

Immigration Policy: Federal Debates and Local Realities

Bill Frey's Power Point Presentation - "Immigration Goes Nationwide: Recent dispersal has made immigrants and new minorities more visible" ([see Presentations page](#))

Friday, March 24, 2006 Washington, DC - Today approximately 35 million foreign-born people live in the United States - the greatest number ever. In light of current debates over immigration legislation, many questions remain. How do we manage the 22 million authorized and unauthorized immigrants and their children? Moreover, what will be the resulting demands on resources and infrastructure, specifically the provisions of education, health, and employment?

States assume the educational, health and employment responsibilities for immigrants. New findings document that both legal and undocumented immigrants are migrating to states other than traditional gateway states. Instead of settling in California, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, New York and Texas immigrants are pursuing jobs in construction, agriculture, and food processing plants in rapidly growing states in the south (North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee) and west (Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado).

Introduction:

Faith Mitchell, Senior Program Officer, National Research Council, National Academies

Speakers:

"Where do immigrants live?"

William Frey, Visiting Fellow, Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy, Brookings Institution; Research Professor, Population Studies Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan

"Who are the immigrants?"

Steven Camarota, Director of Research, Center for Immigration Studies

"What is the impact of immigration on states?"

Ann Morse, Program Director, Immigrant Policy Project, National Conference of State Legislatures

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