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Ecuadorians in the United States

1980—2008

Laird W. Bergad
Director

Center for Latin American, Caribbean
& Latino Studies

in conjunction with the National Secretariat
for Immigrant Affairs - Ecuador



The Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies is a research institute that works for the advancement of the study of Latin America, the Caribbean, and Latinos in the United States in the doctoral programs at the CUNY Graduate Center. One of its major priorities is to provide funding and research opportunities to Latino students at the Ph.D. level.

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The National Secretariat for Immigrant Affairs of Ecuador (SENAMI) was created in 2007 in order to focus on the country's large migrant population abroad, and to serve foreign migrants residing on Ecuadorian soil. As part of this effort, SENAMI has set up a network of agencies in different cities around the world to provide vital services to Ecuadorian migrants. The "Casas Ecuatorianas" cooperate with embassies and consulates to bring the government's programs and projects to Ecuadorians abroad, with the ultimate goal of protecting the rights of migrants living abroad and helping them improve their quality of life. The "Casas Ecuatorianas" are also spaces which help strengthen national identity and the links among Ecuadorians abroad, and Ecuadorians abroad and their home. "Casa Ecuatoriana NY" offers many services, including but not limited to: free legal counsel on migration-related issues; information about the "Welcome Home Plan"; free ESL, computer, and GED classes; events to promote Ecuadorian culture; comprehensive assistance to those in vulnerable situations; and research and events on migratory policy.

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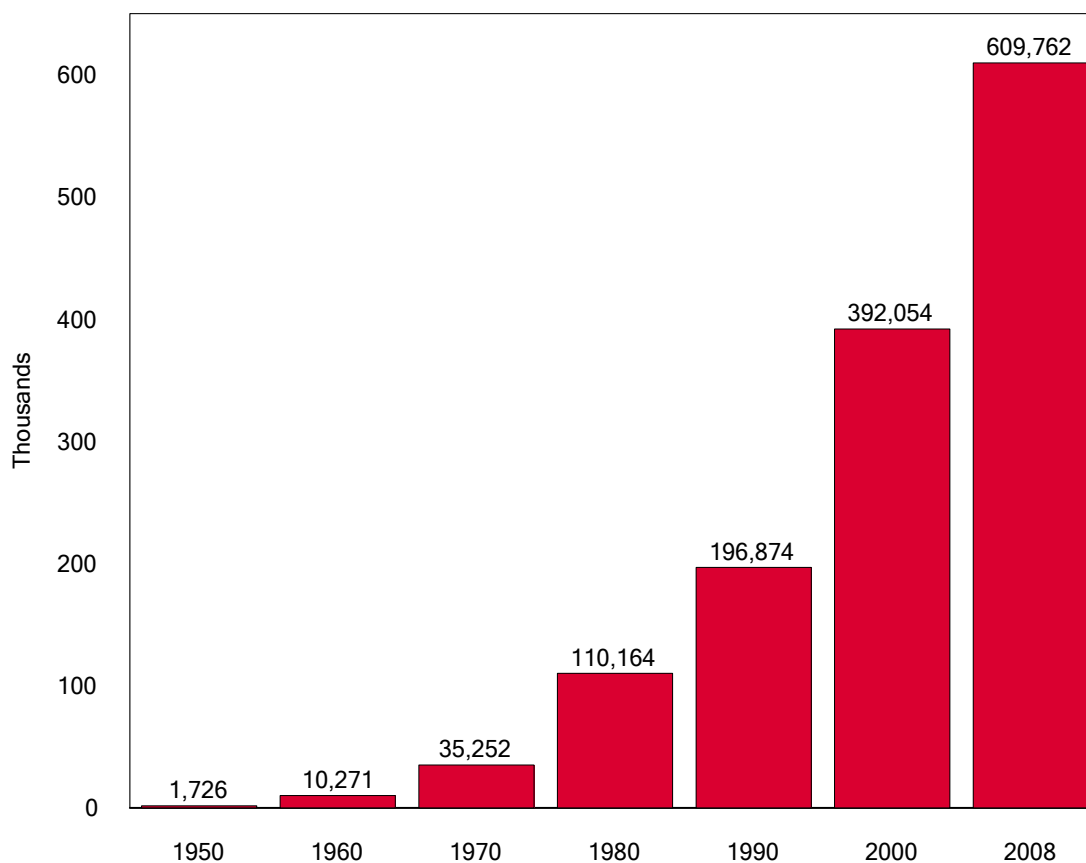
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Population

The Ecuadorian population of the United States increased quite dramatically after 1970 when the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that there were slightly over 35,000 Ecuadorians living in the U.S. In 2008 this population had risen to over 600,000.¹ (See figure 1). Migration from Ecuador increased in each decade after 1950 and there are no indications that migration has slowed or will diminish in the future. More Ecuadorian migrants arrived between 2000 and 2008 than in any previous decade. (See figure 2).

Figure 1
Ecuadorian Population of the United States, 1950 - 2008

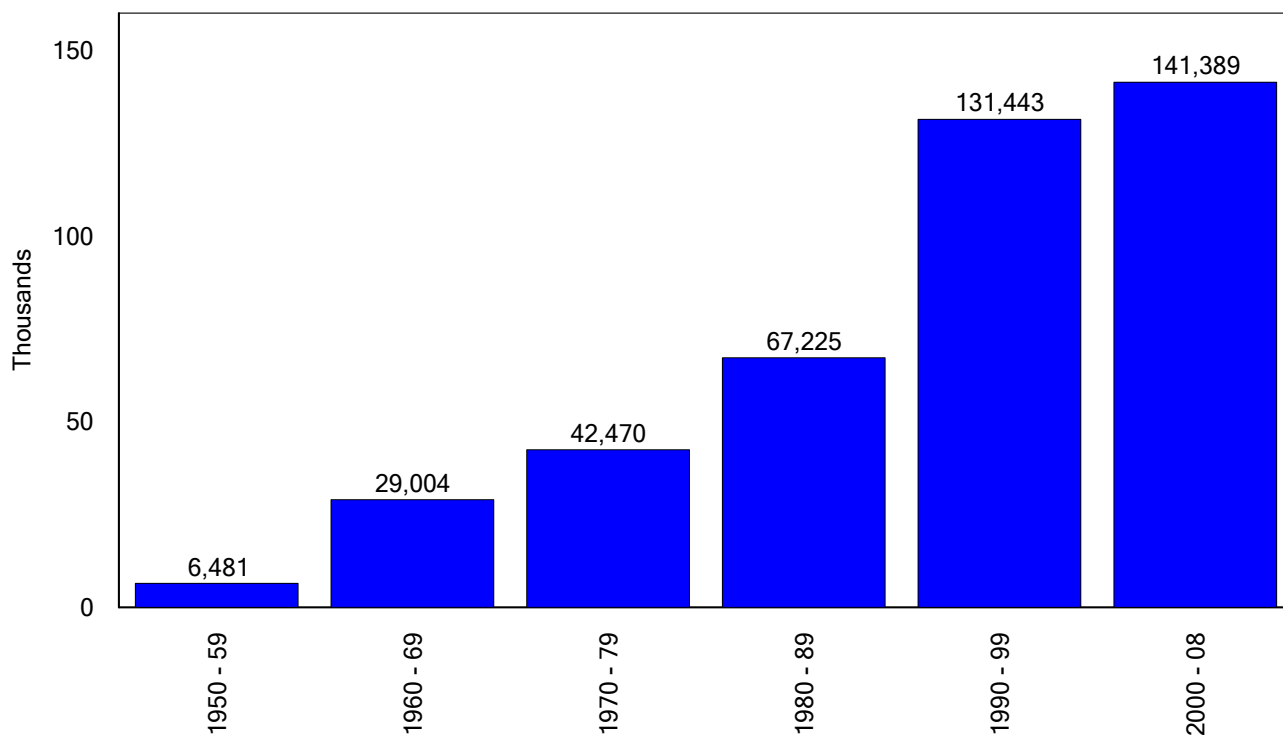


Note: There are no data on Ecuadorians prior to 1950.

¹ Unless otherwise noted all data in this report were derived from the U.S. Census Bureau, Public Use Microdata Samples for the national censuses of 1900, through 2000 and the American Community Survey 2008 as organized and made available by Steven Ruggles, J. Trent Alexander, Katie Genadek, Ronald Goeken, Matthew B. Schroeder, and Matthew Sobek. Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 5.0 [Machine-readable database]. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 2010, found at the internet site <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/>. All data was analyzed using SPSS, Statistical Package for the Social Sciences.

After this report was written the Census Bureau released data for 2009 which indicated that there were over 690,000 Ecuadorians resident in the U.S.

Figure 2
Estimates of Ecuadorian Migration to the United States by Decade, 1950 - 2008



The absolute and relative numbers of Ecuadorians who were born in the United States increased steadily after 1980, although ongoing migration from Ecuador meant that the Ecuadorian-born percentage of all Ecuadorians remained dominant, only declining marginally between 1980 and 2008. In 1980 about 81% of the total Ecuadorian population was born in Ecuador; by 2008 this had fallen to about 69%. (See figure 3 and table 1). Since there are no indications of a waning of migration from Ecuador, and it may be anticipated that the number of Ecuadorian migrants will continue to increase in the future, it is likely that the overwhelming demographic predominance of the foreign-born will continue among the Ecuadorian population of the U.S. despite impressive growth of the domestic-born.

Between 1950 and 2008 foreign-born Ecuadorians constantly sought citizenship in the U.S. through naturalization. Data indicate that after 2000 this process intensified, perhaps because of the explicitly anti-immigrant political sentiments which have lamentably swept the nation, especially after the economic downturn of 2006-2008. About half of the total number of naturalized Ecuadorians after 1950 received U.S. citizenship between 2000 and 2008. (See figure 4).

Additionally data are available between 2000 and 2009 on the number of Ecuadorians seeking permanent residency in the U.S. as well as those seeking citizenship. These data indicate that nearly 108,000 foreign-born Ecuadorians acquired a coveted 'green card' and that over 75,000 acquired U.S. citizenship after 2000. (See figure 4 and table 2). This means that about 44% of the Ecuadorian foreign-born population living in the U.S. in 2008 (418,117 – see table 1), either became permanent residents or citizens of the U.S. in only eight years.

Figure 3
Birthplace of Ecuadorian Population of the United States, 1980 - 2008

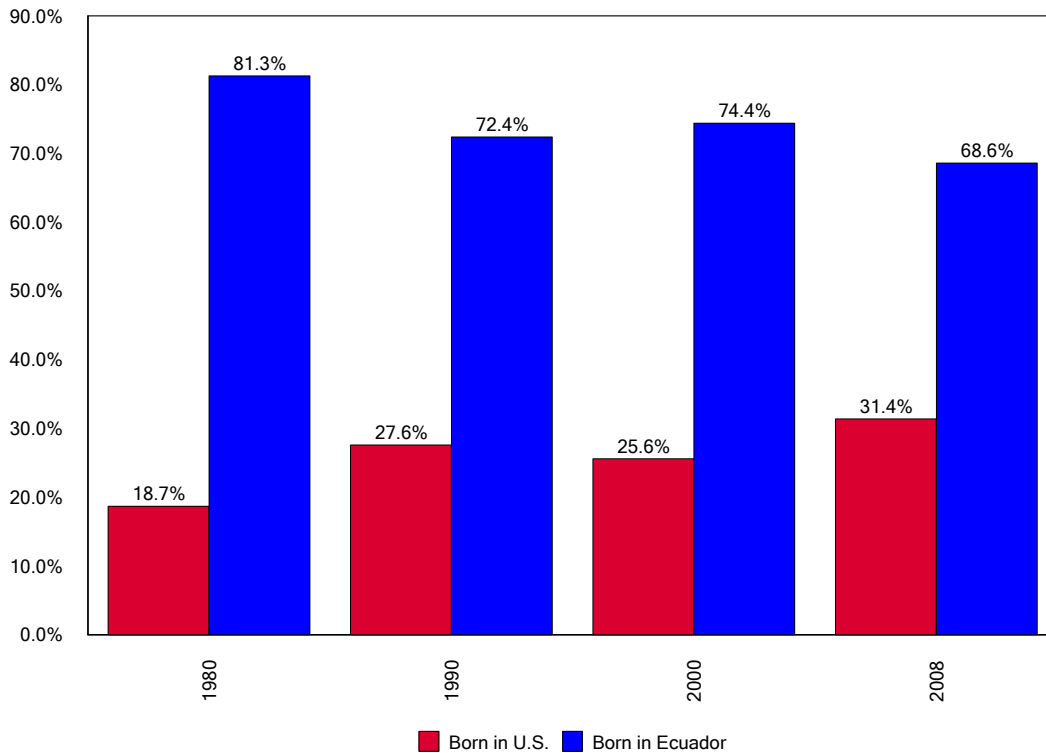


Table 1
Ecuadorian Population of the United States
by Nativity, 1980 - 2008

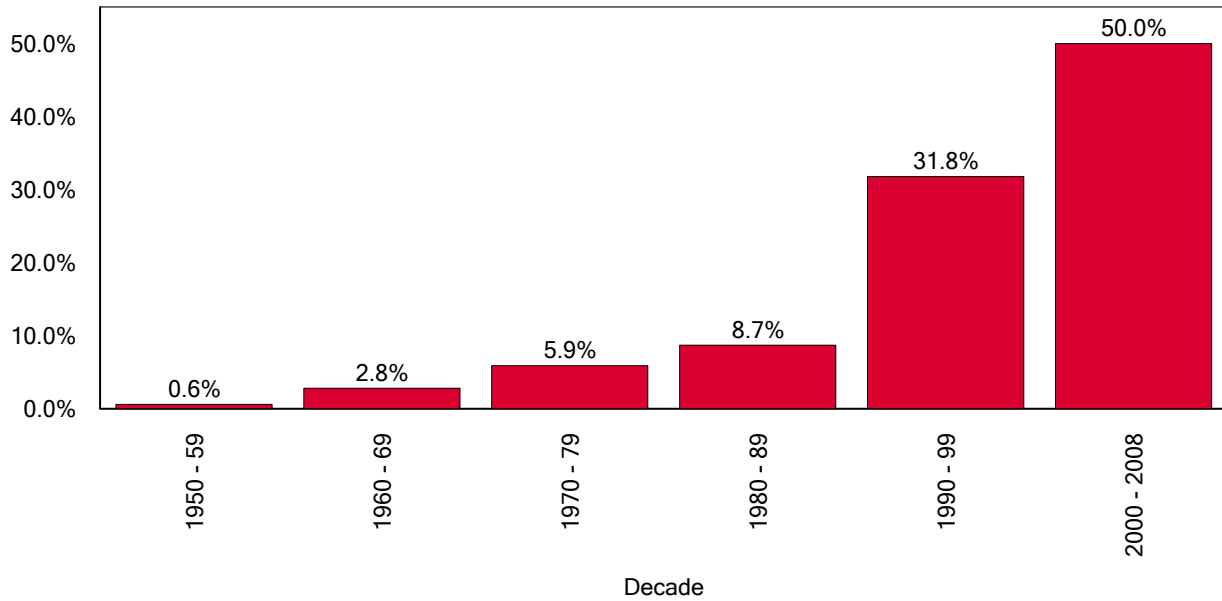
	Domestic Born	% of Total	Foreign Born	% of Total	Total
1980	20,455	18.7%	89,109	81.3%	109,564
1990	52,599	27.6%	138,300	72.4%	190,899
2000	100,278	25.6%	291,776	74.4%	392,054
2008	191,645	31.4%	418,117	68.6%	609,762

Note: Discrepancies in the total population indicated in this table (190,899) and the total Ecuadorian population indicated in Figure 1 (196,874) are because of the fact that there were 'missing values' for the nativity of 5,975 Ecuadorians in the 1990 data.

The Department of Homeland Security estimated that there were about 110,000 undocumented Ecuadorians residing in the United States in 2000 and 170,000 in 2009.

See U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics, Michael Hoefer, Nancy Rytina, and Bryan C. Baker, "Estimates of the Unauthorized Immigrant Population Residing in the United States: January 2009."

Figure 4
Estimates of When Foreign-Born Ecuadorians were Naturalized by Decade as of 2008
(in percentages)



Note: A total of 156,111 Ecuadorians were estimated to have been naturalized by 2008.

Table 2
Number of Ecuadorians Granted
Citizenship and Permanent Residency
in the United States, 2000 - 2009

	Permanent Residency	Citizenship
2000	7,624	9,454
2001	9,654	6,547
2002	10,524	6,392
2003	7,022	5,061
2004	8,366	5,616
2005	11,528	7,091
2006	17,624	8,321
2007	12,011	7,229
2008	11,541	11,908
2009	12,083	7,609
Total	107,977	75,228

Source: Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics, "2009 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics" August 2010.

The Ecuadorian population of the U.S. was heavily concentrated in the states of New York and New Jersey between 1980 and 2008. About 60% of all Ecuadorians were concentrated in these two states across this time period. (See figure 5). In 1980 California was the third largest state of Ecuadorian settlement with about 16% of the total population living there. But this changed significantly by 2008 when the percentage of all Ecuadorians living in California fell to about 6%. Florida, however, experienced substantial population growth and became the third largest state where Ecuadorians lived at 10% of the total population. (See table 3 and figure 6).

New York City had the greatest concentration of Ecuadorians in the U.S. In 1980 43% of the total population lived in the City, and although this fell to 33% in 2008, New York City was still a place of heavy Ecuadorian population concentration. (See figure 7). Additionally, by 2008 about 55% of all Ecuadorians living in the states of New York and New Jersey lived in the City, although this was a decline from the 71% of 1980. This indicates that there was a process of suburbanization among Ecuadorians living in the New York metropolitan area, although there was still heavy concentration in the City itself. (See figure 8).

Figure 5
Percentage of Ecuadorian Population of the United States
Living in New York and New Jersey, 1980 - 2008

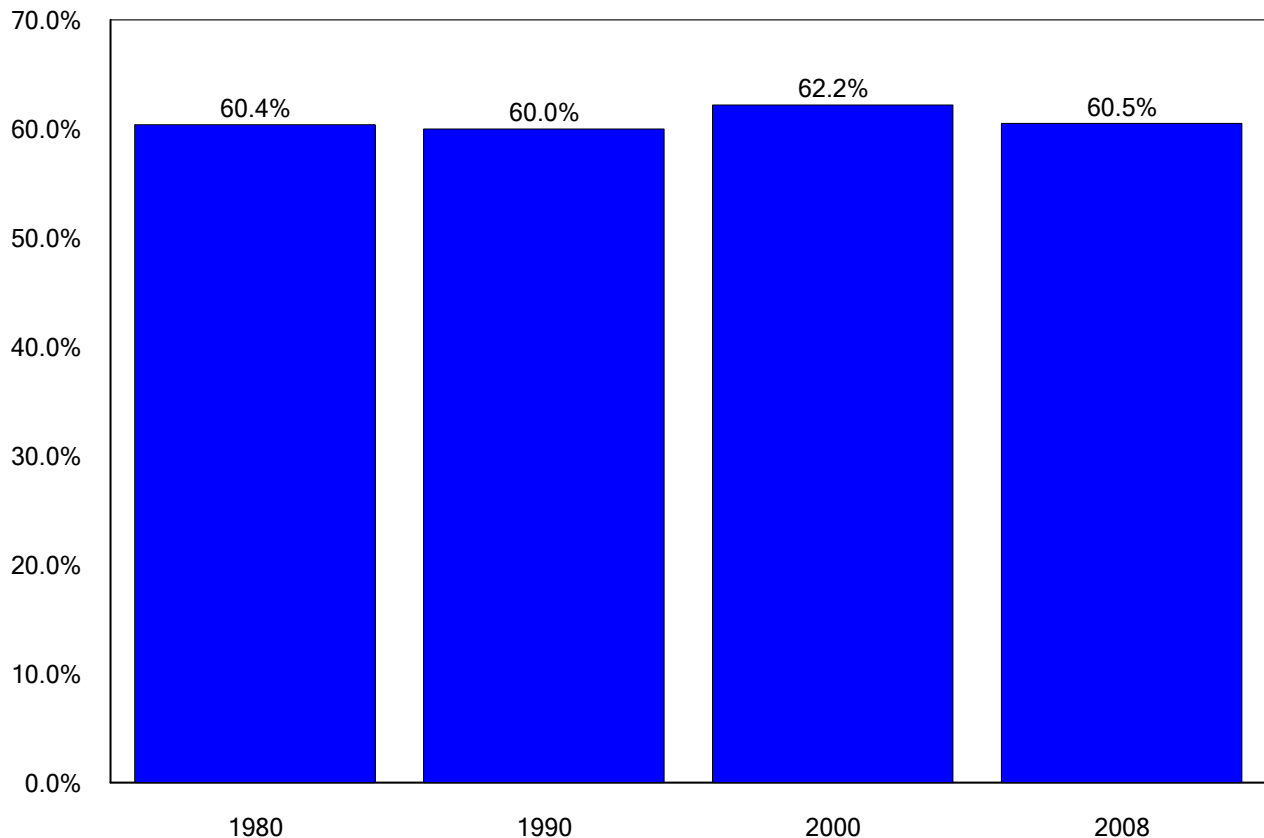


Table 3
Ecuadorian Population by Largest States of Settlement, 1980 - 2008
(in order of largest concentrations in 2008)

	1980		1990		2000		2008	
	Population	% of Total	Population	% of Total	Population	% of Total	Population	% of Total
New York	52,350	47.5%	91,709	46.6%	176,770	45.1%	259,494	42.6%
New Jersey	14,192	12.9%	26,488	13.5%	67,126	17.1%	109,155	17.9%
Florida	5,588	5.1%	15,932	8.1%	39,477	10.1%	61,226	10.0%
California	17,874	16.2%	29,002	14.7%	33,893	8.6%	36,170	5.9%
Connecticut	1,320	1.2%	3,458	1.8%	9,152	2.3%	25,975	4.3%
Illinois	6,308	5.7%	9,249	4.7%	18,678	4.8%	21,819	3.6%
Pennsylvania	480	0.4%	1,211	0.6%	4,230	1.1%	13,399	2.2%
Texas	1,583	1.4%	3,467	1.8%	6,082	1.6%	12,816	2.1%
North Carolina	480	0.4%	771	0.4%	2,559	0.7%	10,633	1.7%
Minnesota	200	0.2%	134	0.1%	3,266	0.8%	8,200	1.3%
Virginia	1,568	1.4%	3,126	1.6%	3,768	1.0%	7,145	1.2%
Arizona	441	0.4%	298	0.2%	1,298	0.3%	5,808	1.0%
Maryland	1,600	1.5%	2,636	1.3%	3,778	1.0%	5,806	1.0%
Others	6,180	5.6%	9,393	4.8%	21,977	5.6%	32,116	5.3%
Total	110,164	100.0%	196,874	100.0%	392,054	100.0%	609,762	100.0%

Figure 6
Percentage of Ecuadorian Population of the United States Living in
New York, New Jersey, Florida, California, Connecticut and Illinois, 1980 - 2008

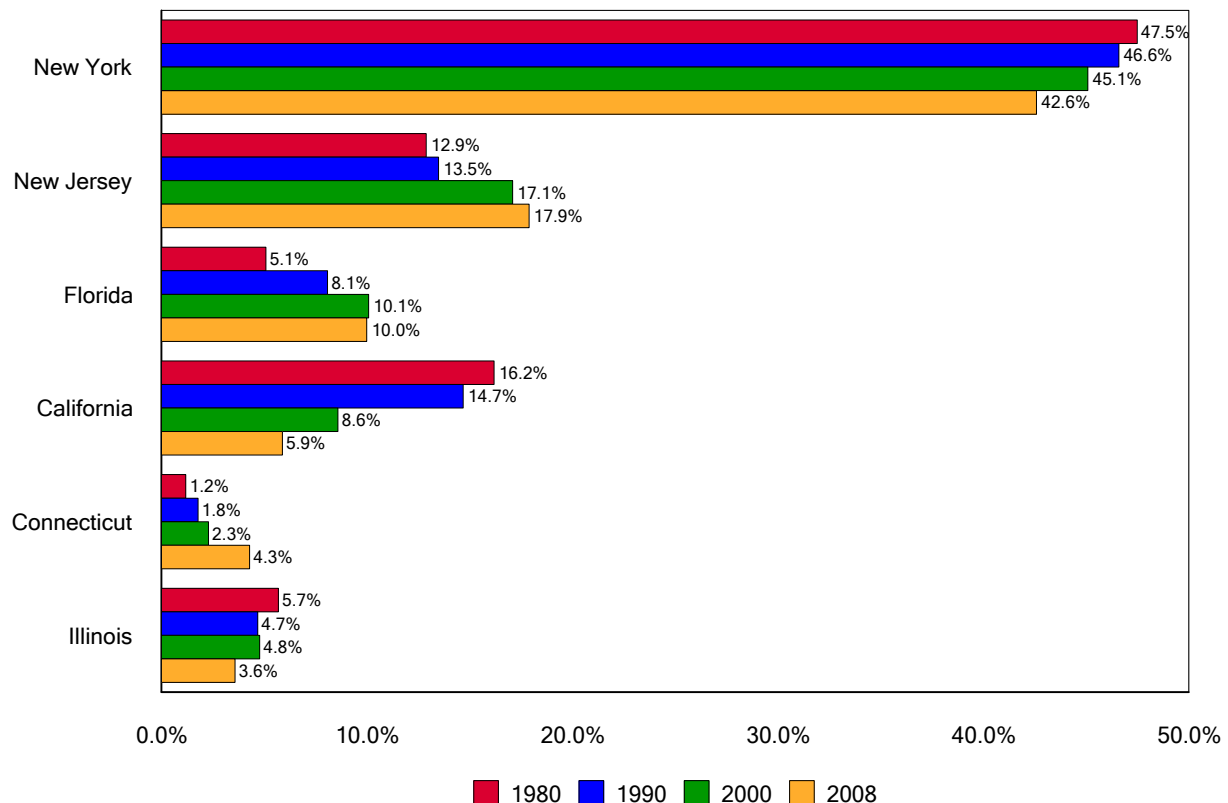


Figure 7
Percentage of Ecuadorian Population of the United States
Living in New York City, 1980 - 2008

