



Center for Latin American, Caribbean & Latino Studies

Demographic, Economic, and
Social Transformations in Queens
Community District 3:
East Elmhurst, Jackson Heights,
and North Corona, 1990 - 2006

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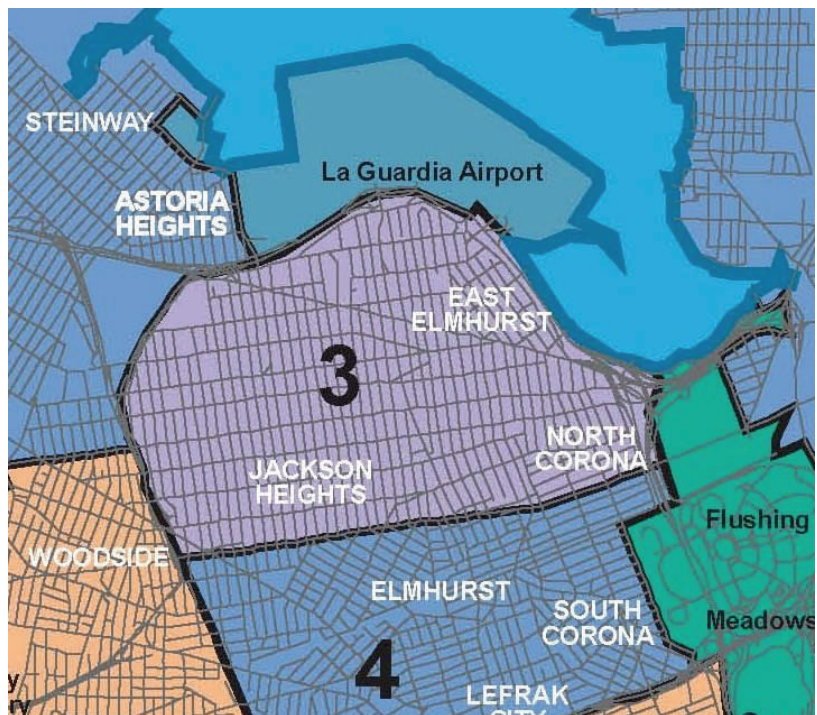
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The Latino Data Project was developed with the goal of making information available on the dynamically growing Latino population of the United States and especially New York City through the analysis of extant data available from a variety of sources such as the U.S. Census Bureau, the National Institute for Health, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and state and local-level data sources.

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This report analyzes changes among the current top five Latino national groups during 1990-2006 in the NYC Community District 3 of the borough of Queens, which comprises the neighborhoods of East Elmhurst, Jackson Heights, and North Corona. A profile of demographic and socioeconomic characteristics including population distribution, age, homeownership, income, educational attainment, employment, and citizenship is provided. These characteristics are compared, whenever appropriate, with those of the other major racial/ethnic components of the population -- non-Hispanic Whites, non-Hispanic Blacks, and Asians.¹

Demographic Indicators

Hispanics are becoming an increasingly larger percentage of the population in the United States. The Hispanic population has tripled during the last 26 years to over 44 million at the national level. (See table 1). Over 75% of Hispanics live within seven states including California (29.5%), Texas (18.9%), Florida (8.2%), New York (7.1%), Illinois (4.3%), Arizona (4.1%), and New Jersey (3.1%). It is projected that by 2050 Hispanics will become over 24% of the total population.

Table 1
Hispanics as a Percent of the Total Population, 1980-2006

	1980	1990	2000	2006
U.S.A.				
Hispanics	14,608,673	22,354,059	35,305,818	44,321,038
Total Population	226,545,805	248,709,873	281,421,906	299,398,484
% Hispanic	6.4%	9.0%	12.5%	14.8%
New York State				
Hispanics	1,660,901	2,214,026	2,867,583	3,139,456
Total Population	17,558,072	17,990,445	18,976,457	19,306,183
% Hispanic	9.5%	12.3%	15.1%	16.3%

¹ The findings reported here are based on data collected by the Census Bureau IPUMS (Integrated Public Use Microdata Series), available at <http://www.usa.ipums.org> for the corresponding years. This report analyzes data from PUMAS 05403 (1990) and 04102 (2000/2006) in Queens.

² U.S. Census Bureau, May 2004. U.S. Interim Projections by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin. Table 1a. Projected Population of the United States, by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2000 to 2050. Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/usinterimproj/>

New York is the state with the fourth largest Hispanic population in the nation, with over 70% of its Hispanic population residing in the New York City Metropolitan area. Within Queens, the neighborhoods considered here have the highest concentrations of Latinos in the borough. Since 1990, the Latino population in this particular community district has almost doubled. As indicated in Figure 1, in 1990, Latinos accounted for 44.4% of the total population in these neighborhoods, 60.8% in 2000, and 62.3% in 2006. The number of Asians has also increased since 1990, comprising 12.7% of the total population in 1990, 14.9% in 2000, and 16% in 2006. On the other hand, the percentage of the population who are non-Hispanic Whites and non-Hispanic Blacks has steadily decreased from 27.7% and 15.3% in 1990 to 14.4% and 7.3% in 2006, respectively.

Throughout the 16-year period examined here, there have been major changes in the relative distribution of the five Latino subgroups identified in this report. (See figures 2 and 3). For example, since 1990 the number of Ecuadorians in this community district has quintupled. In 1990 Ecuadorians accounted for only 12% of the Latino population, increasing to 20% in 2000; and by 2006 they constituted the majority, accounting for 32% of the Latino population, and 20% of the total population. Likewise, the number of Mexicans has also increased dramatically since 1990. As of 2006, there was approximately eight times the number of Mexicans in 1990, comprising 4% of the Latino population in 1990, 13% in 2000, and 15% in 2006. The Colombian and Peruvian population has also increased, although to a lesser extent. On the other hand, the number of Dominicans has fluctuated. In 1990, Dominicans represented the majority subgroup by comprising 30% of the Latino population. By 2000, Dominicans constituted 22% of the total Latino population as a result of an influx of other Latino national groups, and 17% in 2006, which is comparable to the number of Colombians and Mexicans in these neighborhoods in 2006.

Figure 1
Racial/Ethnic Groups in Queens Community District 3 as
a Percentage of the Total Population, 1990-2006

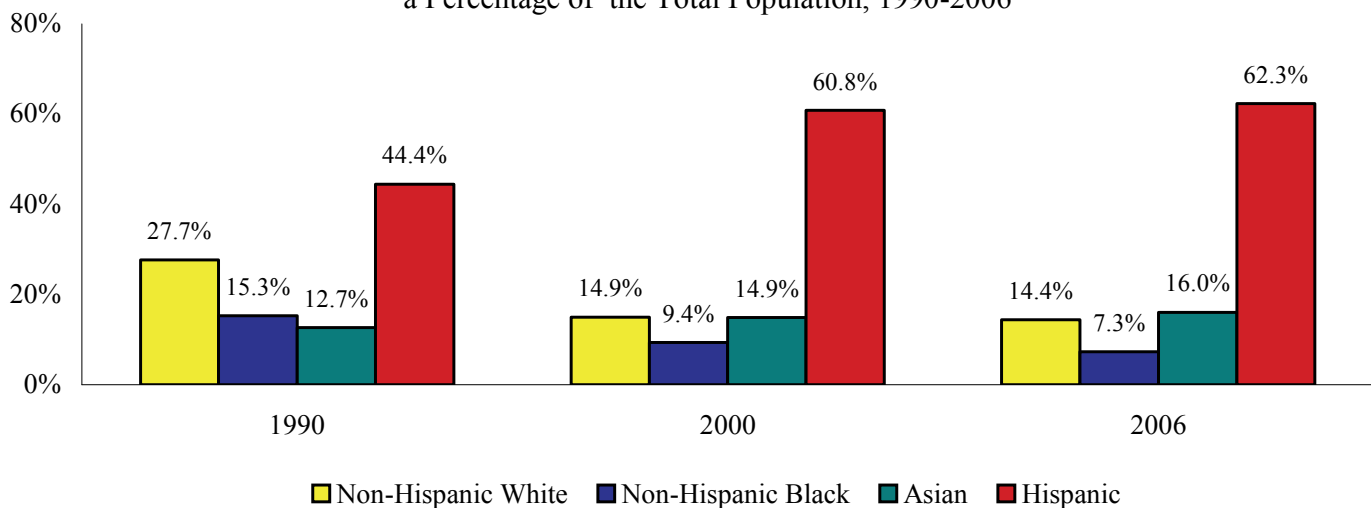


Figure 2
Total Population, Total Latinos, and Latino Nationalities
in Queens Community District 3, 1990-2006

