telugu, Punjabi, Bengali, Malayalee, Sindhi, English
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	one monthly magazine, several radio stations, fur movie theaters
<b>Community newsletter</b>	none
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	85

The large Indian population in the North Texas region has doubled in the past ten years. Many of the Indian heads of family came to America twenty to thirty years ago to pursue advanced degrees, and subsequently gravitated to a booming economy that was hungry for talented employees. In the late 1960's, changes in immigration law tilted the scales in favor of skilled workers. Doctors arrived first, taking hard-to-fill jobs in rural areas, and engineers rapidly followed.



Source: India Association of North Texas

A second group of more recent immigrants has arrived with H1-B visas granted for jobs the domestic work force cannot fill. Indians claim 41% of the H1-B visas granted, and many have been recruited in this manner by information-technology firms in Las Colinas and the Richardson Corridor. The economic impact they exert both as consumers and producers is very significant.

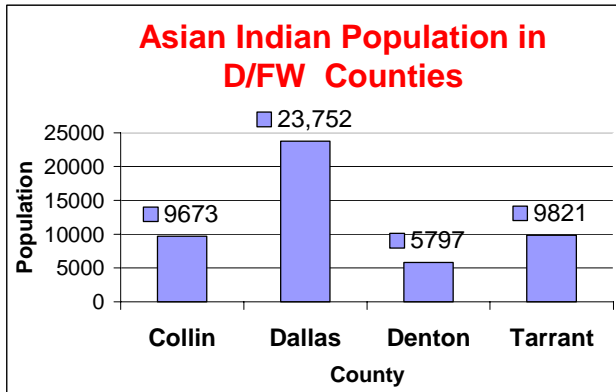
Products of an intensely competitive education system and a society that pushes both girls and boys to do well, Indian immigrants are the mostly highly educated immigrant population in the region, with 80% of the men and 65 five % of the total adult population holding a Bachelor's degree or higher, vs. 20% for US born individuals. This is higher than

any other immigrant population. Moreover, Indian immigrants are generally from middle class urban families.

The Indian presence at DFW area universities is significant. There are 2,382 Indian students, making up 25% of all international students. They are the largest body of international students at UNT, UTA, UTD, and SMU. 80% of local Indian students are enrolled in Masters and PhD Programs. This is especially important since so many of these international students subsequently remain in the North Texas area to work.

92 Indian professors teach in Metroplex universities, and 3.5% of tenured/tenured-track faculty are Indian. Most teach engineering, computer science, or business administration.

89% of Indian-American families are two-parent households. Most of the earlier arrivals are now in their middle years, with second-generation children who are well acculturated and who consistently win high honors in the region's academic competitions. Gujarat and South India are the areas more heavily represented here.



Source: India Association of North Texas

The median household income of Indian-Americans is \$48,320, the highest of any ethnic group and over 50% higher than that of native households. Their annual buying power is \$20 billion and the highest per capita among all ethnic groups. Half of all Indians in the U.S. own their own homes. These immigrants are employed in managerial/professional jobs, and approximately half of the women also work. Indians are professional engineers, physicians, high tech scientists, and corporate managers. 30% of U.S. hotels are owned by Indians, and that figure is probably valid for the North Texas region also, where Indians, especially Sikh Indians, have purchased and revived ailing motels.

North Texas Indian-Americans come from regional subcultures in India where a variety of languages flourish, but since English is commonly used in the education system and in official circles, most are fluent in English.

More than 85 Indian cultural associations that encompass regional as well as artistic and religious organizations are active in the region. Around each religious center or temple, strip shopping centers fill with Indian-themed businesses such as jewelry stores and sari shops, where sales have jumped 30-35% in the last two years. There are approximately ten Indian dance schools, and local troupes have frequently won the national competition in classical or folk dance. Three Indian traditional orchestras perform regularly and an Indian movie theater serves the large population. Halls for parties and restaurants offer traditional dishes from the various regions, and vegetarian cuisines are increasingly available.



Indian immigrants have thrived in North Texas because of the importance they place on education and their experience with democracy in their native country. Both of these elements promote cooperation and community effort, and participation in political life.

**Other Social Characteristics**

<b>Age Distribution</b>	primarily middle-aged
<b>percentage of men and women</b>	50% men, 50% women
<b>Ties to country of origin</b>	close relatives remain, phone relatives regularly, send money back regularly
<b>Frequency of travel to country of origin</b>	every 2-5 years
<b>Estimate of undocumented</b>	less than 5%



## IRANIAN COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	Iran
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	30,000
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	6,285
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	religious intolerance, economic hardship, came to study and stayed
<b>Years in this region</b>	10-20 years
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	Plano, Richardson, Frisco, Fort Worth, Garland, Dallas, Carrollton, Arlington, Addison, Lewisville, Irving, Frisco, Allen
<b>General level of education</b>	High school, Bachelor's or graduate. degree
<b>Employment</b>	engineering, retail trade, child care, medicine, manufacturing, technical
<b>Principal religions</b>	Bahai, Muslim, Baptist, Sufi, Jewish, Zoroastrian
<b>Languages</b>	Farsi, Turkish
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	one monthly magazine and one weekly newspaper, radio by subscription
<b>Community newsletter</b>	
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	more than 20



The Iranian Revolution of 1979 targeted the educated and the successful. Iranian immigrants selected the DFW Metroplex as a site for secondary migration and have quickly overcome the many challenges to assimilation. Men who arrived here as penniless exiles, as well as upper-class women who at first cleaned homes or painted nails to survive, are now employed as professionals, engineers, architects, doctors and lawyers or own numerous businesses across the region.

At first, the community maintained a low profile because of significant anti-Iranian feeling during the charged political events of the Khomeini era. More recently, differences in religious (Bahai, Muslim, Baptist, Sufi, Jewish, Zoroastrian) and political persuasion (pro or anti-Shah) have further hindered attempts to unify the community via strong cultural or professional organizations.

Community leaders rue the cultural isolation in which they attempt to maintain their rich traditions. They lament that in spite of their significant contributions to the region in the areas of economic growth and services, the Iranian community still lacks recognition and a communal voice in the Metroplex's development. They worry that international political events will continue to negatively affect their social acceptance.

### Other Social Characteristics

<b>Age distribution</b>	primarily middle-aged
<b>percentage of men and women</b>	50% men, 50% women
<b>Ties to country of origin</b>	close relatives remain, phone relatives regularly, send money back regularly

<b>Frequency of travel to country of origin</b>	every year or every 2-5 years
<b>Estimate of undocumented</b>	less than 5%

## IRAQI COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	Iraq
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	800
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	1,552
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	refugees from war, former soldiers captured by US troops, came to study and stayed
<b>Years in this region</b>	5-10 years
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	scattered
<b>General level of education</b>	varies, many have college degrees
<b>Employment</b>	varies
<b>Principal religions</b>	Islam
<b>Languages</b>	Arabic
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	none
<b>Community newsletter</b>	none
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	none

Several hundred Iraqis, primarily Shia soldiers who had participated in a US promoted uprising in southern Iraq, were brought with great secrecy to Dallas. The first Iraqis arrived approximately 5 years after the Gulf War, having spent the intervening years in a refugee camp just across the border in Saudi Arabia. Only a limited number of families, particularly those with some special need, were selected for resettlement. Many of the single men required treatment for post-traumatic stress and for mental conflicts resulting from torture and assassination of their family members at the hands of Saddam Hussein.



Very few people were aware that Iraqis were living in this area. It was presumed that the resettling agencies were attempting to avoid negative publicity that had resulted in other areas of the country when single Iraqi men were interviewed by the media.

There are no Iraqi cultural associations, even though among the individuals resettled in this area were a published poet, a newspaper editor, and a talented folk dancer. This may be due to the fact that New Americans who were former Iraqi soldiers are less educated than the average Muslim or Middle Eastern immigrant. In addition, it is usually females who begin the first dance or cultural/educational society to

maintain their traditions for their children, and the number of Iraqi females in the Metroplex is severely limited.

Iraqi immigrants in this area have not attained the economic success seen by other Muslim and Arab immigrant groups. In general, the adaptation of refugees from pastoral or less developed countries is slower than the average for all immigrants. Nevertheless, nearly all manage to send money home to support their families whose economic situation is truly tragic.

Iraqis tend to hide their nationality and to merge with other Muslim or Arab communities as a camouflage that insulates them from hateful acts. Because of the U.S. sanctions against their country, they feel that they belong to 'an outcast nation that does not even belong to the human family.'

