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Immigration into the Greater Rochester Area

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Introduction

Recent decades have shown an increase in immigration across the entire state of New York. Rochester and Monroe County, as well as other cities in New York State, have been affected differently by the immigration boom. Most areas have seen increased trends of immigration while a few have seen decreasing trends. These trends will be analyzed as compared to the urbanization and crime rates of Monroe County and its surrounding areas, broken down by zip code. During the analysis, when referring to the city area, we are focusing on zip codes 14604 through 14626. When we refer to the suburban areas we are focusing on zip codes 14420 to 14586.

Trends

This project focuses on immigration of Foreign Born Residents that move into the Rochester area during specific periods of time. The average immigration rate for NYS from the year 1990 to the year 2000 was 20.4% (City-Data, 2008). The

large rate of immigration in NYS is effected by New York City, which has 2,870,993 foreign born residents that account for 35.9% of the city's total population. Out of the 42 zip codes that we focused on, the average rate of immigration into our target area is 6.0%. The city of Rochester has an average immigration rate of 7.3% and the suburban areas of Rochester have an average rate of 4.3% (Census, 2000). This shows that the area we have focused on has a significantly smaller rate of immigration compared to the rest of NYS. Immigrants have come from 47 different countries from all over the world. 48% of immigrants who apply for a permit to gain permanent residency are between the ages of 18 and 25 years old (City-Data, 2008).

Immigration as compared to other cities

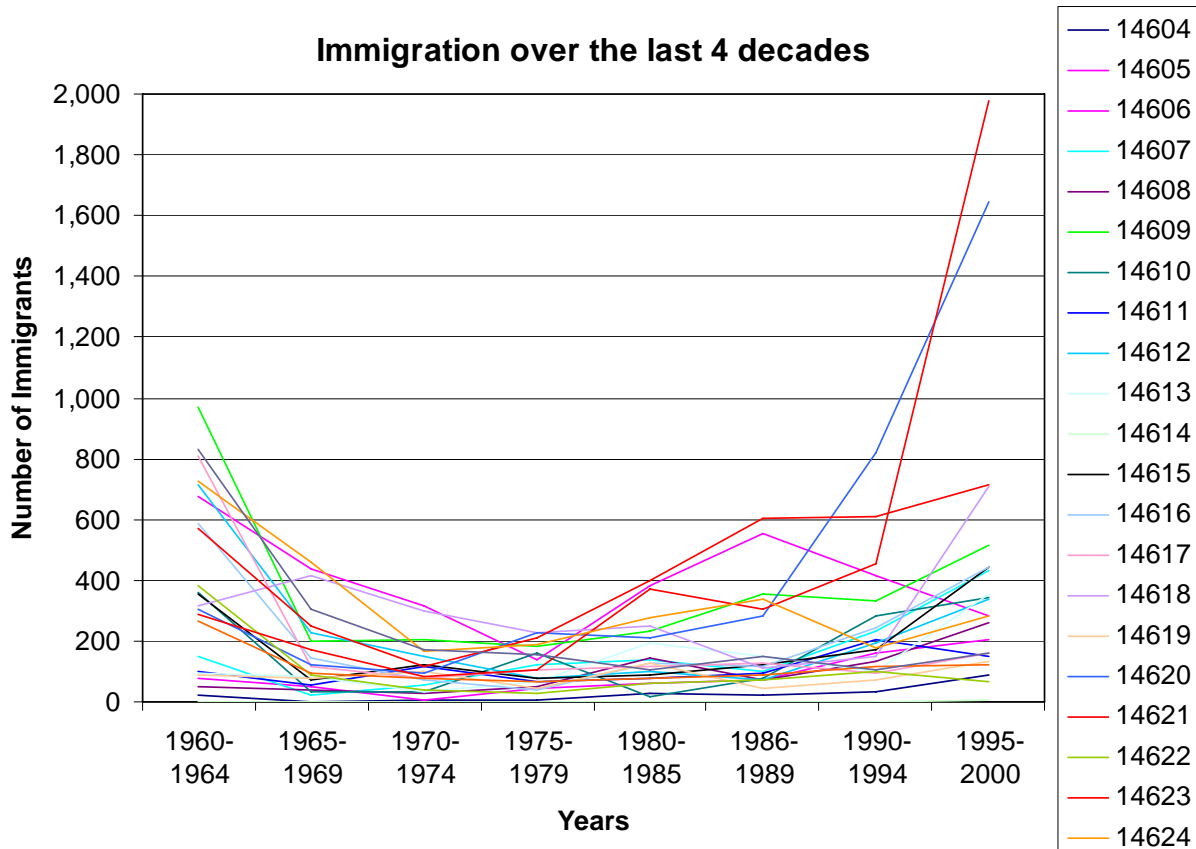
Rochester has the highest number of foreign born residents (16,077) as compared to Buffalo (12,856), Syracuse (11,214), Albany (8,222), Utica (7,231) and Binghamton (4,006) (City-Data, 2008). Rochester is a large city and therefore has a larger population overall. The large population makes the percentage of foreign born residents similar to the other cities even though it has more foreign born residents than the other cities. Starting at New York City, the percentage of foreign born residents in the general population is 35.9%, Albany is 8.6%, Binghamton is 8.5%, Utica is 11.9%, Syracuse is 7.6%, Rochester is 7.3%, and Buffalo is 4.4% (City-Data, 2008). The percentage of foreign born residents in each city decreases as you move across the state, farther away from New York City. NYC is the main source of immigrants for the entire East coast, so the farther you move across the state away from the city; the less likely you are to find immigrants.