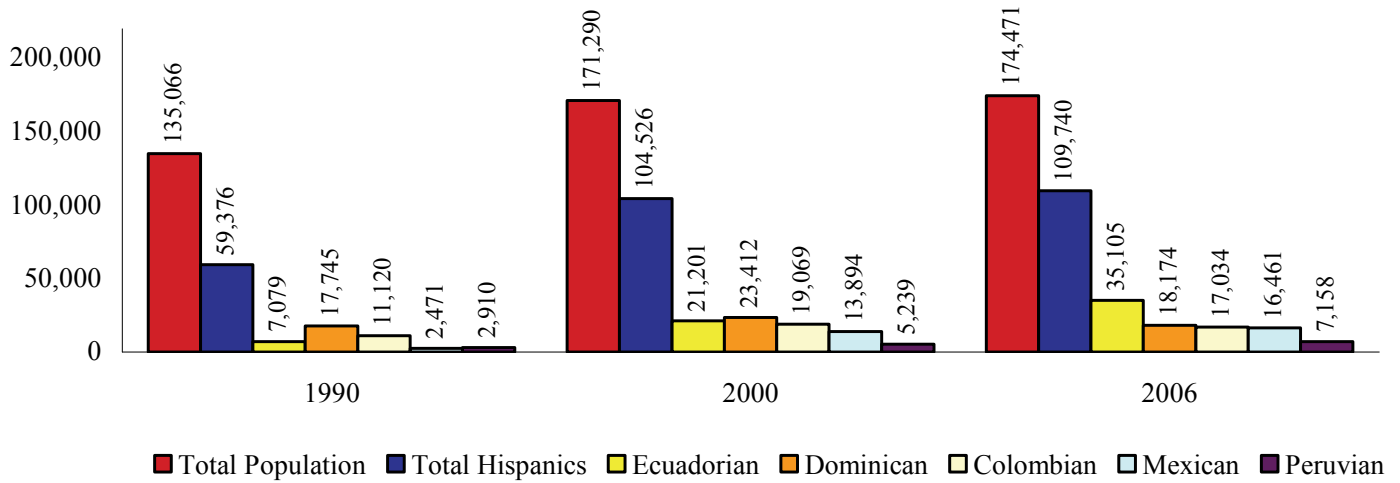


Figure 3
Latino Nationalities in Queens Community District 3 as
a Percentage of the Total Latino Population, 1990-2006

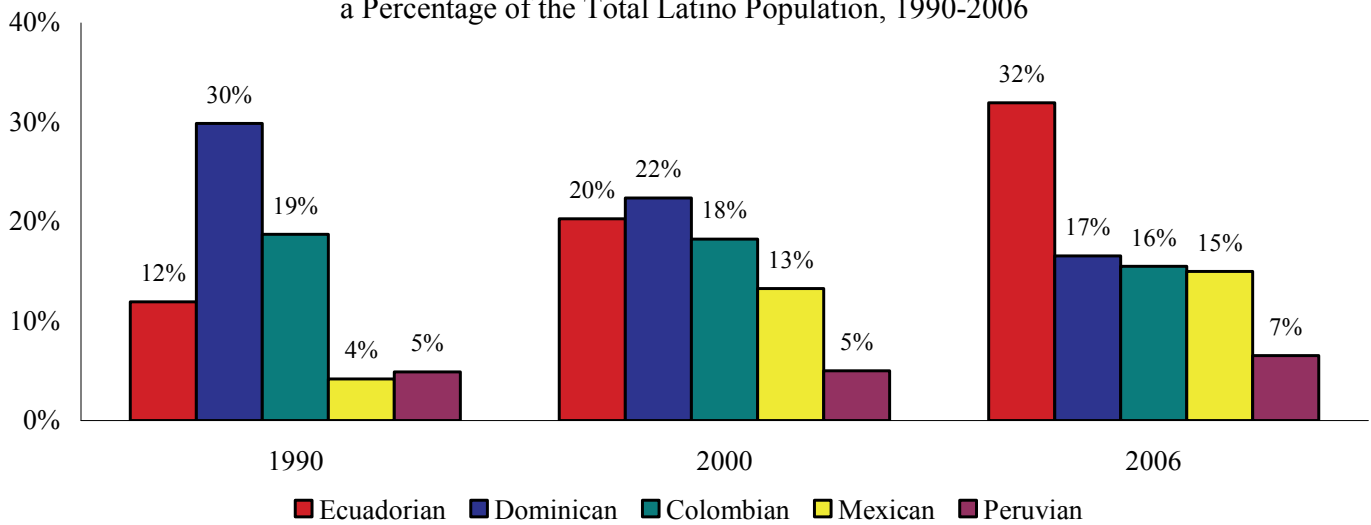
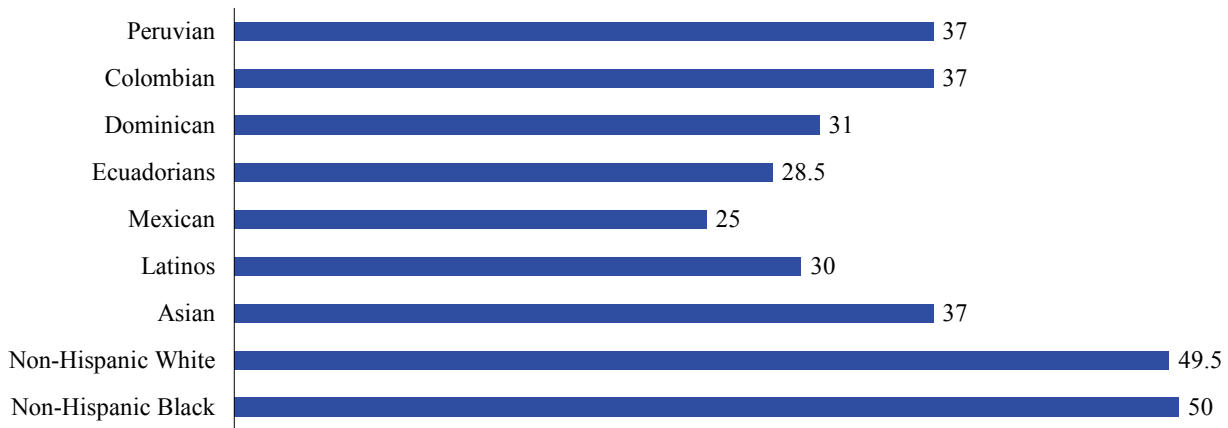


Figure 4
 Median Age of Population in Queens Community District 3
 by Latino Nationality and Racial/Ethnic Group, 2006

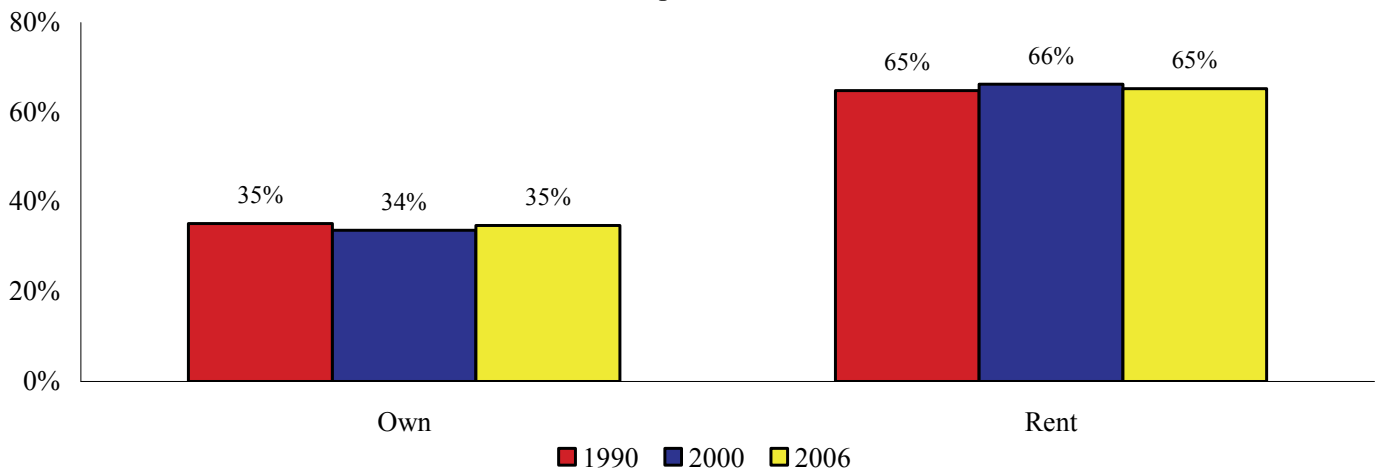


Latinos in Queens Community District 3 had a median age of 30 in 2006. (See figure 4). As a group, Latinos tend to be younger than other racial/ethnic groups. Among Latinos, Peruvians and Colombians tend to be older than other Latinos, while Mexicans represented the youngest Latino subgroup.