#### **Other Social Characteristics**

<b>Age distribution</b>	25-45 years of age
<b>percentage of men and women</b>	80% men, 20% women
<b>Ties to country of origin</b>	nuclear family and relatives remain, send money back regularly
<b>Frequency of travel to country of origin</b>	infrequent
<b>Estimate of undocumented</b>	5-10%

## JAPANESE COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	Japan
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	5,000
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	3,880
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	international marriage, work transfer
<b>Years in this region</b>	1-5 years
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	Carrollton, Irving, Plano, Coppell
<b>General level of education</b>	some college, graduate degree, medical doctor certification
<b>Employment</b>	professional, scientific, technical, management, many work for Japanese companies
<b>Principal religions</b>	Taoism, Shintoism, Buddhism, Confucianism
<b>Languages</b>	Japanese
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	
<b>Community newsletter</b>	
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	approximately 5, plus a Japanese Saturday school

Approximately 500 families in Dallas or 5000 individuals across the Metroplex are Japanese citizens. They are relatively new arrivals, most of who were sent for short-term projects by their Japanese employers. Only a few members of the DFW Japanese community have married non-foreigners, and have become American citizens or residents. Japanese expatriate workers are of the highest educational background, and are normally sent to Dallas with their families. They plan to return to their country at the end of their job assignment.



In order to maintain their children's Japanese language skills and prepare them for the national exams that will permit them to enter university, 28 years ago the Dallas Japanese Association established a Saturday school. Currently, two full time administrative employees are employed, with the school's principal sent by the Japanese government, and approximately 30 additional local teachers are hired to teach the 300 students. The Japanese School is a primary unifying factor that brings together individuals of both sexes, as fathers participate actively as volunteers in the school. Traditional Japanese women, whose English skills are weak, are often shy about mixing with mainstream cultural groups.

North Texas Japanese immigrants and expatriates feel an extraordinary sense of cultural solidarity. They continue to self-segregate, and their well-organized Japanese cultural events are not usually publicized outside of their community. The principal Japanese organizations are the Japanese Women's Association, the JWA Taiko drummers, the Origami Society, The Japan America Society, with a stronger non-Japanese membership, was developed to bridge the gap between the rather insular ethnic community and those business and civic groups who share common interests.

### Other Social Characteristics

<b>Age Distribution</b>	Primarily young adults and middle aged
<b>percentage of men and women</b>	50% men, 50% women
<b>Ties to country of origin</b>	Nuclear family, close relatives, and business

	partners remain, phone relatives weekly
<b>Frequency of travel to country of origin</b>	Every 6 months to a year, business trips to Japan
<b>Estimate of undocumented</b>	Less than 5%

## KOREAN COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	Korea
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	35,000 – 40,000
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	35,986
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	higher education, opportunities to progress economically and professionally
<b>Years in this region</b>	Varies from 1 year to 40 years for some.
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	Richardson, Irving, Farmers Branch, Carrollton, Plano
<b>General level of education</b>	high school or college graduates
<b>Employment</b>	retail, wholesale, importers, health care, professional, janitorial services
<b>Principal religions</b>	Christian: Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist (also 2 Catholic churches and 2 Buddhist temples)
<b>Languages</b>	Korean
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	2 daily newspapers, 6 weekly free papers, radio by membership
<b>Community newsletter</b>	
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	50, plus over 100 churches

Koreans are very quietly changing the face of Dallas. Twenty five years ago, the Harry Hines @ Royal area was a neighborhood of warehouses in which prostitution was common. Today, it is the region's vibrant wholesale/retail center filled with colorful Korean restaurants and businesses. In the area are found the Korean Community Center, Korean Chamber of Commerce and the Korean Seniors Center. Two Korean language schools operate in North Texas, and numerous Tai Kwon Do centers dot the region. Traditional performances of music, Korean-style martial arts and sumo wrestling, dance and drumming are common.

Churches are important centers for this community, but the Buddhist faith that predominates in Korea is much less common than are a wide variety of Christian congregations. The largest church is Presbyterian, and draws an average of 1,200 people each Sunday. Churches offer language and culture classes to youth and help reinforce Korean culture.

The major problem facing this community, according to its leaders, is that it perpetuates a 'hermit' mentality, closing itself off to those who do not speak Korean. Certainly it is true that in spite of their large numbers across North Texas, Koreans are nearly invisible, and efforts to build lasting relationships with Korean leaders are difficult.

Koreans themselves are aware of their lack of 'social acceptance', and fault the poor English skills and heavy accents of many first generation leaders, who feel uncomfortable interacting with native English speakers. As Korean phonetics lends it easily to internet use, active networks of email exist, but these are primarily in Korean script, again limiting communication with other regional leaders and participation in their programs. Few announcements about Korean cultural events are broadcasted in English.

Koreans also say that they have less experience with foreign and global interaction than Taiwanese and people from Hong Kong, but that they are more experienced than most Vietnamese.

Undocumented Koreans are primarily those who have arrived on tourist or student visas and have sought to remain in this country as permanent residents.

### Other Social Characteristics

<b>Age distribution</b>	evenly distributed
<b>percentage of men and women</b>	50% men, 50% women
<b>Ties to country of origin</b>	nuclear family and distant relatives remain, some have close ties and some don't, generous (nonpolitical) humanitarian aid sent to North Vietnam
<b>Frequency of travel to country of origin</b>	every 5 years
<b>Estimate of undocumented</b>	around 10%



## KOSOVAR/ALBANIAN COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	Kosovo/Albania
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	3000
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	political instability, political oppression, refugees from war
<b>Years in this region</b>	varies from 1 year to 40 years for some.
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	dispersed greatly.
<b>General level of education</b>	varies greatly: Some elementary school, some high school, some college, some graduate school
<b>Employment</b>	restaurant
<b>Principal religions</b>	Islam
<b>Languages</b>	Albanian
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	none
<b>Community newsletter</b>	none
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	2

The United States has been a haven for the Albanian people since the early years of the twentieth century. During the 1980s and '90s, many ethnic Albanians from Kosovo, Albania, Macedonia and the rest of the former Yugoslavia made their way to America to escape political unrest and to find the economic opportunity that was denied them at home. The DFW metroplex was a site of secondary immigration for ethnic Albanians from Albania and Macedonia who moved here from other cities in the U.S.

In 1999, three months after North Texans were stunned by the images of European refugees pouring across the Kosovo border into Macedonia and Albania, 55 refugee families from Kosovo joined the four hundred ethnic Albanian families already residing in North Texas. An unprecedented outpouring of support from Muslim and Christian individuals and faith organizations greeted them. However, the well-organized local Albanian community, active in national and international endeavors supporting their political independence and human rights, offered minimal assistance to the new arrivals.

Unlike other refugee groups who were resettled after an average of 4-5 years waiting in the inhumane conditions of refugee camps, Kosovars were transferred to the United States by special agreement with NATO. Refugees to the U.S. are required to sign a promisory document stating that they will repay the government for the cost of their air transportation, but the Kosovars were promised that—if they so requested—the U.S. would return them to their homes in Kosovo without charge when the conflict had been resolved. Another special benefit was that extra funding was extended to the evacuees, who were eligible for more than double the usual financial support from the government.

A small number of ethnic Albanians from Macedonian managed to successfully enter the U.S claiming that they were Kosovars whose identity documents had been confiscated by Serb officials at the border. A few wounded Kosovo Liberation Army members have been treated as humanitarian cases but have returned home.

Approximately half of the 250 refugees who were originally resettled in North Texas during those original three months ultimately chose to return to their homes. Nearly all of those returnees have now returned to North Texas.

North Texans from Albanian/Kosovo are young. Considerable social pressure promotes marriage within the community, and non-Albanian spouses are infrequently selected.

The original ethnic Albanians from Macedonia and Albania were evenly distributed across the Metroplex. The newly arrived refugees were resettled primarily in Richardson and in Fort Worth. The Albanian American Cultural Center, a secular group with very strong links to the National Albanian American Council and (formerly) strong financial supporters of the Kosovo Liberation Front, is located in a storefront in Carrollton. Because a predominant number of the established Albanians own small restaurants, the monthly AACC meetings are at 10 pm, after the close of most businesses. A liberal imam from Kosovo holds religious services on Fridays in the same space.

For a significant number of Albanian-Americans, the American dream consists of owning their own pizza parlor or Italian restaurant. It is estimated that over 50% of the Metroplex' privately owned Italian pizzerias were established by Albanian Americans.

Four years after the moving scenes of exhausted Kosovo refugees filled our television screens, a new cultural association has been born. The Kosovo Folkloric Dancers, composed of immigrant children born in Kosovo along with their second-generation American-born peers, presented their inaugural performance at the 2002 **Dallas International** Festival.