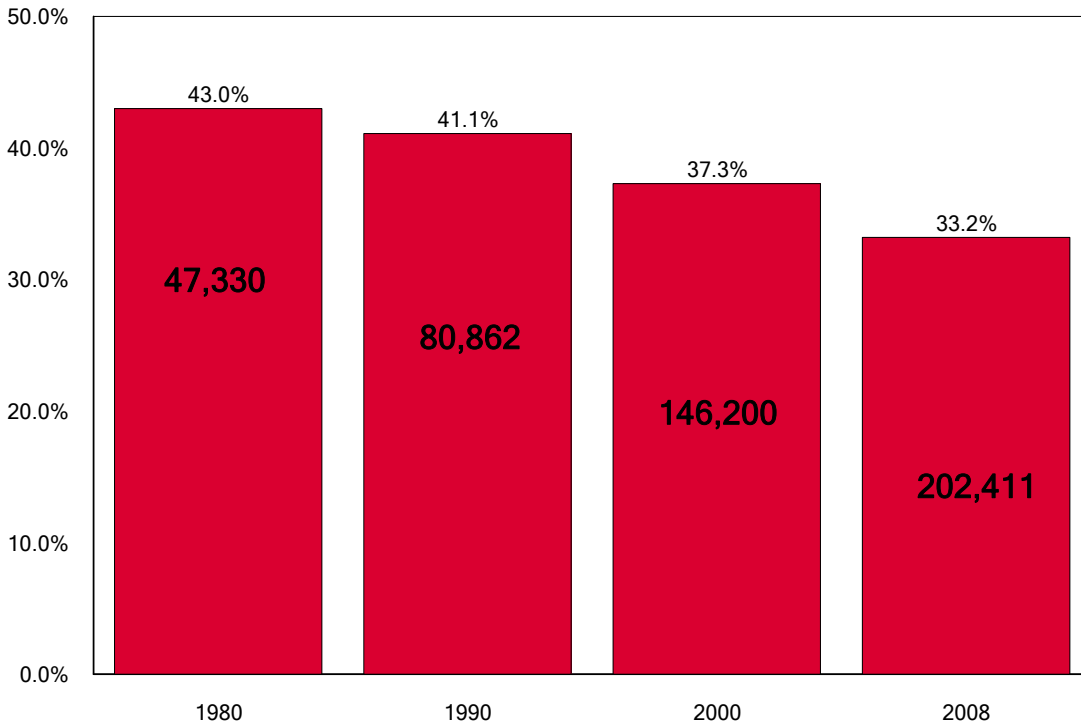
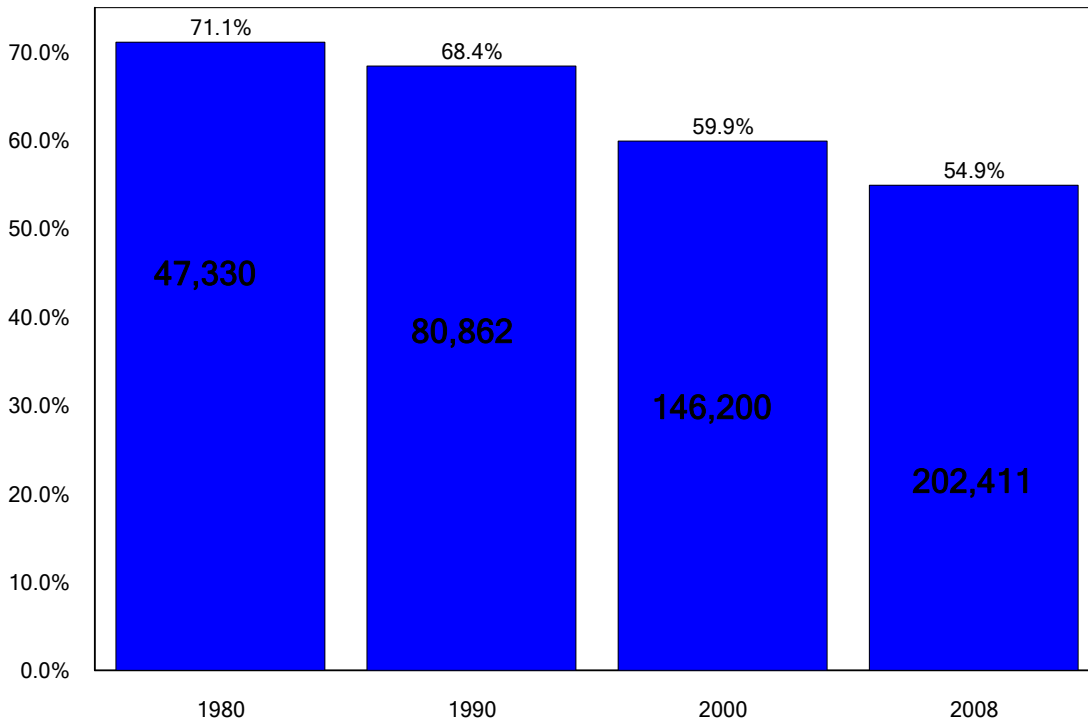
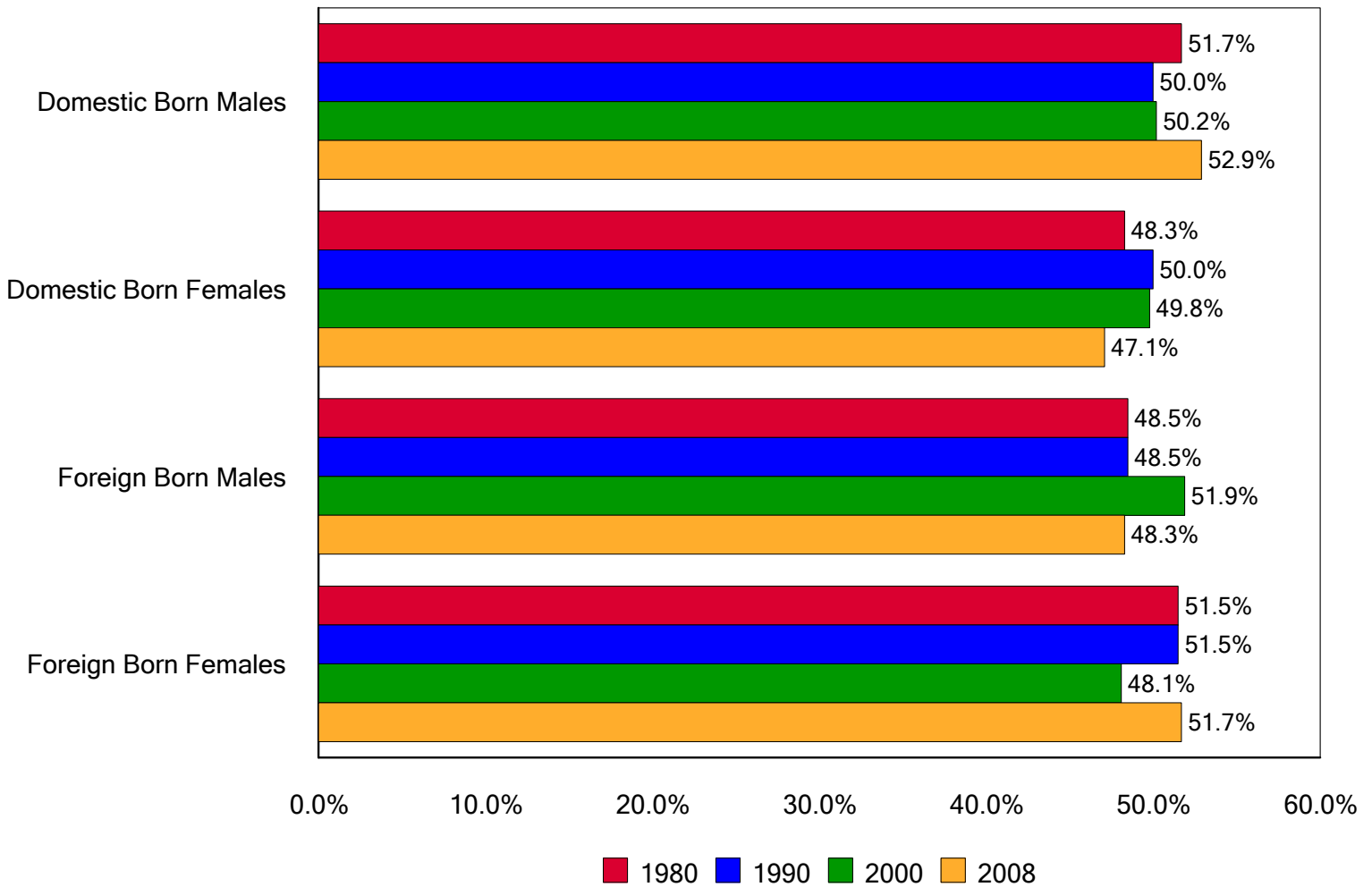


Figure 8
Percentage of Ecuadorian Population of New York and New Jersey States
Living in New York City, 1980 - 2008



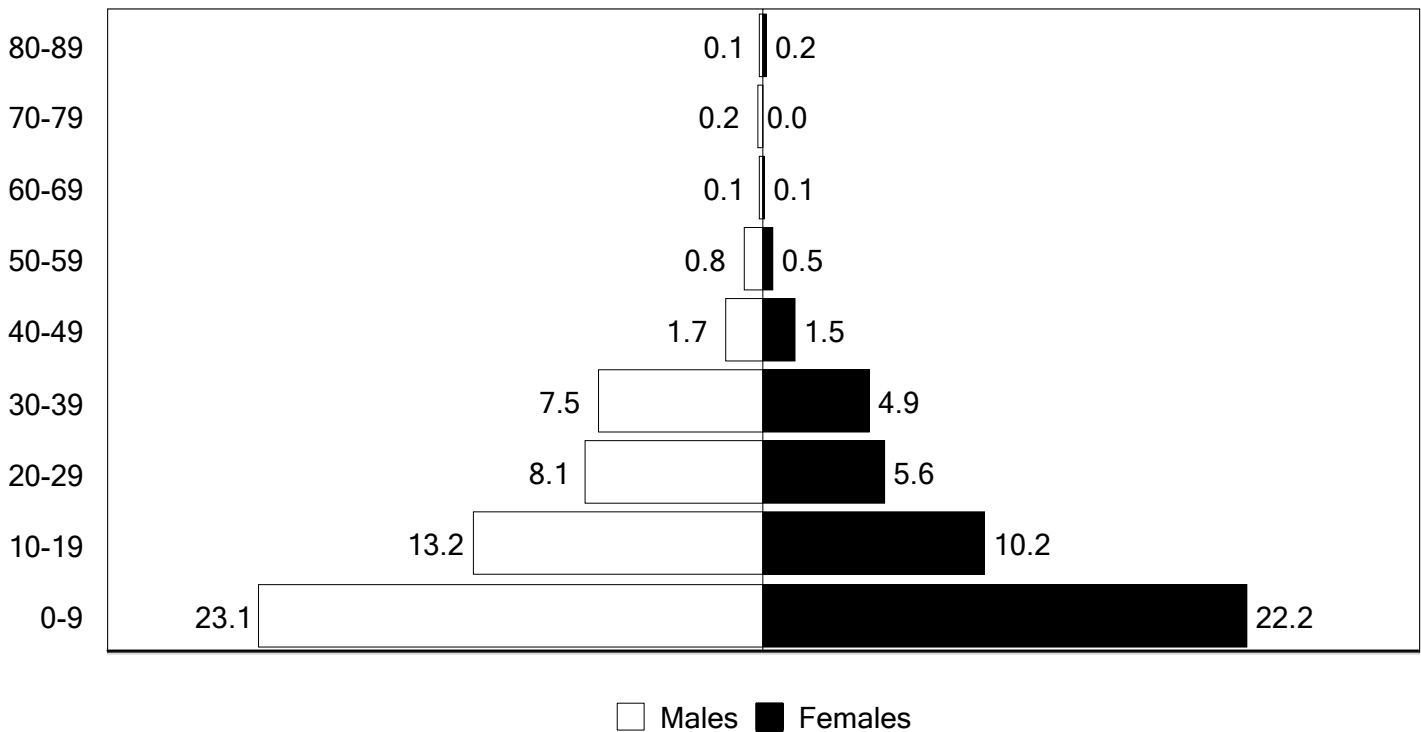
The sex distribution of Ecuadorians was fairly equitable between 1980 and 2008, especially among immigrants to the U.S. There was near parity in the ratio of males to females among domestic-born Ecuadorians in 2008 with males at about 53%. About 52% of all foreign-born Ecuadorians living in the U.S. were females, 48% were males in 2008. This was hardly changed from the ratios existing among the foreign born in 1980. This indicates that migration from Ecuador was fairly balanced by sex and these data also suggest that family migration may have been an important part of the migratory process. (See figure 9).

Figure 9
Sex Distribution of Ecuadorian Population of the United States by Nativity, 1980 - 2008



The age structure of Ecuadorians born in the U.S. demonstrate the classic patterns of a population with a fairly high birth rate. This was characterized by a heavy concentration of children under the age of 20. About 69% of all domestic-born Ecuadorians were 19 years of age and under in 2008. (See figure 10). The foreign-born Ecuadorian population had a heavy concentration of people, both males and females, in the working-age categories. Close to 64% of all foreign-born Ecuadorians living in the U.S. in 2008 were between 20 and 49 years of age. (See figure 11). Because of the fact that nearly three-quarters of all Ecuadorians in the U.S. were foreign-born in 2008, there was a clustering of the total Ecuadorian population in the working-age categories as indicated in figure 12.

Figure 10
Age Pyramid Ecuadorian Domestic-Born Population, 2008
(in percentages of total population)

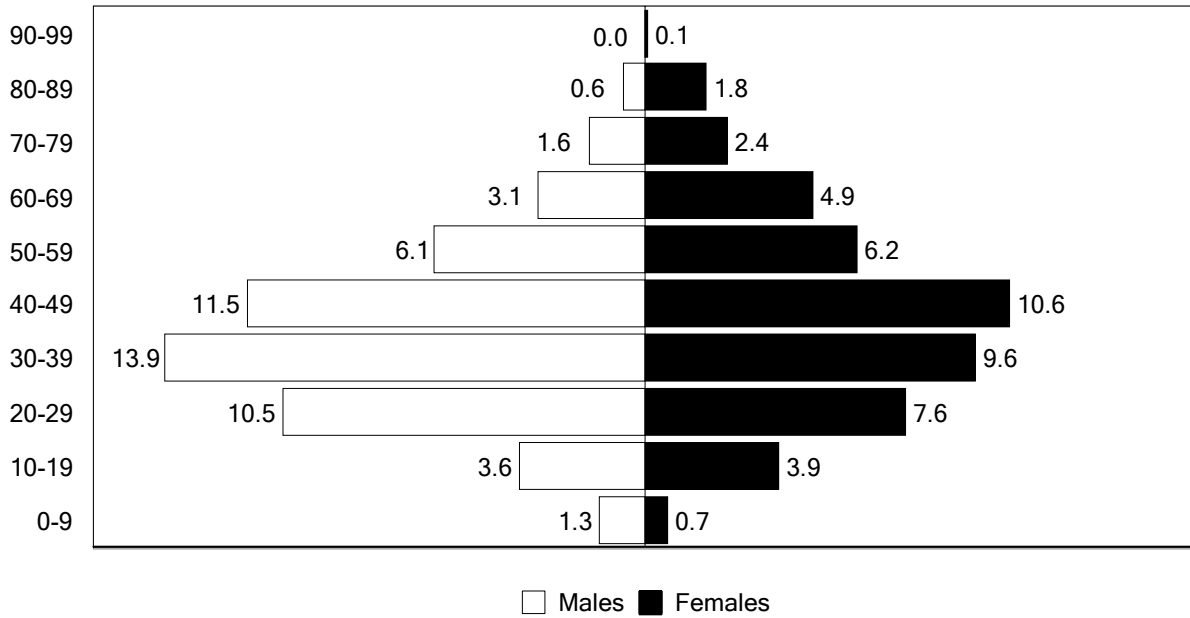


Males = 104,852

Females = 86,793

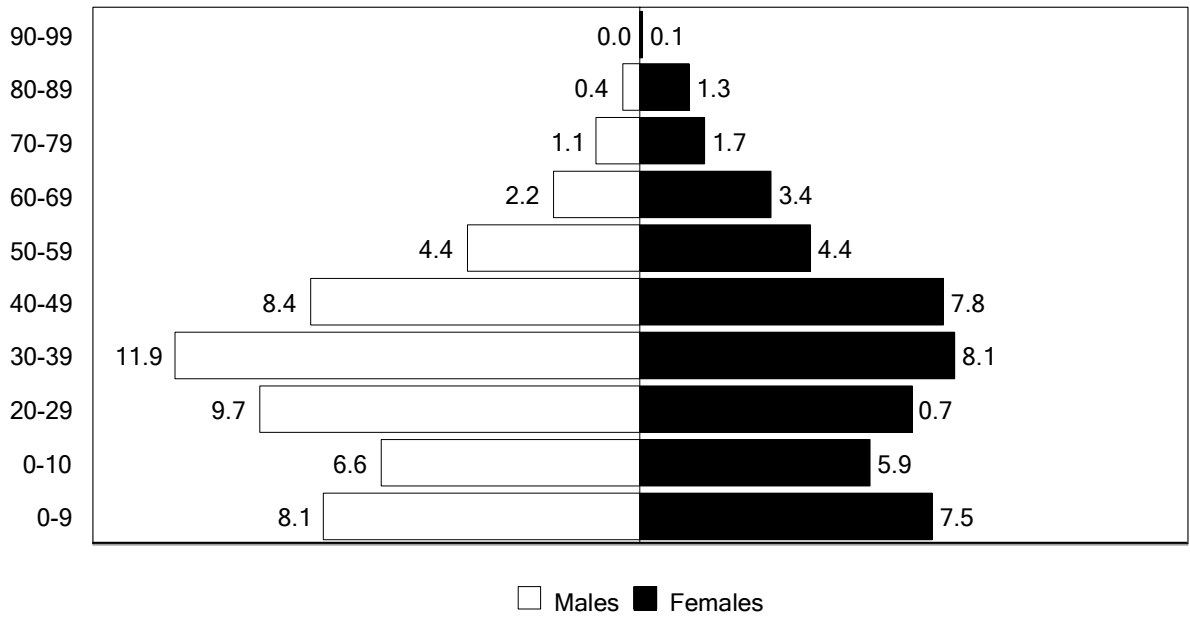
Sex Ratio = 121 males per 100 females

Figure 11
Age Pyramid Ecuadorian Foreign-Born Population, 2008
(in percentages of total population)



Males = 217,789 Females = 200,328
Sex Ratio = 109 males per 100 females

Figure 12
Age Pyramid Total Ecuadorian Population, 2008
(in percentages of total population)



Males = 322,641 Females = 287,121
Sex Ratio = 112 males per 100 females

Income

The median household incomes of Ecuadorians in the United States increased steadily between 1980 and 2008 (in inflation-adjusted dollars), although growth was slower between 2000 and 2008 which may have been linked to the U.S. economic downturn after 2006. However, Ecuadorian median household income in 2008 was among the highest among the most numerous Latino national subgroups in the U.S. and was only surpassed by Asians, non-Hispanic whites, Colombians, and Peruvians. (See figures 13 and 14).

Figure 13
Median Household Income Among Ecuadorians, 1980 - 2008
(in inflation adjusted 2008 dollars)

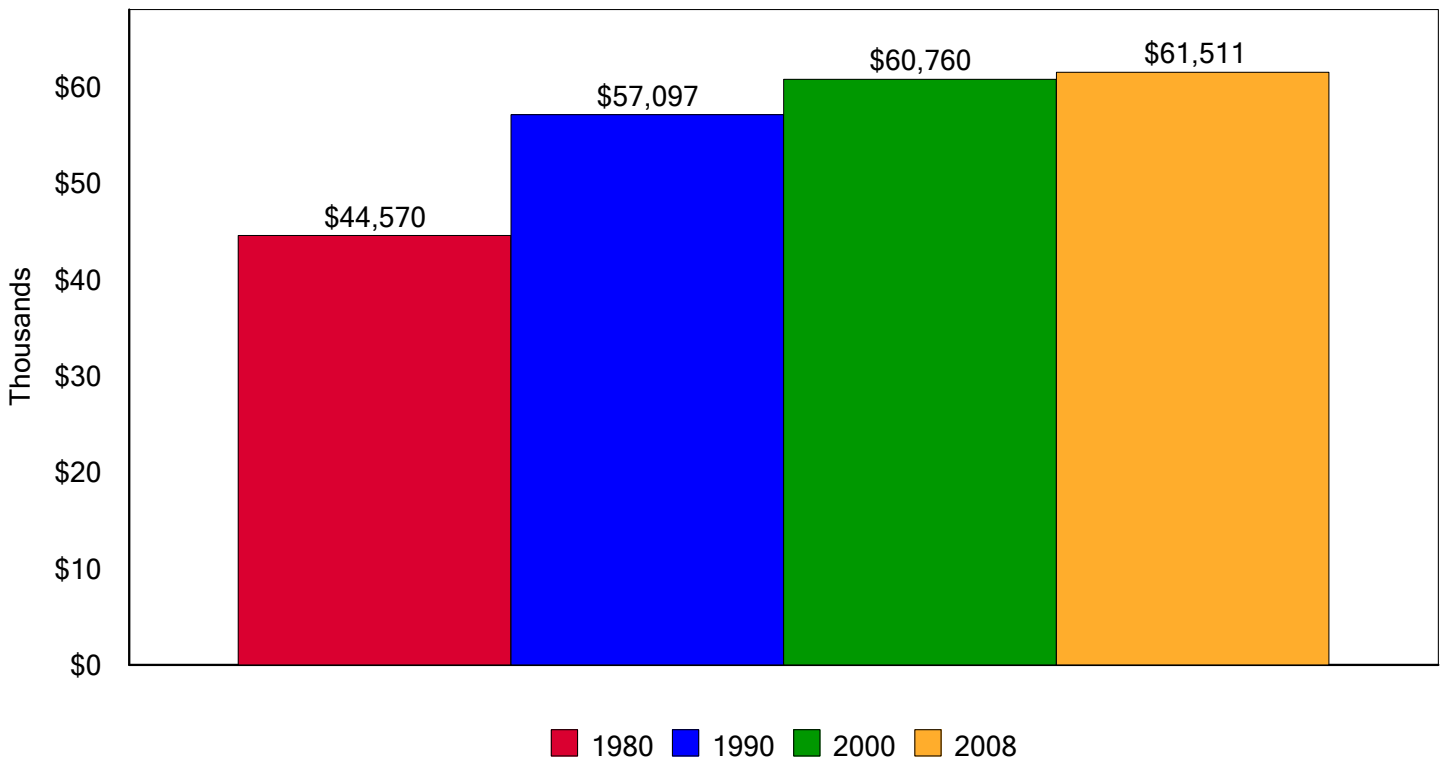
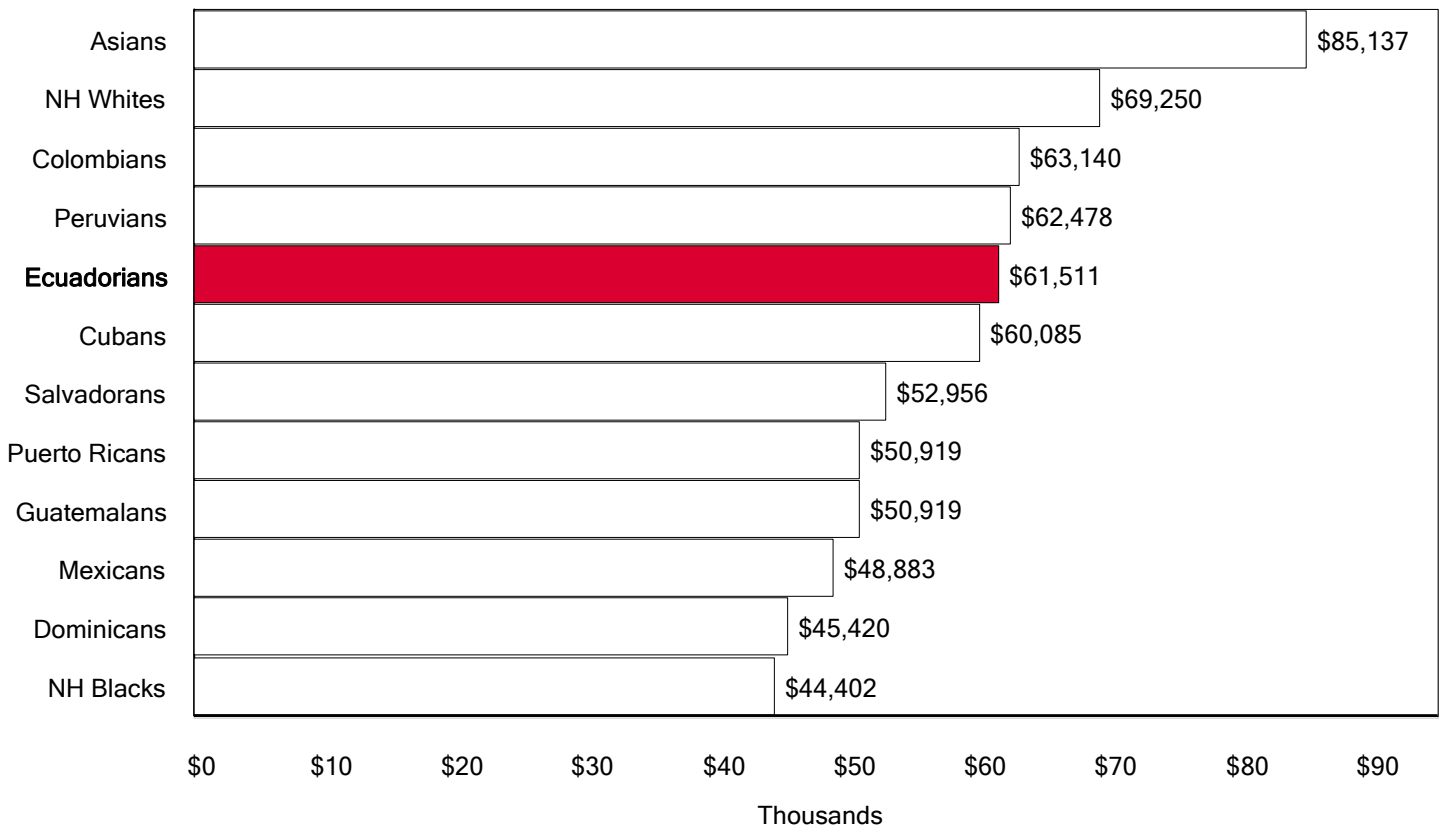


Figure 14
Median Household Income of Ecuadorians Compared with other Race/Ethnic Groups
and Largest Latino National Subgroups, 2008



Although foreign-born Ecuadorians earned slightly greater median household incomes in 1980 and 1990 than the domestic born, there was a major shift by 2000 that continued to 2008. Domestic-born Ecuadorian households earned substantially more in 2008, median incomes of \$67,723, compared with the foreign-born, \$59,372. (See figure 15). This was clearly linked to the fact that domestic-born Ecuadorians had significantly higher educational attainment levels in 2008 than the foreign-born, which will be detailed later in this report.

