



Center for Latin American, Caribbean & Latino Studies

The Colombian Population of New York City 1990 — 2008

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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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Abstract

This report describes demographic, social, economic, educational and political characteristics of the Colombian population of New York City, based on data from the 1990 and 2000 Decennial Censuses and the 2008 American Community Survey. The findings in this report focus in particular on contrasting the domestic-born and foreign-born components of the Colombian population, as well as differences by sex.

Demographics

The Colombian population of New York City, which increased nearly 25% between 1990 and 2000, declined to 97,580 in 2008 from 109,710 in 2000, representing a decline of about 11%. (See figure 1 and table 1.) While in 1990 Colombians were the third largest group of Latinos in the City behind Puerto Ricans and Dominicans, by 2000 they had fallen behind Mexicans and Ecuadorians to become the fifth largest Latino national subgroup. This trend continued in 2008, when they constituted only 4.2% of the Latino population. The city’s foreign-born Colombian population was above 75% of all Colombians in 1990 and 2000, although there has been a slight decrease to about 73% in 2008 (See figure 2 and table 2). This was undoubtedly to the near end of migration and birth of domestic-born Colombians.

Figure 1
Five Largest Latino Nationalities in New York City, 1990 - 2008
(in percentages of all Latinos)

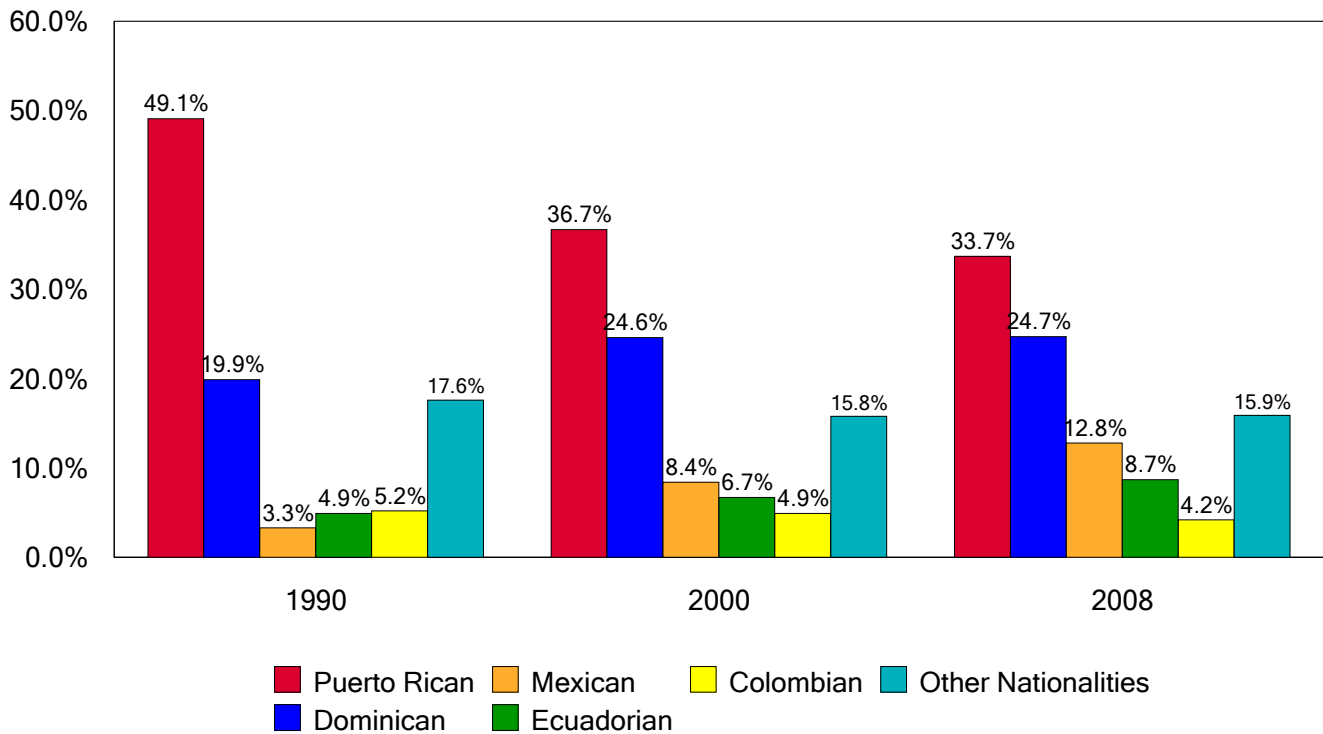


Table 1
New York City's Latino Population by Selected Nationalities, 1990 - 2008

Nationality	1990	%	2000	%	2008	%	% Change 1990 - 2000	% Change 2000 - 2008	% Change 1990 - 2008
Puerto Rican	860,889	49.1%	816,827	36.7%	787,827	33.7%	-5.1%	-3.6%	-8.5%
Dominican	348,951	19.9%	547,379	24.6%	577,472	24.7%	56.9%	5.5%	65.5%
Mexican	58,410	3.3%	187,259	8.4%	299,298	12.8%	220.6%	59.8%	412.4%
Ecuadorian	85,155	4.9%	149,897	6.7%	202,411	8.7%	76.0%	35.0%	137.7%
Colombian	91,769	5.2%	109,710	4.9%	97,580	4.2%	19.6%	-11.1%	6.3%
Other Nationalities	308,282	17.6%	351,635	15.8%	370,753	15.9%	14.1%	5.4%	20.3%
Total Latinos	1,753,456	100.0%	2,226,907	100.0%	2,335,341	100.0%	27.0%	4.9%	33.2%

Figure 2
Domestic-Born and Foreign-Born Colombian Population in New York City,
1990 - 2008