**Other Social Characteristics**

<b>Age Distribution</b>	primarily children, young adults, and middle-aged
<b>percentage of men and women</b>	50% men, 50% women
<b>Ties to country of origin</b>	nuclear family and distant relatives remain, send money back regularly, phone relatives weekly, some have close ties and some don't
<b>Frequency of travel to country of origin</b>	once a year or every 2-5 years
<b>Estimate of undocumented</b>	less than 5%

## LAOTIAN COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	Laos
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	3,300
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	4,672
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	fleeing war, political oppression and political instability
<b>Years in this region</b>	10-40 years
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	Dallas, Fort Worth, Garland, Richardson, Saginaw
<b>General level of education</b>	
<b>Employment</b>	manufacturing, housekeeping, clerical/office, restaurant, industrial work
<b>Principal religions</b>	Buddhism (predominantly), some Mormons (younger generations)
<b>Languages</b>	Lao, English
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	
<b>Community newsletter</b>	
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	

Although Laotians have been in North Texas for about four decades now, one of their greatest migration periods to the region was in the late 60s and during the 70s as a result of the second Indo China conflict. The U.S.-Vietnam War destabilized the region, and the hostile regime of Pathet Lao took over. Many people who opposed the Communists were sent to "reeducation camps". Thousands of families fled from Laos to the United States, many of them directly arriving to North Texas.

From 1979 to 1981 105,000 Lao were admitted to the U.S., and by 1990 about 150,000 Lao, not including Hmong, had immigrated. One third of those have settled in California. Today, about 1500 Laotians reside in Saginaw, 1000 in Garland, 800 in Dallas and Richardson and lesser numbers in other regions. Most immigrants from this community are ethnically Lao and come from the Lowlands, but the community does include a significant percentage of ethnic Hmong, traditional mountain people who had been hired by the U.S. to fight against the communist regimes.

An important characteristic of Laotians is that they generally do not maintain close contact with other immigrants from their community. Although there are organizations that bring some of them together, most of them do not belong to any of these, and some are not very comfortable working with others from their region of origin.

Laotian leaders point out English proficiency and cultural-correct health care as the community's greatest needs. Most of these New Americans can communicate effectively in English but many of them do not attain a fluent level of proficiency. Among their many contributions (despite that people initially came with little education) is that students from this community are eager learners that do well and have a high graduation rate of around 95 %. Their teachers report this kind of students as a teacher's dream. The sense of responsibility and the importance placed on academic success contributes greatly to building an efficient and well-prepared work force.

### Other Social Characteristics

<b>Age Distribution</b>	evenly distributed
<b>percentage of Men and Women</b>	45% men and 55% women
<b>Ties to Native Country</b>	many, have close relatives there and send money back regularly
<b>Frequency of Travel to Native Country</b>	every 2-5 years
<b>Estimate of Undocumented</b>	less than 5%

## LEBANESE COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	Lebanon/Syria
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	political instability
<b>Years in this region</b>	From 80 to 5 years
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	Plano, Lewisville, Farmers Branch
<b>General level of education</b>	Bachelor's degree
<b>Employment</b>	professional, technical
<b>Principal religions</b>	Islam, Orthodox, Maronite
<b>Languages</b>	Arabic
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	none
<b>Community newsletter</b>	none
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	two churches

Companies set up to encourage Lebanese emigration appeared soon after the civil wars of the mid-nineteenth century, and in the late 1800s, Maronite Christians from Mt. Lebanon (Syria, at that point in time part of the Ottoman Empire) began settling in Oklahoma. The terrible winter of 1916, in which ¼ the Lebanese-Syrian population froze to death, together with the conscription of young men into the Turkish army, left few people to work the fields, and more fled the country.

Formerly known for their skill as middlemen in the silk export trade between Syrian producers and European merchants, the networks they set up as peddlers carrying packs that weighed up to 200 pounds soon led to their accumulation of capital. This was invested in setting up dry goods stores in North Texas where they retailed the objects they had previously peddled. At the same time, their contacts with Americans through these businesses helped them assimilate relatively quickly. They also opened candy shops and restaurants.

Cosmopolitan and traditionally seeking to link their fortunes to nations outside their immediate geographic sphere, Lebanese Americans have risen to prominence in North Texas as businessmen and professionals.

The Lebanese Civil War between 1975 and 1990 brought new numbers from this area, including many Lebanese Muslims. Primarily unmarried young adults and middle aged heads of family, the Lebanese community is also more evenly formed of men and women than in other Arab immigrant groups. This may be due to the fact that Lebanon is a country with more of its people living outside than inside the country, and Lebanese nationals have more readily been able to obtain visas for tourism or study in the United States.

Israel's defeat of the Arab armies in 1967 brought more immigrants—primarily Muslims—to the region. Their standard of education is high, and graduates of the American University of Beirut are recognized as elite leaders in all fields. Seeking the best in Western education, many Lebanese youth immigrated to the United States to study, and subsequently found work in the North Texas region. They respect and appreciate the American way of life and the personal freedoms it offers.

Plano, Carrollton, Lewisville, and North Dallas are the areas of residence for a large number of Lebanese. In other cities with significant Lebanese/Syrian populations, a cultural center develops as the meeting place for community, but institutions such as the Lebanese Cultural Centers in San Francisco, San Diego, and in México (Merida, Veracruz, México City) are lacking in North Texas. Instead, two churches, one in North Dallas and the other in Lewisville, are centers for the Christian Lebanese. For several years, an Arabic language Saturday school in North Dallas served about 30 children, and two Arabic newspapers have briefly operated in North Texas, but all of these have ceased operation.

Occasionally, a Lebanese/Arabic band forms in the region, performing in one of the numerous Lebanese/Syrian-owned restaurants. Many of the latter present themselves as 'Middle Eastern' or 'Greek'

because even the Americanized feel defensive and try to avoid some unpleasant or prejudicial act that might result from being viewed as 'Arabs'.

#### **Other Social Characteristics**

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	primarily young adults (18-34) and middle aged (34-60)
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	50% men, 50% women
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	distant relatives remain, phone weekly
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	every 2-5 years

## MEXICAN COMMUNITY FROM NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	México
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	1,000,000 1,235,000 according to Mexican Consulate
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	433,534
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	economic difficulties
<b>Years in this region</b>	a few months to nearly four centuries
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	spread through the entire Metroplex
<b>General level of education</b>	varying, with many professionals but half who have not completed high school and many who have not completed junior high
<b>Employment</b>	construction, restaurants, agriculture and gardening, housekeeping, dry cleaners, small businesses, education
<b>Principal religions</b>	Catholic, Protestant, Evangelical, Mormon, Muslim
<b>Languages</b>	Spanish
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	nearly 20 newspapers, over 20 radio stations
<b>Community newsletter</b>	
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	over 300

Between 1990 and 2000 the growth of the DFW Mexican immigrant population was 202.7%, more than triple the growth figure reported in 1990. Almost one out of 10 (9.4%) and 57.2% of the region's total immigrant was born in México. Across the northern part of Texas, 57.2% of all immigrants are from México. In Dallas County, 65.8% of all immigrants are Mexican, and nearly one out of 7 (13.7%) were born in México. Of the Census figure of 433,534 from México, 151,726 are estimated to be undocumented. As the Census uses the standard of two children per family of foreign born, this means that two in seven residents in Dallas County are Mexican immigrants.

These immigrants from Mexico are not limited to Dallas County, but are found all over the Metroplex, from Euless to Plano to Duncanville. Increasingly, markets and small businesses serving the Mexican and Central American population spread out through Richardson, Arlington, and Denton. In Oak Cliff, the original center of Mexican immigrant culture, it is possible to live there without ever having to speak English to address one's daily needs. Invariably, whether highly educated or from rural regions, the majority have left their homes because of economic hardship and the high unemployment rate in México.



Mexicans experience pressures to emigrate in search of jobs because of high unemployment and low salaries in their native country. According to the Mexican Consulate in Dallas, 19% are from the state of Guanajuato, 13% originated in the state of San Luis Potosí, and 7% are zacatecanos.

It is frequently remarked by business leaders that without the contributions of the Mexican labor force in the region, that the economy would crash. Mexicans provide the bulk of the labor force to the construction industry that builds the region's industry, businesses, and private homes. They are

North Texas' gardeners and landscapers. They also fill a very large percentage of the restaurant jobs; the majority of the cooks in the Metroplex are of Mexican origin regardless of the ethnicity of food served by the restaurant. Most housekeeping jobs are filled by Mexican or Central American women, who find that they can easily take home \$10 or more an hour without being asked whether they have proper work documents. The hotel and the laundry/dry cleaning industries are also greatly staffed by Mexican immigrants.