There was not, however, very much of a difference in median household incomes by sex. Although males earned higher household incomes than females, the difference was marginal in all years between 1980 and 2008. In large part this may have been linked to the fact that Ecuadorian women, foreign or domestic born, had very similar college graduation rates compared with men. (See figure 16).

Figure 15
 Median Household Income Among Ecuadorians by Nativity, 1980 - 2008
 (in inflation adjusted 2008 dollars)

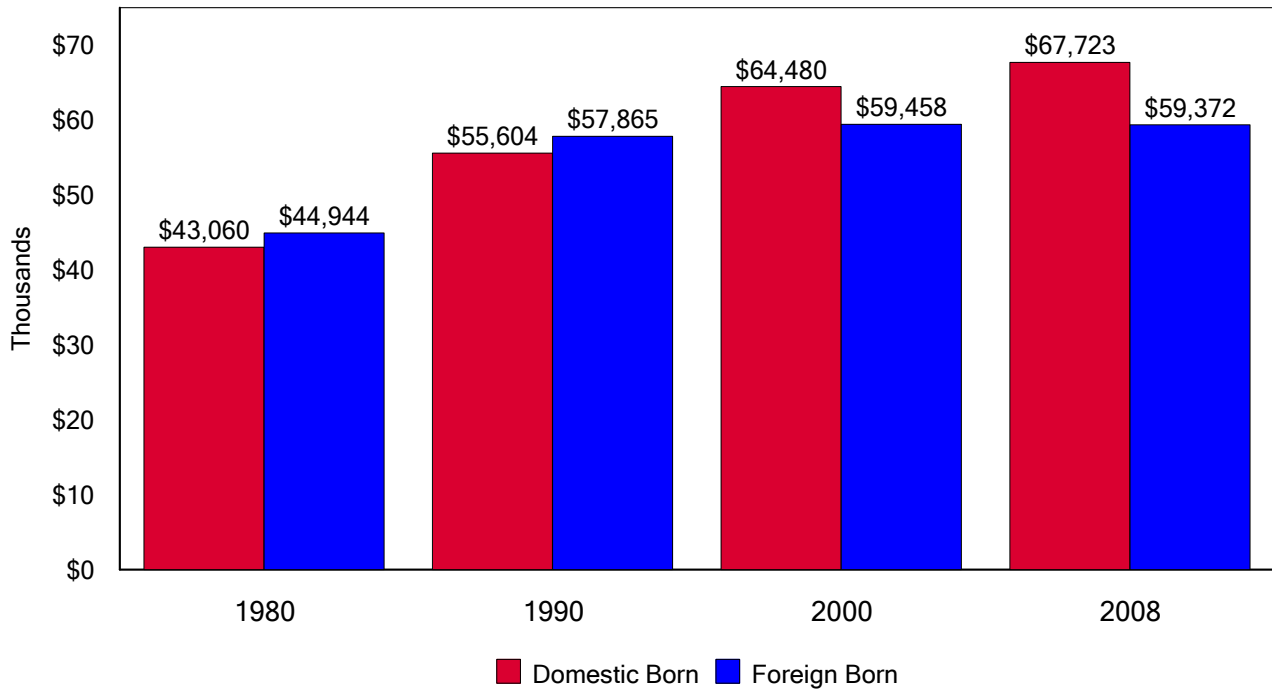
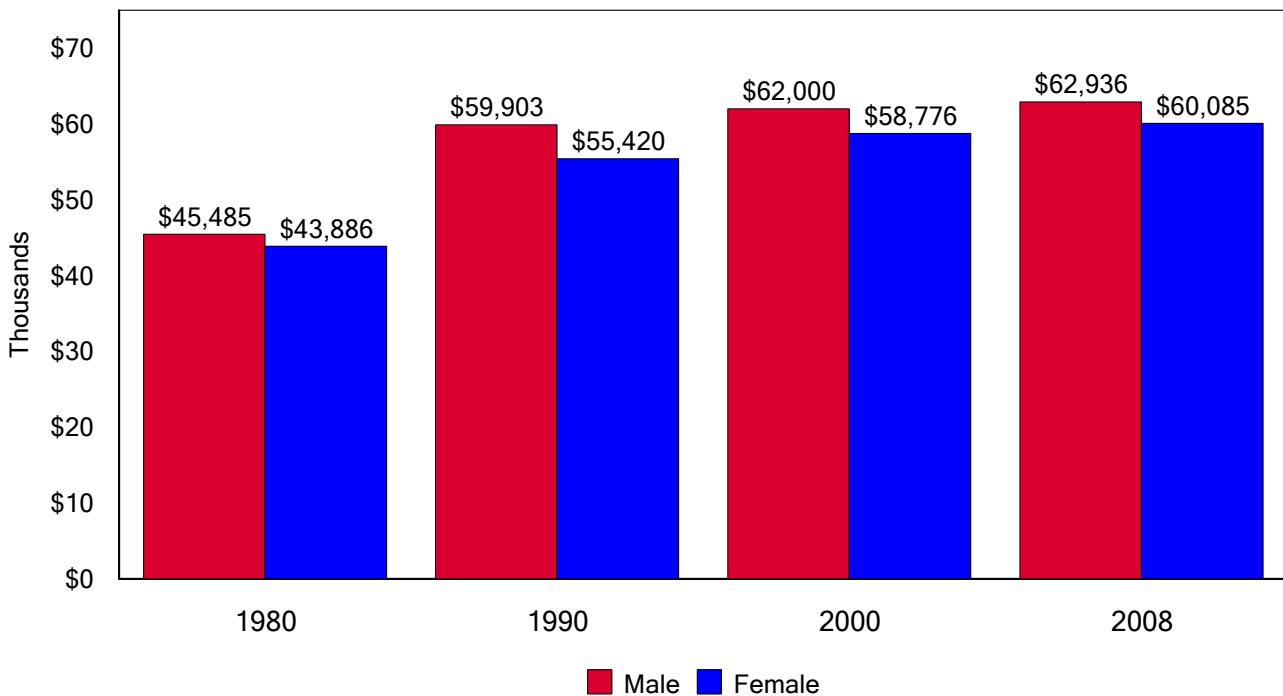


Figure 16
 Median Household Income Among Ecuadorians by Sex, 1980 - 2008
 (in inflation adjusted 2008 dollars)



There is evidence of increasing prosperity among Ecuadorian households in the U.S. First, the percentage of households in the poorest socioeconomic strata, those earning under \$20,000 annually, declined from 15% to 10% of all households between 1980 and 2008. Second, the percentage of all Ecuadorian households earning over \$75,000 yearly rose from 18% in 1980 to nearly 39% in 2008. Finally, at the highest income-earning levels, Ecuadorian households earning more than \$100,000 annually increased from 7% of all households in 1980 to 24% in 2008. (See figure 17).

As was the case with other race/ethnic groups and Latino national subgroups in the United States, there was an increasing concentration of income among the wealthiest Ecuadorian households between 1980 and 2008. Households earning more than \$75,000 controlled about 38% of all income derived by all Ecuadorian households in 1980, but this increased to 66% of all income in 2008. Ecuadorian households earning more than \$100,000 controlled 19% of all income in 1980 and 50% in 2008. Again, this progressive concentration of wealth was not unique to Ecuadorians, but a generalized phenomenon within U.S. society. (See figure 18 and table 4 for complete data).

Figure 17
 Percentage of Ecuadorian Households Earning Less than \$20,000, More than \$75,000, More than \$100,000, 1980 - 2008 (in inflation adjusted 2008 dollars)

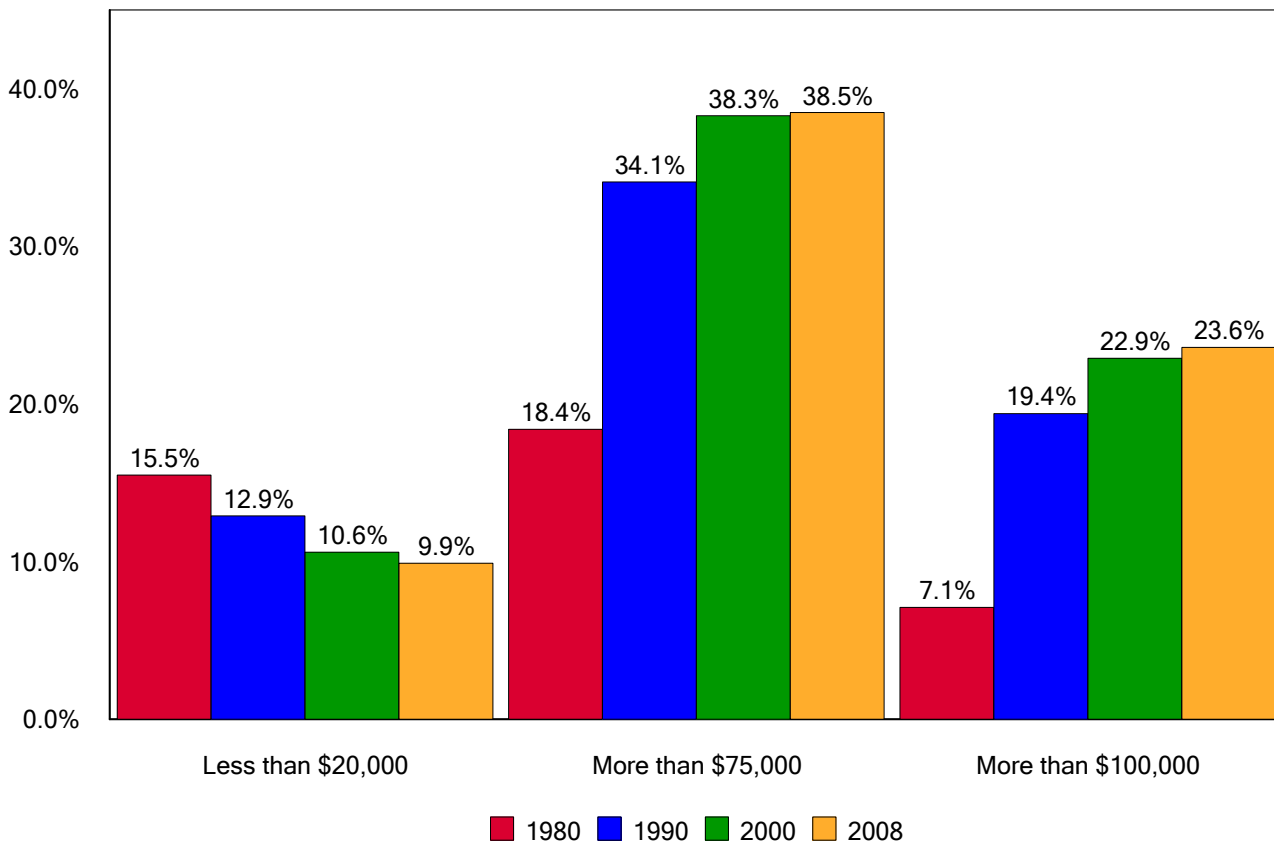


Figure 18
Percentage of Total Household Income Controlled by Ecuadorian Households Earning More than \$75,000, and more than \$100,000, 1980 - 2008 (in inflation adjusted 2008 dollars)

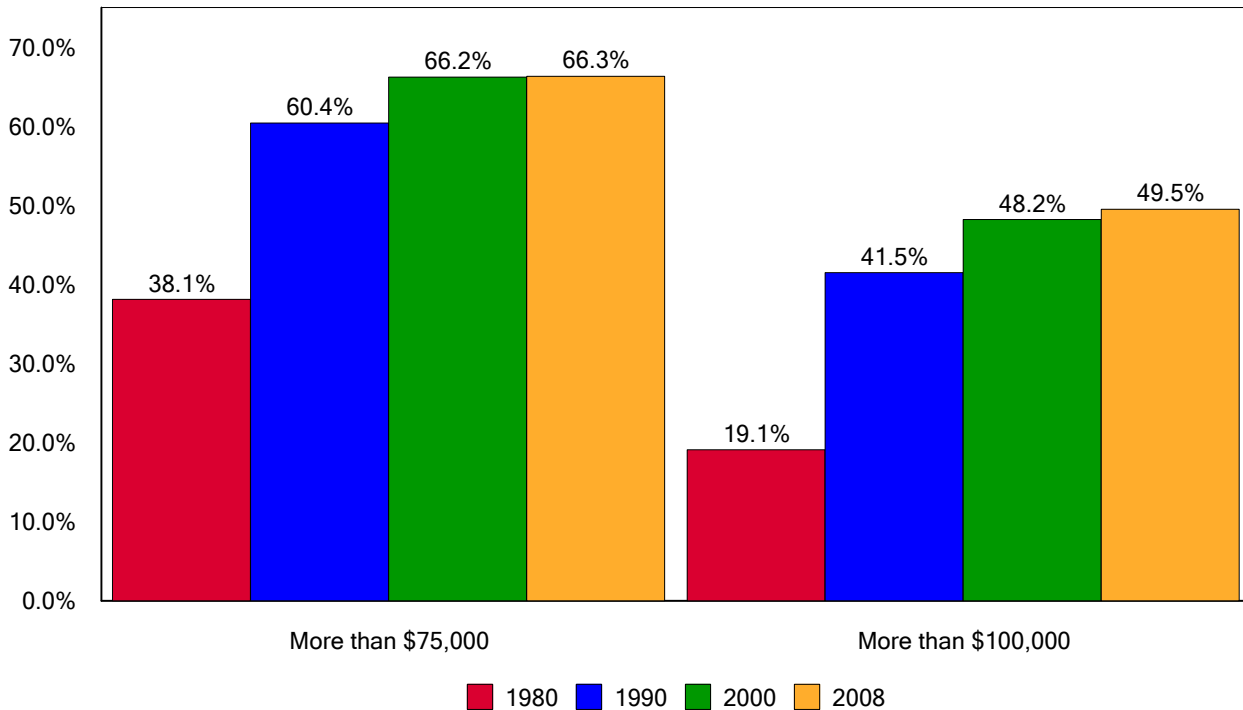


Table 4
Household Income Structure Among Ecuadorian Households, 1980 - 2008
(in inflation adjusted 2008 dollars)

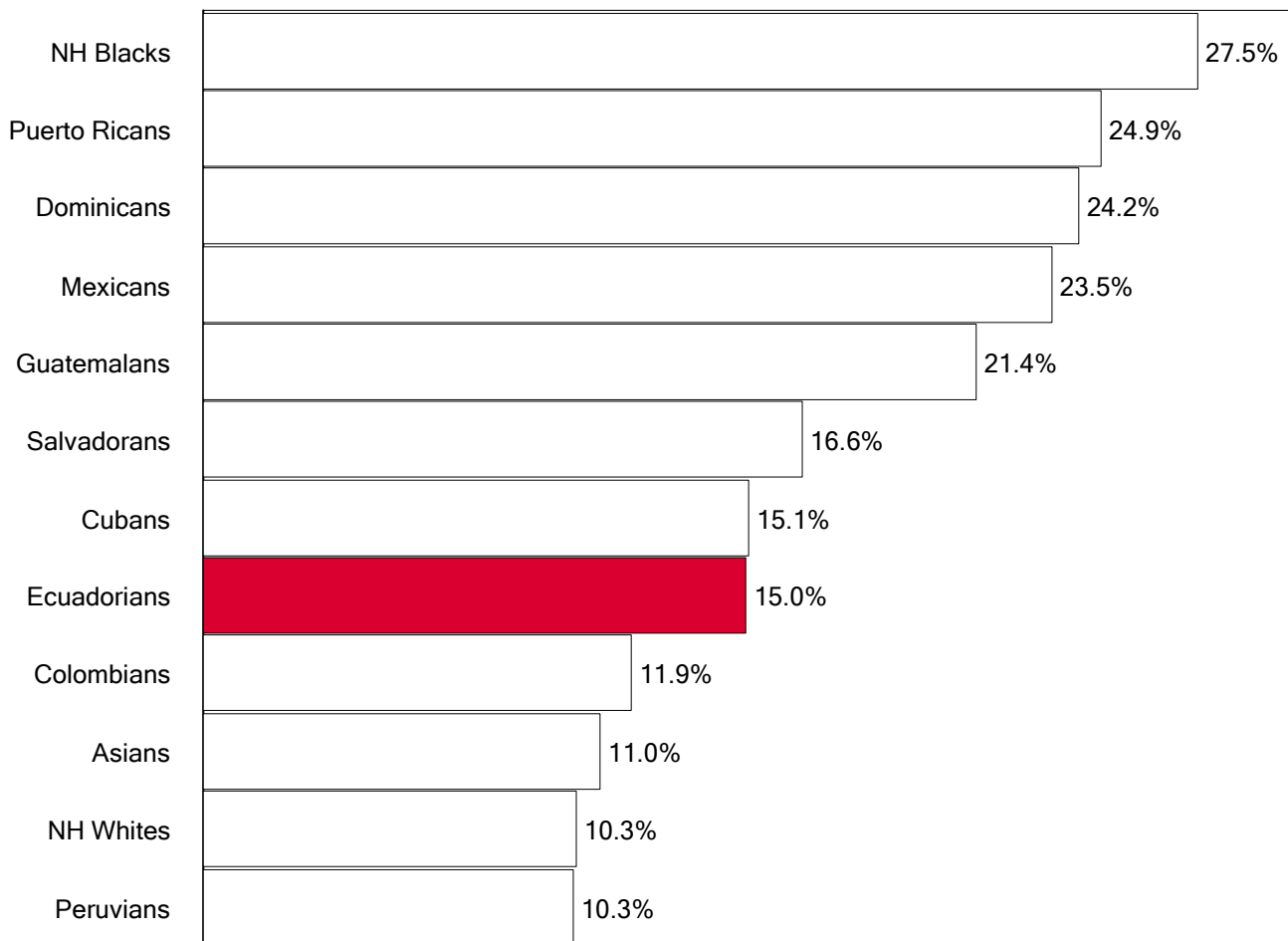
	1980		1990		2000		2008	
	% of Income	% of Households	% of Income	% of Households	% of Income	% of Households	% of Income	% of Households
Less than 10,000	0.6%	5.0%	0.4%	4.2%	0.3%	3.6%	0.2%	2.5%
10,000-19,999	3.2%	10.5%	1.9%	8.6%	1.4%	6.9%	1.5%	7.4%
20,000-29,999	5.9%	12.1%	3.3%	8.9%	3.0%	8.9%	3.0%	9.2%
30,000-39,999	11.1%	15.9%	5.1%	9.9%	5.0%	10.6%	4.4%	9.6%
40,000-49,999	13.2%	14.8%	6.9%	10.4%	6.1%	10.0%	5.7%	9.7%
50,000-74,999	28.0%	23.3%	21.9%	23.9%	18.0%	21.6%	18.9%	23.1%
75,000-99,999	19.0%	11.3%	18.9%	14.7%	18.0%	15.4%	16.8%	14.9%
100,000 - 199,999	19.1%	7.1%	33.8%	17.5%	35.5%	20.0%	35.9%	20.1%
200,000+	-	-	7.7%	1.9%	12.7%	2.9%	13.6%	3.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Poverty²

The Ecuadorian population of the United States not only had relatively high median household incomes, but in comparative perspective Ecuadorians also had fairly low poverty rates when compared with other racial/ethnic groups and Latino national subgroups in the U.S. The poverty rate was about 15% of the total Ecuadorian population in 2008. Only Colombians, Asians, non-Hispanic whites, and Peruvians had lower poverty rates. (See figure 19).

These poverty rates declined gradually between 1980 and 2008 for both foreign and domestic-born Ecuadorians and by sex. The overall poverty rate for all Ecuadorians in 1980 was 18% and in 2008 it was 15%. (See figure 20). Ecuadorian women had slightly higher poverty rates (16%) than Ecuadorian men (14%) in 2008, although this represented a decline for both sexes from 1980. These data are found in figure 21.

Figure 19
Percentage of Ecuadorians living in Poverty compared with other Race/Ethnic Groups
and Largest Latino National Subgroups, 2008



² Poverty for individuals is calculated by the U.S. Census Bureau using a mathematical model which incorporates income and family size, rather than an absolute income level.