Homeownership

The majority of the population in Queens Community District 3 lived in rented houses or apartments, and the percentage of people that owned their homes remained relatively constant during 1990-2006. (See figures 5, 6 and 7).

Figure 5
 Homeownership and Rental Rates in Queens Community District 3
 for the Total Population, 1990-2006



The figures below reveal that the percentage of Latinos who owned their homes in these neighborhoods is lower in comparison to other racial/ethnic groups. In 2006, 23% of the Latino population owned their homes compared to 50% of the non-Hispanic White population, 63% of the non-Hispanic Black population, and 53% of the Asian population.

Figure 6
Homeownership in Queens Community District 3 by Racial/Ethnic Group, 1990-2006

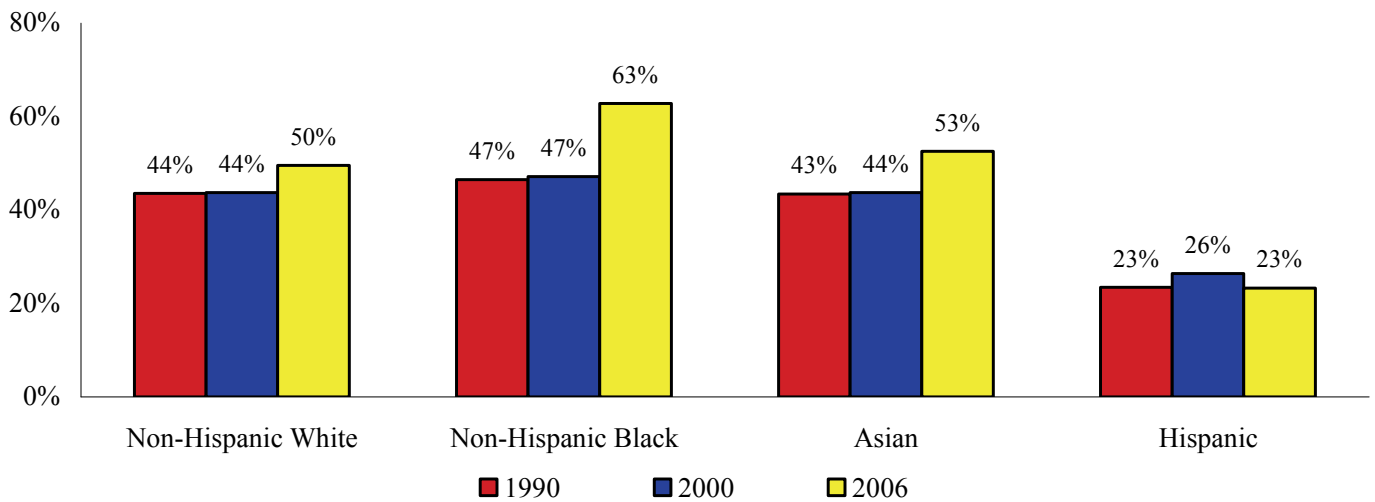
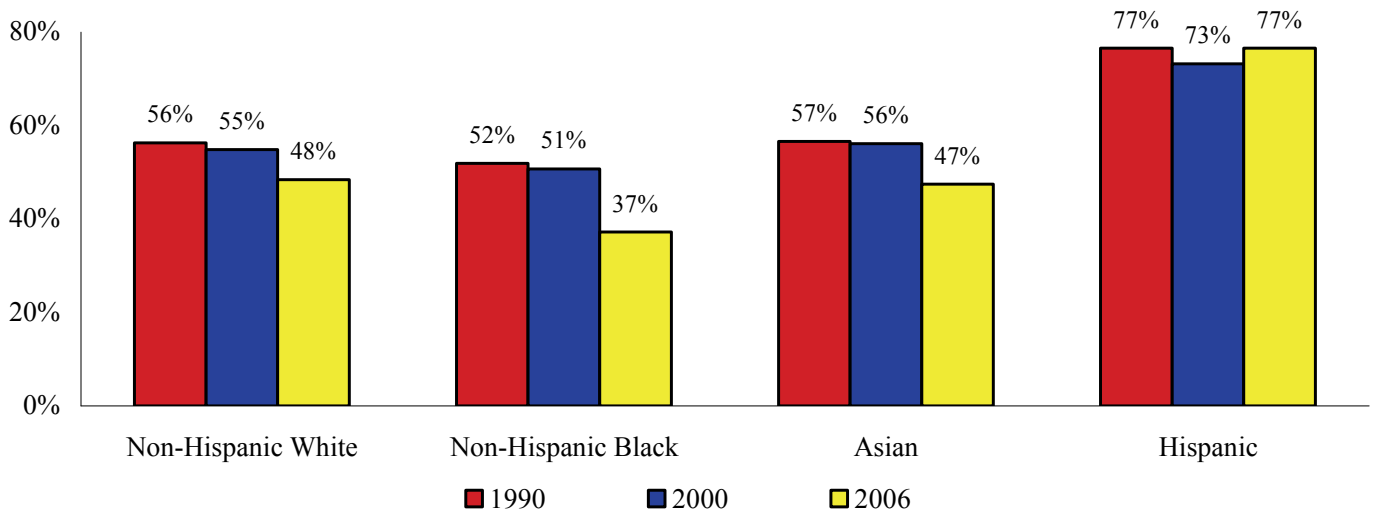


Figure 7
Rental Rates in Queens Community District 3 by Racial/Ethnic Group, 1990-2006



Figures 8 and 9 indicate that among Latinos, Peruvians had the highest rate of homeownership in 2006 (35%), followed by Dominicans (33%), Colombians (31%), Ecuadorians (19%), and lastly, Mexicans (2%). The precise reasons for the disparities in homeownership across 1990-2006 are unknown and not revealed by the data analyzed.

Figure 8
Homeownership in Queens Community District 3 by Latino Nationality Group, 1990-2006