While this extensive community includes businessmen, physicians, nurses, educators, and other

professionals, many Mexicans have only a few years of elementary school education, or have completed the seventh or eighth grade. An estimated 16% of this group is functionally illiterate in his own language, Spanish. This, combined with the relatively low percentage of Mexican immigrants who speak English well, creates a myriad of challenges, in particular for their children's education. Thirty-eight % of Mexican Americans are under 18 years of age, but 64% of those attending DISD schools dropout before graduating from high school (Dallas Morning News).

While immigrant organizations estimate the percentage of undocumented among immigrants from México at 30% (México's National Council of Populations, Sept. 2001), North Texas Mexican leaders believe it to be somewhat smaller. These unauthorized immigrants tend to be less educated than legal immigrants. Slightly more men than women are here, but the figure is less skewed in this traditional 'immigration gateway city' than in newer immigration destinations. The typical pattern is that one or two of the most energetic, courageous and hard working men head north, and when they have found employment here they send word back to their villages that the North Texas region needs additional workers. Gradually, more and more men between 15 and 35 leave for 'El Norte'. In many Mexican towns the majority of men have emigrated.

Arriving in North Texas where they can earn in one day what they previously made in a week, they frequently crowd into an inexpensive apartment, with four to eight men initially sharing one bedroom and a living room. Each major area of town has a 'corner' where day laborers stand and wait to be hired by contractors and small businessmen. They live in groups of up to 10 people in apartments to save money while they are stateside, and find their recreation in fiestas, fixing their vehicles, and in sports. As time passes, in some villages back home only old men, women, and children are left. Mexican expatriates then send their families back home an estimated \$10 million annually. Remittances constitute the third-highest source of income for México after petroleum and tourism.

Until about three years ago, the traditional pattern was when most Mexican immigrants had saved enough to invest in a business or buy a rancho or house in their place of origin, they would return to México. This has changed in recent years, as the economic hardships at home remain unresolved. Today, the original male immigrants more frequently add their wives and children to the population of Mexicans in the USA .

The DFW area is the center for immigration from the central Mexican state of Guanajuato, with an estimated 300,000 from that region working here. Perhaps 225,000 originated in the neighboring state of San Luis Potosi. The average fee charged currently by 'coyotes' (immigrant smugglers) to bring individuals from central México is about \$2,000 .

Because of the proximity of their country of origin and the close ties with nuclear and extended family members at home, this group tends to travel home one or more times a year. Those with children of school age usually try to plan those trips for summers or the Christmas holidays.

A severe lack of information hampers the integration and participation of the Mexican immigrant community into the Metroplex's civic, educational, and social marketplace. The shortage includes information and orientation about education, health issues, legal matters, consumer issues and social services. The lack of legal documentation, the low self-esteem and motivation are among the factors limiting educational attainment and economic success.

The per capita income of Latinos is slightly over half the national average, with 21% of those in Dallas County living below the poverty level. Economic concerns, especially in a down turning market, further limits Mexican immigrants' participation in paying for health insurance, higher education or purchasing a home.

Mexican immigrants today are better educated, more urban, and roughly half are high school or university graduates. (National Population Council, Mexican Gov study). 51% have high school diplomas (Census 2000). Nevertheless, they are 1/3 less likely than Caribbean immigrants and half as likely as South American immigrants to have completed college or high school.

The ratio of Mexican men to women is skewed, as immigrants are primarily men migrating in search of jobs.

These New Americans stay longer than previously and are more likely to establish permanent U.S. residency, especially as the sterner border controls established in the 1990's make it harder for undocumented Latinos to move back and forth easily, and cause *coyote's* fees to rise. Men that would formerly visit their families in their villages of origin once or twice a year now bring their families to join them.



Whereas California formerly was their prime destination, because of the strengthened presence of La Migra along the southern California border, Texas has now gained in importance, and ranks in second place as the target for Mexican immigrants.

The Mexican presence is especially significant in factories, dry cleaners, housekeeping, animal slaughter and meat markets, restaurants, hotels, construction sites, hospitals, agriculture and gardening.

The average Mexican family sends \$258.00 a month to family members back home. (Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago) During the past ten years, Mexicans in North Texas sent back approximately \$638 million. Currently, nearly \$10 million a year is remitted to families back home.

The average size of a Mexican immigrant household –4.0 persons--is larger than the average native-born and immigrant households from any other origins.

### **Other Social Characteristics**

<b>Age Distribution</b>	single men 16-40, young families
<b>percentage of men and women</b>	60% men, 40% women
<b>Ties to country of origin</b>	extremely strong, send funds monthly, visit, phone
<b>Frequency of travel to country of origin</b>	yearly, if legal status permits travel
<b>Estimate of undocumented</b>	around 50%

## NIGERIAN COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	Nigeria
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	15,000
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	7,342
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	economic hardship, came to study and stayed
<b>Years in this region</b>	10-20 years
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	widely dispersed
<b>General level of education</b>	bachelor's degree
<b>Employment</b>	professional, Health care, Retail, Management, Taxi driver
<b>Principal religions</b>	Christianity
<b>Languages</b>	Igbo, Yoruba, Edo, Ishiang
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	
<b>Community newsletter</b>	
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	45

Like most other African immigrants, Nigerians were drawn to the United States by its promise of opportunities and financial betterment. They are well educated, most holding college degrees. Many are part of the African brain drain that has fled political instability, coming here to pursue a college degree and subsequently joining the U.S. labor force after graduation. They are a community of young and middle-aged adults with their children.



While Chicago is believed to be the U.S. center for Nigerians from the Yoruba tribe, North Texas is the Mecca for Igbos, with the national Igbo convention being held here each Labor Day Weekend. There are also a smaller number of Yoruba, Edo and Ishiang residing in this region. Local social and cultural associations are divided along these tribal lines, and the local Organization of Nigerian Nationals is said to be constituted of 40 different tribal societies, 28 of which are Igbo. Unfortunately, many of the Nigerian immigrant leaders focus their considerable organizational talents on Nigerian internal politics, tribal power struggles and dreams of returning to the motherland, rather than on developing a strong cultural or educational program for their children or a definitive presence in North Texas. Many parents express fear that their rich heritage is being lost.

While new arrivals may begin their employment by driving a cab, especially at the DFW Airport, subsequently they tend to find employment in a retail or professional field. Nigerians also find pride and self-fulfillment as

small business owners. 63% of all Nigerian college students ultimately have remained in the United States (The Economist, Sept. 2002).

Nigerians tend to be a tightly-knit and supportive community. This may be due to their high educational level, their willingness to preserve their traditions in the face of a public that does not differentiate between African Americans and Africa immigrants, and the fact that as legal residents, they do not fear having a visible presence.

#### **Other Social Characteristics**

<b>Age Distribution</b>	primarily children, young adults, and middle-aged
<b>percentage of men and women</b>	50% men, 50% women
<b>Ties to country of origin</b>	nuclear family remains
<b>Frequency of travel to country of origin</b>	once a year to every 2-5 years
<b>Estimate of undocumented</b>	less than 5%

## NORWEGIAN COMMUNITY FROM NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	Norway
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	economic hardship, greater opportunities
<b>Years in this region</b>	150 years
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	Widely dispersed
<b>General level of education</b>	some college
<b>Employment</b>	professional, education, management, technical, scientific
<b>Principal religions</b>	Christianity
<b>Languages</b>	Norwegian, English
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	
<b>Community newsletter</b>	
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	2

Galveston, Texas was Texas' Ellis Island, with the 1860 census listing 516 Texans as immigrants from Norway; Even today the dream of 'more economic and social freedom' draws them to this region. Most Norwegian immigrants are highly educated professionals, working in scientific or technical fields. The community is small but occasionally gathers for cultural/patriotic events. Classes in traditional dances, languages and crafts (rose mailing, stitching, and carving) are taught in a Plano shop whose second floor serves as the Scandinavian communities' unofficial cultural center.