Figure 20
Percentage of Ecuadorians Living in Poverty by Nativity, 1980 - 2008

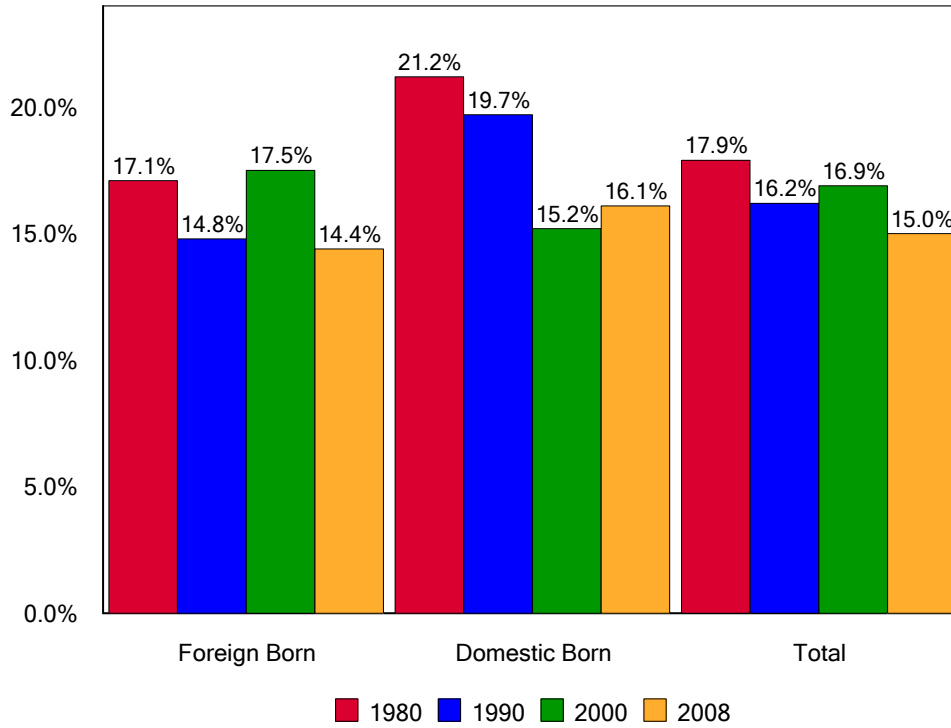
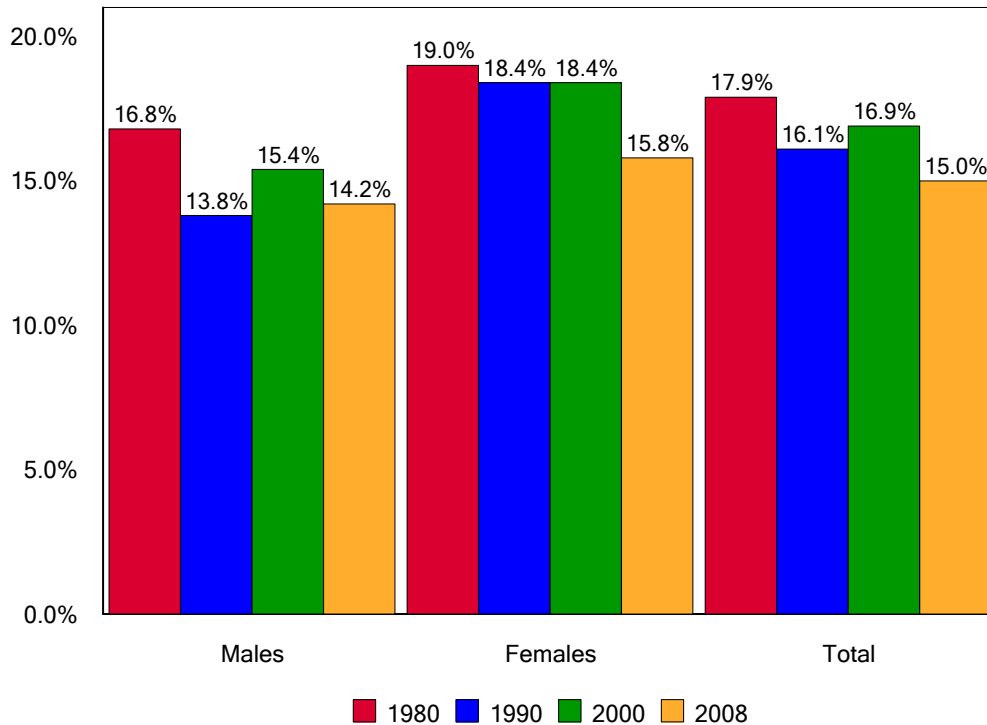


Figure 21
Percentage of Ecuadorians Living in Poverty by Sex, 1980 - 2008



Education

Ecuadorian adults living in the U.S., whether domestic or foreign-born, male or female, had fairly impressive levels of educational attainment in 2008 in comparative perspective and there had been constant improvements since 1980. Among all Ecuadorians 25 years of age and older, about 44% had not graduated high school in 1980, but this dropped to 27% by 2008. Over the same period of time the college graduation rate increased from 10% of all adult Ecuadorians in 1980 to 22% in 2008 which was a higher college graduation rate than found among most Latino national subgroups with the exception of Peruvians, Colombians, and Cubans. (See figure 22).

Among domestic-born Ecuadorian men and women the college graduation rate was higher than among any other racial and ethnic group in the United States. In 2008 an impressive 43% of domestic-born Ecuadorian women 25 years of age and older had graduated from college with B.A. degrees and the corresponding figure for domestic-born males was 31%. Clearly, acquiring a college education is a major priority among the Ecuadorian population of the United States. These data are summarized in figures 23 and 24.

As was the case among all other demographic groups in the United States, median household income was closely tied to educational attainment levels. It has been pointed out that Ecuadorians had relatively high median household incomes in the U.S. and this is clearly because of improving educational attainment levels which have been achieved by Ecuadorians between 1980 and 2008. (See figure 25 for 2008 data and tables 5 and 6 for complete data).

Table 5
Detailed Educational Attainment Levels for Ecuadorians 25 Years
of Age and Older by Sex, 2008

	Male	%	Female	%	Total	%
Did Not Graduate High School	64,222	31.2%	55,457	29.7%	119,679	30.5%
High School Graduate	59,519	28.9%	54,599	29.2%	114,118	29.1%
Some College No Degree	33,122	16.1%	31,967	17.1%	65,089	16.6%
Associates Degree	10,618	5.2%	10,240	5.5%	20,858	5.3%
B.A.	29,390	14.3%	22,776	12.2%	52,166	13.3%
M.A.	5,678	2.8%	8,498	4.5%	14,176	3.6%
Professional Degree	2,396	1.2%	2,822	1.5%	5,218	1.3%
Ph.D	648	0.3%	586	0.3%	1,234	0.3%
Total	205,593	100.0%	186,945	100.0%	392,538	100.0%

Note: Discrepancies in the total percentage of Ecuadorians with a B.A. degree or greater and for those who did not graduate high school with data indicated in Figure 23 are because of missing values for sex in the 2008 ACS data base..

Figure 22
 Percentage of Ecuadorians who did not Graduate High School or Achieved a B.A. Degree or Higher for Population 25 Years of Age and Older Compared with Major Race/Ethnic Groups and Largest Latino National Subgroups, 2008

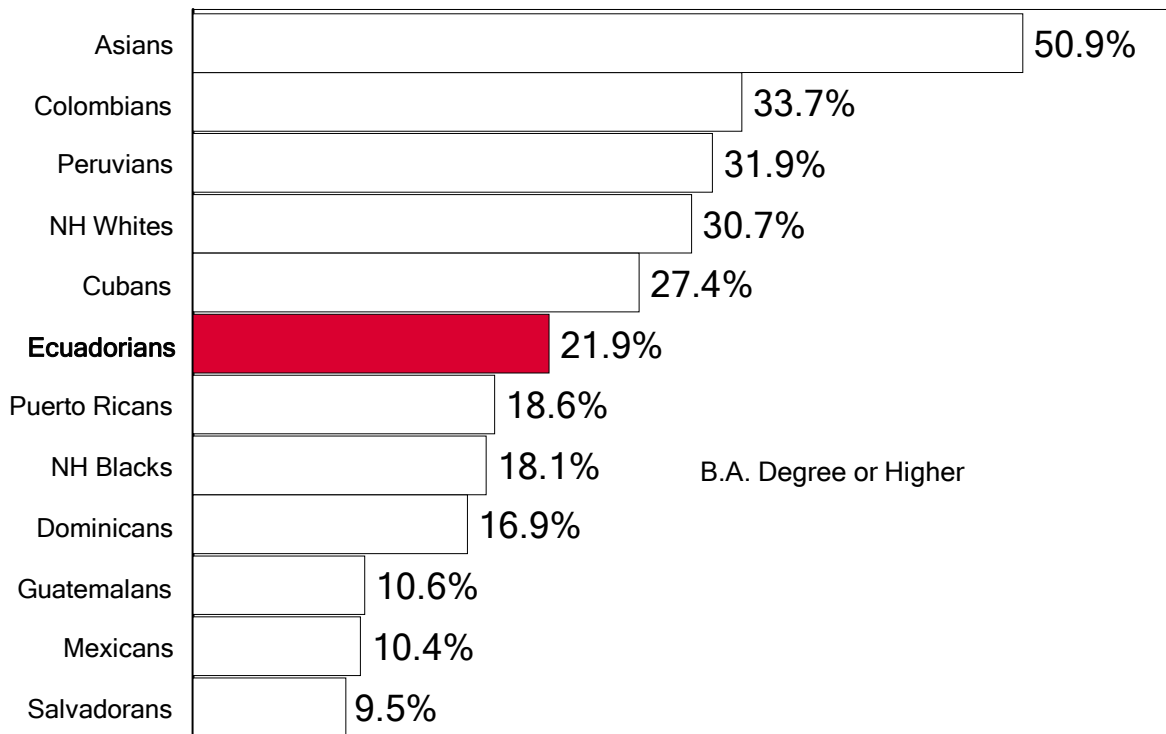
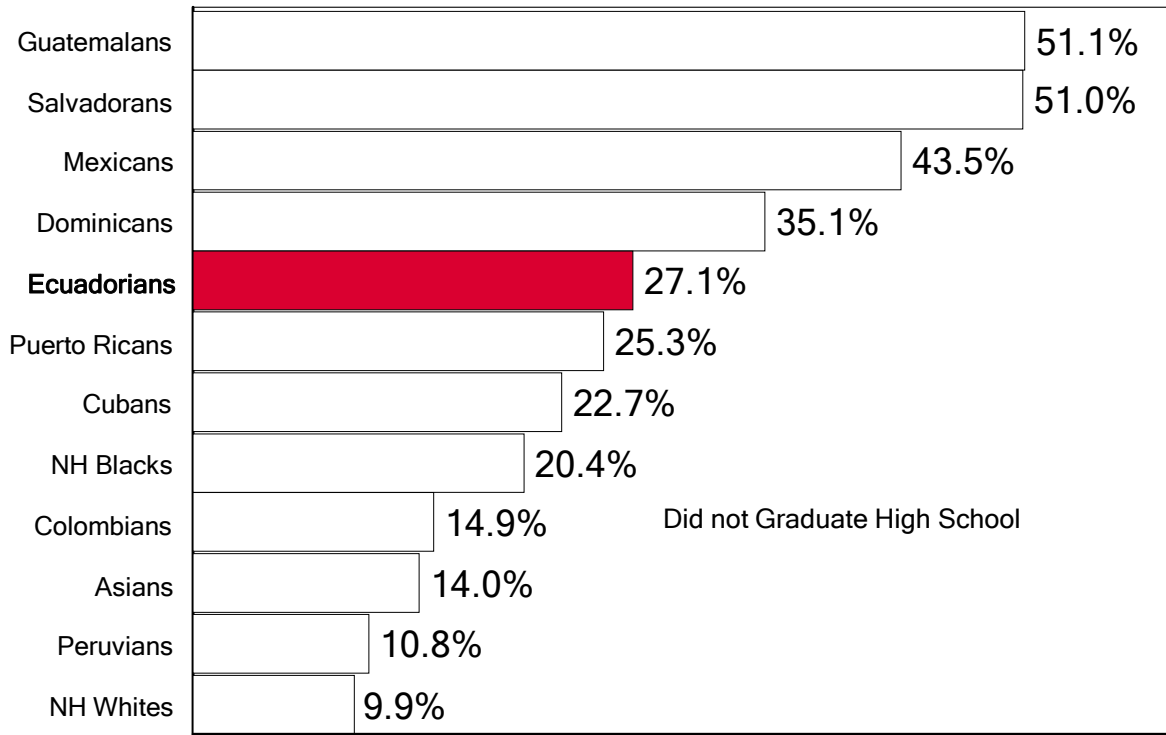


Figure 23
 Percentage of Ecuadorians who did not Graduate High School or Achieved a B.A. Degree
 or Higher by Sex, Population 25 Years of Age or Older, 1980 - 2008

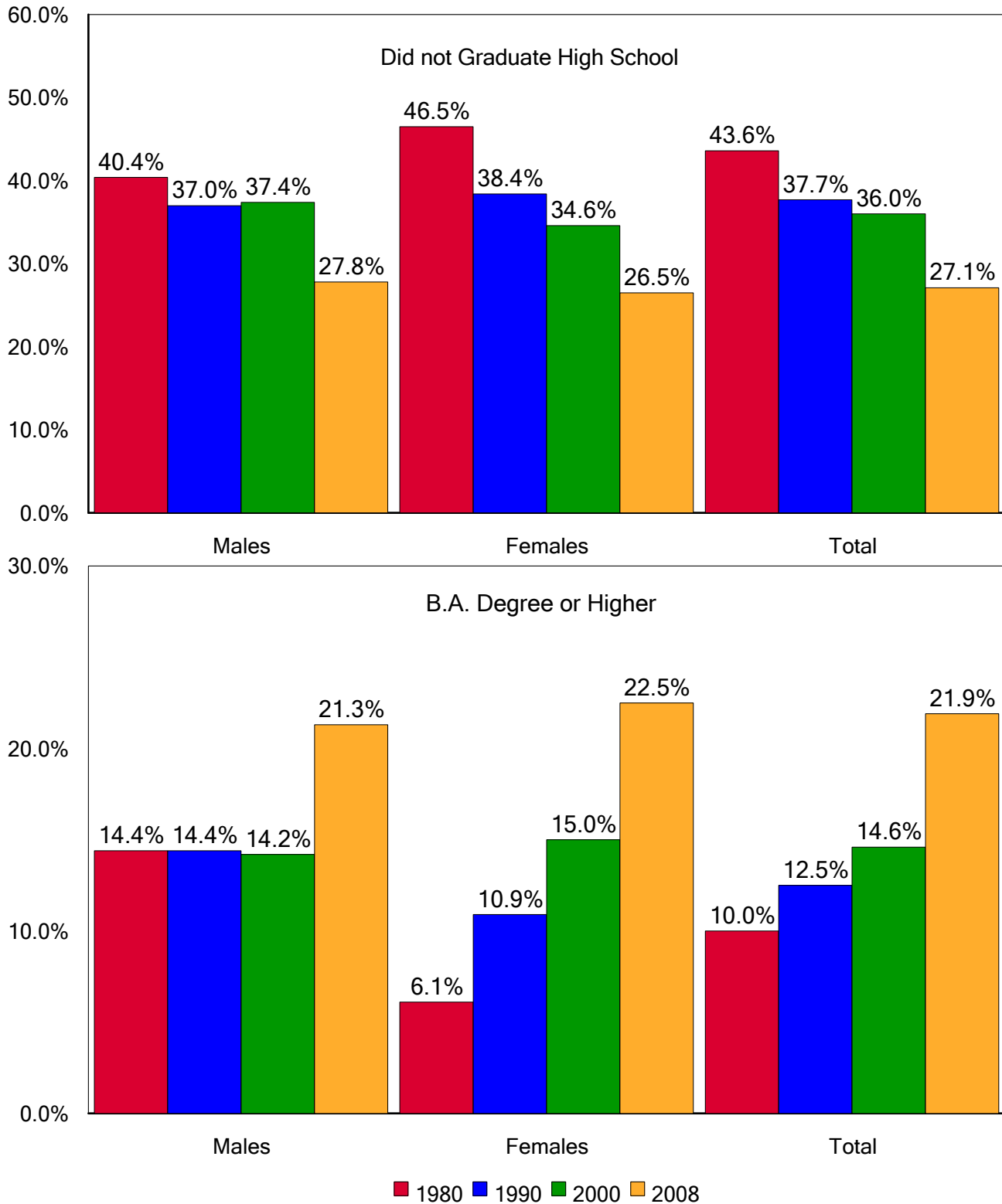


Figure 24
 Percentage of Ecuadorians who did not Graduate High School or Achieved a B.A. Degree or Higher by Nativity and Sex for Population 25 Years of Age and Older, 1980 - 2008

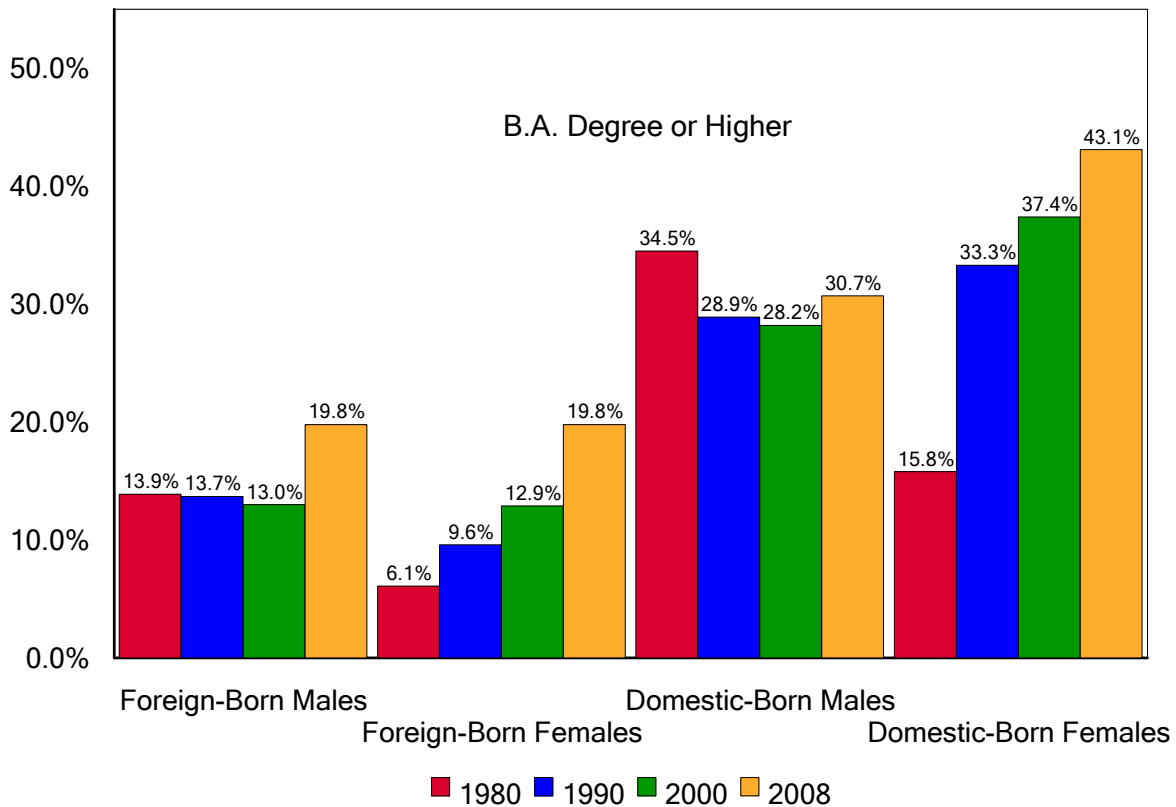
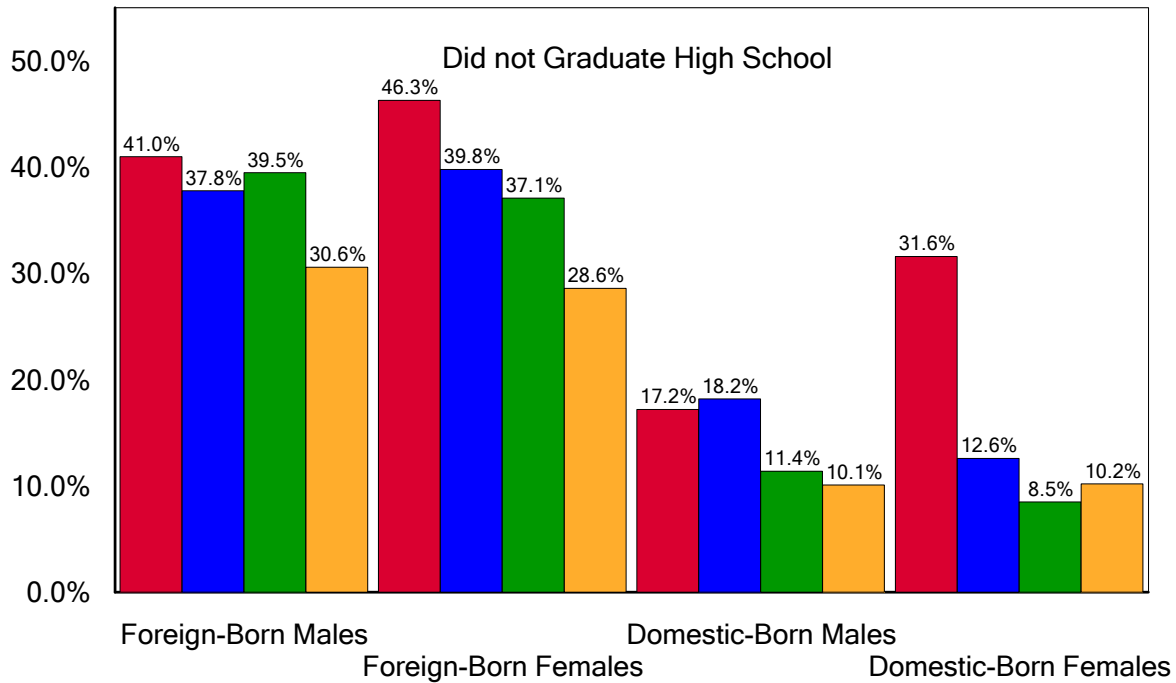


Figure 25
Median Household Income by Educational Attainment Level Among
Ecuadorians in the United States, 2008

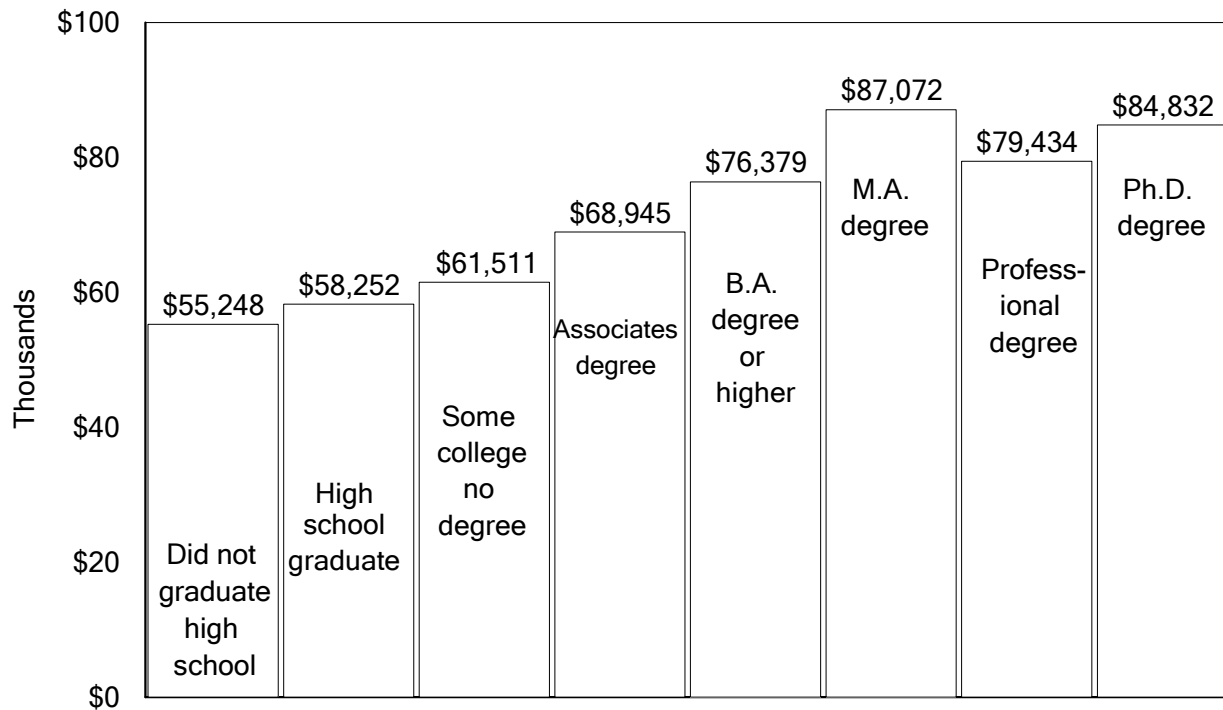


Table 6
Detailed Educational Attainment Levels for Ecuadorians 25 Years
of Age and Older by Nativity, 2008

	Domestic Born	%	Foreign Born	%	Total	%
Did Not Graduate High School	5,667	12.4%	114,012	32.9%	119,679	30.5%
High School Graduate	9,133	20.0%	104,985	30.3%	114,118	29.1%
Some College No Degree	10,068	22.0%	55,021	15.9%	65,089	16.6%
Associates Degree	5,788	12.6%	15,070	4.3%	20,858	5.3%
B.A.	11,143	24.3%	41,023	11.8%	52,166	13.3%
M.A.	2,816	6.2%	11,360	3.3%	14,176	3.6%
Professional Degree	894	2.0%	4,324	1.2%	5,218	1.3%
Ph.D.	267	0.6%	967	0.3%	1,234	0.3%
Total	45,776	100.0%	346,762	100.0%	392,538	100.0%

Note: Discrepancies in the total percentage of Ecuadorians with a B.A. degree or greater and for those who did not graduate high school with data indicated in Figure 23 are because of missing values for nativity in the 2008 ACS data base.