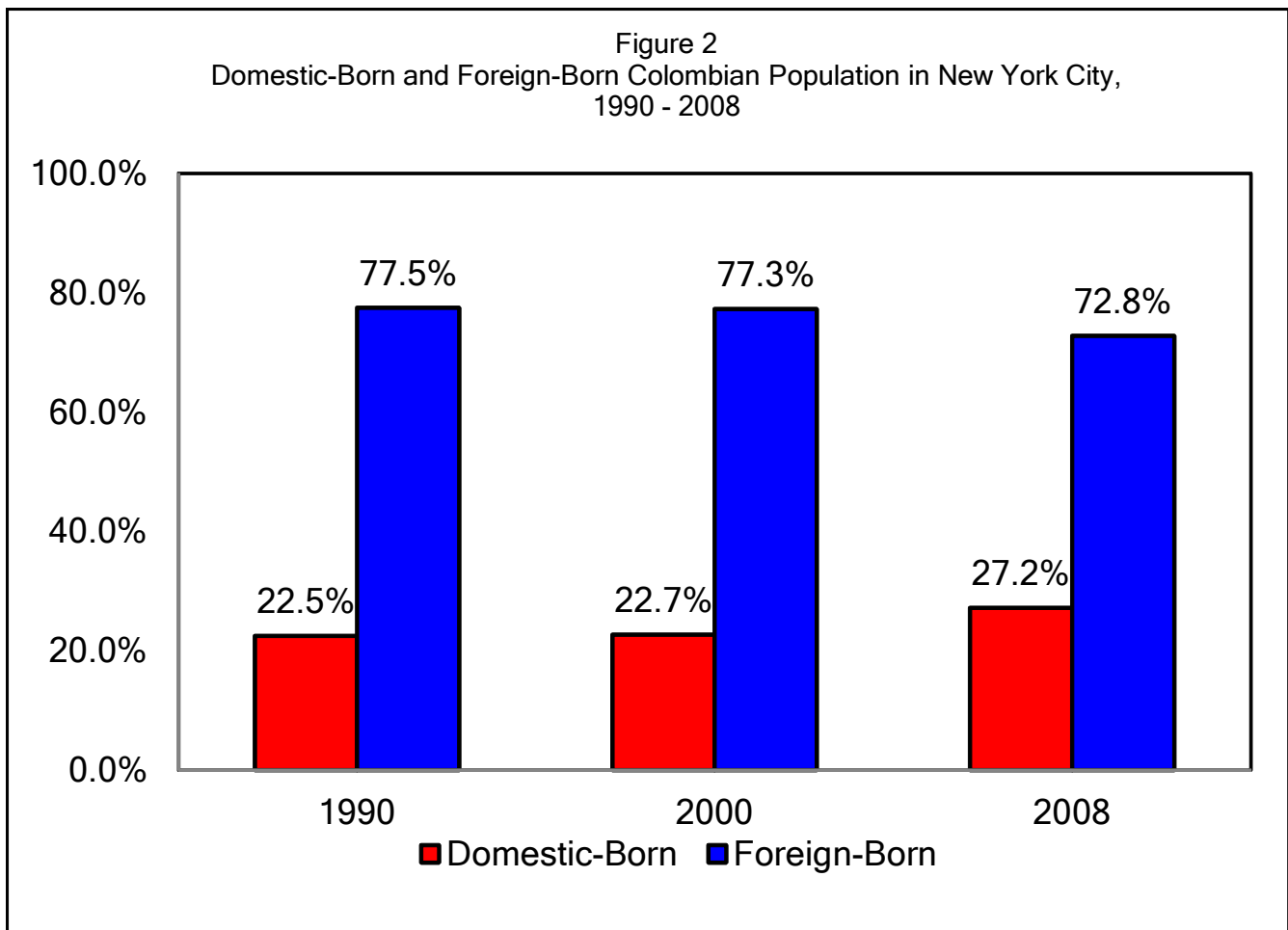
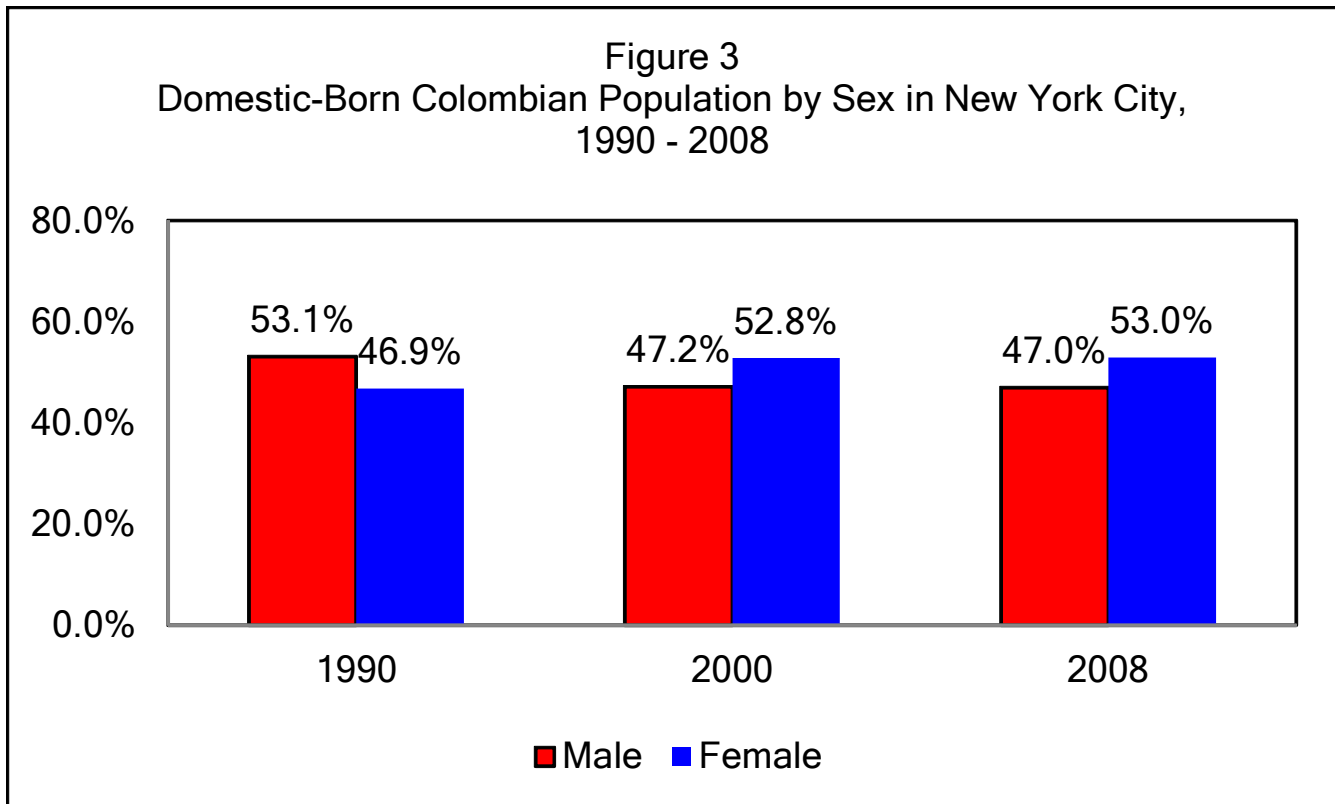


Table 2
Domestic-Born and Foreign-Born Colombians in New York City,
1990-2008

	Domestic-Born		Foreign-Born		Total
1990	19,998	22.5%	68,782	77.5%	88,780
2000	24,918	22.7%	84,792	77.3%	109,710
2008	26,555	27.2%	71,025	72.8%	97,580

The Colombian female population experienced a small decrease from 56.8% of all Colombians in 1990 to 52.4% in 2008. Among domestic-born Colombians, however, the percentage of population which was female has increased substantially from 46.9% in 1990 to about 53% in 2000 and 2008. By 2008 approximately 58% of all foreign-born Colombians were women. (See figures 3 and 4, and table 3.) Given that natural birth ratios slightly favor males, this imbalance suggests that migration or other variables are influencing the sex ratios of domestic-born Colombians living in New York City. The data suggest that domestic-born Colombian males may be more likely to leave New York City, while migration from Colombia seems to have been characterized by more women than men.



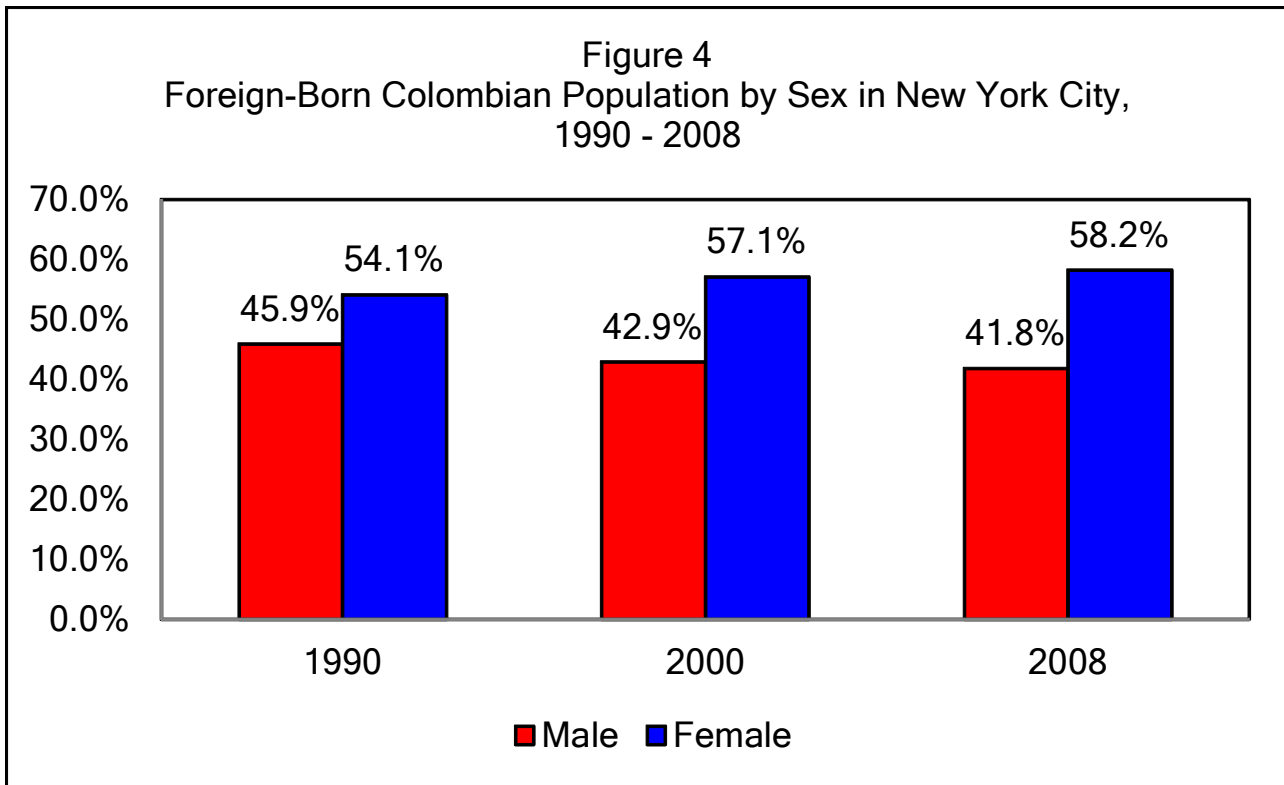


Table 3
Domestic and Foreign-Born Colombians in New York City by Sex, 1990 - 2008