### Other Social Characteristics

<b>Age Distribution</b>	primarily middle-aged
<b>percentage of men and women</b>	50% men, 50% women
<b>Ties to country of origin</b>	some college
<b>Frequency of travel to country of origin</b>	some have close ties and some do not, close and distant relatives remain
<b>Estimate of undocumented</b>	none

## PAKISTANI COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	Pakistan
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	50,000
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	8,964
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	economic hardship, political instability, came to study and stayed, religious intolerance
<b>Years in this region</b>	10-20 years
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	Dallas, Plano, Richardson, Carrollton, Arlington, Irving, Hurst, Euless, Bedford
<b>General level of education</b>	graduate school, technical school
<b>Employment</b>	professional, health care, management, retail trade
<b>Principal religions</b>	Islam
<b>Languages</b>	Urdu
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	
<b>Community newsletter</b>	none
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	none

The exodus from Pakistan began in the 70's, with many Pakistanis drawn to the U.S. by its excellent institutions of higher education. Upwardly mobile residents of Pakistan's major cities, and sacrificing limited family resources to educate their children, many of whom had completed their university studies in the U.S., were drawn to this region by the strong job market. Internal migration from other cities in the U.S. to the DFW Metroplex is common. Political instability and religious unrest in their country of origin were additional motivations.

According to a recent poll, 60% of Pakistani immigrants to the U.S. are college graduates, and many are physicians, accountants, computer scientists, and engineers. Ismaeli Pakistanis (followers of the Agha Khan) are overwhelming owners of small businesses, dominating the import centers located at Harry Hines @ Royal. Many have business partners back home and travel back and forth regularly. This community has significant economic power and contributes about \$800,000 each year toward the Agha Khan Foundation's development and educational projects in Asia.

When family resources are pooled to send one child abroad to study, it is usually a male that is selected. As in similar Middle Eastern immigrant communities, the result is an excess of young men with a shortage of young women from whom to select a marriage partner. As relations with the extended family 'back home' are very close and constant, frequently young people are brought together by relatives back home or friends living in the diasporas. Arranged marriages, with the bride being selected by the groom's family in Pakistan, are not uncommon.

As it is the son's responsibility to care for his elderly parents, the older generation frequently follows forming an extended household. Even when the grandparents spend only part of the year with their son or daughter, they maintain traditions in the home and connect their U.S. born-grandchildren with their language, religion, and heritage. Even though they may not speak English, they are respected and consulted, and their influence somewhat balances the lack of child-centered religious or cultural activities within the Pakistani community. It is a better financial investment to bring one or more parents for an extended visit in the U.S. than to purchase tickets for the nuclear family residing here. Nevertheless, most Pakistani children spend the summers or holiday break with their extended families every two to five years.

Most Pakistani immigrants are Muslim, and it is they who provide considerable leadership to the diverse North Texas Muslim community. Pakistanis spearheaded the building of the Islamic Association of North Texas in Richardson, the first mosque in the region, and more recently, the mosques in Carrollton and Plano,

and the expansion of the Richardson center. The first and only Muslim social service center was established by a Pakistani physician, as was the weekend medical clinic for indigent Muslims. Several times Pakistani Muslim women attempted to initiate youth programs, efforts opposed and ultimately squelched by more conservative Arab Muslims. Selected wealthy individuals from the original wave of immigration have now begun organizing support for political candidates through fundraising dinners and voter's forums.

In view of the previous information, it is striking that cultural and social activities within the Pakistani community are limited and that there is little cohesion among its members. The American-born second generation blends easily with its peers, and is markedly successful in school.

A small portion of the Pakistani-American population is undocumented. These individuals who have overstayed their tourist visas hope to re-stabilize their legal status.

**Other Social Characteristics**

<b>Age Distribution</b>	primarily middle-aged
<b>percentage of men and women</b>	50% men, 50% women
<b>Ties to country of origin</b>	nuclear family remains, send money back regularly, phone relatives
<b>Frequency of travel to country of origin</b>	2-5 years
<b>Estimate of undocumented</b>	

## PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	Palestine
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	political oppression, political instability, came to study and stayed
<b>Years in this region</b>	a wave immigrates after every major political upheaval.
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	Arlington, Dallas, Garland, Mesquite, Richardson
<b>General level of education</b>	varies greatly.
<b>Employment</b>	technical, retail, scientific, professional, wholesale
<b>Principal religions</b>	Islam
<b>Languages</b>	Arabic
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	
<b>Community newsletter</b>	none, Palestinian affairs are circulated through the Dallas Central Mosque email list
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	none

Like most other Arabs, many Palestinians came to the United States as students, following a tradition in which education and secularism were highly valued. The most highly educated of Arab populations, when employment opportunities after graduation presented the opportunity to remain here as immigrants, most accepted. The alternatives would have been an uncertain future and political instability in the Occupied Territories or severely limited conditions in other Arab countries that host refugees.

Most Palestinians in North Texas are registered refugees, part of the diasporas resulting from the creation of the state of Israel in 1948. Approximately 48% of the Palestinians live outside their country, scattered all over the world. It is estimated that more than 85 % of these are travel document holders who are effectively classified as stateless. (150,000 reside in the European Union and 203,588 live in the Americas.) Their numbers in this region have increased after each major political upheaval (i.e. the 1973 war in Lebanon, the first Palestinian intifada in 1982).

The earliest Palestinians arrived in the region shortly after the turn of the century. They were single men, Christians, who frequently began as peddlers who walked their routes selling notions and small items. Although many intended to 'make their fortunes' and return home to marry and settle, most instead sent back for their brothers, cousins, and fiancés. Second and third descendants of that original wave of immigration now worship in two churches located in North Dallas and in Carrollton.

More recent immigrants are usually young and Muslim. Their economic impact on the region is significant, as most are businessmen, technical and professional engineers and computer scientists.

Social acceptance and legal status are a major concern for Palestinians. The current wave of 'anti-terrorist' sentiment plus the general ignorance about the Palestinian situation on the part of the American public has marginalized this community. Bigotry and stereotyping have become so commonplace that many Palestinian children mask their ethnic background. They suffer the taunts of classmates and live within two distinct cultural realities –home and the 'outside world'--in which basic information and attitudes do not mesh.

Palestinians in North Texas remain intensely bonded to their families and to the political situation back home.

### Other Social Characteristics

<b>Age Distribution</b>	Evenly distributed.
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<b>percentage of men and women</b>	50% men, 50% women
<b>Ties to country of origin</b>	nuclear family and close relatives remain.
<b>Frequency of travel to country of origin</b>	once a year
<b>Estimate of undocumented</b>	20%



## PERUVIAN COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	Peru
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	3,529
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	economic hardship
<b>Years in this region</b>	10-20 years
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	Arlington, Carrollton, Fort Worth
<b>General level of education</b>	some high school and graduate degrees
<b>Employment</b>	management, industrial work, technical, clerical/office, health care
<b>Principal religions</b>	Catholicism
<b>Languages</b>	Spanish
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	
<b>Community newsletter</b>	
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	3, but none is active

Peruvians come from a rich and culturally diverse country. They are proud of their history and heritage but battered by corrupt governments. One of the main reasons they leave their native country has been the experience of continued economic hardship. The downturn in the world's economy today doesn't help their plight.

Many of them have migrated to North Texas after being in other areas of the United States and come from all over Peru. Peruvians stand out for migrating with their entire families—parents and children stay together. This pattern has made the Peruvian community to have an even age and gender distribution. When settling, like many other communities, they look for affordable housing, good schools and good neighborhoods.

Peruvians generally remain in strong contact with fellow immigrants and belong to associations that bring them together. Many of them work as computer technicians and programmers, medical doctors and mechanics that offer their expertise to the communities in which they reside. One of the biggest needs for this community is the attainment of legal status for many of its members.



Like most other Latino immigrants, Peruvians fled to Dallas as a result of poor economic conditions, corrupt government and political instability in their country. They have reached the Metroplex by a variety of methods. Usually the integral family unit is maintained, with wife and children either traveling with the head of family, or joining him soon afterwards. Although North Texas was the destination for some, including a few who traveled on tourist visas to México, and paid coyotes thousands of dollars to pass them across the border, most arrived in this region as a result of secondary immigration. Some came on tourist visas, hoping to regularly their status, but have found it impossible to do so.

The local Peruvian community is relatively well educated, with most having finished high school, and some with higher degrees. There are a few Peruvian-American lawyers and physicians.

The first South American cultural arts group in the region was Peruvian, Agrupación Cultural Expresiones established in 1987. At the present time, several Peruvian musical groups give high quality but intermittent performances. Strong community associations have thrived in the past, but unfortunately, due to internal discord and power struggles, the community is currently divided and there are no organized Peruvian cultural activities. Occasionally, a religious feast or a natural disaster affecting Peru brings together the Peruvian immigrants for a brief period of time.