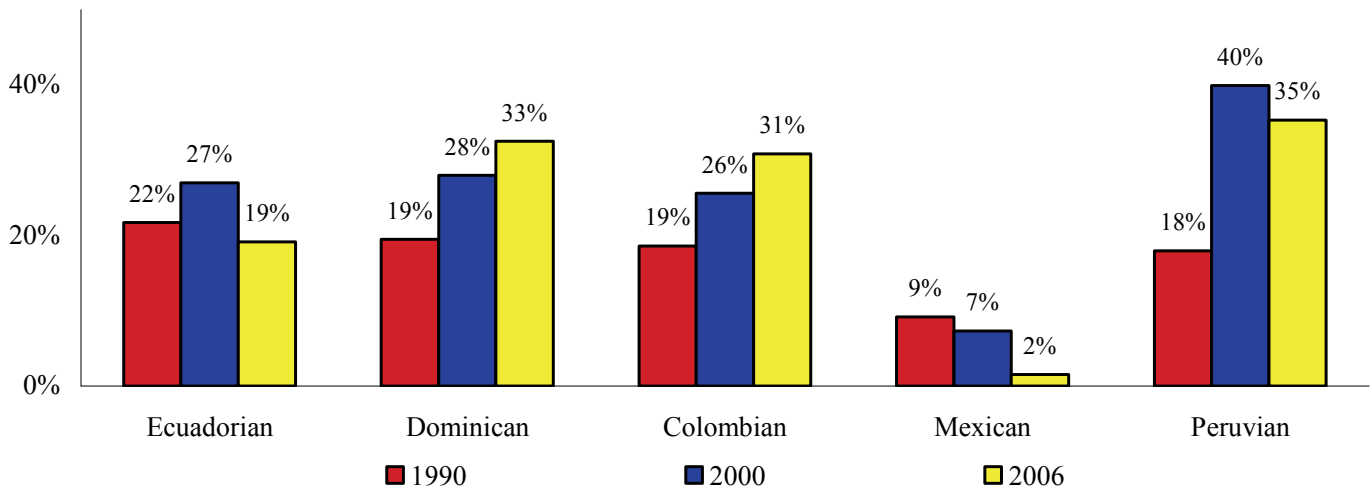
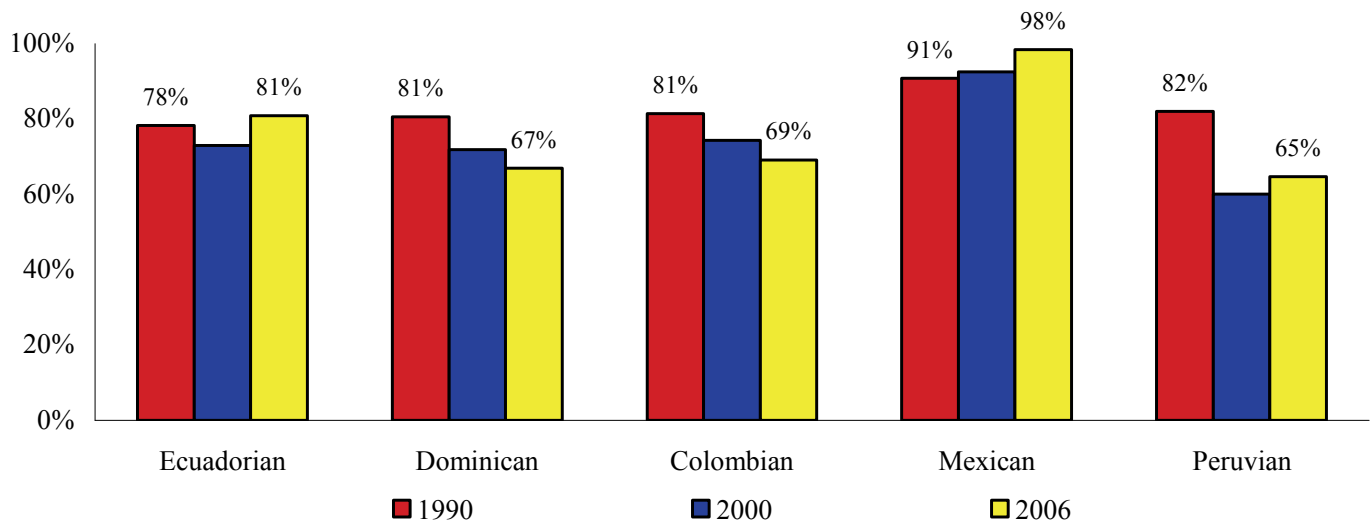


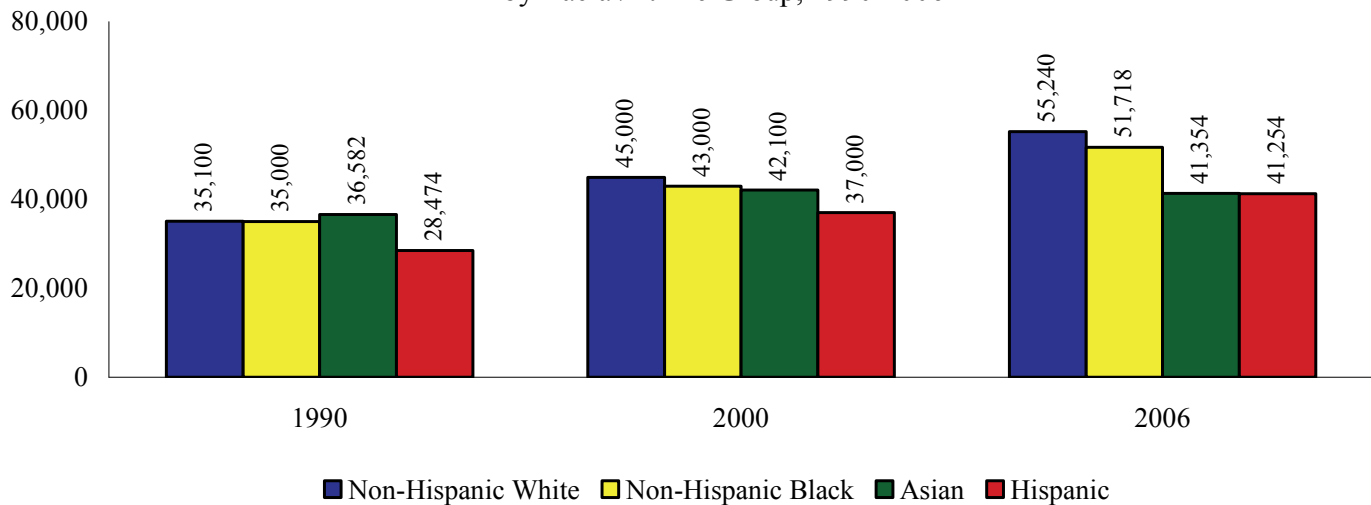
Figure 9
Rental Rates in Queens Community District 3 by Latino Nationality Group, 1990-2006



Economic Characteristics

As indicated in Figure 10, the annual median family income among all major racial/ethnic groups in Queens Community District 3 has increased from 1990 to 2006, although in 2006 the median family income for Asians decreased slightly since 2000 to \$41,354 from \$42,100. One possible explanation for this decrease in median family income is that people with lower incomes have moved into the community and/or those with higher incomes have moved out. These data also show that non-Hispanic Whites had the highest median household incomes in 2000 and 2006 followed by non-Hispanic Blacks, while Latinos had always had the lowest median family incomes.

Figure 10
Median Family Income in Queens Community District 3
by Racial/Ethnic Group, 1990-2006



Median family income data for the Latino subgroups are indicated in Figure 11. The data indicate that only Peruvians and Dominicans had a constant increase in median family income from 1990 to 2006 with a yearly growth rate of 5% and 2%, respectively. In 2006, Peruvians' middle family income was \$54,938, representing the highest earning Latino subgroup even though they comprised the lowest percentage of the population. Although the median family income of Mexicans decreased during 1990 and 2006, they represented the second highest earning group in 2006 (\$44,977), followed by Ecuadorians (\$37,732), Colombians (\$37,280), and Dominicans (\$36,223). It is important to note that even though Ecuadorians, Dominicans, and Colombians represented the largest Latino subgroups, respectively, they had the lowest family median incomes. Moreover, the median family income reported for Ecuadorians and Colombians decreased from 2000 to 2006. This suggests that poorer families have settled in these neighborhoods and/or that families with higher incomes have moved out since 2000.