Domestic Born					
	Males		Females		Total
1990	10,628	53.1%	9,370	46.9%	19,998
2000	11,751	47.2%	13,167	52.8%	24,918
2008	12,487	47.0%	14,068	53.0%	26,555

Foreign Born					
	Males		Females		Total
1990	31,558	45.9%	37,224	54.1%	68,782
2000	36,367	42.9%	48,425	57.1%	84,792
2008	29,688	41.8%	41,337	58.2%	71,025

Total					
	Males		Females		Total
1990	42,186	47.5%	46,594	52.5%	88,780
2000	48,118	43.9%	61,592	56.1%	109,710
2008	42,175	43.2%	55,405	56.8%	97,580

Geographical Distribution

The Colombian population within New York City has been consistently concentrated in Queens, which since 1990 has accounted for roughly three quarters of the Colombian population of the five boroughs. In 1990 and 2000, there was roughly a 3-to-1 ratio of foreign to domestic born individuals in all five boroughs. By 2008, however, the domestic-born and foreign-born Colombian populations within the Bronx and Staten Island were almost equal. This shift may indicate that these boroughs are locations where families are settling with U.S.-born children and that there is not additional immigration. (See figure 5 and table 4.)

In Queens where most Colombians are concentrated, the domestic-born population decreased slightly between 2000 and 2008, but the foreign-born population decreased much more – by -16%. Since the overall number of domestic-born Colombians increased in the city at large between 2000 and 2008, this indicates that the Colombian population that is living in Queens may be either migrating elsewhere or no longer having as many children born in the United States.

Figure 5
Colombian Population by Borough
in New York City, 1990-2008

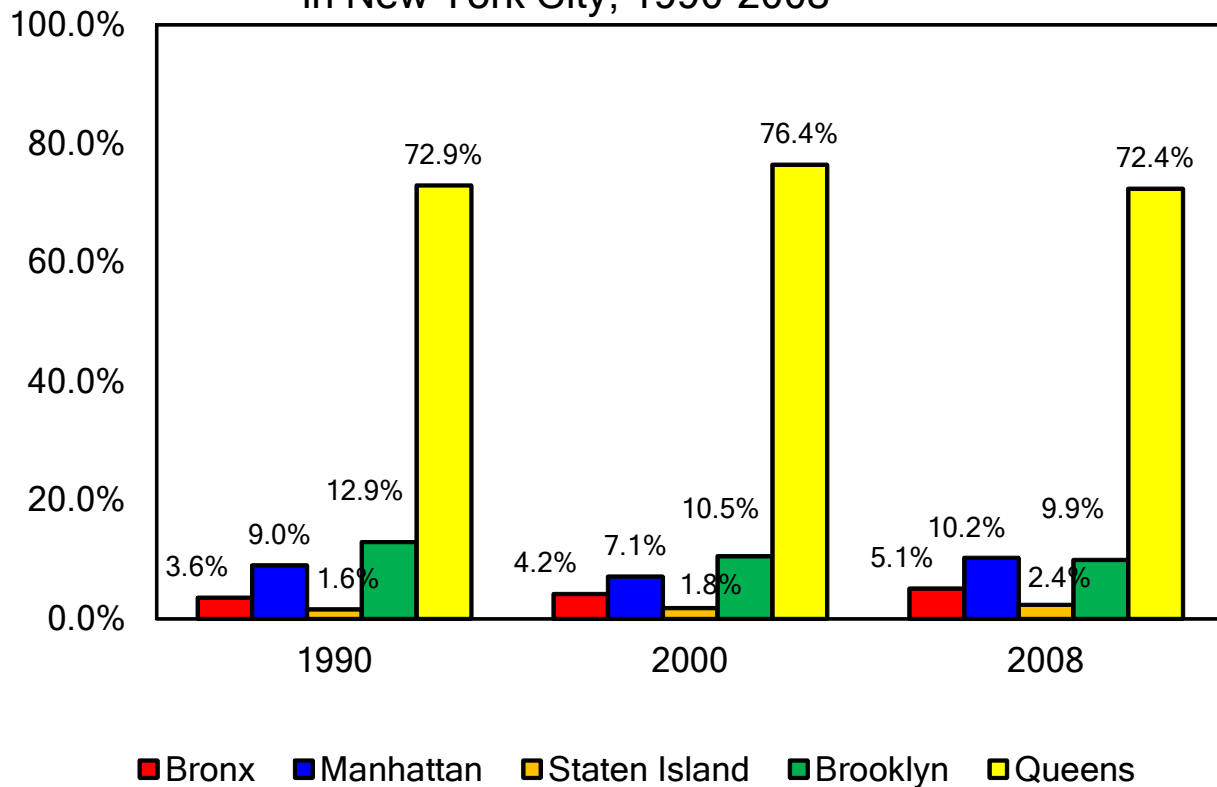


Table 4
Colombian Population by Borough and Nativity
in New York City, 1990 - 2008

1990				
	Domestic Born	Foreign Born	Total	Percentage of all Colombians
Bronx	890	2,283	3,173	3.6%
Manhattan	1,862	6,123	7,985	9.0%
Staten Island	318	1,100	1,418	1.6%
Brooklyn	2,707	8,758	11,465	12.9%
Queens	14,221	50,518	64,739	72.9%
Total	19,998	68,782	88,780	100.0%

2000				
	Domestic Born	Foreign Born	Total	Percentage of all Colombians
Bronx	1266	3,307	4,573	4.2%
Manhattan	2,053	5,753	7,806	7.1%
Staten Island	692	1,240	1,932	1.8%
Brooklyn	2,969	8,576	11,545	10.5%
Queens	17,938	65,916	83,854	76.4%
Total	24,918	84,792	109,710	100.0%

2008				
	Domestic Born	Foreign Born	Total	Percentage of all Colombians
Bronx	2508	2,472	4,980	5.1%
Manhattan	3,751	6,230	9,981	10.2%
Staten Island	1,109	1,210	2,319	2.4%
Brooklyn	2,489	7,176	9,665	9.9%
Queens	16,698	53,937	70,635	72.4%
Total	26,555	71,025	97,580	100.0%

There are multiple ways consider the geographic concentration in 2008 of the Colombian population in New York City. In each case, the smallest geographical unit available is the Public-Use Microdata Area (PUMA). In New York City, each PUMA corresponds roughly to community districts within the five boroughs. Table 5 below represents, in rank order, the top ten PUMAs according to three measures of concentration: total Colombian population, the Colombian population as a percentage of total population, and the Colombian population as a percentage of the total Latino population.

Table 5.
Colombian Total Population and Percentages of Total Population Latino Population by PUMA
in New York City, 2008

Census PUMA	Community District	Total Population	Pct. of Total Population	Pct. of Latino Population
4102	QN 3	1,4366	7.6%	22.0%
4103	QN 7	9,187	5.9%	18.2%
4107	QN 4	8,464	5.4%	16.4%
4109	QN 2	7,223	4.0%	16.0%
4111	QN 9	6,205	3.6%	15.0%
4101	QN 1	4,811	2.8%	12.0%
4106	QN 8	3,960	2.7%	11.7%
4113	QN 10	3,506	2.5%	10.9%
4110	QN 5	3,423	2.1%	10.1%
3807	MN 4 & 5	2,612	2.0%	9.8%

Examining these three measures reveals different patterns. For example, PUMA 4102, which corresponds to Queens Community District 3, including the neighborhoods of East Elmhurst, Jackson Heights, and North Corona, is top-ranked in terms of total Colombian population as well as the percentage of the total population which is Colombian. However when ranked in terms of the percentage that Colombians represent out of the total Latino population, this geographical area is ranked seventh. Conversely, PUMA 4104, which corresponds to Queens Community District 11 and includes the neighborhoods of Bayside, Little Neck, and Douglaston, has the second-highest concentration of Colombians among Latinos (18.2%), but has a low concentration of Colombians compared to the total population (ranked 9th, with 2.1%), and is not among the top ten areas in terms of total population.