**Other Social Characteristics**

<b>Age Distribution</b>	evenly distributed
<b>percentage of Men and Women</b>	50% men and 50% women
<b>Ties to Native Country</b>	many: have close relatives which they phone every week and send money back regularly
<b>Frequency of Travel to Native Country</b>	once a year
<b>Estimate of Undocumented</b>	

## FILIPINO COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	Philippines
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	15,000
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	9,696
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	political instability, economic hardship, came to study and stayed
<b>Years in this region</b>	10-20 year
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	Dallas, Ft. Worth, Irving, Mesquite, Plano
<b>General level of education</b>	Bachelor's degree
<b>Employment</b>	medical, professional, management, retail, technical
<b>Principal religions</b>	Catholicism, Protestant (Methodist)
<b>Languages</b>	Filipino, English, Spanish
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	
<b>Community newsletter</b>	effective communication through email networks
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	around 10

The strong and well-organized Filipino community numbers only about 25,000, yet their impact belies those moderate numbers. They are a highly-educated and very significant work North Texas work force that also supports numerous outstanding cultural associations. In East Asia the Philippines remain second only to Korea in terms of educational achievements, and near all Filipino immigrants to North Texas arrive with some level of English language skills.



The first wave of Filipinos in the US landed in California as slaves. A close relationship with the U.S. was born after the Philippines became a colony of the US in 1898 through the Treaty of Paris. Surviving the Filipino - American war, (known to US militia as the Philippine insurrection), by the 1900's the country settled down to accept the American regime. At that point Filipinos were recruited to come to California and Hawaii to work in the plantations and farms.

In the 70's - 80's, Filipinos left their country in order to improve their economic situation as well as to escape the political oppression during the Marcos regime. Unemployment and underemployment is high in the Philippines relative to the other countries in South East Asia. Most Philippine trained professionals find work abroad, and migrate to other countries. Known for their IT training and technology, lately IT centers have been established in the Philippines by US based companies, i.e. AOL.

Healthcare professionals were one of the first groups of people to come to the US in the late 50's to 60's. During this time, there was a brain drain from the Philippines when doctors and nurses migrated to fill the need for physicians and healthcare workers in rural America. Dr. Concordia Angelo was one of the first

Filipino physicians here, arriving in the late 60's. Today, there are about 60 Filipino physicians in the region, organized into the North Texas Association of Philippine Physicians (NTAPP).

Physical therapists followed in the 70's, along with engineers. In the 90's the significant numbers of IT professionals and schoolteachers (employed by DISD) moved to the Metroplex. Internal migration from other parts of the U.S. continues to bring large numbers of Filipinos to North Texas.

In addition to the above-mentioned professional jobs, Filipino immigrants in this region hold positions in management, housekeeping, clerical and hotels.

A significant percentage of the Filipino employees here paid 'recruiters' to help them locate positions in North Texas. Approximately 25 DISD teachers paid about \$6000 to recruiters. Shortages in local hospitals were plugged by nurses who paid \$4000 to the agent in the Philippines for the job placement. Some recruiters also help the applicant obtain passports & visas, assist them in applying for and passing state medical exams ('boards'), and assist them in purchasing their air tickets.

Filipinos are valued as employees for their high level of training, for their courteous and compliant personalities, and for their preparation in the English language. In the Philippines, English is the standard of instruction, and is taught from Grade 2. All schools use English texts. However, with 200 languages in the Philippines, many utilizing different alphabets than the English language, newly arrived Filipino immigrants often speak English with heavy accents.

**Other Social Characteristics**

<b>Age Distribution</b>	primarily middle-aged
<b>percentage of men and women</b>	40% men, 60% women
<b>Ties to country of origin</b>	close and distant relatives remain, send money back regularly, call weekly
<b>Frequency of travel to country of origin</b>	Every 2-5 years
<b>Estimate of undocumented</b>	Less than 5%

## PUERTO RICAN COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	Puerto Rico
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	22,000
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	economic hardship
<b>Years in this region</b>	10-20 years
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	close to the Dallas/ Ft. Worth airport and scattered
<b>General level of education</b>	Bachelor's degree
<b>Employment</b>	professional, management, technical, health care, education
<b>Principal religions</b>	Catholic, Protestant
<b>Languages</b>	Spanish, English
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	none
<b>Community newsletter</b>	none
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	5

Puerto Ricans are the only immigrant group that holds U.S. citizenship. This is also the only international community clearly indicated among the possible selections on the US Census. As a result, this is the one instance in which the official population figure of 22,000 reported by the census also coincides with the figure offered by the ethnic community.

The expanding North Texas job market, contrasting vividly with the lethargic economic scene at home is the single reason Puerto Ricans have moved to the region. Nevertheless, they face many of the same challenges as foreign-born immigrants: learning English, difficulty finding employment, prejudice and lack of social acceptance. Most area residents do not realize that they are U.S. citizens and discrimination and ignorance are frequently the result. "We are NOT illegal immigrants," says one community, 'and we deserve respect.'

While most families are headed by first generation immigrants, with either young or middle aged parents, a few are older, with third generation grandchildren.



Many Puerto Ricans would name 'salsa' as their greatest contribution to the cultural development of the North Texas region. The salsa/meringue club scene that is currently the rage crosses all ethnic barriers, appealing to Asians, Anglos, and African Americans alike. Approximately twelve Puerto Rican style local bands have developed as part of this new phenomenon, and are changing the face of the region. Salsa's lasting effect on U.S. music and arts is similar to the vast impact of foreign food across the nation. Puerto Ricans are hard-working yet festive and family-oriented people and salsa music successfully manages to transmit this *joie d'vivre* to more traditional North Texans.

They also remind us proudly that many baseball superstars such as Roberto Clemente, Orlando Cepeda, Ivan (Pudge) Rodriguez and Juan Gonzalez were born in Puerto Rico.

Many have migrated from other parts of the country and some are here on work-related transfers. They principally hold professional and managerial positions in accounting, education, engineering, medicine, law and informational systems. Several are managers for 500 Inc companies. They are highly educated and evenly distributed across the Metroplex, generally living close to their places of employment.

As American citizens, Puerto Ricans do not need visas to 'reenter' this country, and most travel frequently or at least once a year to visit their extended families.

The best organized and unified of all Latino communities in the area, the Puerto Rican Association is a model for other immigrant groups. Always culturally active until about seven years ago, divisions within the community diminished their visibility until a strong and dynamic leader united and revived them in 1998.

Visionaries whose goals go beyond planning the usual social activities, their solidarity and high level organization is seen in the funds raised for their Scholarship Program, which rewarded ten high school seniors with over \$2,000 in cash and gifts. Their leaders are also actively involved in Pan Latino community development projects and in civic affairs.

No less than six community members answered our survey, while in many other ethnic community well-known 'spokespersons' who are featured regularly in the media did not recognize the significance of their ethnic group's participation.

**Other Social Characteristics**

<b>Age Distribution</b>	primarily middle-aged
<b>percentage of men and women</b>	50% men, 50% women
<b>Ties to country of origin</b>	close and distant relatives remain, phone weekly, send money back
<b>Frequency of travel to country of origin</b>	once a year
<b>Estimate of undocumented</b>	none (they are citizens)

## THAI COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	Thailand
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	4,000
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	3,953
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	economic hardship, came to study and stayed
<b>Years in this region</b>	1-10 years
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	scattered
<b>General level of education</b>	Bachelor's degree
<b>Employment</b>	professional, restaurant, health care, technical
<b>Principal religions</b>	Buddhism
<b>Languages</b>	Thai
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	
<b>Community newsletter</b>	
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	4

Like many other immigrant groups, Thai Americans in this region came first to take advantage of the U.S.'s excellent system of higher education. Elements in Asia's 'brain drain', they chose the greater opportunities available here difficult over the economic hardships and limited potential for growth facing their peers in Thailand. Consequently, the level of education among the region's Thai population is quite high.

The sudden appearance and rapid popularity of Thai food is an interesting phenomenon in this region, where thirty years ago it was difficult to find even European-heritage ethnic restaurants. Many Thai immigrants have been quite successful at these culinary endeavors.

Thais also like to open small businesses, are found in professional positions, and work in health care.

The community is tightly knit and poorly assimilated into the region's multicultural spirit. Its cultural center is the Dallas Buddhist Center on Stetz Road in North Dallas. All Thai cultural groups appear to be related to the temple, which also hosts the annual harvest festival. The small Thai Cultural Center is part of the Temple complex. Thai families are less spread across the northern portion of the Metroplex, while many still live in Dallas proper.