Figure 11
Median Family Income in Queens Community District 3
by Latino Nationality Group, 1990-2006

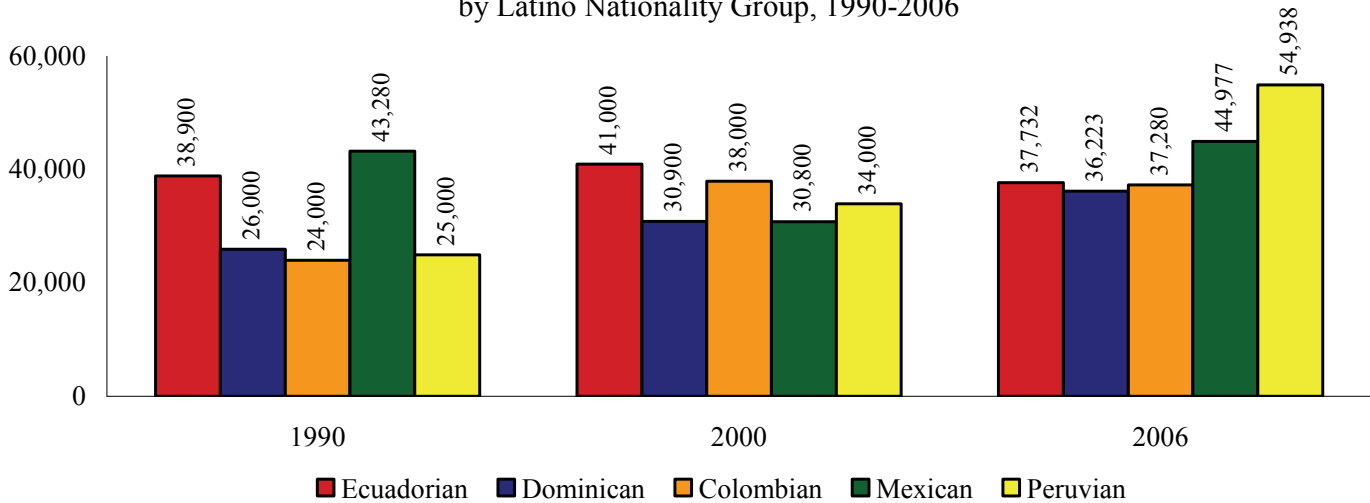
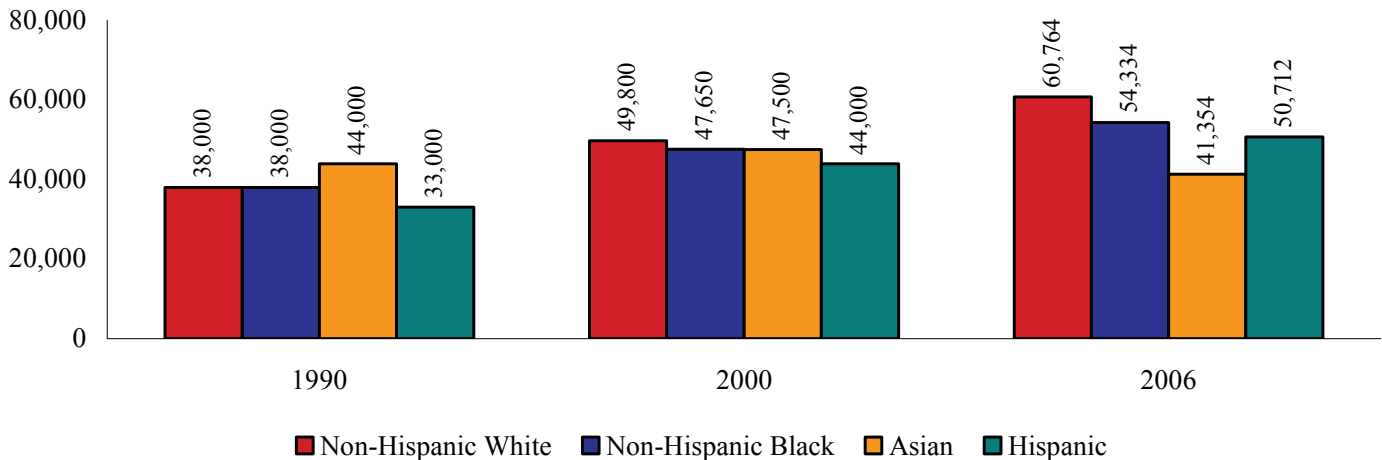


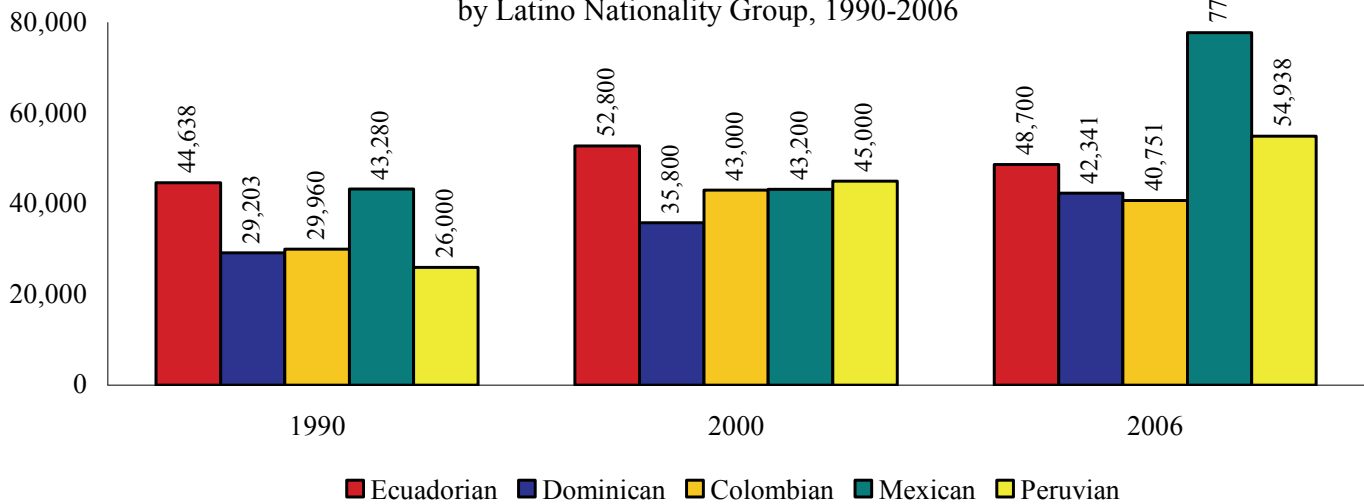
Figure 12 shows the median household income among the various racial/ethnic groups from 1990 to 2006. Similar to median family income, the annual median household income among all major racial/ethnic groups in Queens Community District 3 has increased from 1990 to 2006, except among the Asian population, for which the median household income decreased slightly since 2000 from to \$47,500 to \$41,354 in 2006, becoming the racial/ethnic group with the lowest median family income. Non-Hispanic Whites had the highest median household income (\$60,764), followed by non-Hispanic Blacks (\$54,334) even though these groups comprised the smallest segments of the community, representing about 14% and 7% of the population, respectively. Latinos had the third highest median family income (\$50,712).

Figure 12
Median Household Income in Queens Community District 3
by Racial/Ethnic Group, 1990-2006



Fluctuations in median household income among Latino national groups from 1990 to 2006 were more marked than those for median family income. (See figure 13). Again, although Mexicans and Peruvians represented the smallest segments of the Latino community in the district, constituting only 15% and 7% of the population, respectively, they had the highest median household incomes. Mexicans experienced a considerable increase in income from 2000 (\$43,200) to 2006 (\$77,779). The same can be said for Peruvians whose median household income increased to \$54,938 in 2006 from \$45,000 in 2000. In 2006, Ecuadorians had the third largest median household income (\$48,700), followed by Dominicans (\$42,341), and Colombians (\$40,751).

