



City's Melting Pot

Study tracks ethnic group movements

By **MARTIN MBUGUA**
Daily News Staff Writer

A scientific analysis of new census figures show that Filipinos, Koreans and Indians are less segregated from whites in the city than they were 10 years ago, a social scientist who crunched the numbers said yesterday.

Meanwhile, enclaves of Chinese, Mexicans and Dominican New Yorkers have become more segregated or remained unchanged during same period, said John Logan, a professor at SUNY-Albany and director of the Lewis Mumford Center for Comparative Urban and Regional Research.

Logan's conclusions seemed to indicate that a more detailed breakdown of the Census 2000 count would reveal information that could be helpful to local government decision-making.

"If we only looked at Hispanics and called that an ethnic group, we miss a lot of the action," said Logan, "such as the fact that segregation was declining for Cubans and for some Central and South American groups and it has remained very high for Puerto Ricans and Dominicans."

Such specific data are important in a city such as New York, where Hispanics are now the fastest-growing ethnic group.

Logan explained that his analysis reduced the proportion of "seriously undercounted" Hispanics who indicated no national origin on their census forms to 6.1% from 17.3% for some metropolitan areas and as low as 4% if Dominicans were listed separately.

But Census Bureau officials said current figures will stand.

"At this point that is the best data we have available and we have no plan in the immediate future to break it down," said John Thompson, principal associate director of programs for the Census Bureau.

Using results of the March 2000 Current Population Survey conducted by the Census Bureau among 200,000 people across the country, Logan applied the ethnic breakdown among Hispanics to recent census data and came up with new estimates.

"Based solely on the Hispanic origin question, the census reported 407,473 Dominicans in New York City, a 22.5% increase from 1990. We estimate [that number is actually] close to 600,000 - about 50% higher than the census figures and representing a growth of 75% in the last decade," Logan wrote in his report, *Immigrant Enclaves in the American Metropolis, 1990-2000*.

Logan said the findings illustrate that failure to break down census numbers for Hispanics and other groups into more specific ethnic categories could mean that important changes within those specific communities would be overlooked. If that happens, he said, local services could be affected.

However, Thompson explained, federal funding data do not include the breakdown within ethnic groups.

While conceding that not doing further breakdowns of census data "may not affect the federal funding formula," Logan insisted that "it will affect the way funds are distributed within a city and at the local level."

Original Publication Date: 7/6/01

Related Stories

- Census Won't Add Up for Dominicans (6/27/01)
- More Gay Couples in City (6/27/01)
- Puerto Rican Count Falling (5/22/01)
- Big Climb in City's Asian Count (5/22/01)
- Census: More Single Moms, Unwed Couples (5/15/01)
- Couples Take Picket Fence, Skip the Rings (5/15/01)

What do you think? Post your comments on our Forums.

Quick Reference Menu [GO](#)

Daily News Services

Click on any service and enjoy shopping online!