These two cases may indicate two kinds of geographical distribution for the Colombian population: large numbers in geographical areas alongside other Latino national groups, and smaller numbers in geographical areas which have fewer other Latinos. Considering these three kinds of measures is important for identifying geographical areas where Colombians constitute a large subgroup, either relative to the total population or within the Latino population.

Age Structure

The domestic-born population shows signs of aging. Those aged 14 and younger accounted for over two-thirds of the population in 1990, but declined somewhat in 2000 to 59.9%, and quite dramatically by 2008 to 32%. By 2008, the largest domestic-born age group was those aged 15-44, at 64.3%. This shift may also indicate declining birth rates within New York City among Colombians. Among the foreign-born population, there are also signs that the population has aged: the largest age group was those aged 15-44 in 1990 (62.9%) and 2000 (at 56.2%), typical of a migrating population concentrated in working ages. While those aged 15-44 among foreign-born Colombians was still the largest in 2008, this group was much closer in size, at 39.7%, to the next largest group of those aged 45-59 (34.6%). This older group also includes a smaller range of ages. Indeed, the foreign-born population shows further signs of aging, with the group of Colombians aged 60 or over constituting nearly a quarter (23.3%) of the foreign-born population in 2008. These patterns suggest that immigration from Colombia has declined or ended altogether.

Household Income

Since 1990, Colombian households have had the highest median household income of any Latino national group in New York City. (See table 7). When nativity is considered, the only exceptions are within foreign-born households compared to foreign-born Mexican households in 1990 and foreign born Ecuadorian households in 2000 and 2008. Among domestic-born households, however, median household income has been above \$50,000 since 1990 and is the highest of the any of the five largest Latino subgroups in New York City. It should be noted that there are far fewer domestic-born households than foreign-born households, although they roughly doubled between 1990 and 2000, and again between 2000 and 2008. The difference within the Colombian population between domestic and foreign born households has also been narrowing from \$16,875 in 2000 to \$10,657 in 2008.

Table 6
Colombians by Age and Nativity, 1990 - 2008

Age Category	1990					
	Domestic Born	%	Foreign Born	%	Total	%
0-14	13,530	67.7%	5,254	7.6%	18,784	21.2%
15-44	6,113	30.6%	43,281	62.9%	49,394	55.6%
45-59	260	1.3%	14,395	20.9%	14,655	16.5%
60 +	95	0.5%	5,852	8.5%	5,947	6.7%
Total	19,998	100.0%	68,782	100.0%	88,780	100.0%

Age Category	2000					
	Domestic Born	%	Foreign Born	%	Total	%
0-14	14,925	59.9%	5,466	6.4%	20,391	18.6%
15-44	9,482	38.1%	47,691	56.2%	57,173	52.1%
45-59	360	1.4%	19,774	23.3%	20,134	18.4%
60 +	151	0.6%	11,861	14.0%	12,012	10.9%
Total	24,918	100.0%	84,792	100.0%	109,710	100.0%

Age Category	2008					
	Domestic Born	%	Foreign Born	%	Total	%
0-14	8,354	31.5%	1,744	2.5%	10,098	10.3%
15-44	17,067	64.3%	28,169	39.7%	45,236	46.4%
45-59	587	2.2%	24,568	34.6%	25,155	25.8%
60 +	547	2.1%	16,544	23.3%	17,091	17.5%
Total	26,555	100.0%	71,025	100.0%	97,580	100.0%

The narrowing gap between foreign born and domestic born individuals in terms of household income can also be observed by examining the percentage distributions within each household income category. The percentage of foreign-born individuals in households with incomes of \$50,000 or more annually increased steadily since 1990. For example, the percentage of foreign-born individuals with at least \$50,000 but less than \$75,000 of household income increased from 17.6% in 1990 to 25.2% in 2008. (All values cited here are in inflation-adjusted 2008 dollars). Conversely, the number of foreign-born individuals with household incomes below \$40,000 decreased between 1990 and 2000, and then again between 2000 and 2008. At the same time income increased for domestic-born households as well, especially among domestic-born individuals with between \$100,000 and \$199,999 of income, a group which has increased from 1.4% of individuals in 1990 to 19.8% of households by 2008. Consequently, the gap between foreign- and domestic-born individuals with household incomes of at least \$50,000 widened. In 1990, fewer than 25% of all individuals lived in households with incomes of at least \$50,000. By 2008, while just over half (53.2%) of foreign-born individuals were part of households with incomes of at least \$50,000, nearly two-thirds (63.7%) of domestic-born Colombians were in households with those levels of income. This growing gap may reflect the greater opportunities for economic advancement for domestic-born individuals. (See table 8 for complete data).

Figure 6
Median Household Income by Largest Latino Nationalities in New York City, 2008

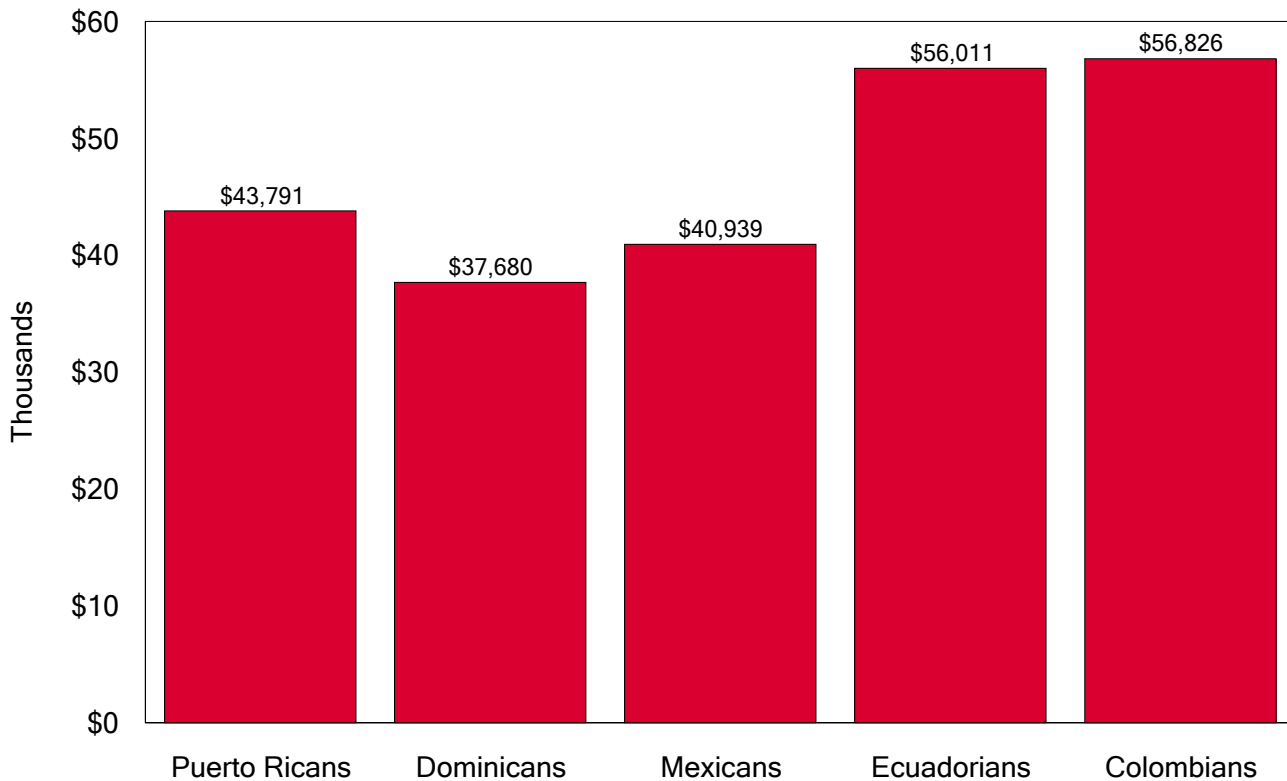


Table 7
 Median Household Income for Five Largest Latino Nationalities in New York City by Nativity, 1990 - 2008
 (in inflation adjusted 2008 dollars)

	1990			2000			2008		
	Domestic Born	Foreign Born	Total	Domestic Born	Foreign Born	Total	Domestic Born	Foreign Born	Total
Dominicans	\$ 29,599	\$ 37,950	\$ 35,711	\$ 35,713	\$ 40,000	\$ 38,750	\$ 37,171	\$ 37,884	\$ 37,680
Puerto Ricans	\$ 36,300	\$ 33,000	\$ 34,650	\$ 40,000	\$ 31,250	\$ 37,500	\$ 47,864	\$ 25,969	\$ 41,958
Mexicans	\$ 49,500	\$ 56,100	\$ 54,450	\$ 44,063	\$ 50,000	\$ 48,250	\$ 38,699	\$ 45,206	\$ 40,838
Ecuadorians	\$ 41,360	\$ 52,322	\$ 49,568	\$ 52,375	\$ 53,750	\$ 53,625	\$ 56,724	\$ 55,248	\$ 56,011
Colombians	\$ 52,800	\$ 52,800	\$ 52,800	\$ 53,750	\$ 52,438	\$ 52,500	\$ 63,140	\$ 53,873	\$ 56,826

Employment

When employment status is examined by sex and nativity, several patterns emerge over time. First, the size of the domestic-born working-age population ages 16 to 60 increased from 1990 to 2008 for both males and females. Among foreign-born Colombians, the working-age population among both men and women increased between 1990 and 2000, but decreased thereafter to 2008.

