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**Immigrant Enclaves and Ethnic Communities
in New York and Los Angeles**

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Abstract

The major post-1965 immigrant groups have established distinctive settlement areas in many American cities and suburbs. This study examines the residential patterns of several of the largest groups in New York and Los Angeles. It addresses three kinds of questions: To what degree do they settle together with other members of the same group? What are their ethnic neighborhoods like? And what are the distinguishing characteristics of those group members who live in neighborhoods of ethnic concentration compared to those who reside outside these areas? The results show that the model of immigrant enclaves, where initial settlement areas serve as a potential base for eventual spatial assimilation with the white majority, applies well to some groups. For others, an alternative model of ethnic community is advanced, reflecting the group's choice of segregated settlement even when spatial assimilation is otherwise feasible.

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