Immigrants and Refugees in Iowa: Past, Present and Future

Dr. Mark A. Grey
Welcome the immigrant you once were!

Catholic Sisters of this area
Iowa’s Immigration and Refugee Resettlement Timeline

*Timeline adapted from the Iowa State Historical Society (Goldfinch Vol. 12 No.4)
Immigration and Iowa’s Early Population Growth

- 1836 Population: 10,531
- 1855 Population: 500,000
- 1890 Population: 2,231,853
“Day by day the endless procession moves on—a mighty army of invasion, which, were its objects other than peace, and holy, fraternal, cordial league with its predecessors, their joint aim to conquer this fair and alluring domain from the wild dominion of nature, would strike terror into the boldest hearts”

— Dubuque Report 1854
1869: Iowa Legislature created the Board of Immigration

- Book: *Iowa: The Home for Immigrants* (1870)
  - 65,000 copies printed
  - 5 languages: English, German, Dutch, Swedish and Danish.
  - Distributed across the United States and Europe

- Invitation to Immigrants:
  *To all Working Men*, who live by honest toil, and would thereby contribute their part toward the development of a free and prosperous state;

- ...continued
• **To all Landless Men and Women**, of both the Old World and the New, who desire beautiful homes in the fairest portion of the green earth;

• **To all Good Men and Women**, who aspire to independence, either for themselves or their children after them, and who will contribute, either of mind or muscle, to carry Iowa forward to her grand and glorious destiny, this little book, with the information it imparts, and the counsel it gives, is respectfully offered
Denmark
Sweden
Germany
Italy
The Danish Immigrant Museum
Elk Horn, Iowa
Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum
Decorah, Iowa
Tulip Time: Pella
Czech and Slovak Museum:
Cedar Rapids
Source: Antioch Baptist Church, Waterloo, IA
Tai Dam  ca. 1976
Sudan
Balkan Refugees  ca. 1999
Mexico 1990s-
The Latino Boom in Iowa

- Between 1990 and 2000:
  - Iowa became a “New Gateway” state
  - Some Iowan towns increased in Asians by 400%, and Latino growth by 1,500%
  - State ranked 11th nationally for Latino growth in the United States
Mexican Immigrant Population in Midwestern States
The number of persons of Latino heritage in Iowa has more than quadrupled over the past two decades.

2010 Census: 151,544
Microplurality or “Micro-Populations” in Iowa

- Microplurality describes growth in the number of smaller ethnically and linguistically distinct groups in our communities

  - Recognizes “Diversity within Diversity”

  - Minimizes the relevance of racial categories in favor of ethnic populations

  - Recognizes the central role of culture, language, religion and immigration status
Examples of Microplurality

Growing Micro Populations in Iowa:

– Southeast Asia (Hmong, Vietnamese, Burmese etc.)
– East Asia (Chinese, etc.)
– Former Soviet Union (Russia, Ukraine, etc.)
– Ultra-Orthodox Jewish (Israel and East Coast)
– African (Sudan, Somalia, etc.)
– Central Pacific (Marshall Islanders, Paulau)
– Ukrainian Pentecostals
– Bhutanese from Nepali Refugee Camps
– African Americans from Chicago and Detroit
– Iraqi refugees
– And many more...
The “Anglo Inversion”

• What do we call a town, state or school district when all of the “minorities” together outnumber the [former] white majority?

• “Majority-Minority”

• “Anglo Inversion”
  – In many Iowa communities:
    • Everyone and no one is a “minority”
Change in Hispanic population

- INCREASE
- DECREASE

Change in white population

- INCREASE
- DECREASE

Maps showing increases and decreases in population for various regions within the Midwest, including Minneapolis/St. Paul, Kansas City, and Oklahoma City.
County Population Change: 1900-2010

- Counties gaining population (31 counties)
- Counties losing population (68 counties)

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

State Data Center of Iowa www.iowadatacenter.org
Minority* Population in Iowa Counties: 2040

- Minority population in county is 10% or larger (45)
- Minority population in county is less than 10% (54)

*Minority includes all race groups except white non-Hispanic

State Data Center of Iowa www.iowadatacenter.org

Data Source: Woods & Poole Economics, Inc. 2011
Looking to the Future:

- Growth in Non-White Populations
- Growth in the number and diversity of micro-populations
- Urbanization
- Challenges and Opportunities
Projected Latino Population

- Iowa’s projected Latino population:
  - 2020: 213,170
  - 2030: 305,230
  - 2040: 430,340 (12.7% of total)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Crawford</td>
<td>52%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Marshall</td>
<td>46.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Buena Vista</td>
<td>45.4%</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Muscatine</td>
<td>38.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Louisa</td>
<td>34.6%</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Woodbury</td>
<td>33.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>23.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Wapello</td>
<td>23.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Wright</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Polk</td>
<td>23.2%</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>Sioux</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>Clarke</td>
<td>19.69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Tama</td>
<td>19%</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Allamakee</td>
<td>18.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Pottawattamie</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Emmet</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Osceola</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Taylor</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Projected African American Population

- Iowa’s projected Black population:
  - 2020: 111,760
  - 2030: 138,100
  - 2040: 168,720
Projected Asian Population

• Iowa’s projected Asian/PI population:
  – 2020: 69,830
  – 2030: 86,280
  – 2040: 203,120
Projected Native American Population

- Iowa’s projected Native Am. population:
  - 2020: 10,080
  - 2030: 11,290
  - 2040: 12,020
## Polk County Projections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2030</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>39,350</td>
<td>48,620</td>
<td>76,810</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>29,520</td>
<td>32,940</td>
<td>40,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nat. Am.</td>
<td>960</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/PI</td>
<td>17,400</td>
<td>19,180</td>
<td>22,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>356,320</td>
<td>354,150</td>
<td>340,660</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank You!

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