

## IMMIGRANTS SHAPE U.S., STUDY SAYS

The Philadelphia Inquirer

September 24, 1994 Saturday FINAL EDITION

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**The Philadelphia Inquirer**

Found on Philly.com

**Section:** NATIONAL; Pg. A07

**Length:** 258 words

**Byline:** REUTERS

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON

### **Body**

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An explosion of immigrants is rapidly changing the face of the United States, a study said yesterday.

The report released by the Population Reference Bureau said immigrants were coming to the United States on an average of 3,000 a day, both legally and illegally.

The report by the bureau, a nonprofit organization that studies population issues, said that about 85 percent of recent immigrants had come from Asia and Latin America, while only 10 percent had come from Europe. Most of the immigrants are from Mexico.

Immigration already has become a hot political issue in several states, particularly California and Florida, where government officials say their welfare and other social benefit costs for immigrants are harming their treasuries.

The report said U.S. immigration officials found that in 1992, there were about 3.4 million illegal immigrants and that an estimated 300,000 illegal foreigners were settling here each year.

The largest concentration of immigrants, 33 percent of the foreign-born population of the United States, is in California. An additional 40 percent of immigrants live in five states - New York, Florida, Texas, New Jersey and Illinois.

By the year 2050, the white non-Hispanic population of the United States was expected to drop from 74 percent to 52 percent, if present immigration rates continued. The number of Hispanics would increase from 10 percent to 20 percent of the population; Asians would grow from 3 percent to 10 percent, and blacks would rise from 12 percent to 14 percent.

### **Classification**

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**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** IMMIGRATION (93%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (78%); HISPANIC AMERICANS (78%); POPULATION & DEMOGRAPHICS (78%); NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS (77%); PLATFORMS & ISSUES (71%)

IMMIGRANTS SHAPE U.S., STUDY SAYS

**Company:** DIRECTV (91%)

**Organization:** POPULATION REFERENCE BUREAU (84%); POPULATION REFERENCE BUREAU (84%)

**Ticker:** DTV (NASDAQ) (91%)

**Geographic:** CALIFORNIA, USA (92%); FLORIDA, USA (92%); NEW YORK, USA (79%); TEXAS, USA (79%); NEW JERSEY, USA (79%); **UNITED STATES** (94%); MEXICO (79%); EUROPE (79%); LATIN AMERICA (57%)

**Load-Date:** October 21, 2002

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