



Center for Latin American, Caribbean & Latino Studies

## The Latino Population of New York City, 2009

Laird W. Bergad  
Director

Center for Latin American, Caribbean  
& Latino Studies

Center for Latin American,  
Caribbean & Latino Studies

Graduate Center  
City University of New York  
365 Fifth Avenue  
Room 5419  
New York, New York 10016

212-817-8438

[clacsl@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:clacsl@gc.cuny.edu)

<http://web.gc.cuny.edu/lastudies>



Latino Data Project - Report 43 - April 2011

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.

The Center established and helps administer an interdisciplinary specialization in Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies in the Masters of Arts in Liberal Studies program.

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.

All Latino Data Project reports are available at <http://web.gc.cuny.edu/lastudies/>

For additional information you may contact the Center at 212-817-8438 or by e-mail at [clacls@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:clacls@gc.cuny.edu).

Staff:

Laird W. Bergad, Distinguished Professor, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Lehman College, Ph.D. Program in History, Executive Director, CLACLS

Teresita Levy, Assistant Professor, Latin American and Puerto Rican Studies, Lehman College, Associate Director

Carolina Barrera-Tobón, Administrative Director

Victoria Stone-Cadena, Director of Special Projects

Laura Limonic, Director of Quantitative Research

Marcela González, Research Associate

Lawrence Cappello, Research Assistant

Copyright © 2011  
Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies  
Room 5419  
Graduate Center  
City University of New York  
365 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10016  
212-817-8438  
[clacls@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:clacls@gc.cuny.edu)  
<http://web.gc.cuny.edu/lastudies>

Table of Contents

Demography..... 4

Citizenship and the Electorate..... 17

Educational Attainment..... 22

Income..... 25

Poverty..... 34

Employment and Unemployment..... 37

Language..... 41

Health Insurance..... 45

Highlights..... 47

Demography

New York City’s Latino population continued to increase between 1990 and 2009. Although there were fewer Latinos than African Americans in 1990, by 2000 Latinos had become the second most numerous race/ethnic group in the City and this continued to 2009 when Latinos comprised 28% of New York’s population compared with 23% who were non-Hispanic blacks and 35% who were non-Hispanic whites. (See table 1).

Latino annual population growth rates over the period between 1990 and 2009 were significantly higher than those of non-Hispanic whites and blacks, and suggest that in all likelihood Latinos will become the largest race/ethnic group in the City over the following decade. This will, of course, depend on immigration patterns as well as birth and fertility rates. But the gradual decline of New York City’s non-Hispanic white population and the virtual stagnation in numerical terms of the non-Hispanic black population also point to the probability that Latinos will surpass both groups sometime before 2020.

Table 1  
New York City Population by Race/Ethnicity 1990 - 2009

	1990		2000		2009		Annual Growth Rates		
	Population	% of Total	Population	% of Total	Population	% of Total	1990-2000	2000-2009	1990-2009
Non-Hispanic White	3,165,172	43.5%	2,810,842	35.1%	2,960,583	35.3%	-1.2%	0.6%	-0.4%
Non-Hispanic Black	1,863,380	25.6%	1,951,027	24.4%	1,933,050	23.0%	0.5%	-0.1%	0.2%
Asian	493,713	6.8%	781,176	9.8%	998,546	11.9%	4.7%	2.8%	3.8%
Latino	1,753,456	24.1%	2,226,907	27.8%	2,369,454	28.2%	2.4%	0.7%	1.6%
Other	4,385	0.1%	234,807	2.9%	129,433	1.5%	48.9%	-6.4%	19.5%
Total	7,280,106	100.0%	8,004,759	100.0%	8,391,066	100.0%	1.0%	0.5%	0.8%

Among Latino national subgroups the trends established after 1990 are very clear. There has been a gradual decline in the City’s Puerto Rican population which accounted for 49% of all Latinos in 1990 and 33% in 2009. Over the same period the Dominican population continued to expand and in 2009 made up 25% of the City’s Latino population. But the fastest growing Latino nationality has been without question Mexicans who numbered only about 58,000 in 1990 and 3.3% of all Latinos in the City. By 2009 they had increased to nearly 320,000 and 13.5% of the total Latino population. Ecuadorians and Colombians were the fourth and fifth largest Latino national subgroups in 2009, although population growth among Ecuadorians was much more robust than among Colombians (See table 2).

<sup>1</sup> Data in this report were derived from 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 located on the internet at <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/>.