Although Utica has a relatively small total population, it has still received immigrants at a rate higher than any of the similar upstate cities. The Mohawk Resource Center for Refugees is a community action plan that helps resettle immigrants coming into the Utica area; 67% of the total immigration population in Utica is refugees. Utica consciously and willfully recruits immigrants to boost its declining population. Utica has seen this boom in immigration from 1990 to 2000 with the majority of people being from Bosnia. Today Bosnians make up for more

than 10% of the total population in Utica. These refugees settled in Utica because it is an affordable city with a declining population and an abundance of low skill, entry level job positions that can easily be filled (Coulter, Murray, Kraly, 2004).

Urbanization

Looking at the regions of the world where people are coming from, you find the largest number of people coming from Latin America. Although Latino immigrants are the largest group, European immigrants have the greatest exposure in the city because Downtown West is the only area that no European immigrants have settled in (City-Data, 2008). Looking at people coming from Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania, Latin American, and Northern America, people settle into the city at a rate of 67% and they settle into the suburbs at a rate of 33%. This was a common trend across the six main sources of immigrants, except Oceania. Oceania is the opposite of the other regions, having 38% settle in the city and 62% settle in the suburbs (Census, 2000).



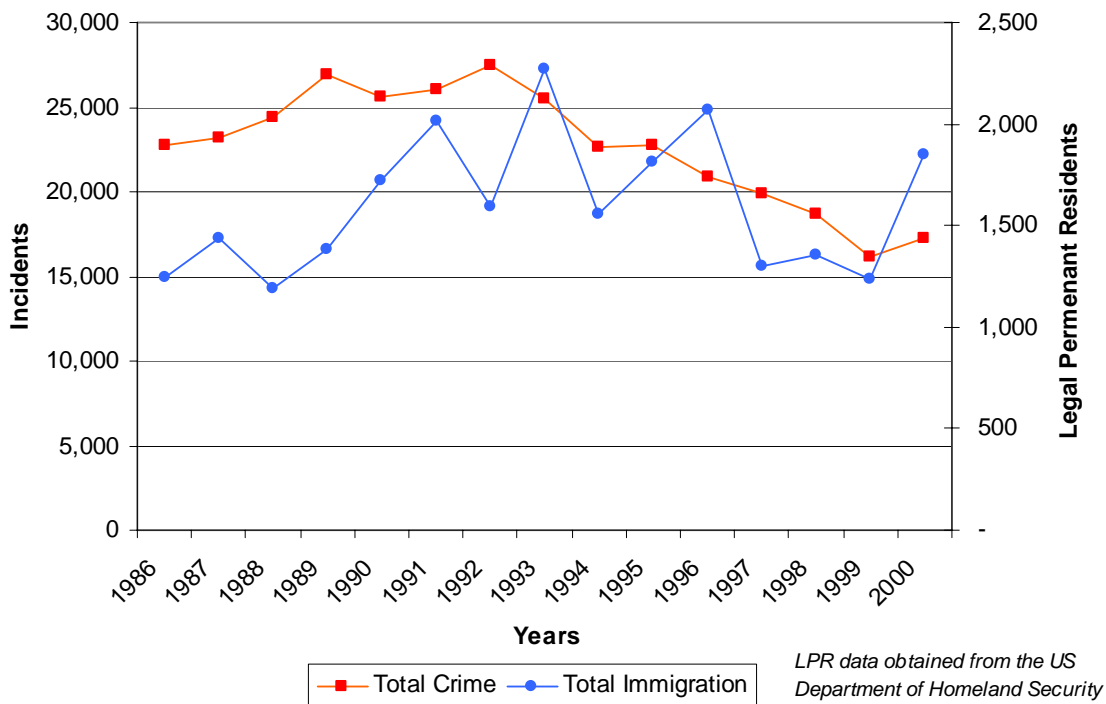
Areas that showed a decrease in immigration were Brockport, Churchville, Mendon, City NW, and Gates. There were two specific areas that had a major jump in immigration during the previous decade. Brighton went from 675 immigrants during the 80's to 2,434 immigrants in the 90's. City South, which had 489 immigrants enter in the 80's, had 2,466 immigrants enter in the 90's (City-Data, 2008). The immigration booms in these two specific areas can be attributed to the local colleges. Brighton is where RIT is located and City South is where the University of Rochester is located. This means you have foreign born students immigrating to these areas so they can live and go to school. Upon graduation the students are staying in these areas and becoming legal residents.

Latin America is the source of 30.6% of Rochester's immigrants, Europe is the source of 28.6% and Asia is the source of 28.9% of immigrants. This accounts for 88.4% of the immigrants that are currently living in Rochester. The majority of the foreign born population falls between 18 and 25 years old (City-Data, 2008). This is due to younger people either coming here to go to school or to look for new opportunities in America.

