Hispanics Play Different Role in District’s Growth than in Nation’s

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The U.S. Census Bureau recently released the 2010 redistricting data for the nation. These data are the first to provide local-level information on race, ethnicity, age and housing unit counts from the 2010 census. Aside from helping define congressional district boundaries, the data reveal interesting trends over the past decade across various demographic groups.

One trend that has received a lot of attention is the dramatic growth of the Hispanic population, which in 2010 represented 16.3 percent of the nation’s population. 1 The demographic trends in the Eighth Federal Reserve District in terms of population growth by racial and ethnic categories were quite different from the national trends. 2 The table provides a snapshot of population growth by race and Hispanic origin in the U.S. and the Eighth District. The top panel summarizes differences in rural and urban areas, while the bottom panel illustrates population trends across metropolitan areas in the Eighth District.

### Overall Population Growth

Between 2000 and 2010, the nation’s population grew by 9.7 percent to 308,745,538. About 56 percent of the growth in the U.S. total population was accounted for by individuals who identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino (5.4 of 9.7 percent). In the Eighth District, total population between 2000 and 2010 increased by 6.2 percent to 14,569,665. Hispanics represented 3.6 percent of the District’s total population. Although the contribution to growth of the Hispanic population was the largest among all groups, it accounted for only about a third of total population growth (2.0 of 6.2 percent). Almost 50 percent of the total growth in the Eighth District was accounted for by the combined growth of non-Hispanic individuals who identified themselves as non-Hispanic white alone or non-Hispanic black alone (7.1 of 9.4 percent), respectively, or due to non-Hispanic Asian population also made up 1.2 percent of overall growth. Although Hispanics’ contribution to overall population growth was 3.6 percent, non-Hispanic black alone made up 2.5 percent of overall growth.

### Hispanics’ Contribution to Population Growth

Hispanics represented 3.6 percent of the District’s total population. Although the contribution to growth of Hispanic population was the largest among all groups, it accounted for only about a third of total population growth (2.0 of 6.2 percent). Almost 50 percent of the total growth in the Eighth District was accounted for by the combined growth of non-Hispanic individuals who identified themselves as non-Hispanic white alone or non-Hispanic black alone (7.1 of 9.4 percent), respectively, or due to non-Hispanic Asian population also made up 1.2 percent of overall growth. Although Hispanics’ contribution to overall population growth was 3.6 percent, non-Hispanic black alone made up 2.5 percent of overall growth.

### Hispanic Population Growth by Area

Hispanic population growth across the Eighth District’s metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), with the exception of Pine Bluff, Ark., population increased in every metropolitan area from 2000 to 2010. Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, Ark.-Mo., led the District’s MSAs with a 33.5 percent population growth. The largest contributions to growth in this location came from the Hispanic population, with about 34 percent of overall growth (11.6 of 33.5 percent) and from non-Hispanic white individuals, with about 47 percent of overall growth (15.9 of 33.5 percent).

Population growth in most of the District’s MSAs was driven predominantly by non-Hispanic white population. The exceptions were Memphis, Tenn.-Miss.-Ark., Texarkana, Texas-Ark.-Texas, Jackson, Tenn., and most notably, Pine Bluff, Ark., where decreases in the non-Hispanic white population subtracted from overall growth. In contrast, growth in the St. Louis, Mo.-Ill., and Jonesboro, Ark., areas can be predominately attributed to growth in the non-Hispanic black population. Growth in the non-Hispanic Asian population also made up a significant proportion of total population growth in the St. Louis MSA. Fort Smith, Ark.-Okla., and Owensboro, Ky., closely resembled the national trend of Hispanic population growth accounting for the largest share of total population growth.

### Endnotes

1 The census collects race and Hispanic origin information in accordance with the U.S. Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB) 1997 Revision to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity, which prescribe that race and Hispanic origin be considered distinct concepts encompassing the separate questions.

2 For the purposes of this article, we compare Hispanics with individuals who reported non-Hispanic origin and only one race (White, Black or Asian) to form mutually exclusives categories.

3 Urban counties, here, are defined as those making up part of a census-designated metropolitan statistical area.

4 Some counties of MSAs listed in the lower portion of the table are located outside of the District and are not included in the figures presented in the upper portion. For example, in the Fort Smith, Ark.-Okla., MSA, Sevier County, Okla., is located outside of the District. Similarly, some counties located in MSAs outside the District and not included in the lower portion of the table are included in the tabulation for the upper portion of the table, for example, Graves County, Ky. in the Bowling Green, Ky., MSA.

### CENSUS CHANGES

Unlike previous censuses, the 2010 census did not include a "long form" questionnaire. Previously, the long form was given to roughly one in six households to gather information on such things as educational attainment, income, housing costs and other socio-economic characteristics of the population. (The long form continues to be administered every year as part of the American Community Survey.) One of the reasons for eliminating the long form was to improve return rates. The small participation rate for the 2010 census was 74 percent compared to the 80 percent for the 2000 census. However, when the elimination of the long form was first discussed, a larger proportion of questionnaires was returned in 2010. The Census Bureau makes an attempt to follow up with households that did not respond by mailing the forms back, visiting the households or contact neighbors and building managers. As a last resort, the bureau will use computerized statistical models that reflect the characteristics of the population. By the way, all district-level data of filling in missing for were exhausted, the bureau determined the proportion of records that provide usable information. Last year, this proportion was 90.6 percent, slightly higher than the 2000 proportion of 90.4 percent. In addition to the response rates, the bureau considered other measures of accuracy of the data, including an accuracy assessment of the Census Coverage Measurement survey, a quality-check survey of 300,000 households. Results of this survey will be matched to census estimates to estimate errors in race and ethnicity by geography, ethnicity, race, gender and age. The bureau will publish the results next year following the final release of the 2010 population count estimates.