Figure 13
Median Household Income in Queens Community District 3
by Latino Nationality Group, 1990-2006



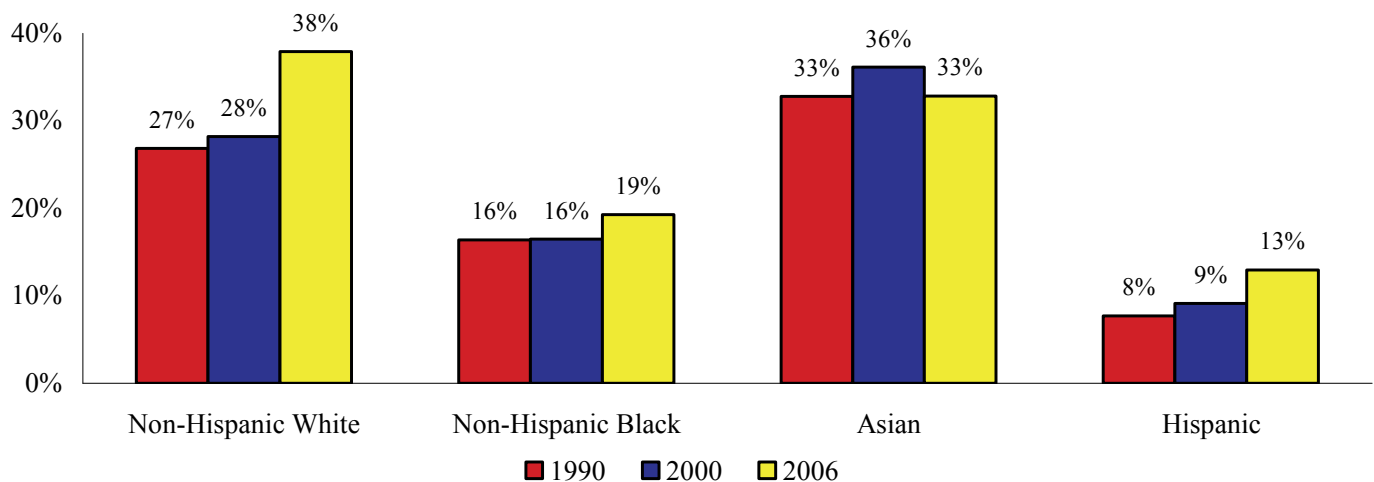
Social Characteristics

Education

Figure 14 indicates that Queens Community District 3 Latinos had the lowest percentage of individuals 25 years of age and older who had attained a Bachelor's or higher degree of education, with only 8% of its total population age 25 and over acquiring a B.A. or higher degree in 1990, 9% in 2000, and 13% in 2006. Among other racial/ethnic groups, educational attainment levels also increased, especially among non-Hispanic Whites for which 27% of its population age 25 and above had attained a Bachelor's degree or higher education in 1990, increasing to 28% in 2000, and 38% in 2006. Among non-Hispanic Blacks, there was a marginal increase, with those attaining a B.A. or higher degree rising from 16% in 1990 and 2000, to 19% in 2006. Asians, as a group, did not change, remaining at 33% of its population achieving a B.A. or higher degree in 1990 and 2006.

There was considerable variation in educational attainment levels among Latino nationalities. Peruvians had the highest percentage of individuals 25 years of age and over who had attained a B.A. or higher degree in 2006 (21%), followed by Colombians (17%), Ecuadorians (11%), and Mexicans and Dominicans (7%). As noted before, Peruvians had the highest median family income and second highest median household income, suggesting a positive correlation between educational levels and median income. However, the same cannot be said for Mexicans and Dominicans. The precise reasons for the disparities in educational attainment and income across 1990-2006 are unknown and not revealed by the data analyzed.

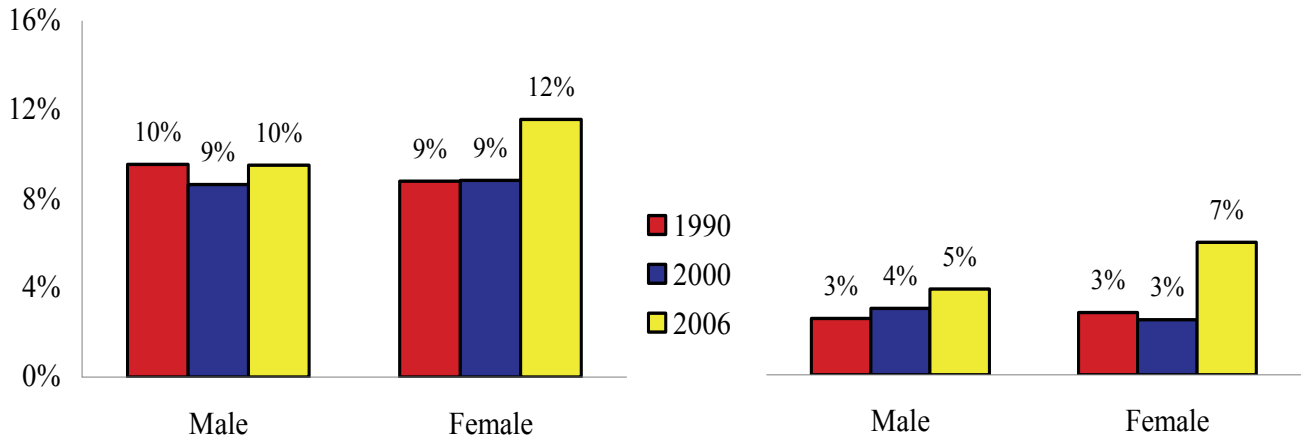
Figure 14
Percentage of the Population in Queens Community District 3 Age 25 and Older with a B.A. or Higher Degree by Racial/Ethnic Group, 1990-2006



There were also noticeable differences in educational attainment levels between males and females. During 2000-2006, the percentage of females attaining higher levels of education increased. (See Figure 15). Specifically, in 1990, 10% of all males in the general population age 25 and older had a B.A. or higher degree, compared to 9% of all females. In 2000, the percentage of females in the general population with similar educational achievement levels remained constant at 9%, while the percentage of males attaining a B.A. or higher degree decreased to 9%. The largest difference occurred during 2000 and 2006 when 12% of all females in the total population attained a B.A. or beyond, compared to 10% of all males.

Among Latinos, the percentage of Latino males and females above age 25 who had a Bachelor's or higher degree in 1990 was 3%, much lower than that for the general population. In 2000 the percentage of females 25-years of age and older achieving a B.A. or higher degree decreased to 3%, while the percentage of males increased to 4%. The difference in educational attainment became more pronounced in 2006 when 7% of all females attained a B.A. or higher degree compared to 5% of all males across Latino subgroups.

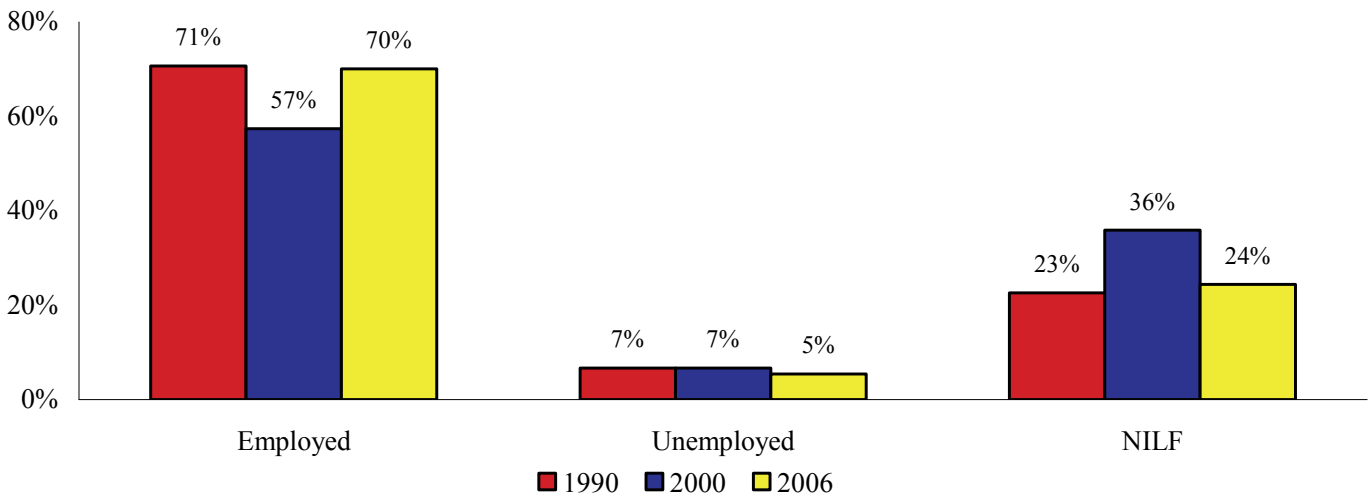
Figure 15
 Percentage of Population in Queens Community District 3 Age 25 and Older with a B.A. Higher Degree by Sex for Total Population and Latino Nationalities, 1990-2006