Crime

In the city of Rochester, from 1986 through 2000, crime rates fluctuated but declined overall. From 1986 to 1989, reported crime on the UCR increased at a steady rate. During the same point of time begins a slight upward shift of immigrants coming into the city. From 1989 until 1990 crime begins to decrease. From 1990 to 1992 crime increased again and peaked at its highest point of 27,486 incidents. In 1991 there were 2,019 legal permanent residents that moved into Rochester, this occurs the year before the largest amount of recorded crime incidents. After 1992, total crimes committed began to fall at a steady rate until they bottom out at 16,100 incidents in 1999. Over this 15 year span is when you see the largest amount of immigrants moving into the area prior to the immigration boom of the 1960's. The correlation coefficient between crime rates and legal permanent residents moving into the city of Rochester is 0.24. When you look at crime and immigration the two don't correlate very well, but this doesn't mean that there aren't isolated incidents of immigration increasing crime.

Immigration as compared to UCR's total crime



Even though immigration and crime rates are not exactly linked, you do find hotspots of immigrants that contain increased amounts of crime. Latino immigrants, which are the largest immigrant population in the city of Rochester, may be linked to crime and gang activity in specific areas. The Norton region of the city is home to the largest source of Latino immigrants, this is also the area where the gang known as the Latin Kings is located. Latino’s are also highly concentrated throughout the entire crescent area including Marketplace, Corn Hill, Dutch town, Edgerton, Kodak Park, and the 19th Ward.

Conclusion

In recent decades there has been an increased rate of immigration into the city of Rochester and surrounding areas. Urbanization of the city has been affected by immigrants filling the gaps left behind by the people leaving the city. Due to urbanization, immigrants help contribute to the economic stability of the region because they fill job positions that are otherwise left empty. It can not be shown that crime rates have been adversely affected by immigration but there are specific areas with mainly immigrant populations that have higher than normal crime rates. Immigration doesn’t necessarily harm the area and in a lot of ways benefits it.

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