At least one quarter of domestic-born Colombian males were not in the workforce in each of the years 1990, 2000, and 2008. Foreign-born males, however, had lower rates of individuals not in the labor force, with a high of 29% in 2000 but closer to 10% in both 1990 and 2008.

From 1990 to 2008, at least 25 percent of women, whether foreign or domestic-born, were also not in the labor force. Foreign-born females have slightly higher rates of employment than their domestic-born counterparts. Although in 1990 domestic-born men had lower unemployment rates, since then foreign-born men have both had more participation in the labor force and higher rates of employment.

When individuals aged 16 to 60 who are not in the labor force are counted based upon whether or they are enrolled in school, a partial explanation for some of these patterns emerges. Domestic-born Colombians, both male and female, have had high percentages of school attendance, with males having higher participation rates in 1990 and 2000. In 2008, however, domestic-born females not in the labor force were more likely than males to be attending school. These rates contrast with the declining percentages of foreign-born individuals who have been enrolled in school. These patterns may be further related to the educational attainment of Colombians over time and the higher levels of workforce participation among foreign-born Colombians. (See figures 7 and 8 and table 9 for complete data),

Table 8
 Distribution of Household Income Among Colombians in New York City by Nativity
 1990 - 2008 (in 2008 inflation adjusted 2008 dollars)

		1990	2000	2008
Nativity	Income Category	% Households	% Households	% Households
Domestic Born	Less than 10,000	7.0%	6.7%	3.6%
	10,000-19,999	19.1%	8.0%	8.7%
	20,000-29,000	17.6%	12.9%	5.1%
	30,000-39,999	20.1%	15.7%	7.6%
	40,000-49,999	11.6%	11.5%	11.4%
	50,000-74,999	17.5%	22.6%	21.8%
	75,000-99,999	5.5%	10.7%	15.4%
	100,000-199,999	1.4%	9.5%	19.8%
	200,000 +	0.1%	2.4%	6.7%
Foreign Born	Less than 10,000	7.9%	6.2%	3.0%
	10,000-19,999	18.5%	11.7%	12.2%
	20,000-29,000	20.3%	13.2%	7.3%
	30,000-39,999	16.7%	15.5%	13.0%
	40,000-49,999	12.5%	12.1%	11.4%
	50,000-74,999	17.6%	20.6%	25.2%
	75,000-99,999	4.5%	9.9%	11.8%
	100,000-199,999	1.9%	8.6%	14.7%
	200,000+	0.2%	2.1%	1.5%
Total	Less than 10,000	7.7%	6.3%	3.1%
	10,000-19,999	18.6%	10.9%	11.2%
	20,000-29,000	19.7%	13.1%	6.7%
	30,000-39,999	17.5%	15.5%	11.5%
	40,000-49,999	12.3%	12.0%	11.4%
	50,000-74,999	17.6%	21.1%	24.2%
	75,000-99,999	4.7%	10.1%	12.8%
	100,000-199,999	1.8%	8.8%	16.1%
	200,000+	0.2%	2.2%	2.9%

Figure 7
Unemployment and Not in the Labor Force Rates for Colombians in New York City, 1990 - 2008
(population ages 16 - 60)

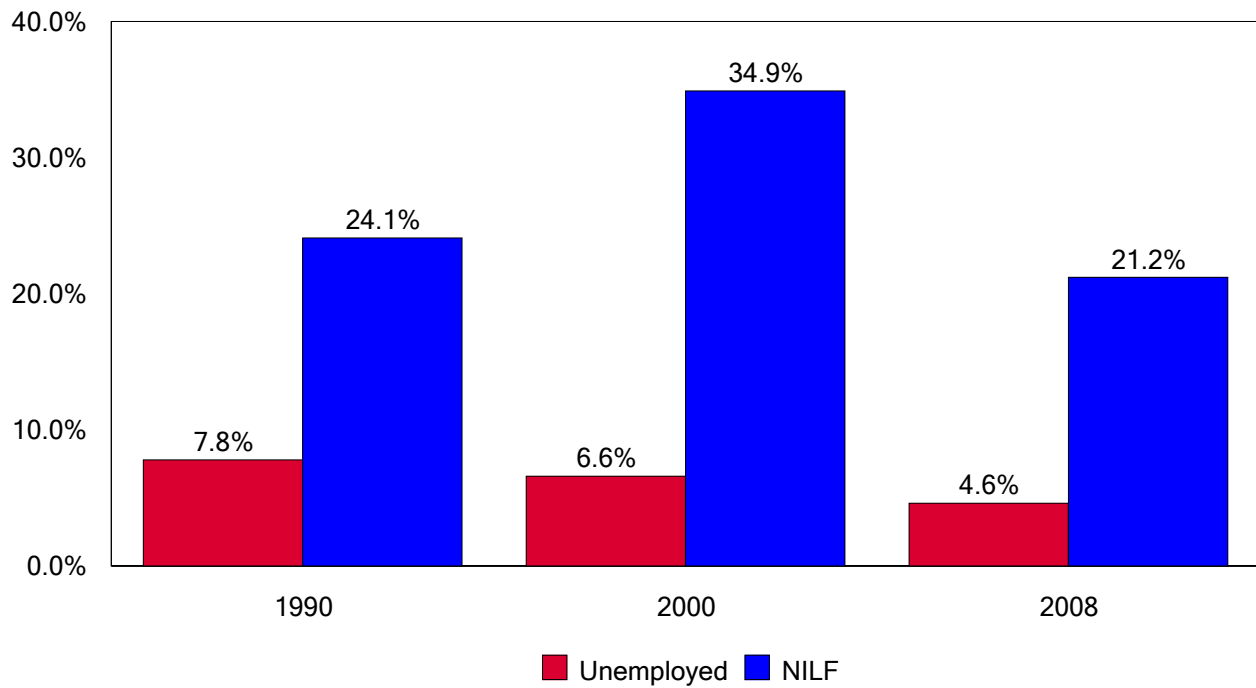


Figure 8
Unemployment and Not in the Labor Force Rates for Colombians in New York City, 1990 - 2008
by Sex and Nativity (population ages 16 - 60)