Employment and Unemployment

Ecuadorians in the U.S. between 16 and 60 years of age had very low unemployment rates in 2008 – 5.2% – which was a slight decline from 5.5% in 1980. Unemployment rates only measure individuals who are actively seeking work. Two other useful measures of labor market conditions should be examined: the employment rate and the ‘not-in-the-labor force’ rate, which means those who were not actively seeking employment for whatever reason. The employment rate for all Ecuadorians aged 16 – 60 was 65% in 1980 and increased to 75% in 2008. Over the same period the ‘not in the labor force’ rate fell from 29% to 20%. (See figure 26). Clearly Ecuadorians in the U.S. became more progressively integrated into the work force as more immigrants arrived after 1980 with the objective of seeking employment.

There were some differences in labor market conditions by nativity and sex. Foreign-born Ecuadorian males between ages 16 – 60 had much higher employment rates than domestic-born men in the same age categories in all years between 1980 and 2008. This is consistent with the observation that migrants came to the U.S. with the objective of seeking employment. By 2008 87% of all men of working ages born in Ecuador were working compared with 70% among U.S.-born Ecuadorian males. The differential among women was not as great: some 66% of Ecuadorian-born women were employed in 2008 compared with 68% of Ecuadorian women between ages 16 and 60 who were born in the U.S..

In 2008 Ecuadorian employment rates were very high (74.9%) in comparative perspective when measured against all other race/ethnic groups in the United States and among the major Latino national subgroups in the nation. Only Salvadorans (76.6%) and Peruvians (76.7%) had higher employment rates. The Ecuadorian population also had low unemployment and ‘not in the labor force’ rates. (All of these employment data are presented in figures 26 through 33).

Figure 26
Employment and Unemployment among Ecuadorians, 1980 - 2008
Population Ages 16 - 60

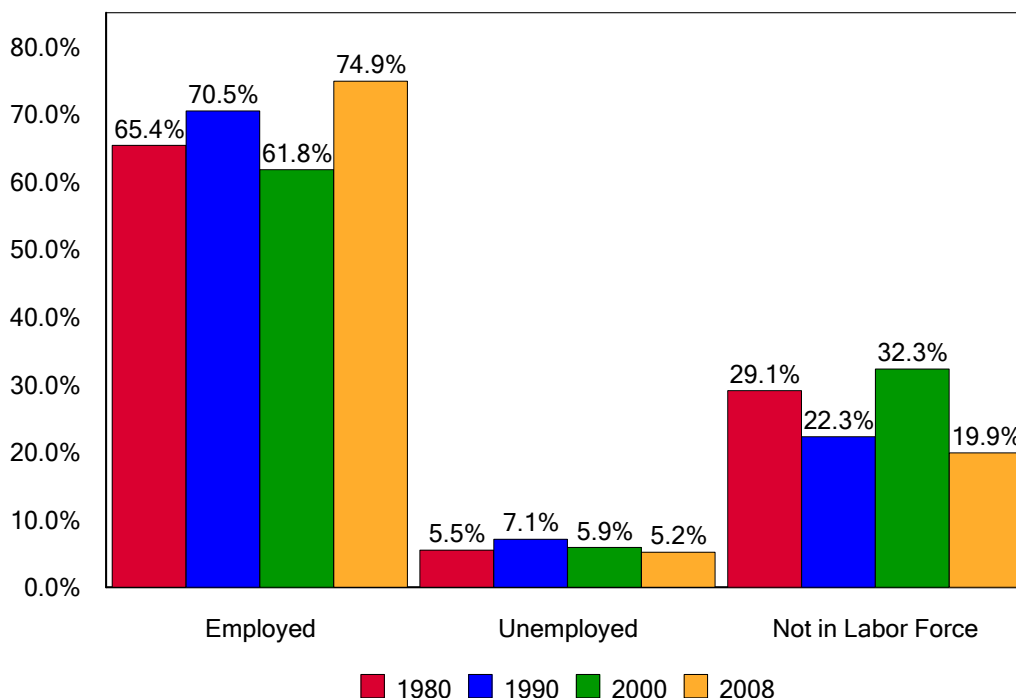


Figure 27
 Percentage of Ecuadorians Employed, 1980 - 2008
 Population Ages 16 - 60 by Sex

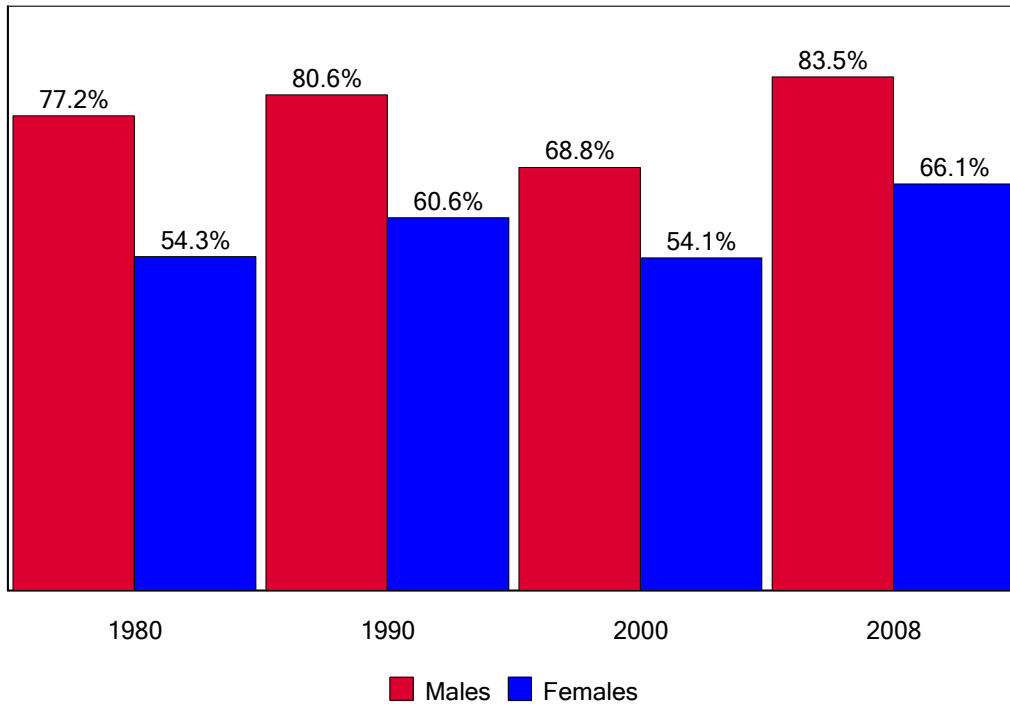


Figure 28
 Percentage of Ecuadorians Not in the Labor Force, 1980 - 2008
 Population Ages 16 - 60 by Sex

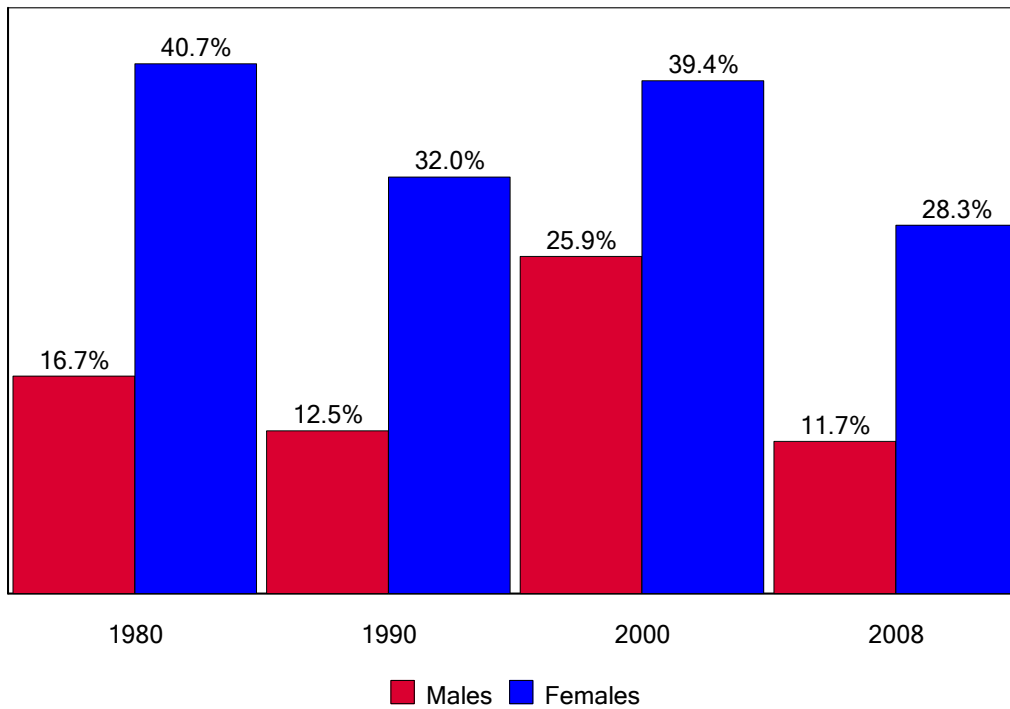


Figure 29
Percentage of Ecuadorians Unemployed, 1980 - 2008
Population Ages 16 - 60 by Sex

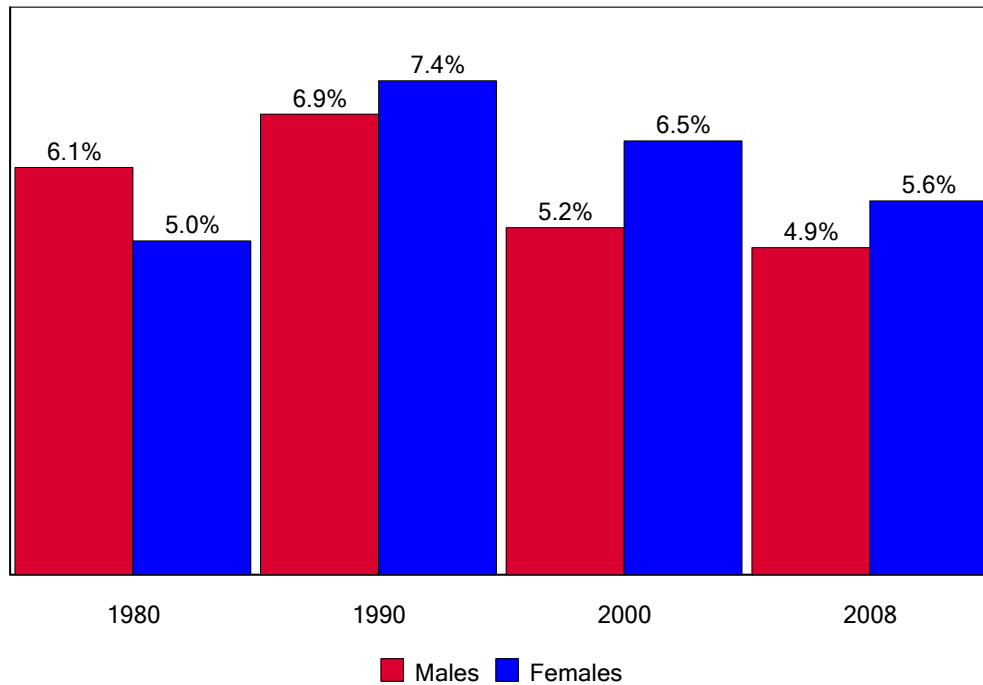


Figure 30
Employment Rates for Ecuadorians by Sex and Nativity, 1980 - 2008
Population Ages 16 - 60

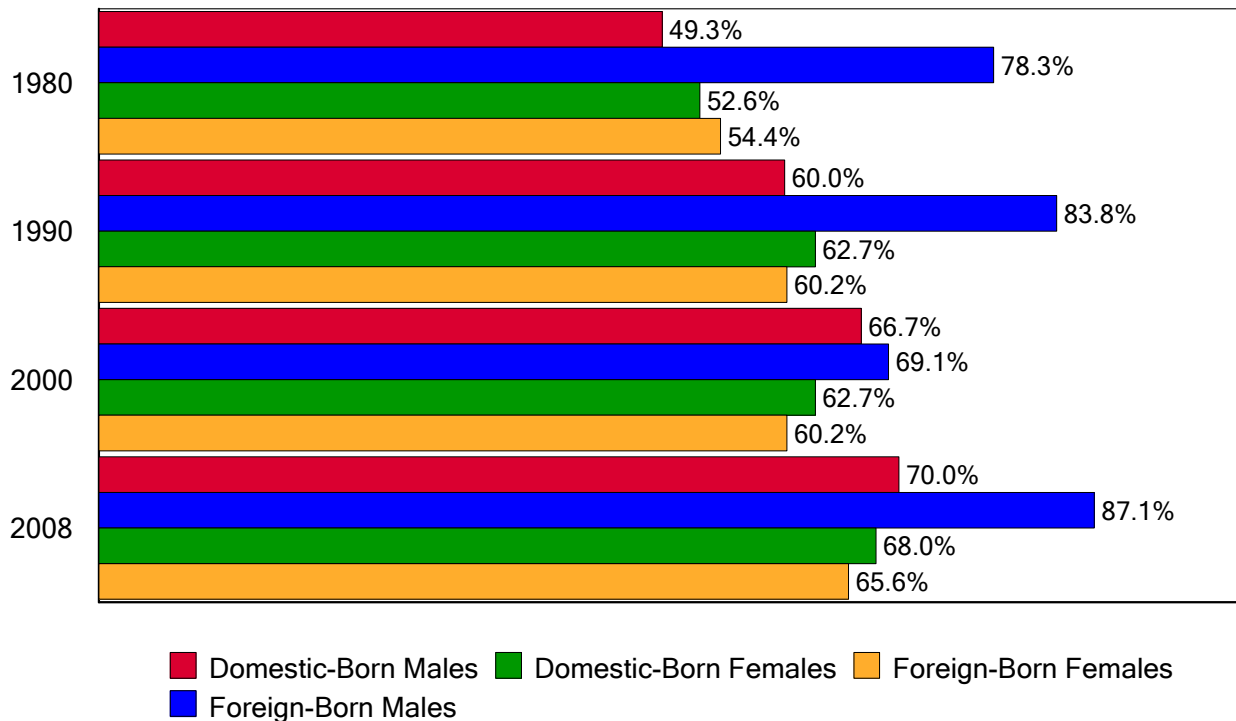


Figure 31
 Employment Rates among Ecuadorians in the United States compared with Race/Ethnic Groups and Largest Latino National Subgroups, 2008 (Population Ages 16 - 60)

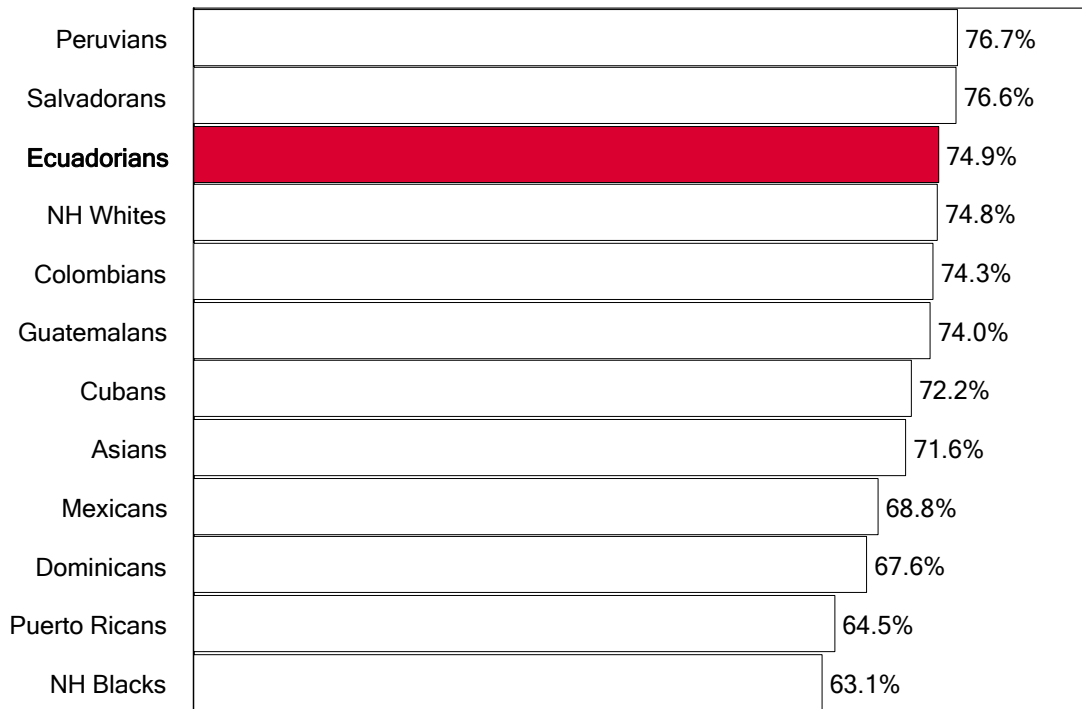


Figure 32
 Unemployment Rates among Ecuadorians in the United States compared with Race/Ethnic Groups and Largest Latino National Subgroups, 2008 (Population Ages 16 - 60)

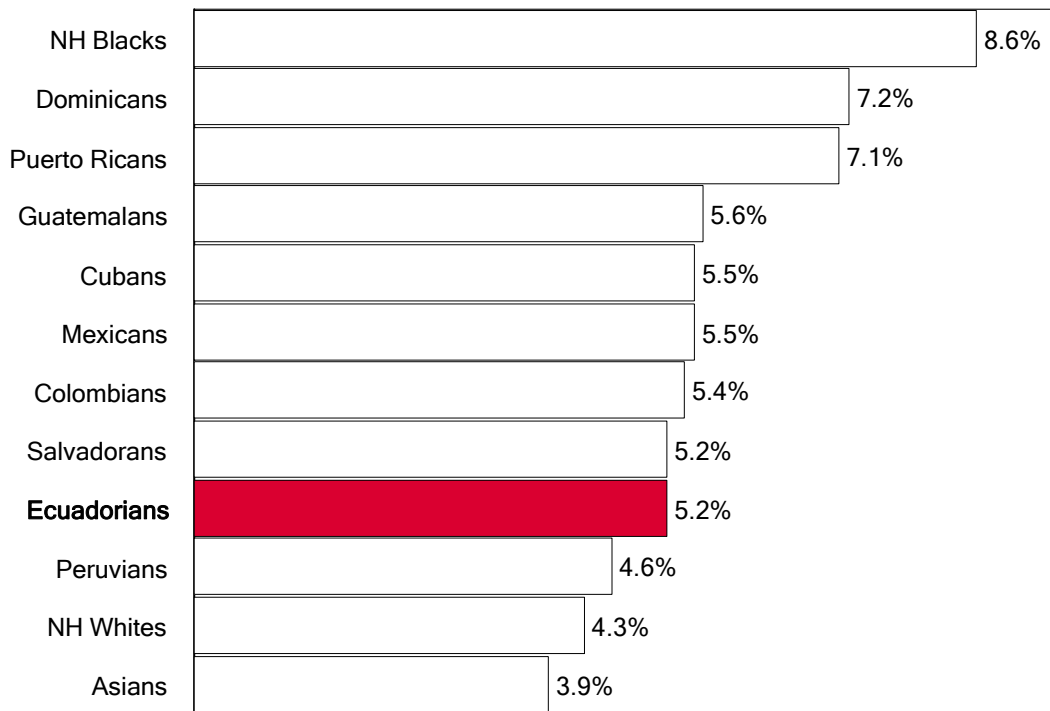
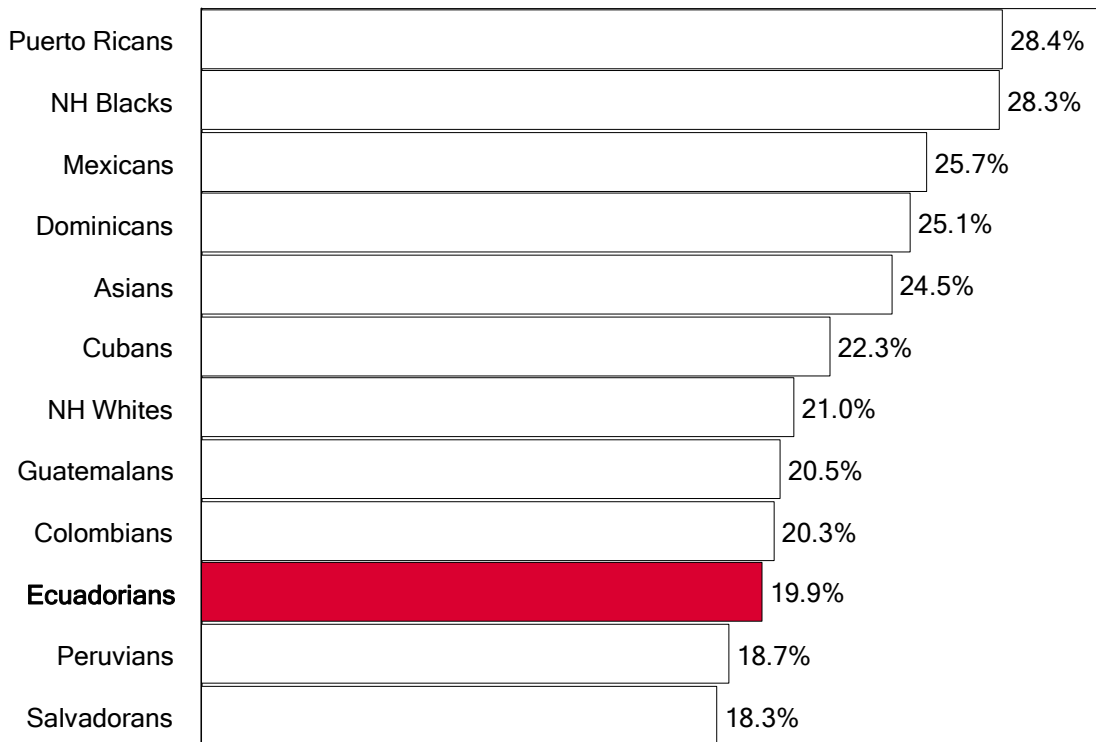


Figure 33
Not in the Labor Force Rates among Ecuadorians in the United States compared with Race/Ethnic Groups and Largest Latino National Subgroups, 2008 (Population Ages 16 - 60)



English Language Abilities

Whether foreign or domestic-born, Ecuadorians demonstrated very competent English language abilities, and this is consistent with the high educational attainment levels found among the Ecuadorian population of the U.S. Even in 1980, some 67% of all Ecuadorians in the U.S. reported speaking English exclusively, very well, or well. This rose slightly to 70% in 2008. (See figure 34). As to be expected nearly all Ecuadorians born and raised in the U.S. had nearly complete English competence. But it is impressive that there were very high rates of English language proficiency among foreign-born Ecuadorians as well. In 1980 about 63% of all foreign-born Ecuadorians reported good English-language abilities, and this was about the same in 2008 at 61%. (See figure 35 and 36).

Yet, bilingualism was an important part of Ecuadorian culture in the U.S. as the dominant language spoken at home was Spanish, although there were expected differences between the domestic and foreign born. In 2008 91% of all Ecuadorians spoke Spanish at home. The rate was 95% among the foreign-born. It is important to note the growth of a domestic-born Ecuadorian culture in the U.S. between 1980 and 2008 with changing linguistic preferences. In 1980 about 86% of all domestic-born Ecuadorians spoke Spanish at home, as they in all likelihood lived with their Spanish-speaking parents. By 2008 however, this figure had fallen to 78%. Thus, although Spanish was still the dominant language spoken at home even by domestic-born Ecuadorians, there was an increasing tendency to speak English at home among domestic-born Ecuadorians. These data are summarized in figures 37 and 38.

