

## Post-Katrina New Orleans as a new migrant destination

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Latino migrants have been arriving in the city to participate in the clean-up and rebuilding of the city ever since the floodwaters of Hurricane Katrina began to recede. Unlike other Southern cities and states which have witnessed rapid growth in their Latino populations, New Orleans and Louisiana have not seen a marked increase in Latino migrants until Katrina. The destructive force of hurricane Katrina and its aftermath created new work opportunities in demolition and construction supported by the inflow of FEMA and insurance money to clean and rebuild the city. Latino migrants have proven to be the best suited labor force for this work because they are highly mobile, willing to perform low-skilled and grueling labor for low wages, and willing to live in improvised residential arrangements.

In this research I investigate the socio-demographic characteristics of this newcomer population in New Orleans to understand how they differ from migrant populations in other destinations in the U.S. I find some differences, for example New Orleans migrants are younger and more mobile than other migrants in the U.S., but mostly they are similar to other U.S. migrants because they are drawn from the same population. However, there are differences within the New Orleans migrant population that are associated mostly with their national origin and their social networks.

The data I use for this research comes from two sources, a sample of New Orleans migrants interviewed between March and May of 2006 and a sample of migrants interviewed in the U.S in 2004. The New Orleans migrants were contacted in churches and through neighborhood connections by Tulane University graduate and undergraduate students in the Latin American Studies Program who were enrolled in my class on the Sociology of Migration. I also did some of these interviews. At this time in New Orleans very little was known about the migrant population, where they were living or how many were here, so we chose to interview them where we could find them and they would feel comfortable answering our questions. I compare this sample with the Mexican Migration Project's (MMP) most recent sample of migrants in the U.S. who were contacted through references given to the researchers by members of the origin community that were interviewed that year. The New Orleans sample includes migrants regardless of national origin, while the MMP sample includes only Mexicans. In the second step in my analysis I examine differences within the New Orleans sample to see whether national origin is related to differences in the socio-demographic or trip characteristics of migrants.

Analysis and results to be completed...see tables

Table 1. New Orleans migrants and Migrants in other U.S. destinations

Variable	Other U.S. Migrants		New Orleans migrants	
	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.
<b>Social and Demographic characteristics</b>				
Age	39.2	9.7	30.8	8.8
Education	6.6	3.7	8.8	3.2
<b>Marital status</b>				
Single	3.1		61.4	
Ever-married	96.9		38.6	
Parent a U.S. migrant	14.1		6.8	
Sibling a U.S. migrant	37.5		34.1	
<b>Country of Origin</b>				
Brazil	0		20.5	
El Salvador	0		6.8	
Guatemala	0		13.6	
Honduras	0		13.6	
Mexico	100		45.5	
<b>Characteristics of current U.S. trip</b>				
Year of current trip	2000.1	4.7	2005.1	1.0
<b>Documentation used on current trip</b>				
Documentation for employment	18.8		9.0	
No documentation for employment	81.2		91.0	
<b>Occupation on current trip</b>				
Not employed	3.1		0.0	
Agricultural worker	7.8		0.0	
Manufacturing/Construction worker	62.5		93.2	
Services - white collar	10.9		4.6	
Services - blue collar	12.5		2.3	
Missing	3.0		0.0	
Wage on current trip	\$395.52	\$127.95	\$550.24	\$212.42
<b>N</b>				
	64		44	

Table 2. Differences within New Orleans migrants

	Mexicans	Central Americans	Brazilians
Social and Demographic characteristics			
Age	30.0	33.5	28.2
Education	9.3	7.5	9.7
Marital status			
Single	70.0	40.0	77.8
Ever-married	30.0	60.0	22.2
Parent a U.S. migrant	5.0	13.3	0.0
Sibling a U.S. migrant	45.0	33.3	11.1
Characteristics of current U.S. trip			
Year of current trip	2005.2	2004.9	2005.3
Documentation used on current trip			
Documentation for employment	10.0	6.7	11.1
No documentation for employment	90.0	93.3	88.9
Occupation on current trip			
Not employed	0.0	0.0	0.0
Agricultural worker	0.0	0.0	0.0
Manufacturing/Construction worker	95.0	93.3	88.9
Services - white collar	5.0	0.0	11.1
Services - blue collar	0.0	6.7	0.0
Wage on current trip	547.22 (234.44)	465.71 (88.99)	687.78 (249.29)
N			
	20	15	9