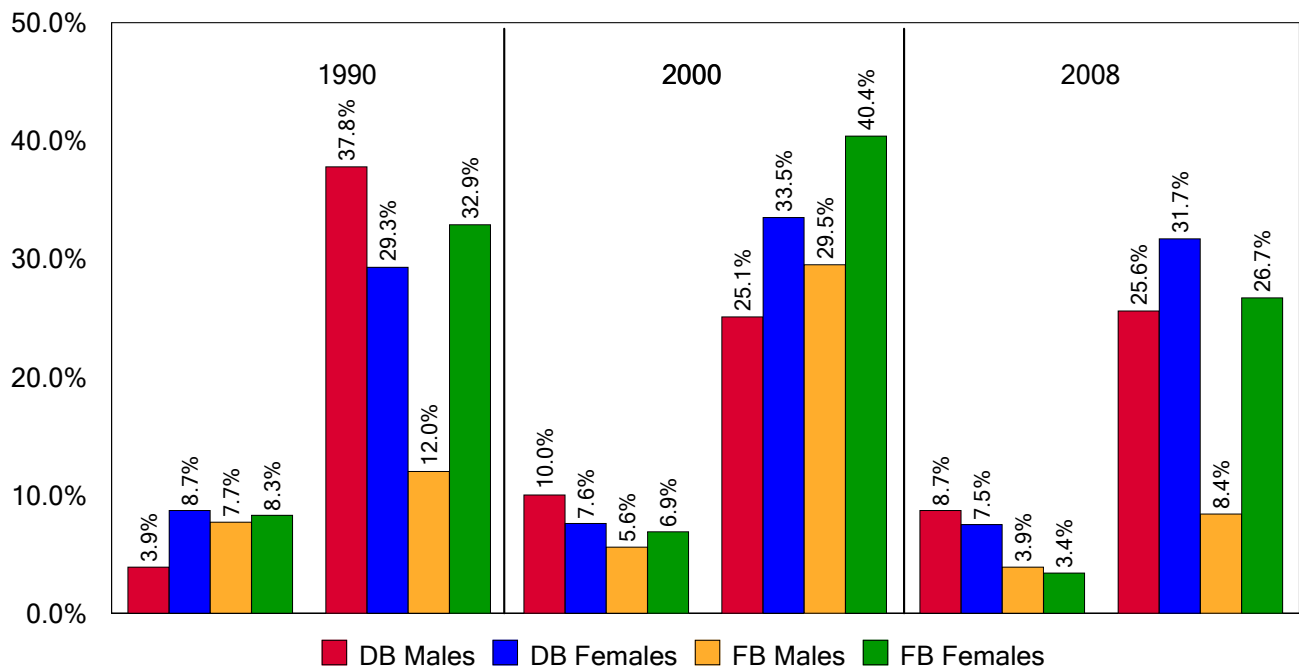


Table 9
Employment Status Among Colombians in New York City by Sex and Nativity, 1990 - 20008
(population ages 16 - 60)

		1990													
		Domestic Born				Foreign Born				Total					
Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female	
Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Employed	1,945	58%	1,567	62%	21,754	80%	18,169	59%	23,699	78%	19,736	59%			
Unemployed	130	4%	220	9%	2,092	8%	2,562	8%	2,222	7%	2,782	8%			
Not in Labor Force	1,260	38%	741	29%	3,250	12%	10,150	33%	4,510	15%	10,891	33%			
Total	3,335	100%	2,528	100%	27,096	100%	30,881	100%	30,431	100%	33,409	100%			
		2000													
		Domestic Born				Foreign Born				Total					
Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female	
Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Employed	2,745	65%	2,899	59%	19,367	65%	19,946	53%	22,112	65%	22,845	53%			
Unemployed	422	10%	374	8%	1,669	6%	2,632	7%	2,091	6%	3,006	7%			
Not in Labor Force	1,062	25%	1,652	34%	8,788	29%	15,298	40%	9,850	29%	16,950	40%			
Total	4,229	100%	4,925	100%	29,824	100%	37,876	100%	34,053	100%	42,801	100%			
		2008													
		Domestic Born				Foreign Born				Total					
Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female	
Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Employed	4,670	66%	5,251	61%	18,973	88%	19,945	70%	23,643	82%	25,196	68%			
Unemployed	615	9%	643	7%	834	4%	957	3%	1,449	5%	1,600	4%			
Not in Labor Force	1,820	26%	2,734	32%	1,813	8%	7,604	27%	3,633	13%	10,338	28%			
Total	7,105	100%	8,628	100%	21,620	100%	28,506	100%	28,725	100%	37,134	100%			

Educational Attainment

Although educational attainment rates have improved greatly from 1990 to 2008, when disaggregated by sex and nativity, there seem to have been three different trajectories. For foreign-born individuals of both sexes, the pattern has been one of steady progress, with increases in the percentages of individuals with at least a bachelor's degree and decreases in the percentage of individuals without a high school diploma.

The patterns among domestic-born Colombians are more difficult to interpret because the total number of domestic-born individuals aged 25 and over roughly doubled between 1990 and 2000, and did so again between 2000 and 2008. There do appear to be differences between male and female educational attainment. The number of domestic-born females of the relevant ages increased by a factor of more than three between 1990 and 2000 and the percentage of females with at least a bachelor's degree increased from 30.2% in 1990 to 48.5% in 2000, much higher than the overall average of 16.8%. Domestic-born Colombian females continued to have very high college completion rates in 2008 at about 48%, and a very low high school non-completion rate (4.5%).

Among domestic-born Colombian males, however, the pattern has been less consistent. While the high school non-completion rate decreased from 21.9% in 1990 to 10.6% in 2000, by 2008 it had climbed again to 24.2%. In all three census years, the most common level of educational attainment was some college, but with no degree, reaching a high of 42.0% in 2000. The percentage of domestic-born males in 2008 with bachelors degrees or higher is actually lower in 2008 (13.6%) than it was in 1990 (18.3%), but comparisons are difficult because the number of males being counted has increased by a factor of 4 in those years. At the same time, since the absolute number of domestic-born males with at least a bachelor's degree has remained almost constant between 2000 and 2008, this pattern may be related to the out migration of domestic-born Colombian males given that there are proportionately fewer of them in the city. It does seem then that while many domestic-born Colombian males are able to complete high school and attend college, attaining a bachelor's degree is more elusive compared to other Colombian subgroups. (See table 10 for complete data and figures 9, 10, and 11).

English Proficiency

Between 1990 and 2000, the Colombian foreign-born population increased and the percentage of individuals reporting that they speak English well or very well decreased slightly from 59.4 % to 55.4%, while a larger percentage of individuals reported that they did not speak English or that they spoke English but not well. Between 2000 and 2008, however, the foreign-born population decreased and English proficiency increased slightly, with only 36.0% of the foreign-born population reporting that they do not speak English or do not speak it well, and 59.4% reporting that they speak English well or very well. Nearly all domestic-born Colombians had complete command of English. (See table 11 for data on foreign-born Colombian English-language skills).

Table 10
Educational Attainment for Colombians in New York City by Sex and Nativity, 1990 - 2008
(ages 25 and over)

		1990													
		Domestic Born			Foreign Born			Total							
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total					
No HS Diploma		254	21.9%	106	13.8%	8,802	36.4%	13,641	45.2%	9,056	35.8%	13,747	44.4%	22,803	40.5%
High School Diploma		243	21.0%	192	25.1%	7,239	30.0%	8,507	28.2%	7,482	29.6%	8,699	28.1%	16,181	28.8%
Some College		323	27.9%	156	20.4%	4,232	17.5%	3,851	12.8%	4,555	18.0%	4,007	13.0%	8,562	15.2%
Associates Degree		127	11.0%	81	10.6%	1,222	5.1%	1,546	5.1%	1,349	5.3%	1,627	5.3%	2,976	5.3%
B.A. or Higher		212	18.3%	231	30.2%	2,657	11.0%	2,630	8.7%	2,869	11.3%	2,861	9.2%	5,730	10.2%
Total		1,159	100.0%	766	100.0%	24,152	100.0%	30,175	100.0%	25,311	100.0%	30,941	100.0%	56,252	100.0%

		2000													
		Domestic Born			Foreign Born			Total							
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total					
No HS Diploma		239	10.6%	348	12.5%	9,787	33.8%	14,841	36.8%	10,026	32.1%	15,189	35.2%	25,215	33.9%
High School Diploma		260	11.6%	286	10.2%	8,009	27.6%	11,444	28.3%	8,269	26.5%	11,730	27.2%	19,999	26.9%
Some College		945	42.0%	521	18.7%	5,167	17.8%	6,105	15.1%	6,112	19.6%	6,626	15.3%	12,738	17.1%
Associates Degree		208	9.2%	282	10.1%	1,303	4.5%	2,160	5.3%	1,511	4.8%	2,442	5.7%	3,953	5.3%
B.A. or Higher		598	26.6%	1,354	48.5%	4,713	16.3%	5,829	14.4%	5,311	17.0%	7,183	16.6%	12,494	16.8%
Total		2,250	100.0%	2,791	100.0%	28,979	100.0%	40,379	100.0%	31,229	100.0%	43,170	100.0%	74,399	100.0%

		2008													
		Domestic Born			Foreign Born			Total							
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total					
No HS Diploma		1135	24.2%	220	4.5%	6,722	24.8%	12,706	34.0%	7,857	24.7%	12,926	30.6%	20,783	28.1%
High School Diploma		723	15.4%	901	18.4%	7,529	27.8%	10,805	28.9%	8,252	26.0%	11,706	27.7%	19,958	26.9%
Some College		1602	34.2%	874	17.8%	5,695	21.0%	4,846	13.0%	7,297	22.9%	5,720	13.5%	13,017	17.6%
Associates Degree		593	12.6%	576	11.8%	1,743	6.4%	2,126	5.7%	2,336	7.3%	2,702	6.4%	5,038	6.8%
B.A. or Higher		636	13.6%	2,331	47.6%	5,420	20.0%	6,907	18.5%	6,056	19.0%	9,238	21.8%	15,294	20.6%
Total		4,689	100.0%	4,902	100.0%	27,109	100.0%	37,390	100.0%	31,798	100.0%	42,292	100.0%	74,090	100.0%