Figure 34
English Language Abilities among Ecuadorians in the United States, 1980 - 2008
Population Ages 5 and Older

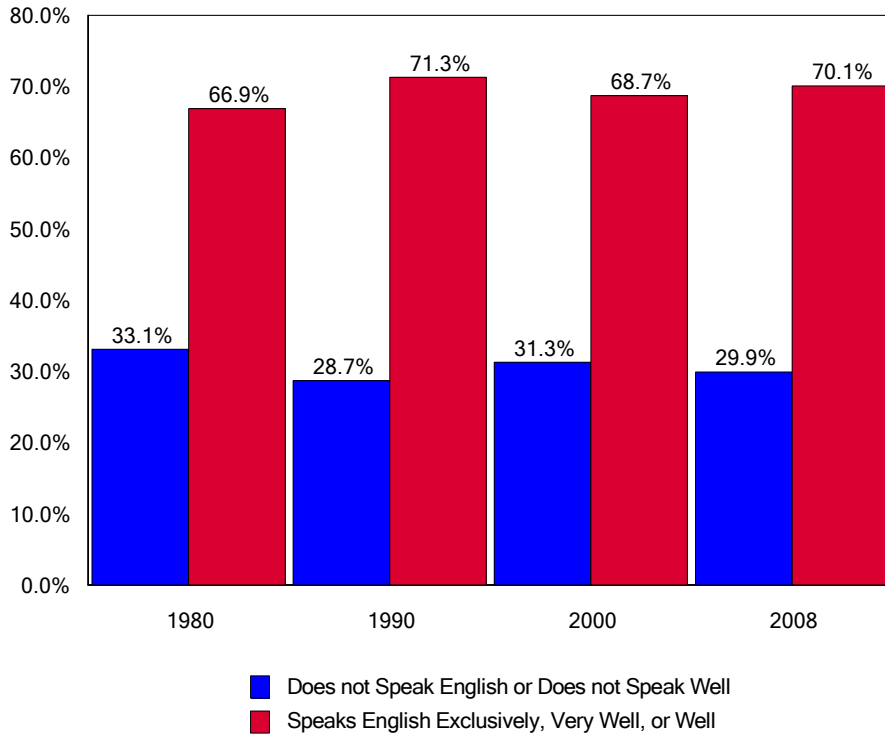


Figure 35
English Language Abilities among Foreign-Born Ecuadorians in the United States, 1980 - 2008
Population Ages 5 and Older

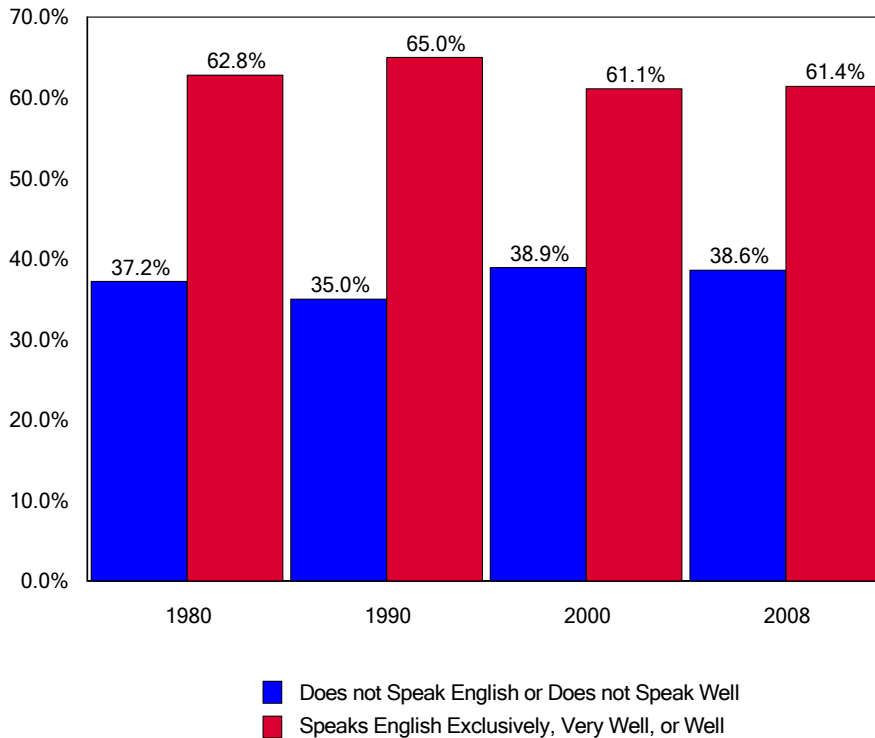


Figure 36
English Language Abilities among Domestic-Born Ecuadorians in the United States, 1980 - 2008 Population Ages 5 and Older

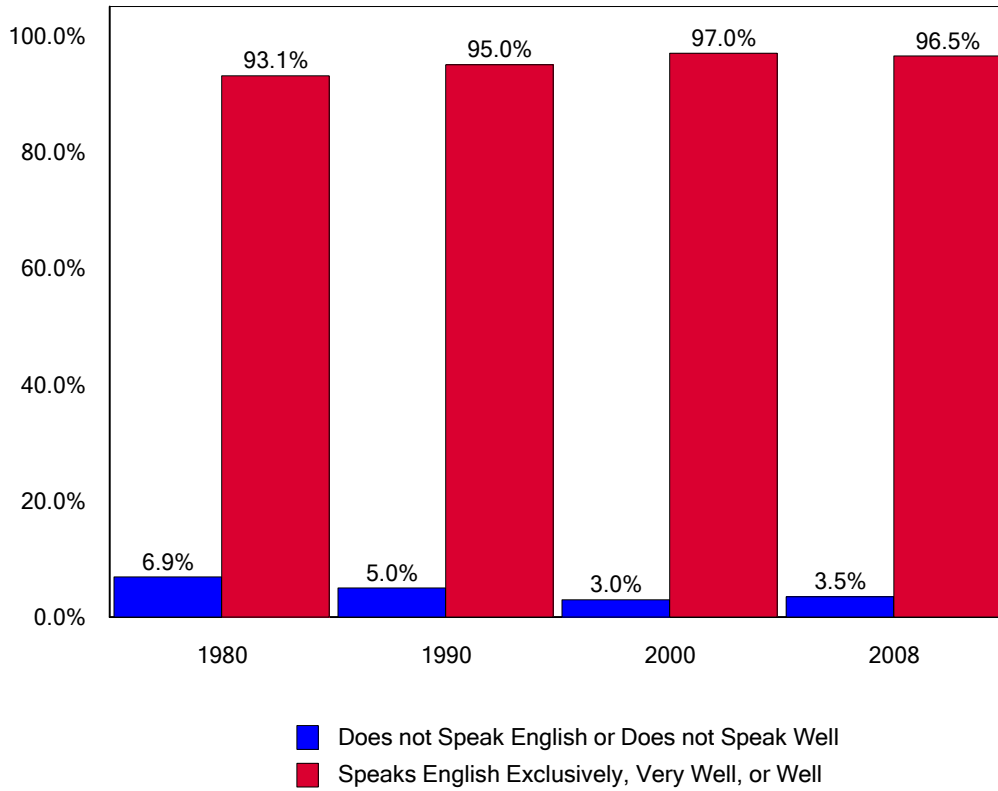


Figure 37
Language Spoken at Home by Ecuadorians in the United States, 1980 - 2008 Population Ages 5 and Older

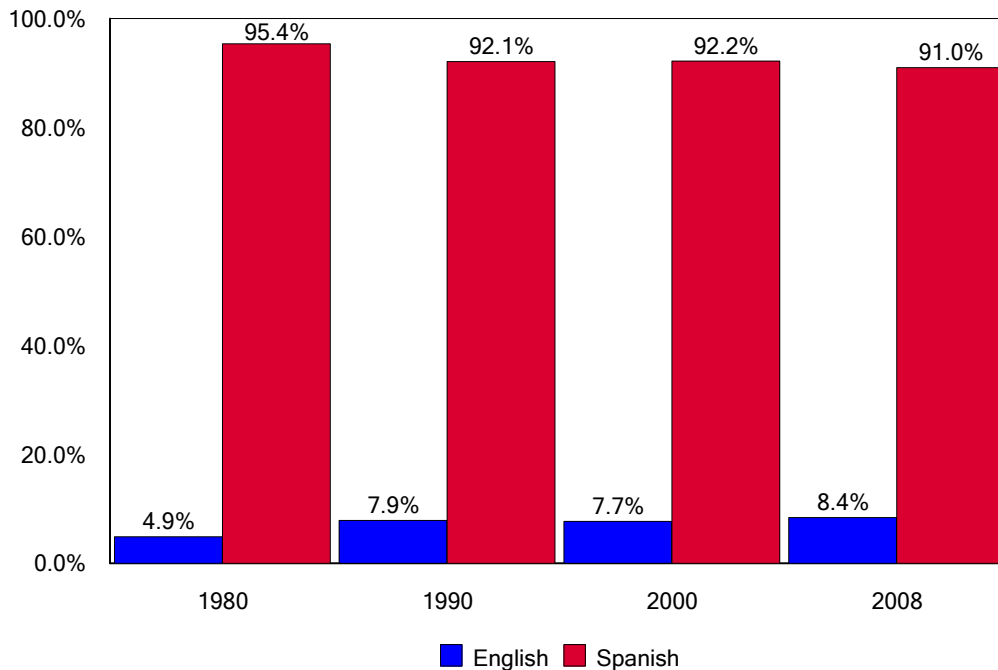
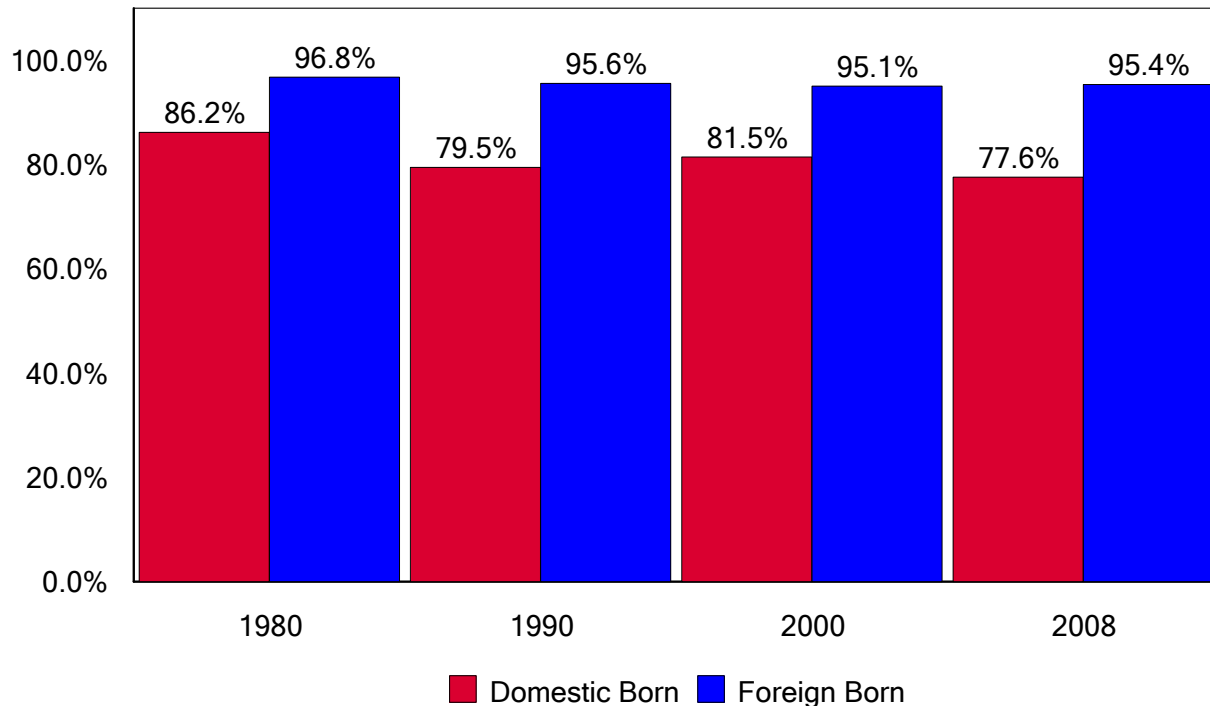


Figure 38
Percentage of Ecuadorians who Spoke Spanish at Home in the United States
by Nativity, 1980 - 2008 (Population Ages 5 and Older)



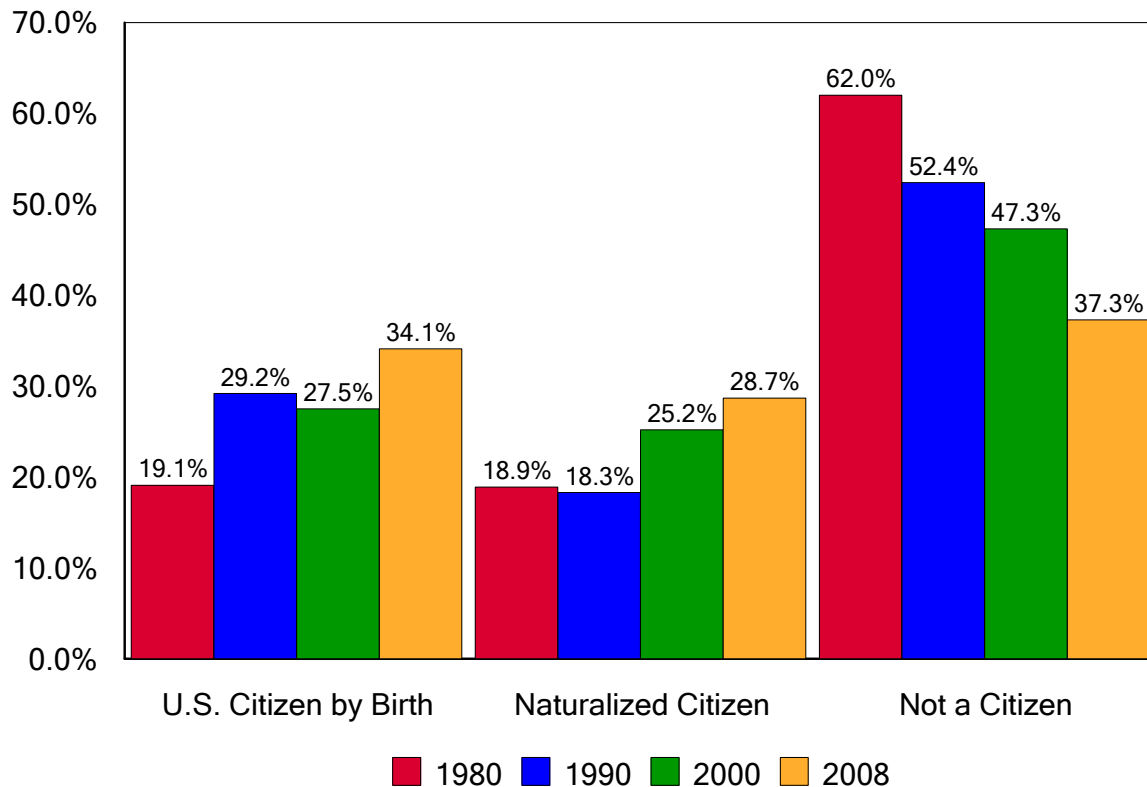
Citizenship

Because of naturalization among foreign-born Ecuadorians, the citizenship rate increased significantly between 1980 and 2008. In 1980 about 62% of all Ecuadorians in the U.S. were not citizens and only 19% were naturalized. By 2008 nearly 63% of the Ecuadorian population were citizens of the U.S. About 34% were domestic-born and 29% were naturalized. (See figure 39).

Race

The issue of race is a complex one for Latin American and Caribbean-origin populations in the United States because of different racial conceptualizations compared with the black/white dualism which has long been present in the United States. This is very different from the complex patterns of race mixture in the region in which there are a multiplicity of racial classifications, rather than the simplistic two-pole concept prevalent in the U.S. The issue is further complicated by the way in which data are gathered on race by the U.S. Census Bureau, which fundamentally is based on self-declaration rather than actual skin color or any other objective criteria. Racial self-declarations may have little to do with actual racial realities, but rather peoples' perceptions of themselves. These issues are further complicated by erroneous notions that the term 'Hispanic' or 'Latino' represents a race, which they do not. Nevertheless, since the Census Bureau does measure race it is useful to report its findings even if these are more an expression of how people conceive of themselves, rather than an objective observation of skin color or race.

Figure 39
Citizenship Status for Ecuadorians in the United States, 1980 - 2008



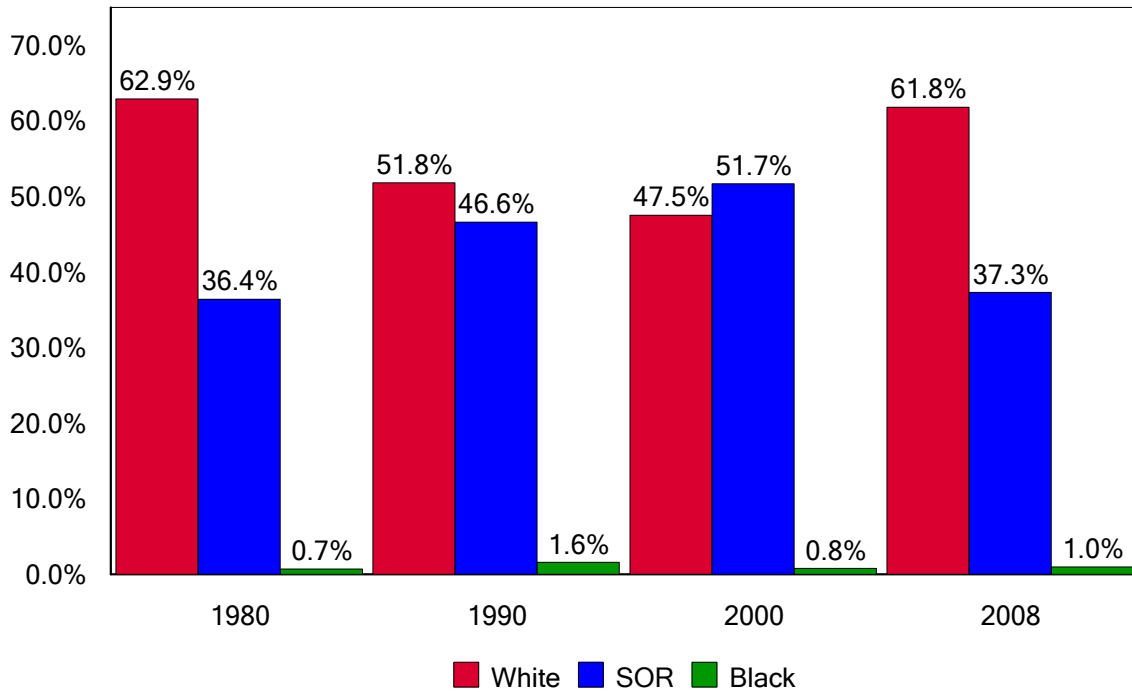
Ecuadorians have consistently considered themselves to be white rather than 'some other race' or black, although there have been variances from this norm in 1990 and 2000. However, it is conspicuous that in 1980 63% of Ecuadorians declared themselves to be white, 62% in 2008. In 1980 36% self declared to be of 'some other race.' By 2008 this stood at 39%, not much of a difference. Very few Ecuadorians declared themselves to be black, or of African descent. (See figure 40).

There was almost no differentiation between foreign-born Ecuadorians and those born in the U.S. in 2008 when 62% of both categories. This same parity was evident in declarations of 'some other race.' Some 37% of both foreign and domestic born Ecuadorians considered themselves to be of some other race in 2008. (See figures 41 and 42 for these data).

Yet race does seem to matter, although marginally, when socioeconomic indicators are examined. Those who self declared as white had higher median household incomes than the other racial categories, although not overwhelmingly so. (See figure 43). Yet, about the same percentage of Ecuadorians lived in poverty whether they self declared as white (14%) or some other race (13%). (See figure 44). Additionally a slightly higher percentage of white Ecuadorians graduated college in 2008 (24%) than Ecuadorians of some other race (19%).³ (See figure 45).

³ The data on Ecuadorian 'blacks' are presented in figures 43 through 45, but it must be kept in mind that they are not reliable because of the very small sample size since so few Ecuadorians self declared as black.

Figure 40
Racial Self-Declarations among Ecuadorians in the United States, 1980 - 2008



Note: SOR means "Some Other Race"

Figure 41
Ecuadorians in the United States who Self Declared as White by Nativity, 1980 - 2008

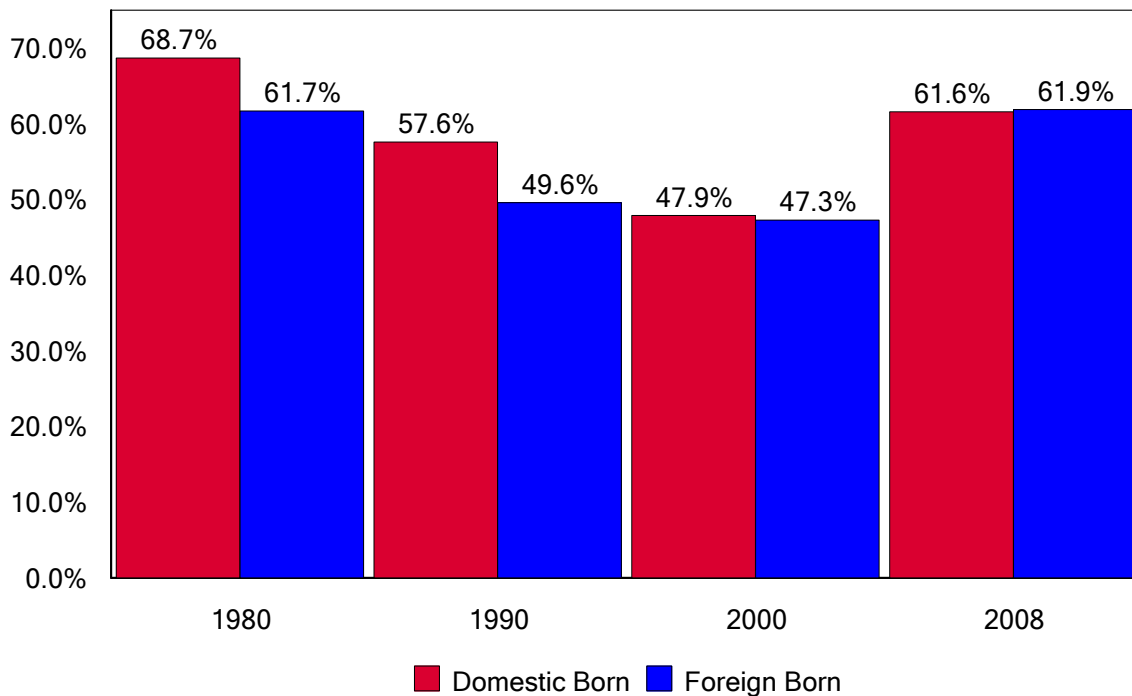


Figure 42
Ecuadorians in the United States who Self Declared as "Some Other Race" by Nativity
1980 - 2008

