

## City sees rise in Hispanic population

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Reflecting statewide immigration trends, 2010 census data shows that New Brunswick's Hispanic population is growing closer to representing a majority of the city's inhabitants.

James W. Hughes, dean of the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, explained how the Hispanic population affects the city.

"The influence of Hispanic culture is already heavily intact in the school system," Hughes said. "The whole educational apparatus obviously knows it has a new constituency."

Curriculum and language problems accompany the influx of immigrant students, but Hughes said the city is adapting to the new population.

Hughes said that, in time, the political inclinations of a large Hispanic community would eventually bear on both municipal and county level government.

"New Brunswick is at the leading edge of [foreign-born residents]," he said. "As long as we keep having immigrants from abroad coming into the United States, New Brunswick will participate as a destination."

As in past census years, citizens submitted standardized forms to the U.S. Census Bureau, which collects, compiles and releases the information to the public and appropriate government organizations, according to the bureau's website.

The data, available on the website, shows an overall trend of population growth in the city over the last decade, with an increase in the number of Hispanic residents.

New Brunswick's total population, now at 55,266, increased by more than 5,000 residents from 50,172, according to information on the Bureau's website. The city's 27,553 Hispanic residents now represent 49.9 percent of population, an increase from 19,567 or 39 percent in 2000.

There are many reasons for overall growth as well as the increased Hispanic population, said Anastasia

Mann, director of the Project on Immigration and Democracy at the Eagleton Institute of Politics.

Because the spillover from New York is a main point of entry for immigrants to New Jersey, North Jersey is popular for people from other countries, she said.

"However, these counties and cities to the north of us have pretty much reached their capacity with respect to jobs and housing," she said. "The fact that people are filling in around New Brunswick suggests that this is where the opportunities are."

Mann suggested that there is a correlation between high levels of immigration to an area and the region's economic health.

Citing the availability of both high-skilled jobs in fields like pharmaceutical industry as well as unskilled labor, she said New Brunswick affords opportunities to all socioeconomic classes.

Whether the predictions that are packaged with this census data come to fruition, both Mann and Hughes expressed the notion that one thing is for sure — the growth is only going to continue.

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