Figure 9
Educational Attainment among Colombians in New York City, 1990 - 2008
(population ages 25 and older)

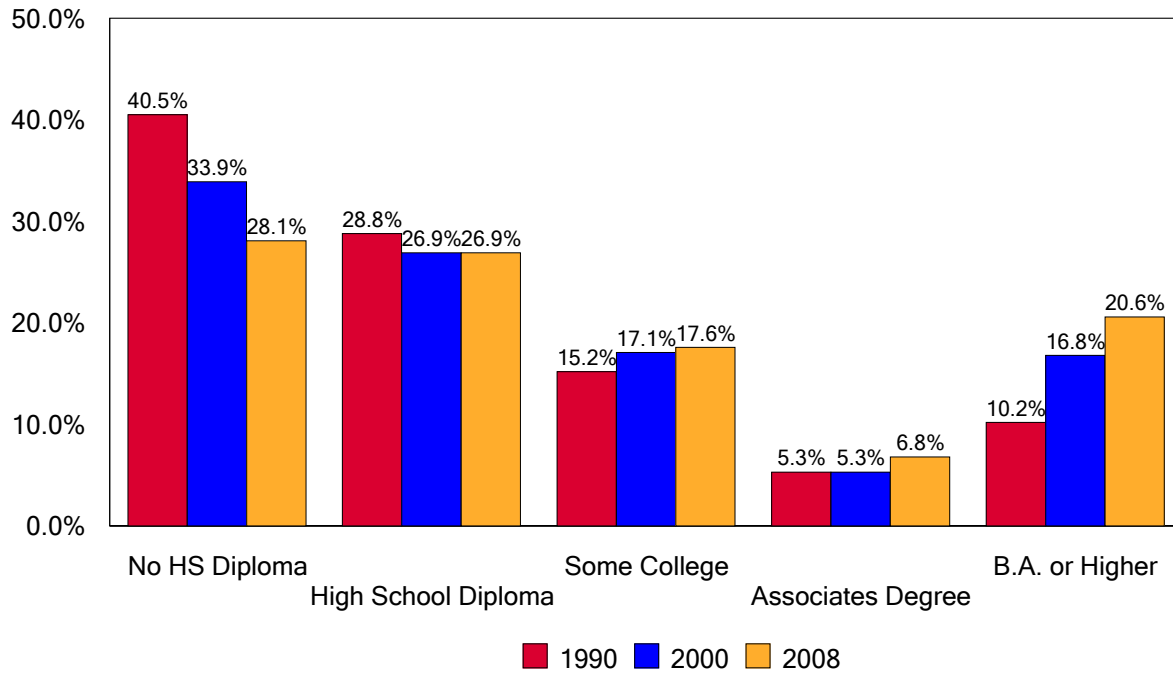


Figure 10
Educational Attainment among Foreign-Born Colombians in New York City, 1990 - 2008
(population ages 25 and older)

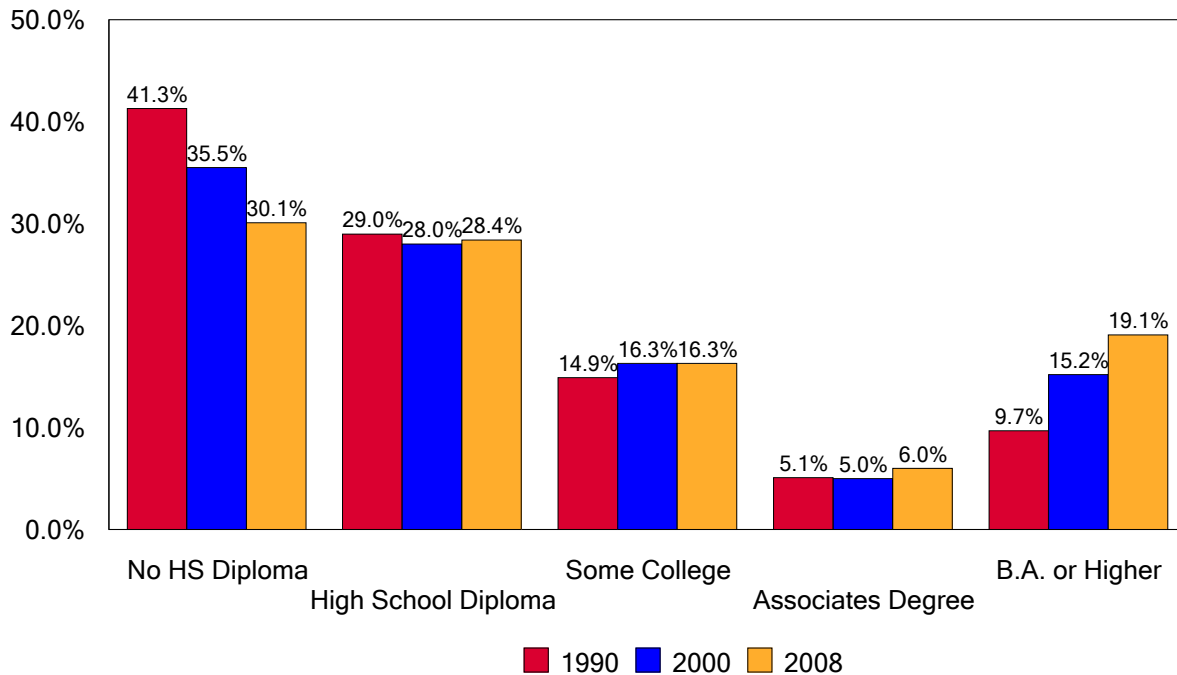


Figure 11
Educational Attainment among Domestic-Born Colombians in New York City, 1990 - 2008
(population ages 25 and older)

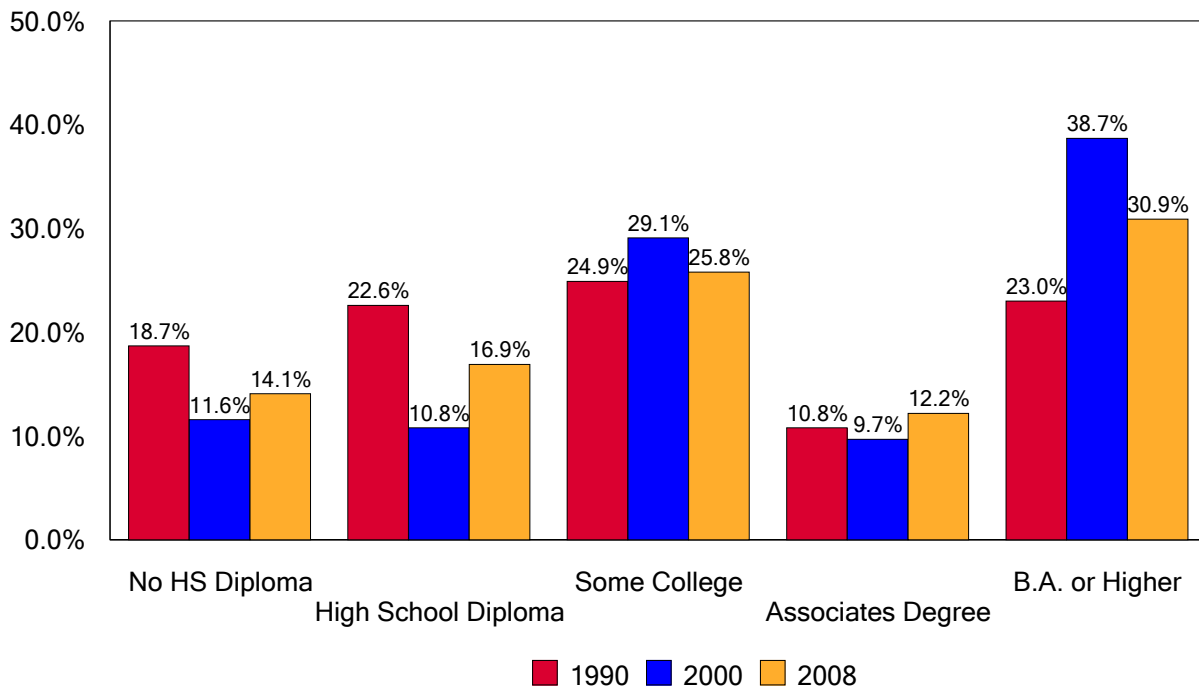


Table 11

English Proficiency Among Foreign-Born Colombians, 1990 - 2008

	1990	2000	2008
Speaks English Well or Very Well	59.4%	55.4%	59.4%
Does not speak English Well	30.1%	32.7%	33.9%
Does not speak English	10.5%	11.9%	6.7%

Poverty

The poverty rate among Colombians in New York City has fluctuated between 1990 and 2008. Having increased from 16.7% to 20.0% between 1990 and 2000, in 2008 the poverty rate, at 13.8%, was lower than it was in 1990. In those years, the percentage of individuals living in households with income at least three times the poverty level has increased steadily from 35.7% in 1990 to 46.8% in 2008. While domestic-born and foreign-born poverty rates were within 2% of each other in 1990 and 2000, in 2008 the foreign-born population had a higher poverty rate (14.9%) than the domestic born population rate (10.9%). (See table 12).