### Other Social Characteristics

<b>Age Distribution</b>	primarily young adults and middle aged
<b>percentage of men and women</b>	305% men, 65% women
<b>Ties to country of origin</b>	nuclear family remains there
<b>Frequency of travel to country of origin</b>	
<b>Estimate of undocumented</b>	5-10%

## TONGAN COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	Tonga
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	4,000
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	economic hardship, political oppression, came to study and stayed
<b>Years in this region</b>	20-40 years
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	Arlington, Bedford, Euless, Hurst, Richland Hills
<b>General level of education</b>	high school
<b>Employment</b>	education, technical, clerical/office, non-profit, professional
<b>Principal religions</b>	various
<b>Languages</b>	Tongan
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	
<b>Community newsletter</b>	
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	

The Tongan community includes those immigrants who have lived here for 30 years or more plus new arrivals. Tongans come to this region because the political system back in their native countries has not been open and democratic. It is based on a hierarchical structure that controls most aspects of society and has fostered an unequal distribution of resources and a lack of opportunities.

The Tongans who have moved to North Texas are a mixture of direct migration from their country and from migration from other parts of the United States where they had previously settled. Immigrants generally tend to be young adults (18-34). The percentage of women immigrants is close to 60% and although the reasons for this is unclear one possible explanation is that in Tonga the ratio of men to women was not balanced, thus more women migrate too.

Tongans are generally closely in contact with each other and many of them form part of Tongan organizations in the area. They also tend to have strong ties to their native countries. Many of them still have their nuclear families there, or close or distant relatives to whom they phone and send money regularly.

A great portion of this community resides in Euless, particularly in the 76039 and 76040 zip codes, where Tongolese youth are valued players to the high school football teams. . The reason many chose this location is its proximity to the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, where many are employed. At the airport they hold jobs that go from janitorial to different office positions, thus providing an essential labor force. Among their greatest challenges are learning to speak English, affording medical care, educating their children, finding employment, attaining legal status and obtaining legal counsel.

### Other Social Characteristics

<b>Age Distribution</b>	primarily young adults (18-34)
<b>percentage of Men and Women</b>	40% men and 60% women
<b>Ties to Native Country</b>	close
<b>Frequency of Travel to Native Country</b>	once a year, some travel often and some don't
<b>Estimate of Undocumented</b>	30-40%
<b>Other Contributions</b>	sports, cultural activities, ethnic food



## TURKISH COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	Turkey
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	3,000
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	788
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	came to study and stayed
<b>Years in this region</b>	10-20 years
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	scattered throughout the region
<b>General level of education</b>	Bachelor's and graduate degrees
<b>Employment</b>	technical, management, retail trade, hotel, artist
<b>Principal religions</b>	Muslim
<b>Languages</b>	Turkish, English
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	
<b>Community newsletter</b>	
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	3

The cultural-humanitarian impact of the Metroplex Turkish community surpasses its small numbers. For the past years, the Turkish Festival has presented Metroplex residents with Turkey's best folk dance troupe, the best Turkish pop band in the country, and extraordinary traditional dishes. They have also raised large sums for relief for the victims of the August 1999 earthquake that devastated thousands of households in Turkey, and have supported local refugee projects. Many DFW Turkish Americans are active volunteers in civic, humanitarian, and educational projects.

Many of the local Turkish Americans came for higher education and decided to remain here as immigrants. They are highly educated professionals, Muslims, most of who work in engineering, communications, and high tech positions. The community includes several university deans and professors as well as many physicians.

The Turkish American community in North Texas represents the crossroads of Western and Eastern culture. They reflect a hospitable culture that has assimilated with ease, although some remain concerned at the hesitation of Anglo-Texans to accept them, particularly in view of recent attacks against immigrants of Middle Eastern origin.



### Other Social Characteristics

<b>Age distribution</b>	evenly distributed
<b>percentage of men and women</b>	55% men and 45% women
<b>Ties to native country</b>	very close
<b>Frequency of travel to native country</b>	every summer/ once a year
<b>Estimate of undocumented</b>	

## UKRANIAN COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	Ukraine
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	1028
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	economic hardship, political instability, came to study and stayed
<b>Years in this region</b>	5-40 years
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	Arlington, Carrollton, The Colony, Dallas, Denton, Fort Worth, Plano, Richardson
<b>General level of education</b>	some college, graduate degree
<b>Employment</b>	professional, scientific, education, management, clerical/office
<b>Principal religions</b>	
<b>Languages</b>	English, Ukranian, Russian
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	
<b>Community newsletter</b>	
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	3



### Other Social Characteristics

<b>Age Distribution</b>	evenly distributed but many who are middle-aged (34-60)
<b>percentage of men and women</b>	50% men and 50% women
<b>Ties to country of origin</b>	many phone relatives/nuclear family members weekly
<b>Frequency of travel to country of origin</b>	some travel often and some do not
<b>Estimate of undocumented</b>	less than 5%

## VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

### Quick Observations

<b>Country/region of origin</b>	Vietnam
<b>Population (community leaders)</b>	76,000
<b>Population (Census 2000)</b>	36,522
<b>Main reasons for migration</b>	refugees from war, political oppression
<b>Years in this region</b>	20-40 years
<b>Primary areas of residence</b>	Arlington, Dallas, Garland, Irving, Mesquite, Plano, Richardson
<b>General level of education</b>	high school
<b>Employment</b>	professional, health care, industrial worker, clerical, restaurant
<b>Principal religions</b>	Buddhism, Christianity
<b>Languages</b>	Vietnamese, English
<b>Media (newspaper or radio)</b>	one full time radio station, three weekly newspapers, d two bi-monthly magazines
<b>Community newsletter</b>	none
<b>Cultural organizations</b>	approximately 10

Vietnamese comprise the largest population of Southeast Asian refugees to have settled in the United States. With their American-born children, they number approximately 995,000. After Mexican-born residents, Vietnamese are the largest immigrant community reported in North Texas by the 2002 Census. Like the Cambodian and Laotians, the Vietnamese arrived as refugees after the U.S. withdrawal from their country in axe. Some were airlifted out at that time, while others were transported for resettlement from refugee camps in subsequent years.



The North Texas region was a major center for Vietnamese refugee resettlement, and in the years following the Vietnamese conflict, special offices were set up here to receive two distinctive populations. In 1988, the U.S. Department of State reached an agreement with the Vietnamese government to allow "reeducation camps" detainees to leave through the Orderly Departure Program. Many of these were well educated leaders who had some association with the U.S. presence during the war. Additional families arrived in response to special programs initiated in 1989 that admitted 100,000 Amerasian Vietnamese (children of America servicemen and their 'parents').

There are slightly more Vietnamese women in the area, probably a result of the loss of young males during the war which claimed more than one million Vietnamese lives, and from the relative difficulty for them to escape the country after the U.S. withdrawal.

The original refugee populations were resettled in East Dallas, where restaurants, markets, and small family businesses soon developed to serve their needs. Secondary immigration from other areas of the country and a desire for better schools spread the population farther northward, to Carrollton and Richardson. Today, Arlington boasts the 15<sup>th</sup> largest Vietnamese community in the country. Currently, the community is served by a Vietnamese Buddhist Temple in Irving and is the proud owner of a large and attractive Community

Center in Garland at the edge of Richardson. The latter area is the center for numerous Vietnamese businesses, including newspapers, law and medical offices.

The Vietnamese family remains very united, with individualism and independence often sacrificed for the ultimate strengthening and growth of the family. Several generations of some extended families work long hours with little cash pay in order to build a firm base in their family restaurant, and the twenty or more Vietnamese restaurants in the region are popular with all ethnic groups. Vietnamese are appreciated for their humble, courteous and personal service, and Vietnamese beauty and nail salons have been very successful. They also excel as medical and clerical assistants.

As many of the original families were headed by women with little education, acculturation was challenging for some of these families, and some have been unable to progress economically. One resulting problem is the development of Vietnamese gangs, which appeal to young boys who have no strong male role models and who feel adrift in-between two cultures.

Middle aged Vietnamese are beginning to visit their country, as relations soften between Vietnam and the United States. Many others continue to send money back to help their extended families who were unable or unwilling to leave for the West.