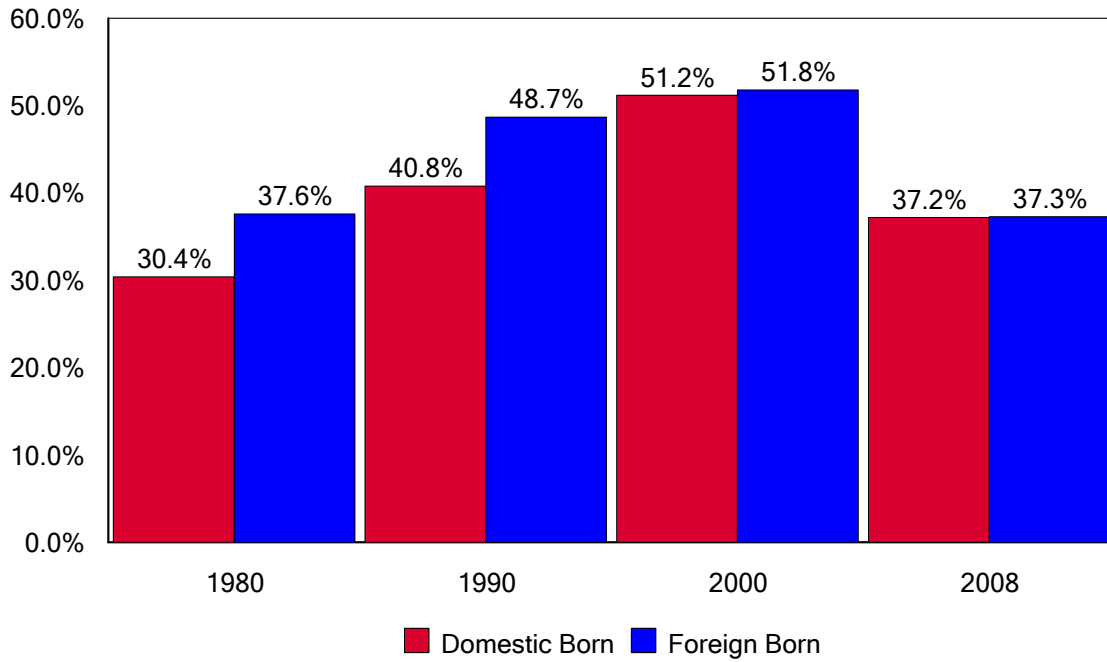
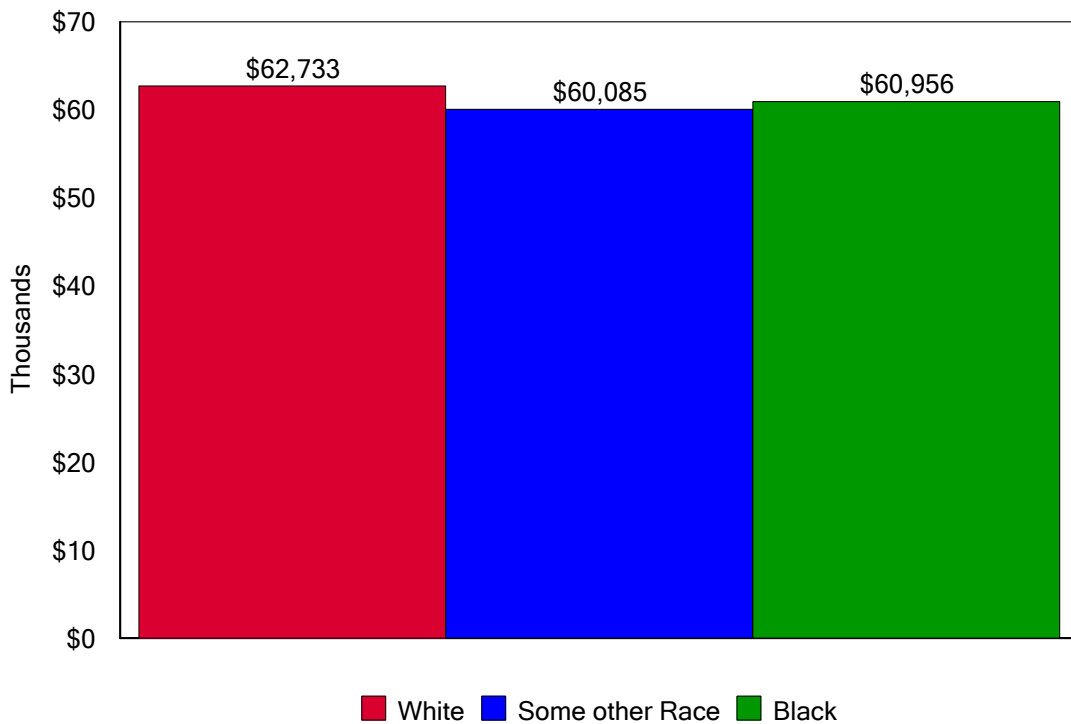
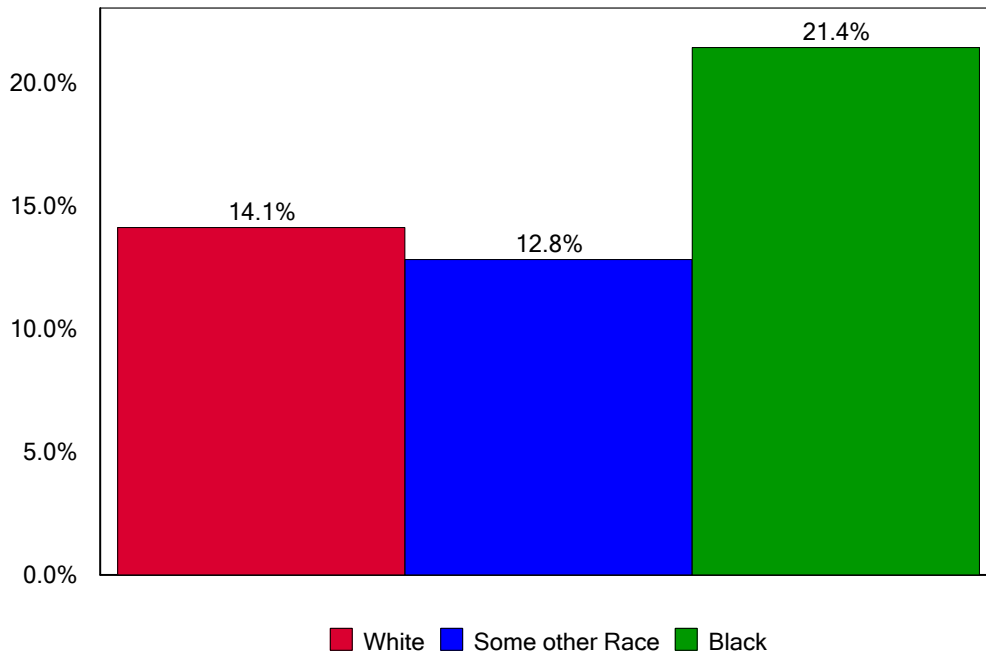


Figure 43
Median Household Income by Race Among Ecuadorians in the United States, 2008



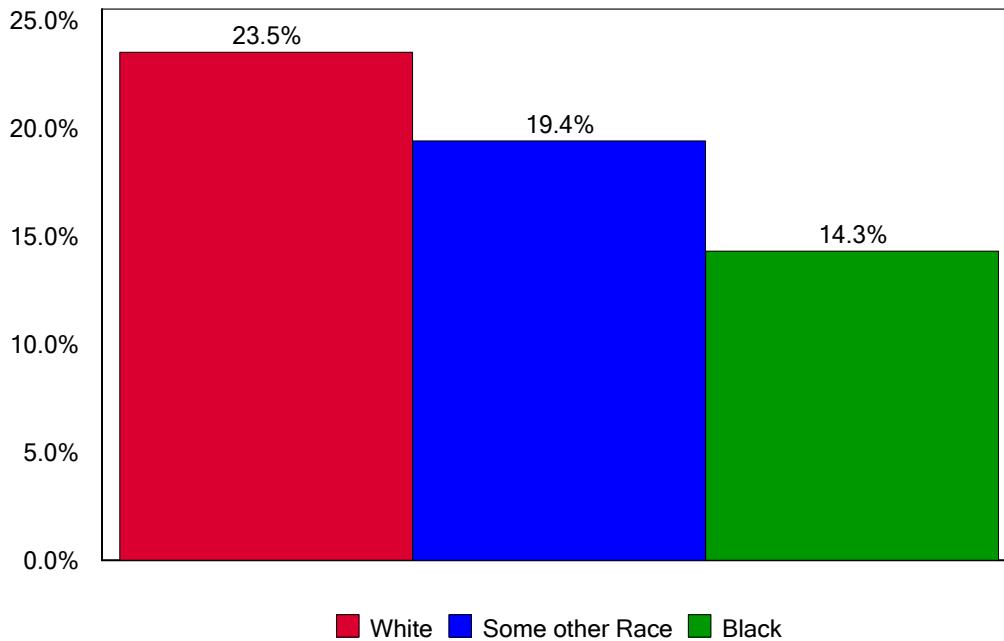
Note: The sample size for Ecuadorians who declared themselves to be 'black' is very small making the data not statistically reliable.

Figure 44
Percentage of Ecuadorians Living in Poverty by Race, 2008



Note: The sample size for Ecuadorians who declared themselves to be 'black' is very small making the data not statistically reliable.

Figure 45
Percentage of Ecuadorians Ages 25 and Over with a B.A. Degree or Higher by Race, 2008



Note: The sample size for Ecuadorians who declared themselves to be 'black' is very small making the data not statistically reliable.

Marriage Patterns

In their marriage patterns Ecuadorian household heads preferred to marry other Ecuadorians or other Latinos rather than non-Hispanic whites or blacks. Yet, there were important differences by sex. In 2008 69% of all Ecuadorian male household heads were married to other Ecuadorians while 48% of Ecuadorian female household heads married other Ecuadorians. With respect to marrying other Latinos there were also significant differences by sex. In 2008 about 19% of Ecuadorian male household heads were married to non-Ecuadorian Latinos while 28% of female household heads married Latinos of other national subgroups. Thus, a total of 88% of Ecuadorian male household heads married either other Ecuadorians or Latinos, while for women the corresponding figure was 76%/. The major differential was with respect to marriage patterns by sex to non-Hispanic whites. In 2008 only 11% of Ecuadorian male household heads were married to non-Hispanic whites compared with 22% of Ecuadorian female household heads. These data are summarized in figures 46 through 49.

Figure 46
Percentage of Ecuadorian Household Heads Married to Other Ecuadorians by Sex
1980 - 2008

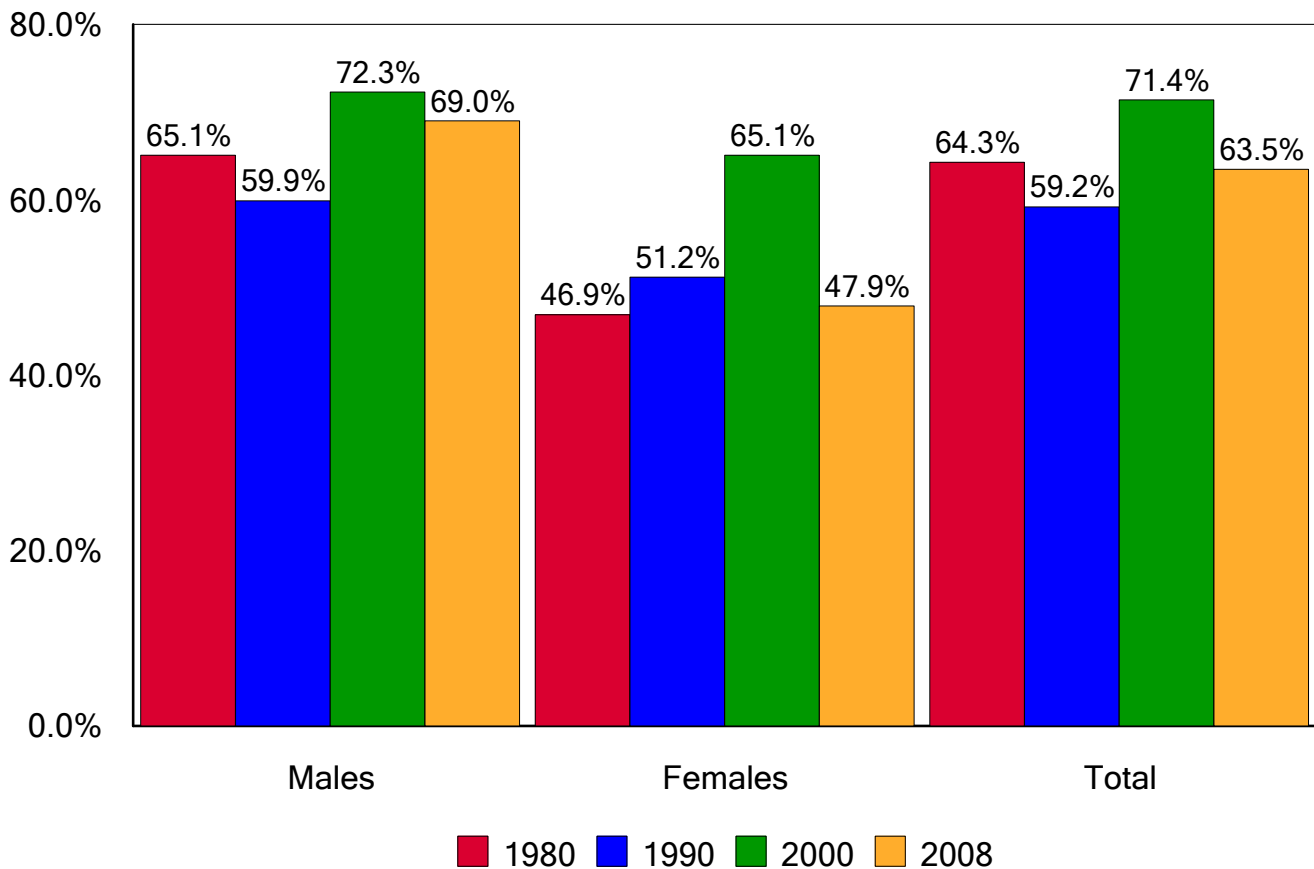


Figure 47
Percentage of Ecuadorian Household Heads Married to Latinos who were not Ecuadorians by Sex, 1980 - 2008

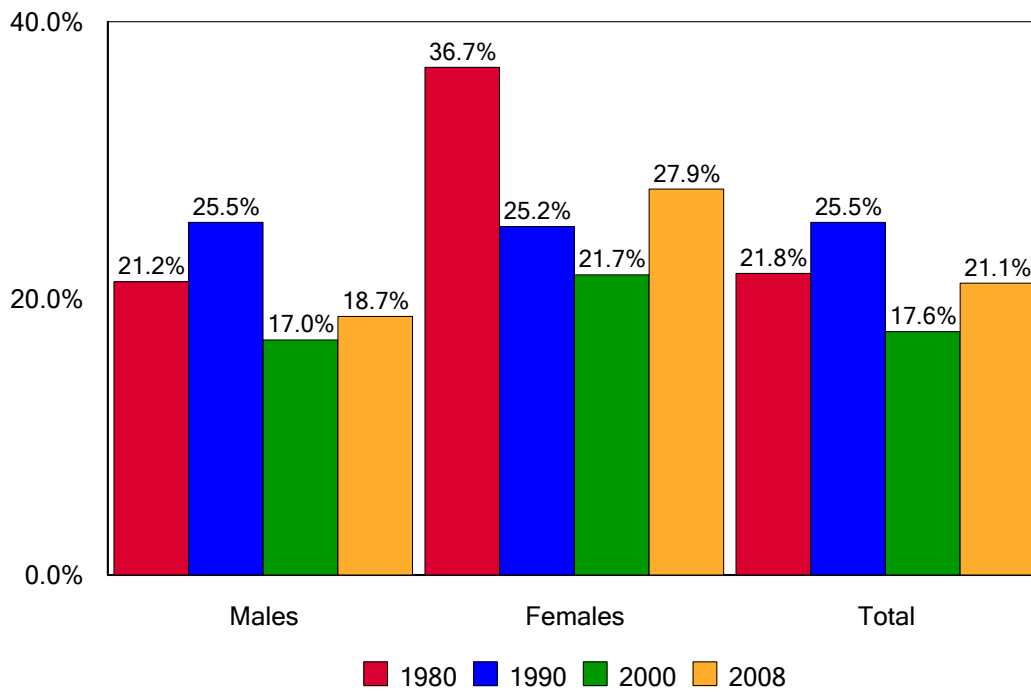


Figure 48
Percentage of Ecuadorian Household Heads Married to Latinos including Ecuadorians by Sex, 1980 - 2008

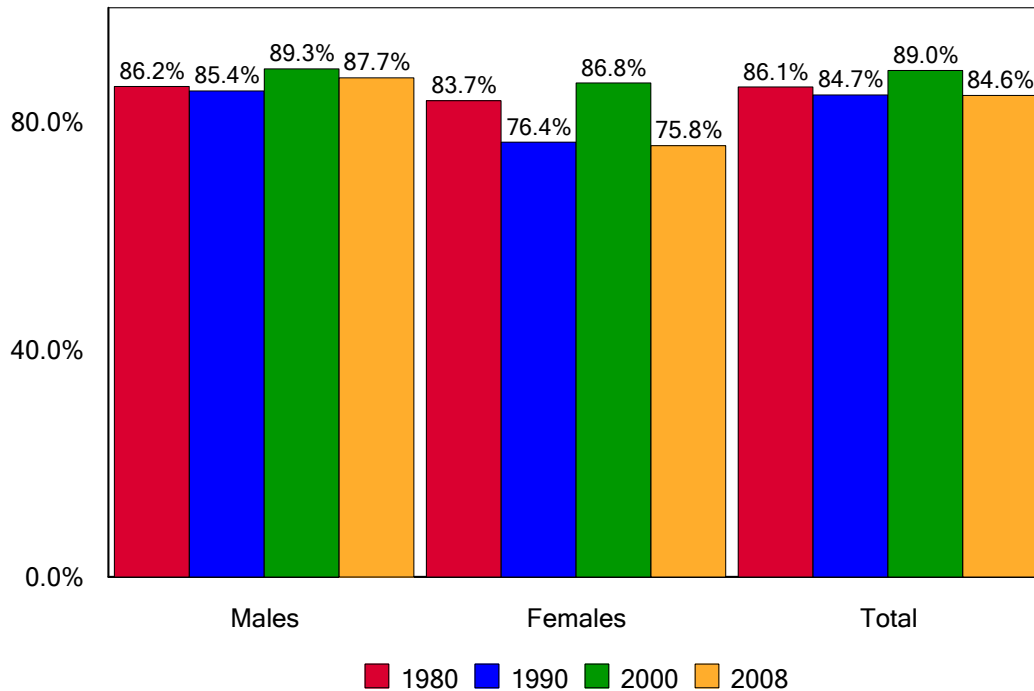
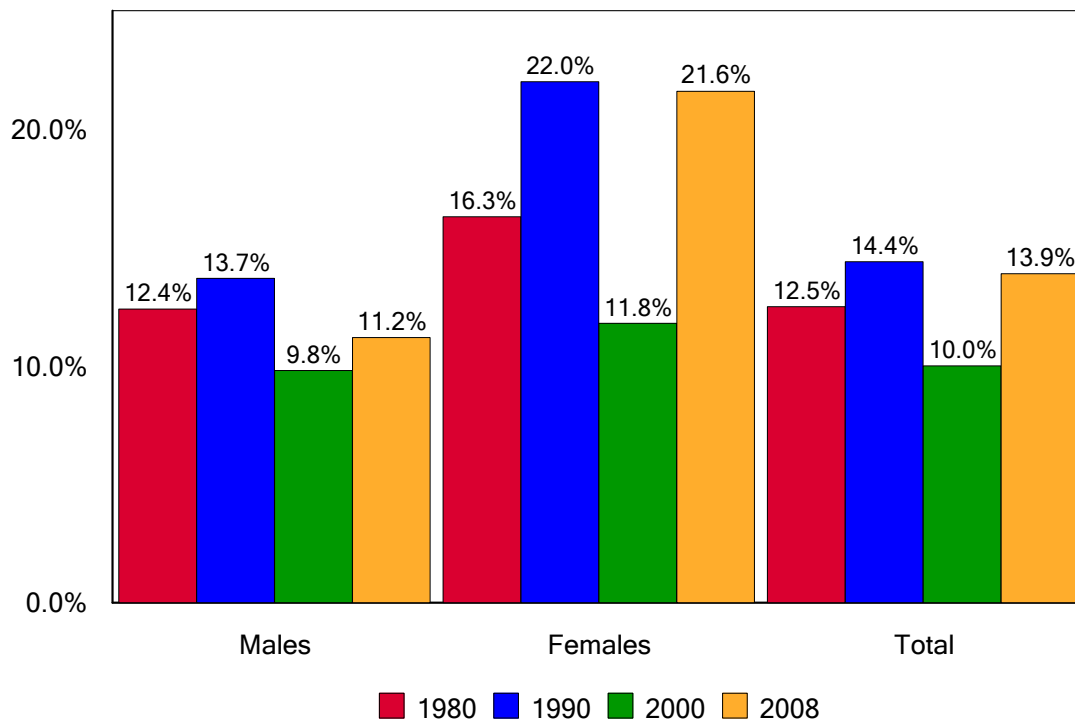


Figure 49
Percentage of Ecuadorian Household Heads Married to Non-Hispanic Whites
by Sex, 1980 - 2008



Occupational Structures⁴

In 2008 Ecuadorians were heavily concentrated in service, sales, and office occupations, as nearly 50% of the employed population 16 years of age and older were found in these occupational categories. Another 19% of the Ecuadorian work force was employed in production, transportation, and material moving occupations, and 17% was found in managerial and professional occupational categories. However, there were significant differences by sex and nativity. The first point which must be stressed is that because domestic-born Ecuadorians were so relatively young, as indicated in the first section of this report on population, the bulk of the Ecuadorian work force 16 years of age and over was foreign born.⁵ About 84% of the Ecuadorian labor force was born in Ecuador, with only 16% born in the United States. Since domestic-born Ecuadorians had greater educational attainment levels than their foreign-born compatriots, there was a relatively greater concentration in skilled and professional occupations. These data are very dense and the most expedient way of considering these is to examine each nativity by sex separately.

⁴ The U.S. Census Bureau collects a variety of very detailed data on occupational structures. However, it also collapses these data into six broad occupational categories including military service which this report will not focus upon.

⁵ There were 319,834 foreign-born Ecuadorian workers in the labor force in 2008 compared to 61,438 domestic-born workers.

Foreign-Born and Domestic-Born Males

Foreign-born Ecuadorian males were concentrated in production, construction, and service occupations. While nearly one-quarter of Ecuadorian-born men were working in construction, only 10% of domestic-born males worked in construction-related industries. A similar distorted ratio existed in production and transportation industries. Nearly 25% of Ecuadorian-born men were found in these occupational categories compared with only 9% of domestic-born males. There were similar percentages of foreign-born males working in service occupations (24%) compared with 23% of U.S.-born men.

On the other hand, and reflecting a higher level of educational attainment, 30% of domestic-born Ecuadorian males worked in management and professional occupations compared to 13% of Ecuador-born men. The other distorted occupational category was sales and office related occupations. About 28% of domestic-born males were employed in this sector compared with 14% of the foreign-born. It is clear that domestic-born Ecuadorian males worked in more skilled 'white collar' occupations than men born in Ecuador.

Foreign-Born and Domestic-Born Females

Similar patterns of extreme differentiation in occupational categories is evident when examining Ecuadorian women. Nearly 45% of all U.S. born Ecuadorian females worked in sales and service occupations with a heavy concentration in office occupations (29%). This compares with 29% of foreign-born women who had jobs in this same sector.

Reflecting their generally higher educational attainment levels domestic-born Ecuadorian women were also heavily concentrated in management and professional occupations – 34% of the total labor force. This compared with 17% of foreign-born women who had jobs in these sectors.

Foreign-born Ecuadorian women were heavily concentrated in service occupations where 35% worked compared with 18% of U.S. born women. There were also 18% of the foreign-born female labor force with jobs in the production and transportation and transportation sector, compared with only 3.6% of the domestic-born. This suggests that a significant number of Ecuadorian born women worked in factories whereas domestic-born Ecuadorian females had only a small percentage with factory jobs. (For full data see table 7).

Birth Rates and Fertility

In 2008 Ecuadorians in the United States exhibited a crude birth rate of 16 live births per 1,000 people. This was a fairly low crude birth rate in comparative perspective. Among Latinos only Puerto Ricans (crude birth rate of 16) and Cubans (crude birth rate of 11) had the same or lower crude birth rates. Non-Hispanic whites also had a lower rate at 13 live births per 1,000 total population. This compares to a crude birth rate in Ecuador estimated to have been 21.5 live births per 1,000 total population in 2008.⁶ Mexicans and Salvadorans had the highest crude birth rates at 22 live births per 1,000 total population. (See figure 50).

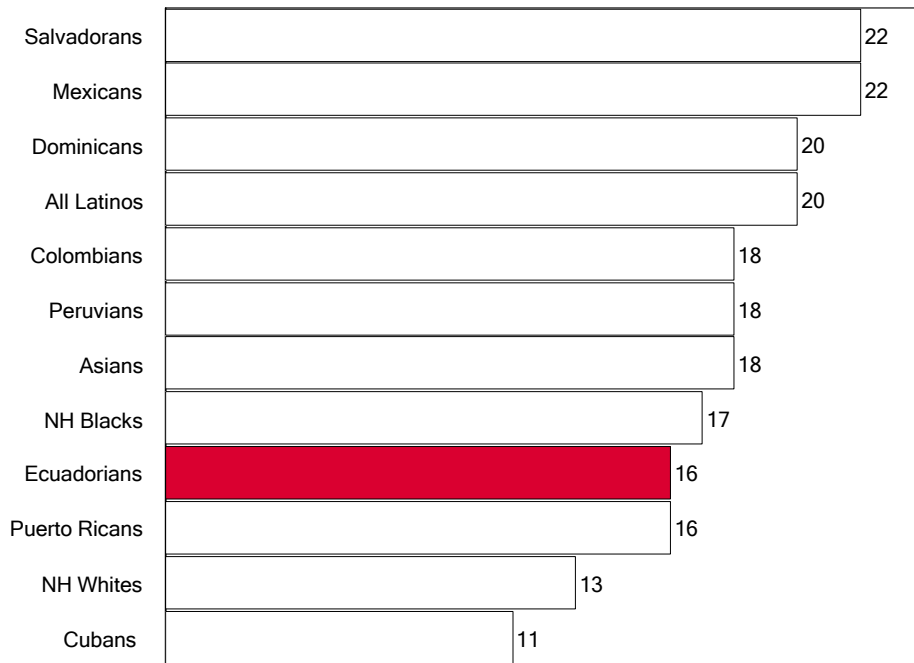
These data suggest that Ecuadorian women in the United States are using contraceptive methods to a greater extent than most of the other Latino national subgroups, as well as race/ethnic groups. It also suggests that contraceptive usage among Ecuadorian women living in the U.S. is greater than in Ecuador. This same conclusion is evident when examining the fertility rate among Ecuadorian women compared with other race/ethnic groups in the U.S. (See figure 51).