Employment

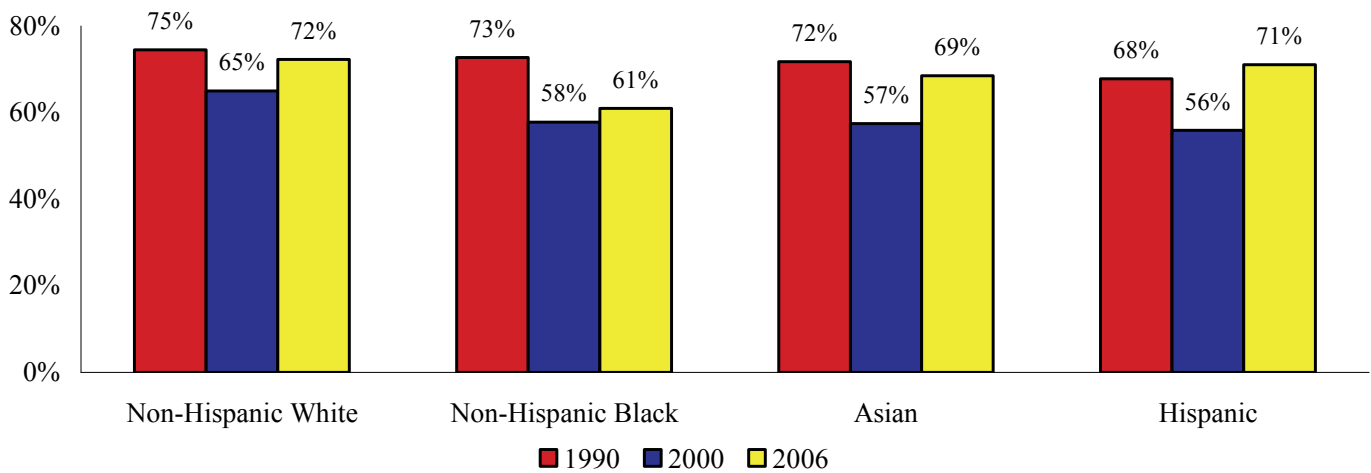
Employment data for the total population revealed fluctuations in the number of people between 16 and 60 years of age who were employed during 1990-2006. Figure 16 indicates that during 2000 and 2006 the percentage of people in the total population employed increased from 57% to 70%, while the percentage of people unemployed or not in the labor force decreased. No specific reasons are given for those “not in the labor force”. Reasons could range from debilitating illnesses to people who have chose, for whatever motivation, not to seek work.

Figure 16
 Employment Status in Queens Community District 3 among the Total Population Age 16-60, 1990-2006



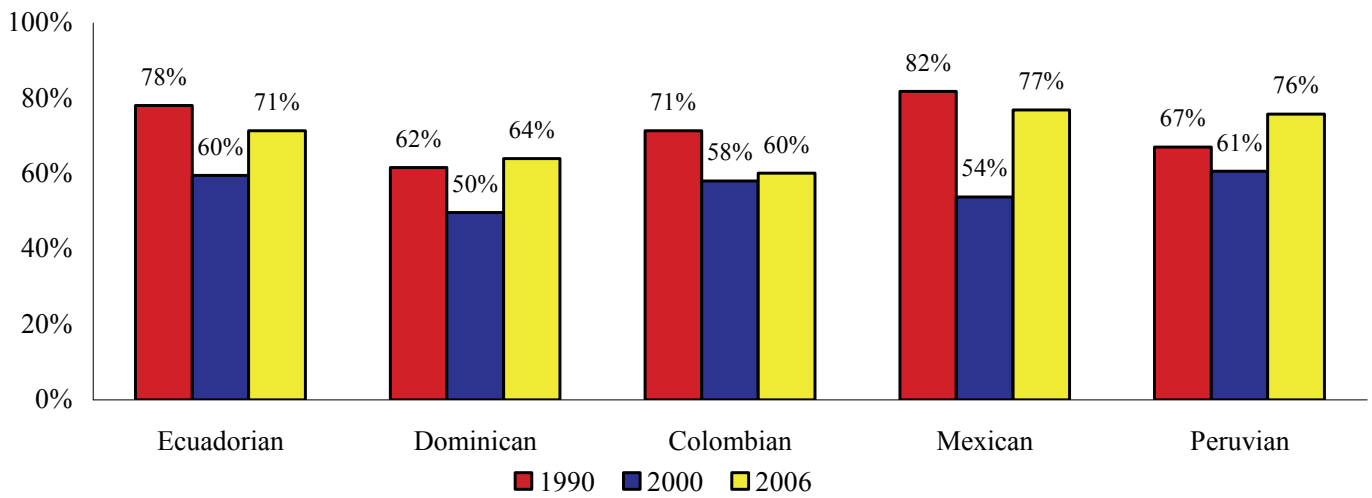
Overall, the percentage of the population who were employed within each major racial/ethnic group was above 55% across the 16-year period examined here, with the lowest percentages reported in 2000. (See figure 17). However, with the exception of Latinos, the percentage of the population who were employed in 2006 within each major racial/ethnic group has decreased slightly compared to figures in 1990. Among non-Hispanic Whites, 72% were employed in 2006 compared to 75% in 1990. Asians experienced a similar decrease in the percentage of individuals employed, from 72% in 1990 to 69% in 2006. Among non-Hispanic Blacks the percentage of individuals employed in 1990 was 73%, while in 2006, only 61% were employed, experiencing the greatest decrease in rate of employment and becoming the group with the lowest employment rate in 2006.

Figure 17
Percentage of the Population Employed in Queens Community District 3
Age 16-60 by Racial/Ethnic Group, 1990-2006



The trends in employment status among the Latino subgroups were comparable to those from the total population. Overall, the percentage of the population who were employed within each Latino nationality group was above 50% across the 16-year period examined here, with the lowest percentages reported in 2000 as well. (See figure 18). However, with the exception of Dominicans and Peruvians, the percentage of the population who were employed within each Latino subgroup has decreased compared to figures in 1990. Figure 18 shows that Mexicans and Peruvians had the highest percentage of people age 16 to 60 employed in 2006, 77% and 76%, respectively, followed by 71% of all Ecuadorians, 64% of all Dominicans, and 60% of all Colombians. As indicated before, the number of Mexicans has increased eight-fold since 1990, from 2,471 to 16,461 in 2006, while the number of Peruvians has almost tripled from 2,910 in 1990 to 7,158 in 2006. In addition, as a group, Mexicans and Peruvians also had the highest median family (\$44,977 and 54,938, respectively) and

Figure 18
 Percentage of the Population Employed in Queens Community District 3
 Age 16-60 by Latino Nationality Group, 1990-2006



Foreign and Domestic Born Latinos

Overall, the percentage of foreign-born Latinos remained relatively stable during 1990-2006, suggesting a slowdown in migration, although most of the population is foreign-born. (See Figure 19). In 2006, 68% of all Latinos in Queens Community District 3 were foreign-born.

Figure 19
 Percentage of Domestic-Born and Foreign-Born Latinos
 in Queens Community District 3, 1990-2006