Citizenship

Citizenship among the foreign-born Colombian population has increased steadily since 1990, at the rate of approximately 20% every decade. The steady rise in naturalized citizens suggests that foreign-born Colombians have been able to successfully navigate the process of become participants and as a group will be able to influence electoral results in the areas of higher concentration within the City. Domestic-born Colombians, of course, were all citizens. With increasing naturalization of foreign-born Colombians, and the increase in the domestic-born population in the city, an increasing percentage of all Colombians were citizens – nearly 25% in 1990 and almost 52% in 2008. (See figure 12).

Figure 12
Citizenship Rates among Colombians in New York City, 1990 - 2008

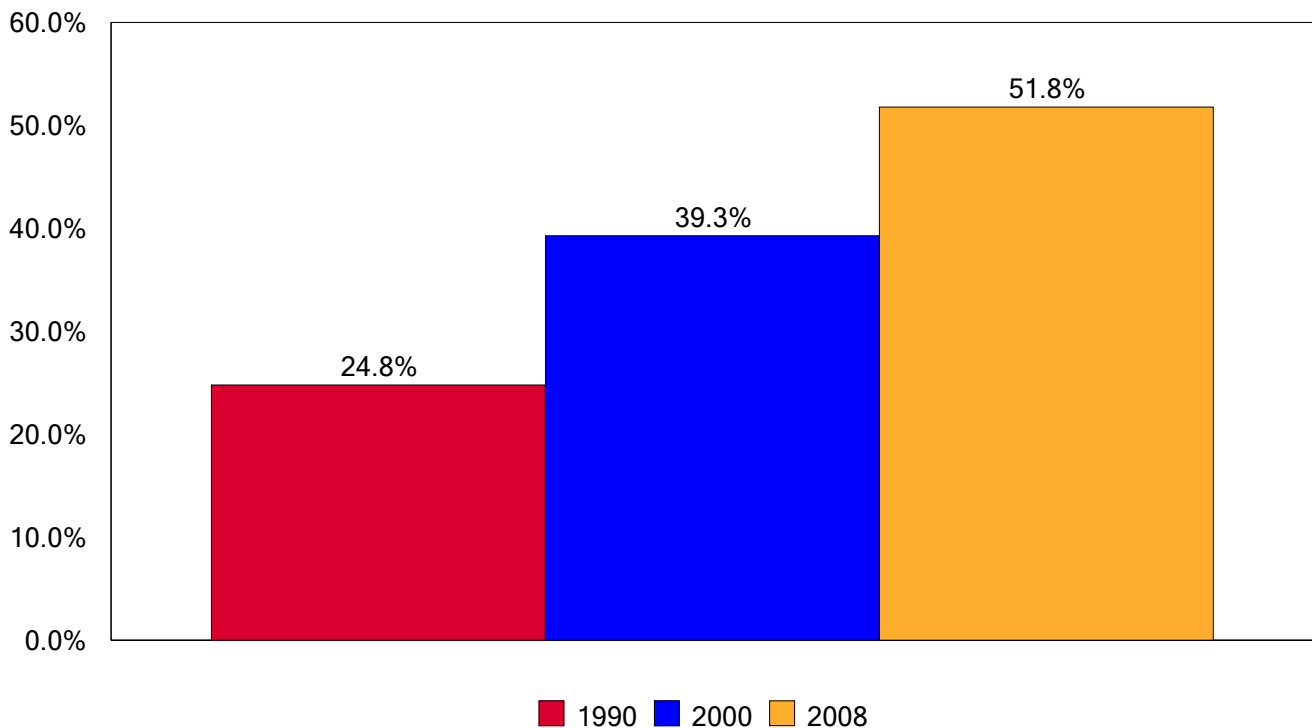


Table 12
Poverty Rates Among Colombians in New York City by Nativity, 1990 - 2008

	1990					
	Domestic Born		Foreign Born		Total	
Up to 100% Poverty	3,535	17.9%	11,180	16.3%	14,715	16.7%
Up to 150% Poverty	2,382	12.0%	8,797	12.9%	11,179	12.7%
Up to 200% Poverty	2,769	14.0%	8,288	12.1%	11,057	12.5%
Up to 300% Poverty	4,642	23.4%	15,118	22.1%	19,760	22.4%
More than 300% Poverty	6,469	32.7%	25,063	36.6%	31,532	35.7%
Total	19,797	100.0%	68,446	100.0%	88,243	100.0%

	2000					
	Domestic Born		Foreign Born		Total	
Up to 100% Poverty	4,636	18.9%	17,124	20.3%	21,760	20.0%
Up to 150% Poverty	2,974	12.1%	9,916	11.8%	12,890	11.8%
Up to 200% Poverty	2,779	11.3%	9,716	11.5%	12,495	11.5%
Up to 300% Poverty	4,599	18.7%	17,297	20.5%	21,896	20.1%
More than 300% Poverty	9,605	39.1%	30,320	35.9%	39,925	36.6%
Total	24,593	100.0%	84,373	100.0%	108,966	100.0%

	2008					
	Domestic Born		Foreign Born		Total	
Up to 100% Poverty	2,686	10.9%	9,848	14.9%	12,534	13.8%
Up to 150% Poverty	1,994	8.1%	5,888	8.9%	7,882	8.7%
Up to 200% Poverty	2,121	8.6%	7,940	12.1%	10,061	11.1%
Up to 300% Poverty	3,649	14.8%	14,025	21.3%	17,674	19.5%
More than 300% Poverty	14,248	57.7%	28,190	42.8%	42,438	46.8%
Total	24,698	100.0%	65,891	100.0%	90,589	100.0%

Conclusions and Highlights

One important pattern that emerges among Colombians in New York City between 1990 and 2008 appears to be a slowing in immigration from Colombia and the continued growth of the domestic-born Colombian population. The following are some highlights of this report:

- Queens, while still the center of the Colombian population in New York City, experienced a net decrease in its Colombian population. In other boroughs such as the Bronx and Staten Island, there are now as many domestic-born Colombians as foreign-born ones.
- As the Colombian population has aged, the foreign-born population now is substantially older than their domestic-born counterparts, with nearly a quarter over the age of 60.
- While educational attainment levels have generally improved from 1990 to 2008, domestic-born Colombian males are mostly likely to have graduated from high school and attended some college, but not completed a degree. Domestic-born females, on the other hand, have done better than other Colombian subgroups: nearly half have at least acquired a bachelors degree, and extraordinary achievement in comparative perspective.
- Domestic-born Colombians have made more rapid gains from 1990 to 2008 in household income than their foreign-born counterparts, even though they still lag behind foreign-born Colombians in the absolute levels of median household income.
- There is a higher percentage of foreign-born Colombians in the work force compared with the domestic-born, and there were higher employment rates as well. While more domestic-born Colombians were not in the workforce, many more of them were more likely to be attending school.
- Poverty rates have decreased overall between 1990 and 2008 among both foreign and domestic-born Colombians..
- English language proficiency among the foreign-born population has remained relatively stable from 1990 to 2008.
- Citizenship rates have steadily increased for foreign-born Colombians from 1990 to 2008: over three-fifths of foreign-born Colombians are now naturalized.

Future research into the Colombian population of New York City will need to track patterns of migration and the trajectories of both domestic-born Colombians as they enter the workforce and academic world, as well as the ageing foreign-born population as they exit the working-age population.