⁶ See http://www.indexmundi.com/ecuador/birth_rate.html

Table 7
Occupational Structure among Ecuadorians Ages 16 and Over by Sex and Nativity, 2008
(in percentages of total)

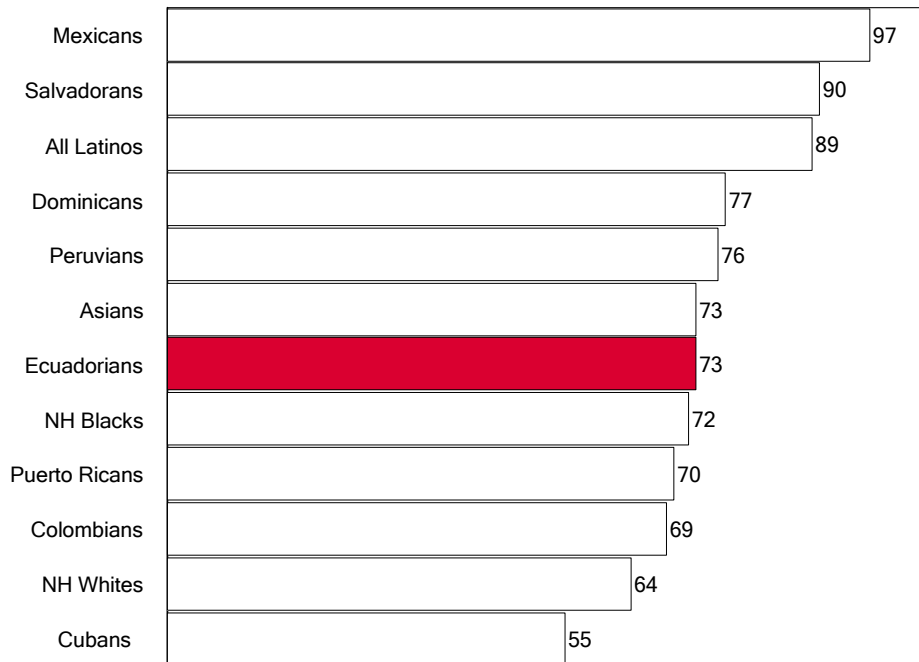
	Foreign-Born Males	Domestic-Born Males	Foreign-Born Females	Domestic-Born Females	
Management, professional, and related occupations	13.2%	30.2%	16.6%	33.5%	
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	7.2%	13.1%	5.8%	11.1%	
Professional and related occupations	6.1%	16.8%	10.7%	22.5%	
Service Occupations	23.7%	22.9%	35.2%	18.0%	
Sales and Office Occupations	13.5%	28.1%	29.4%	44.9%	
Sales and related occupations	7.2%	13.1%	12.3%	16.0%	
Office and administrative support occupations	6.4%	14.8%	17.1%	28.9%	
Construction, Extraction and Maintenance	24.7%	9.5%	1.3%	0.0%	
Construction and extraction occupations	19.7%	6.2%	0.9%	0.0%	
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	5.0%	3.2%	0.5%	0.0%	
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	24.8%	9.0%	17.5%	3.6%	
Production occupations	9.8%	2.1%	11.0%	1.2%	
Transportation and material moving occupations	14.9%	6.8%	6.6%	2.4%	
Military Occupations	0.1%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
	Total Foreign Born	Total Domestic Born	Total Males	Total Females	Total Ecuadorians
Management, professional, and related occupations	31.6%	14.6%	16.0%	19.3%	17.4%
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	12.3%	6.6%	8.1%	6.7%	7.5%
Professional and related occupations	19.1%	8.0%	7.8%	12.6%	9.8%
Service Occupations	20.9%	28.5%	23.6%	32.5%	27.3%
Sales and Office Occupations	35.0%	20.2%	15.9%	31.8%	22.5%
Sales and related occupations	14.3%	9.3%	8.1%	12.9%	10.1%
Office and administrative support occupations	20.5%	10.8%	7.7%	19.0%	12.4%
Construction, Extraction and Maintenance	5.6%	15.0%	22.3%	1.1%	13.5%
Construction and extraction occupations	3.7%	11.8%	17.5%	0.7%	10.5%
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	1.9%	3.1%	4.7%	0.4%	2.9%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	6.8%	21.7%	22.2%	15.3%	19.3%
Production occupations	1.7%	10.3%	8.5%	9.4%	8.9%
Transportation and material moving occupations	5.0%	11.4%	13.6%	5.9%	10.4%
Military Occupations	0.6%	0.1%	0.3%	0.0%	0.2%

Figure 50
Crude Birth Rates by Latino Nationalities and Major Race/Ethnic Groups, 2008



Note: The crude birth rate is equal to the number of live births in a year divided by the total population. This number is then multiplied by 1,000 to arrive at the actual crude birth rate.

Figure 51
Fertility Rates by Latino Nationalities and Major Race/Ethnic Groups, 2008

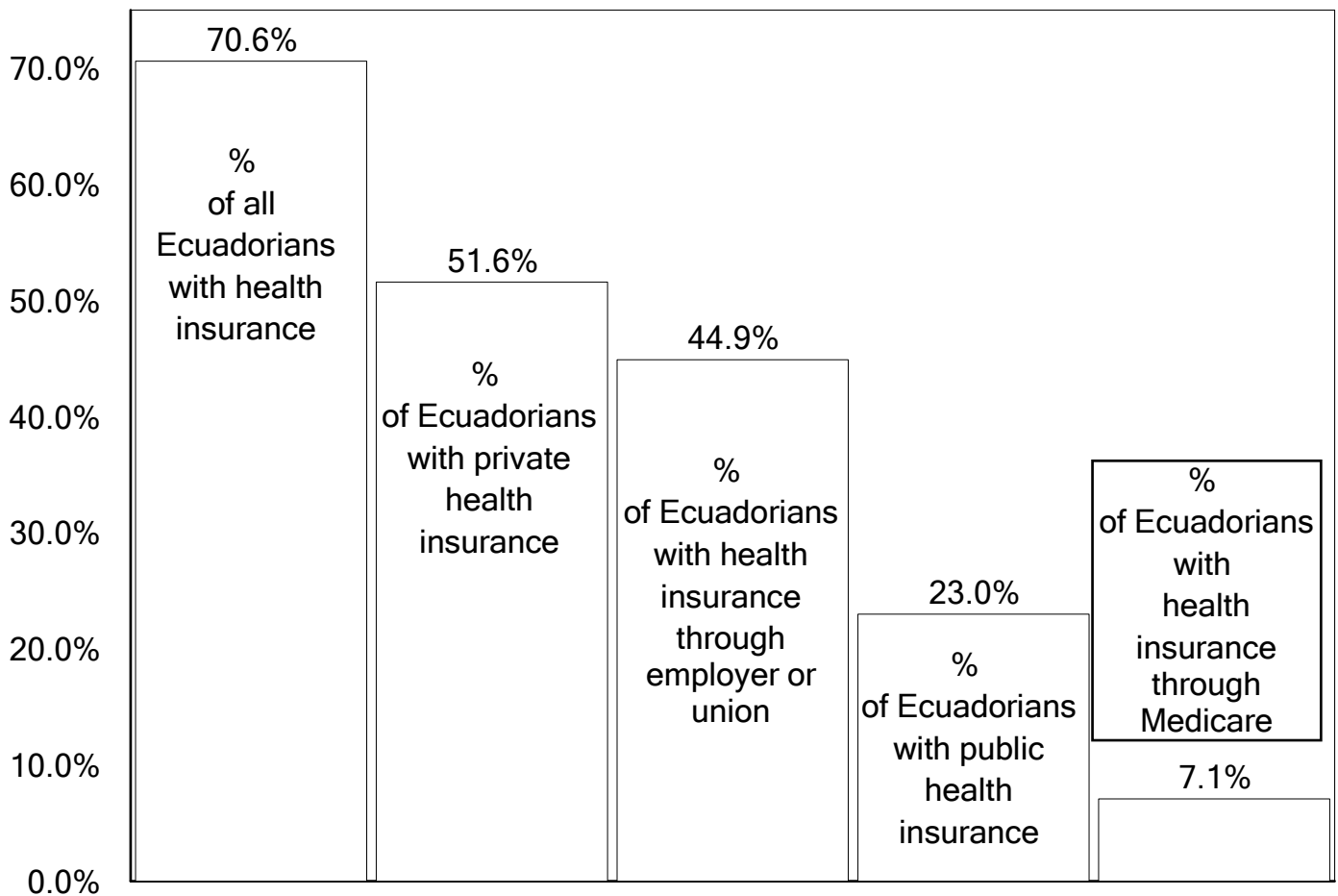


Note: The fertility rate is equal to the number of live births in a year per 1,000 women ages 15-44.

Health Insurance Coverage

About 71% of all Ecuadorians living in the United States in 2008 had some kind of health insurance. Close to 52% had private health insurance coverage, while 23% had public health insurance. A little over 7% of all Ecuadorians received health insurance through Medicare. Additionally, about 45% of all Ecuadorians had some kind of health insurance through their employers, which could have been private or publically financed, or a combination of both. (See figure 52).

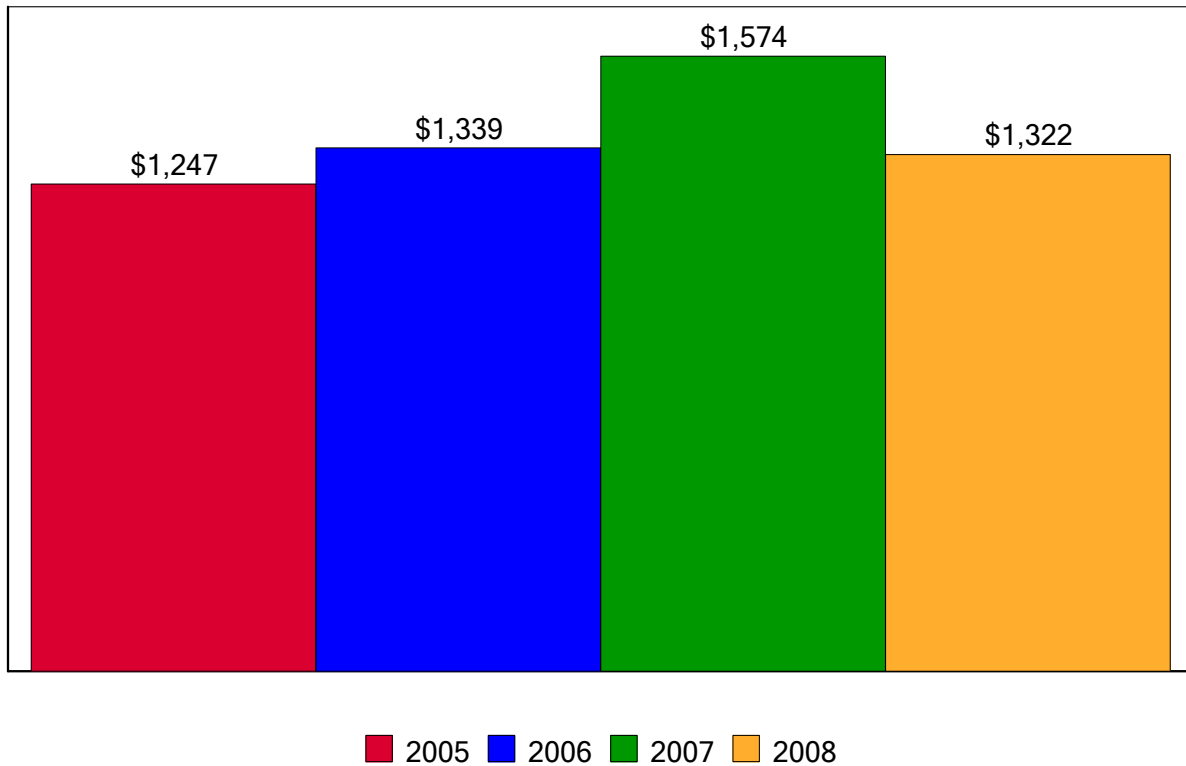
Figure 52
Percentage of Ecuadorians with various types of Health Insurance, 2008



Remittances

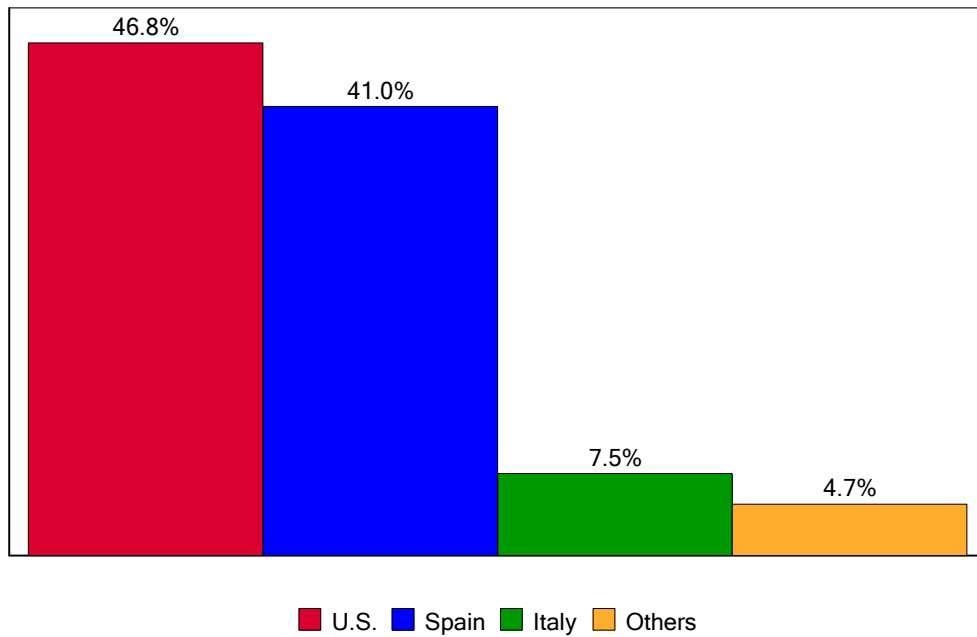
Data on remittances to Ecuador from all countries provided by the Interamerican Development Bank (IDB) between 2005 and 2008 suggest a gradual increase in yearly overall remittances between 2005 and 2007 and then a slight decline in 2008 to \$1,322 million dollars. About 47% of all remittances originated in the United States while 41% came from Spain. These remittances accounted for a peak of about 7.3% of Ecuadorian GDP (Gross Domestic Product) in 2007 but this fell to 5.5% in 2009, the last year when data are available. In an examination of the relationship of remitters to family members in Ecuador, the IDB found that 62% of all remitters were children who were sending funds to their parents. These data are summarized in figures 53 through 56.

Figure 53
Remittances from the U.S. 2005 - 2008
(in millions of U.S. dollars)



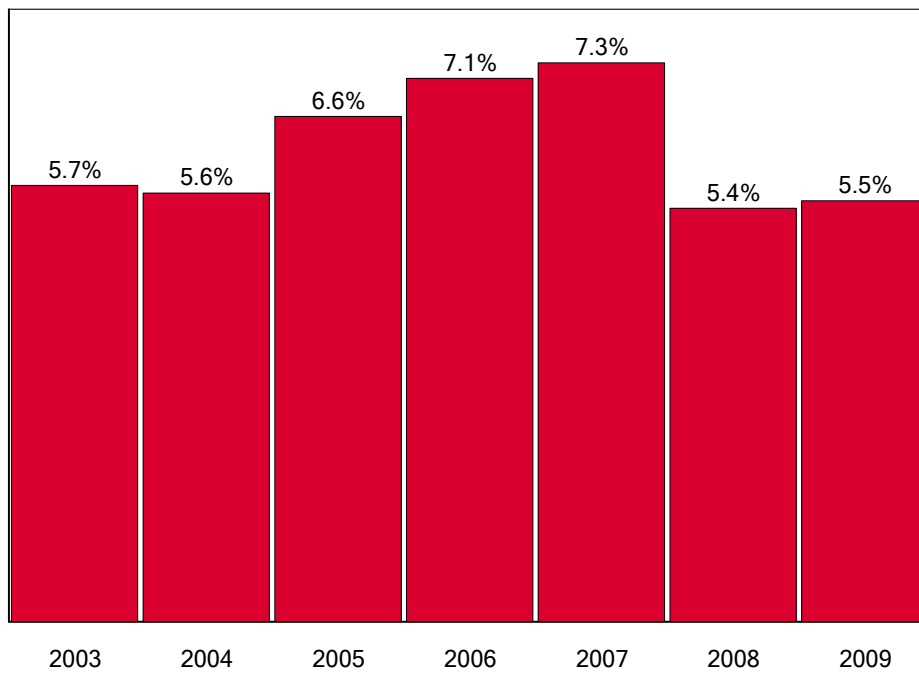
Source: Center for Latin American Monetary Studies, Interamerican Development Bank, 'Program for Improving Central Bank Reporting and Procedures on Remittances, Ecuador'

Figure 54
Country Origins of Remittances to Ecuador, 2008
(in percentages of total remittances)



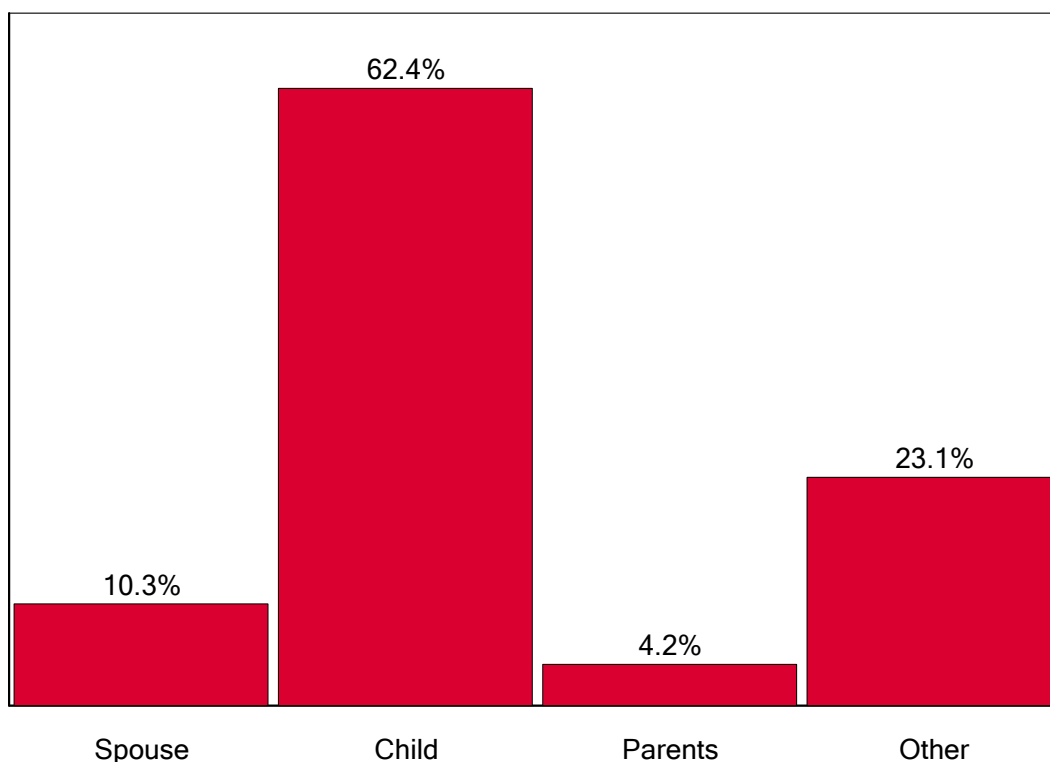
Source: Center for Latin American Monetary Studies, Interamerican Development Bank, 'Program for Improving Central Bank Reporting and Procedures on Remittances, Ecuador'

Figure 55
Remittances to Ecuador as Percentage of Ecuador GDP, 2003 - 2009



Source: Center for Latin American Monetary Studies, Interamerican Development Bank, 'Program for Improving Central Bank Reporting and Procedures on Remittances, Ecuador'

Figure 56
Relationship of Remittance Senders to Ecuadorian Families, 2007
(in percentage of total remitters)



Source: Center for Latin American Monetary Studies, Interamerican Development Bank, 'Program for Improving Central Bank Reporting and Procedures on Remittances, Ecuador'

Summary

- The Ecuadorian population of the U.S. increased dramatically between 1980 and 2008 from about 70,000 to over 550,000 people.
- Migration increased in each decade and there is no reason to believe that migration from Ecuador will decrease in the near future.
- Because of this continued migration the foreign-born sector of the Ecuadorian population has not diminished proportionally, despite the increase in the U.S.-born population of Ecuadorian origin in absolute numbers.
- The percentage of Ecuadorians living in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut has decreased between 1980 and 2008. Ecuadorians living in California have also decreased in relative terms, while Florida has become a major state of Ecuadorian settlement.
- Ecuadorians have relatively high median household incomes compared with other race/ethnic groups in the U.S. and other Latino national subgroups. These incomes have improved since 1980 in inflation-adjusted dollars.

- While income remains very concentrated among wealthier Ecuadorian households, the percentage of high-income earning Ecuadorian households has increased substantially between 1980 and 2008.
- Ecuadorians have the lowest poverty rates in the U.S. when compared with other race/ethnic groups and other Latino nationalities.
- The previously noted favorable socioeconomic indicators – median household income and poverty – are linked to the extraordinarily impressive educational attainment accomplishments of the adult Ecuadorian population. A greater percentage of adult Ecuadorians had graduated college than non-Hispanic whites in 2008.
- Ecuadorians of working age demonstrated very low unemployment rates, very low ‘not in the labor force’ rates, and very high labor participation rates.
- A large portion of the Ecuadorian population, both domestic and foreign-born, demonstrated high levels of English-language proficiency. Nevertheless, Spanish was the dominant language spoken at home.
- Over time since 1980 more Ecuadorians who were born abroad became naturalized citizens and the citizenship rate rose continually to 2008.
- On the complex issue of race, more Ecuadorians declared themselves to be of some other race in 2008 than in previous census years, although a majority self declared as white.
- There were no major socioeconomic differences between Ecuadorians declaring themselves to be white or some other race. A very small percentage of Ecuadorians self-declared as black.
- Ecuadorian household heads preferred to marry other Ecuadorians, or other Latinos. Nevertheless, domestic-born Ecuadorian female household heads increasingly married non-Hispanic whites.

Methodological Note

The raw data files used to write this report are found at the IPUMS (Integrated Public Use Microdata Series) web site run by the University of Michigan, Steven Ruggles, J. Trent Alexander, Katie Genadek, Ronald Goeken, Matthew B. Schroeder, and Matthew Sobek. Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 5.0 [Machine-readable database]. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 2010, found at the web site: <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/>. These data were generated by the U.S. Census Bureau for the 1990 and 2000 decennial censuses, and for the American Community Survey, 2008. A description of these data from the IPUMS web site is as follows:

“The Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS-USA) consists of more than fifty high-precision samples of the American population drawn from fifteen federal censuses and from the American Community Surveys of 2000-2009. Some of these samples have existed for years, and others were created specifically for this database. These samples, which draw on every surviving census from 1850-2000, and the 2000-2009 ACS samples, collectively constitute our richest source of quantitative information on long-term changes in the American population. However, because different investigators created these samples at different times, they employed a wide variety of record layouts, coding schemes, and documentation. This has complicated efforts to use them to study change over time. The IPUMS assigns uniform codes across all the samples and brings relevant documentation into a coherent form to facilitate analysis of social and economic change.

IPUMS is not a collection of compiled statistics; it is composed of microdata. Each record is a person, with all characteristics numerically coded. In most samples persons are organized into households, making it possible to study the characteristics of people in the context of their families or other co-residents. Because the data are individuals and not tables, researchers must use a statistical package to analyze the millions of records in the database. A data extraction system enables users to select only the samples and variables they require. “

Furthermore:

“All datasets in the IPUMS samples; each sample case represents anywhere from 20 to 1000 people in the complete population for the given year. The "weight" variables indicate how many persons in the population are represented by each sample case. Many IPUMS samples are unweighted or "flat", meaning that every person in the sample data represents the same number of persons in the population. In the 2000 1% Unweighted sample, for instance, the weight for all sample cases is fixed at 100; each case represents 100 people in the population. But many samples in the IPUMS are "weighted", meaning that some sample cases represent more people in the population than others. Persons and households with some characteristics are over-represented in the samples, while others are underrepresented. Weight variables allow researchers to create accurate population estimates using weighted samples. “

For readers who want a detailed description of the methods of data collection for 1990 see “1990 Census of Population and Housing, Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS): United States Technical Documentation” available at the following web site: <http://www2.census.gov/prod2/decennial/documents/D1-D90-PUMS-14-TECH-01.pdf>.

For 2000 see “Public Use Microdata Sample, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Technical Documentation” at the following web site: <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pums.pdf>.

For the 2008 American Community Survey data see “PUMS Accuracy of the Data (2008)” available at the following web site: http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/pums/Accuracy/2008AccuracyPUMS.pdf, described as “a basic explanation of the sample design, estimation methodology, and accuracy of the data.”

It should be stressed that these PUMS data are samples of the general population rather than a complete count of all persons. The U.S. Census Bureau uses a complex statistical methodology to ‘weight’ these samples so that a projection, or estimate, of the total population may be projected. This includes all subgroups such as nationalities, race etc. Thus, the data in this report on the Ecuadorian population should be considered to be estimates, with an undetermined margin of error, rather than a precise count the population or of any of the variables considered here. It is likely that this margin of error is +/- 10%.

What is important to take note of is that one of the principal concerns of this report is to measure trends over the time period 1990–2008 for the variables which have been analyzed and presented. Another is to compare Ecuadorians to other race/ethnic groups and Latino national subgroups in the United States by sex, age, and nativity. Because this report is comparative in nature, over time and in relation to other race/ethnic groups and Latino nationalities, it may assumed that the margin of error is fairly consistent for all groups and census years. This means that despite being based on samples, the data presented here in all probability represent, with a high degree of accuracy, trends between 1990 and 2008 as well as the comparative position of Ecuadorians in relation to other sectors of the U.S. population.