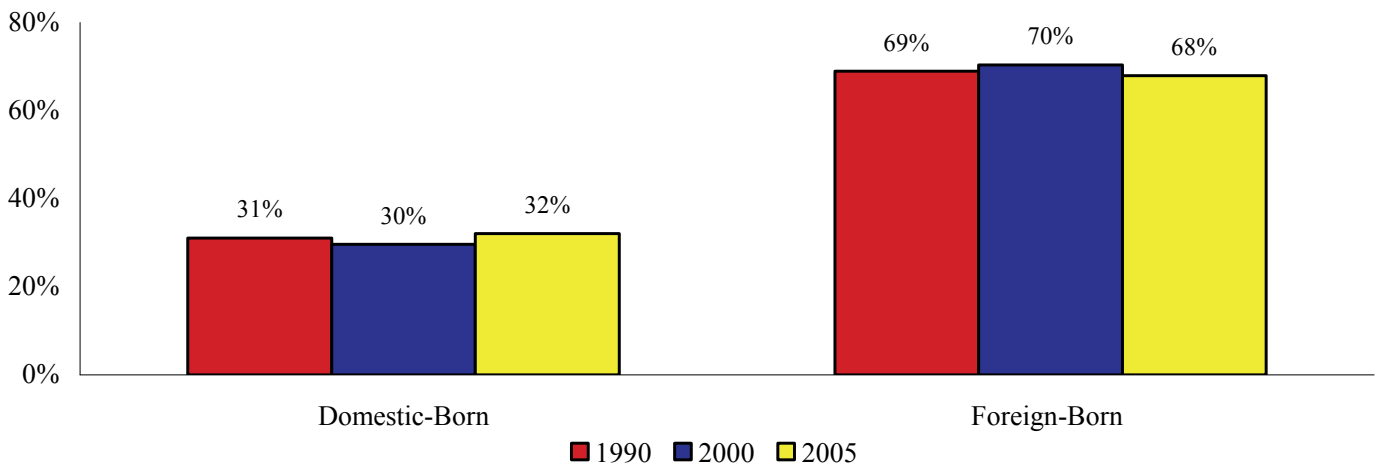
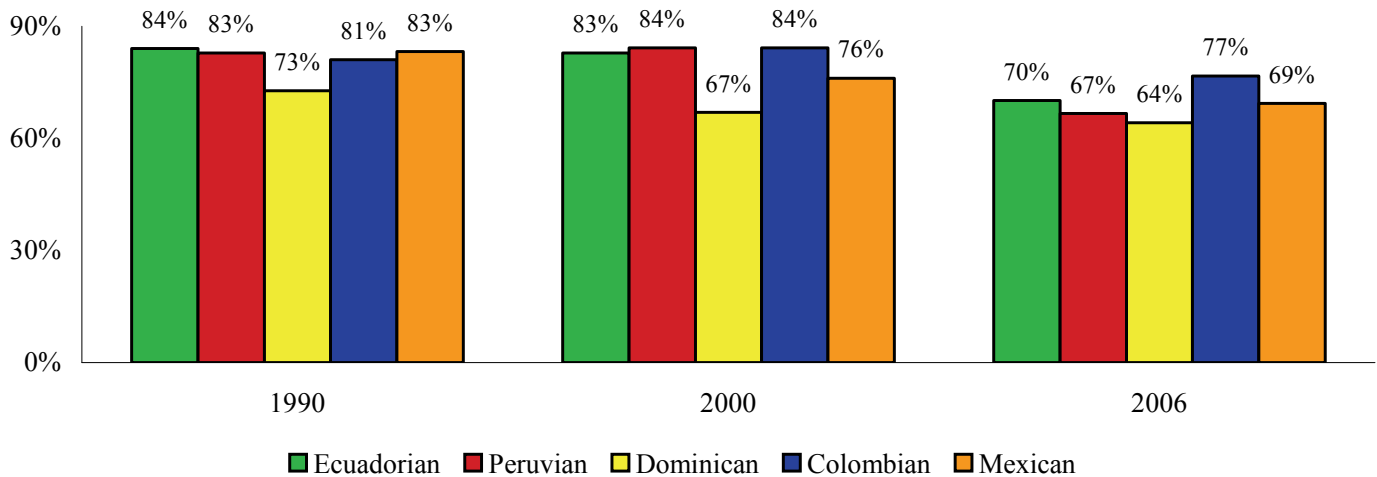


Figure 20
Percentage of Foreign-Born Latinos in Queens Community District 3, 1990-2006

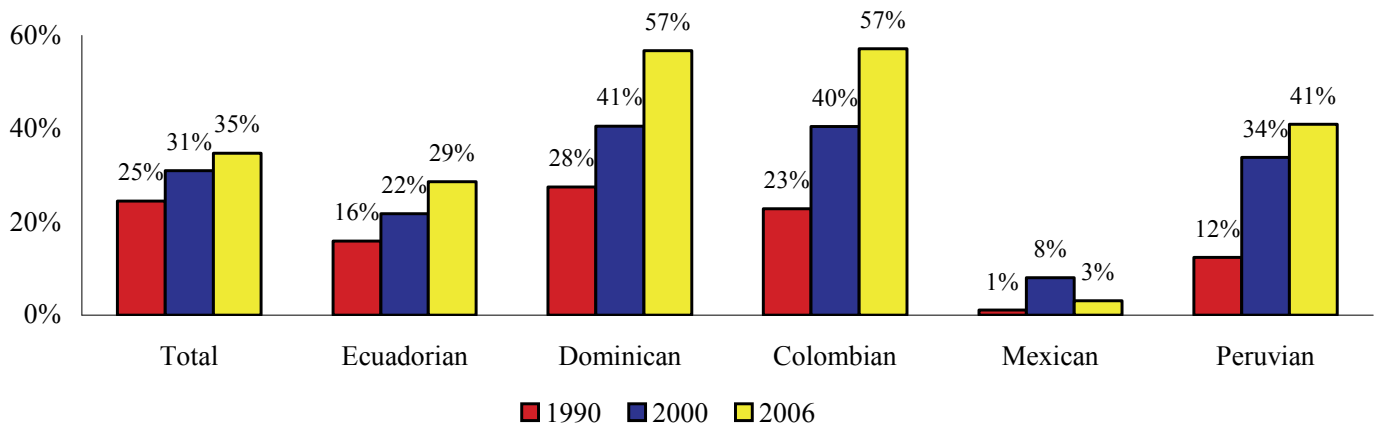


As indicated in Figure 20, the percentage of foreign-born has declined among each of the major Latino subgroups. For example, over 83% of the Mexican population in 1990 was foreign-born, whereas in 2006 the percentage of foreign-born Mexicans declined significantly to approximately 69%. This suggests that the growth in the Mexican population in this community district, which almost grew eight times since 1990, has resulted mainly from domestic-born Mexicans from other districts migrating to Community District 3 and/or due to domestic births from existing settlers. The same can be said for each of the other Latino subgroups, for which there was a significant decline in the percentage of foreign-born since 1990 even though the population in each of these Latino subgroups has increased.

Citizenship

The percentage of foreign-born naturalized citizens age 18 and older among the various Latino subgroups in this community district, with the exception of Mexicans, increased steadily during 1990-2006, with 35% of all foreign-born Latinos age 18 and older becoming naturalized citizens by 2006. (See figure 21). Naturalized citizens have all the rights of American citizenship -- except that of becoming President of the United States -- including the right to vote. The percentage of foreign-born naturalized citizens in 2006 among the various Latino subgroups differed significantly. In 2006, Dominicans and Colombians had the largest percentage of foreign-born naturalized citizens (57%), followed by Peruvians (41%), Ecuadorians (29%), and Mexicans (3%).

Figure 21
Foreign-Born Naturalized Citizens Age 18 and Over in Queens Community District 3
as a Percentage of the Latino Population, 1990-2006



Concluding Highlights

The data reviewed in this report allow the following conclusions:

- Ecuadorians are the largest Latino subgroup in Queens Community District 3, accounting for over 20% of the total population and 30% of the Latino population in the district.
- Latinos in Queens Community District 3, as a group, tend to be younger than non-Hispanic Whites, non-Hispanic Blacks, and Asians.
- Latinos have the lowest homeownership rate in comparison to other racial/ethnic groups.
- The annual median incomes of the majority of the residents in Queens Community District 3 have increased, with greater fluctuations among median household incomes. Non-Hispanic Whites and non-Hispanic Blacks have the largest median incomes even though they are the smallest segment of the total population in the district. Among Latinos, Mexicans and Peruvians also have the largest median incomes even though they are the smallest segment of the Latino population in Community District 3.
- Educational attainment levels differ significantly among racial/ethnic groups. Latinos have the lowest percentage of individuals with a Bachelor's or higher degree. Among Latinos, Peruvians and Colombians have the highest percentage of people 25-years-old and over who have a B.A. or higher degree.
- Across the general population, as well as within the Latino population, a greater percentage of females 25-years-old and over have a B.A. or higher degree compared to males.

- Across the total population, the percentage of people employed has increased, while the percentage of people unemployed and/or not in the labor force has decreased. The percentage of employed Latinos is comparable to that of the general population at about 70%. In 2006, Colombians had the lowest percentage of people age 16-60 employed.
- The percentage of foreign-born Latinos in Queens Community District 3 has remained stable since 1990, suggesting a slowdown in migration.
- The percentage of Latinos age 18 and older who are foreign-born naturalized citizens in this district has increased since 1990. Among Latinos, Colombians and Dominicans have the largest percentage of foreign-born naturalized citizens, while Mexicans have the lowest percentage.