

IMMIGRANTS B'KLYN-BOUND

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Body

IMMIGRANTS FROM RUSSIA, China and Jamaica are the fastest-growing groups changing the face of Brooklyn, according to a new city report.

Brooklyn's rich cultural mosaic, already evident, was documented yesterday with the release of "The Newest New Yorkers 2000: **Immigrant** New York in the New Millennium."

A staggering 931,769 **immigrants** moved to Brooklyn throughout the 1990s, the report found. That figure is second only to Queens, which had more than 1 million **immigrants**.

The new Brooklynites are settling in once-solidly white and black neighborhoods, forever changing the city's landscape.

"Neighborhoods that are solidly stereotyped in New Yorkers' minds as Italian or whatever are becoming much more diverse," said John Mollenkopf, director of CUNY's Center for Urban Research.

"Dyker Heights is famous for its Christmas lights put up by the many Italian-American families that have lived there for generations," said Mollenkopf.

But change is in the air, he noted. "If you go to 18th Ave., the stores are owned by or are catering to Chinese people," he said.

From Caribbean and new African **immigrants** moving into traditional African-American communities such as Bedford-Stuyvesant, to Chinese and Russians moving into once Italian strongholds such as Bay Ridge, the new **immigrants** have begun to put their stamp on the communities.

"The entrepreneurship of new **immigrants** in Brooklyn drives much of the job creation for the borough," said Ken Adams, president of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce.

Those hailing from Russia and Ukraine top the list as the largest group of foreign-born residents in Brooklyn with 107,354 members - the biggest concentration in the city.

They have settled largely in Sheepshead Bay, Brighton Beach, Bay Ridge and Bensonhurst.

A recent influx of Chinese **immigrants** has pushed the Brooklyn population of 86,064 ahead of Manhattan. Chinese **immigrants** are settling in Sunset Park - and more recently Bay Ridge, Bensonhurst and Gravesend.

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The Brooklyn Chinese community is only 15,000 less than that of Queens, with its large Asian populations.

The largest Jamaican communities in the city are in Brooklyn, the report revealed, with 73,580 living in neighborhoods such as Flatbush and Crown Heights.

More than half of the city's Haitian population calls Brooklyn home, with 61,267 living in neighborhoods like Flatbush, Crown Heights and Canarsie.

The sizable Dominican population of 59,362 is dwarfed by much larger groups in the Bronx and Manhattan. They have settled in Bushwick, Williamsburg, Sunset Park, East New York and Cypress Hills.

"We're home to everyone from everywhere," said Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz. "In Brooklyn, we celebrate our enormous diversity and we cherish our differences." hson@nydailynews.com

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