### **Other Social Characteristics**

<b>Age Distribution</b>	evenly distributed
<b>percentage of men and women</b>	60% women, 40% men
<b>Ties to country of origin</b>	send money back regularly, phone relatives and members of nuclear family weekly
<b>Frequency of travel to country of origin</b>	some travel often and some do not
<b>Estimate of undocumented</b>	Less than 5%

## Part VI: Summary and Comments

### North Texas As Part of the Global Society

By Dr. Morrison Wong  
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Racial and ethnic diversity is a fact of life in North Texas and is becoming increasing so. While the recent dramatic increase in the Hispanic population during the last decade has made state and national headlines, many people are probably not aware that North Texas is also one of the nation's 'hypergrowth centers' of ethnic diversity. Its immigrant growth rate of 146% is significantly higher than the overall immigrant growth rate for the state of Texas. Moreover, the North Texas ethnic and immigrant landscape is not only changing in size, but also in its composition. Ethnic and immigrant communities that were non-existent in the 1990s, such as the Somali, Tongan, Bosnian, Iraqi, Sudanese and Kosovar communities, are now established parts of the ethnic mosaic of North Texas.

This unique study provides a vivid and detailed snapshot of many of the ethnic and immigrant communities that comprise the North Texas Region. A wealth of detailed statistic information from the most recent 2000 U.S. Census placed in organized tables and the insights provided from surveys and feedback from community leaders and representatives from thirty-two ethnic immigrant communities will be of tremendous use to anyone interested in immigration and immigrants in the North Texas Region, be they students of immigration, policy analysts, government officials, or social scientists. In providing these immigrant profiles, a foundation is laid that counters arguments of job displacement by immigrants instead, focuses instead on the vital and significant contributions of immigrants to the stability, development, and revitalization of the North Texas social and economic institutions and infrastructure. This is not to say that all is well with the immigrant populations. Regardless of their country of origin, many of the immigrant communities continue to face challenges of poverty, health insurance, education, language, well-paying jobs, and assimilation.

Hopefully, this report has created an awareness of the increasing diversity of the immigrant population in North Texas and has caused one to think critically of the contributions as well as the challenges that face these groups. With the general decline in racial and ethnic prejudice and discrimination during the past few decades, as we become a more global society, as we become more aware of the interdependence that we have with other societies and other groups of people, we may wish to begin to re-address our criteria for the future of race relations in the United States. It is possible that the rigid assimilation model may not longer be applicable or acceptable. As more and more people begin to understand that the American tradition of racial diversity is what has made the United States a unique and great nation, that we are all immigrants, some arriving sooner than others, but immigrants nonetheless, this could lead to a greater appreciation and acceptance of its diverse ethnic and immigrant communities and ultimately to great social cohesion.

## The Future Face of North Texas

By Bernard L. Weinstein, Ph.D.  
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Since 1990, the north Texas/Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan region has been the fastest growing in the nation. Between 1990 and 2001, DFW's population jumped 32 percent to reach 5.3 million, a much faster growth rate than any other major metropolitan area. At the same time, the Metroplex added 890,000 jobs, far more than any other metro area of the U.S., including seven with larger populations. By contrast, greater New York City added only 280,000 jobs. Though the economy has slowed in recent months, projections by the Bureau of the Census and the North Central Texas Council of Governments indicate the region will continue to grow at about three percent annually for the next 25 years, at which time the north Texas population will exceed 10 million.

Over the past three decades, immigration—both domestic and international—has accounted for a large portion of north Texas' population growth. During the 1970s and 1980s, domestic migration—i.e. people moving to Texas and DFW from other states—was the primary demographic driver. But in the 1990s, international migration surpassed domestic migration for the first time. For Texas as a whole, net domestic migration was 569,957 between 1990 and 2000. By contrast, net international migration totaled 715,420 during the decade. For the north Texas region, net domestic migration was about 144,000 during the 1990s while net international migration exceeded 170,000. Importantly, Dallas County by itself actually recorded net domestic *out-migration* of 124,000 between 1990 and 2000. Over the same period, more than 111,000 people (net) moved into Dallas County from abroad.

Mexico and other Latin American countries account for the lion's share of migration to Texas and the DFW region. Consequently, during the 1990s Texas' Hispanic population grew by more than 2.3 million, or 54 percent. In Dallas County, the resident Hispanic population grew by 347,000, an increase of 110 percent. Tarrant, Denton and Collin Counties added 211,000 Hispanic residents between 1990 and 2000 for an increase of 120 percent. At present, about one million Hispanics reside in north Texas and account for 20 percent of the region's population. By 2015, the area's Hispanic population will exceed 1.5 million, or 25 percent of the expected population.

Though Hispanics dominate the migration flows into DFW, many other countries are represented as well—as this report has painstakingly documented. Thus the north Texas region has become increasingly multi-national and multi-cultural without even trying.

Without question, growing national and cultural diversity has made north Texas a much livelier community. It has also contributed to the economic dynamism of the region. A steady stream of migrants, both skilled and unskilled, has sustained expansion in both "high-tech" and "low-tech" industries. Where would DFW's information technology sector be without the influx of Asian engineers? Could the medical industry have grown as fast without nurses from southeast Asia and physicians from Canada and South Africa? How would the hospitality and construction industries fare without the large Hispanic immigrant workforce? And absent the willingness of Korean and Vietnamese immigrants to take risks, would we find as many convenience stores in low-income neighborhoods?

Of course, there are social costs associated with migration. For most recent migrants, whether here legally or illegally, English is not the native language. What's more, immigrants usually evince lower levels of income and educational attainment than long-time residents of the region, which limits their employment options. Affordable housing is often difficult to find, and the result is incredible overcrowding in available apartments. North Texas' public schools, particularly in Dallas and Tarrant counties, are overflowing with immigrant children, many of whom require special ESL classes. One only has to look at the dozens of "portables" that dot every elementary school playground. Some of these children also suffer from a wide range of medical and social pathologies that overburdened state, local and voluntary service agencies are unable to handle.

Still, studies conducted by economists and demographers have concluded that the benefits to the nation, and by inference north Texas, from immigration far exceed the costs. Since immigration to the north Texas region shows no sign of abating, this finding is reassuring. Assuming the national economy will rebound in the near future, north Texas' immigrant workforce will play a crucial role in restoring growth to the DFW region.

Against this backdrop, the challenge to north Texas' business and community leaders will be to capitalize on DFW's competitive strengths while recognizing the changing demographic dynamics within the region. Priority number one should be a concerted effort to enhance the educational outcomes of immigrants, and especially immigrant children, since higher educational attainment will eventually translate into higher incomes and a better quality-of-life. Given the limited resources currently allocated to public education, and the burgeoning state and local budget deficits, this will be a difficult goal to achieve.



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*"Peace cannot be achieved by force. It can only be achieved by understanding."*  
--Albert Einstein

With 35% of North Texas residents being first or second generation immigrants to this country, DFW indeed deserves the label "International City." Such diversity, however, brings many challenges as well as benefits.

**Dallas International** is a coalition of over 1,600 civic, educational, cultural and religious organizations established as a means for bringing these groups together for the enrichment of the entire community.

#### **Dallas International Mission Statement**

The Mission of **Dallas International** is to promote and coordinate North Texas ethnic and immigrant groups, empowering them as respected members of the community and giving them a forum through which to express, share and celebrate the richness of their cultural heritages.

#### **Dallas International Vision**

The Vision of **Dallas International** is the recognition of DFW as an international city which embodies the cultural and economic vibrance of the global community.

#### **Dallas International Charter**

**Dallas International** is an inclusive, multi-ethnic organization that builds strong communities and integrates ethnic groups into the main stream, thus delivering sustainable economic growth throughout the North Texas region through:

- consumption of goods and services
- investment in securities and community infrastructure
- augmentation of the employment base.

In carrying out its Mission, **Dallas International's** commitment is to

- Create and maintain informational resources, including a database, website of local links to artists and ethnic organizations, and a cultural bulletin that facilitates communication by providing a weekly calendar of events offered by the ethnic groups, as well as relevant news items.
- Increase awareness of the changing demographics of the North Texas region, and influence visibility of the minority and ethnic presence in civic affairs, education, and the media, with the objective of increasingly integrating these groups into the mainstream of society.
- Produce an annual International Festival as a vehicle for all immigrant and ethnic groups to demonstrate their presence in the community, to celebrate the best of their special traditions, and to educate about their cultures through the arts.
- Provide a forum through which individual groups can reach out to each other and to the entire community, thereby improving communications, building relationships, and sharing interests or concerns among ethnic and immigrant leaders for the mutual growth and benefit of all involved.
- Promote understanding and cooperation in personal relations, workplaces, and schools in order to fight prejudice and discrimination.

For four years **Dallas International** has used the arts, technology, and education to connect schools, researchers, journalists, and civic organizations with grassroots ethnic communities. We also help ethnic arts groups share their traditional arts with the public and expand their audience base beyond community boundaries. We believe that communications and mutual respect among all of our peoples are crucial to Dallas' continued growth and development as a richly diverse society and strong player in the global marketplace.



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