

Immigrants in the Delmarva Poultry Processing Industry: The Changing Face of Georgetown, Delaware and Environs

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ABSTRACT

This paper seeks to provide an overview and background of integration questions arising from the immigrant influx of the 1990's. It is based on interviews conducted over the summer of 1997, and newspaper reports, books, and documents pertaining to the poultry-processing industry and immigration to the U.S. respectively. The focus of the research neighborhoods in Georgetown and Delaware, which are the case studies used to expand our knowledge of immigrant integration and changes in Delmarva peninsula. The paper is comprised of five segments: first, an overview of the poultry-processing industry in the region and its growing use of immigrant workers; second, a discussion of the dynamics of the immigrant influx of the 1990's; third, a sketch of the immigrant population and its impact on the Georgetown; fourth, implications of this case study for federal immigration policy; and fifth, discussion of state and local immigrant integration measures. This paper concludes that better living conditions should be provided for Immigrant communities in the East Coast and that there needs to be an improvement in tolerance toward immigrant communities in these two areas. Lastly, there is a discussion on black and brown relations that need to take place in order to improve living conditions for both groups.