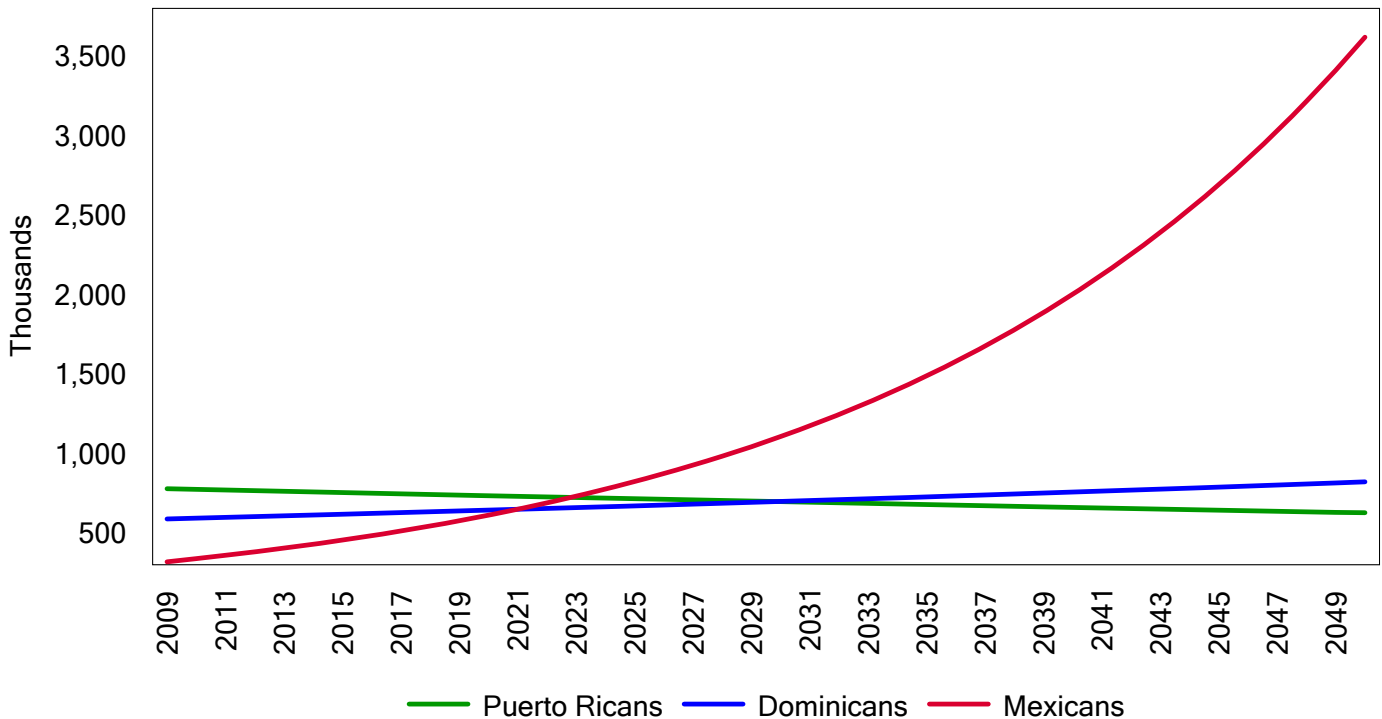
Latino nationalities were calculated by CLACLS using ancestry data and birthplace data to reduce the number of ‘other Hispanics’ to national origin groups. Thus, the data supplied by IPUMS and the U.S. Census Bureau have been recoded. In these calculations of Latinos all Europeans, Spaniards, Canary Islanders etc. have been eliminated and Brazilians added as Latinos.

Table 2  
Largest Latino Nationalities in New York City, 1990 - 2009

	1990		2000		2009		Annual Population Growth Rates		
	Population	% of Total Latinos	Population	% of Total Latinos	Population	% of Total Latinos	1990-2000	2000-2009	1990-2009
Puerto Rican	860,889	49.1%	816,827	36.7%	778,807	32.9%	-0.5%	-0.5%	-0.5%
Dominican	348,951	19.9%	547,379	24.6%	588,865	24.9%	4.6%	0.8%	2.8%
Mexican	58,410	3.3%	187,259	8.4%	319,126	13.5%	12.4%	6.1%	9.3%
Ecuadorian	85,155	4.9%	149,897	6.7%	211,378	8.9%	5.8%	3.9%	4.9%
Colombian	91,769	5.2%	109,710	4.9%	115,955	4.9%	1.8%	0.6%	1.2%
Others	308,282	17.6%	415,835	18.7%	355,323	15.0%	3.0%	-1.7%	0.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,753,456</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>2,226,907</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>2,369,454</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>

If annual population growth rates between 2000 and 2009 are used to calculate the future national distribution of New York City’s Latino population, Mexicans will surpass both Puerto Ricans and Dominicans in 2023 to become the City’s largest national Latino sub-group. Dominicans will surpass Puerto Ricans in 2030 to become the second largest Latino nationality. There are no assurances that these annual population growth rates will continue into the future. (See figure 1).

Figure 1  
Hypothetical Population Projections Among Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, and Mexicans in New York City Using Annual Population Growth Rates between 2000 and 2009



The continued increase in the City's Latino population was closely connected to comparatively high birth rates and ongoing immigration to the city. Two general demographic indicators, the crude birth rate and the general fertility rate, clearly demonstrate that reproductive rates among New York City's Hispanics were significantly higher than found among non-Hispanic whites and blacks, although there are no specific data for Asians.<sup>2</sup> In 2009 the crude birth rate for New York City's Latinos was 17 compared with 14 for non-Hispanic blacks and 13 for non-Hispanic whites. The general fertility rate for City Latinos was 74 compared with 61 for non-Hispanic blacks and 52 for non-Hispanic whites in 2009. (See table 3).

Table 3  
Crude Birth Rates and General Fertility  
Rates by New York City Race/Ethnic Groups  
and Five Largest Latino Nationalities

Race/Ethnic Group/Latino Nationality	Crude Birth Rate	General Fertility Rate
Non-Hispanic White	13	52
Non-Hispanic Black	14	61
Latino	17	74
Puerto Rican	13	59
Dominican	18	73
Mexican	27	111
Ecuadorian	17	71
Colombian	10	43

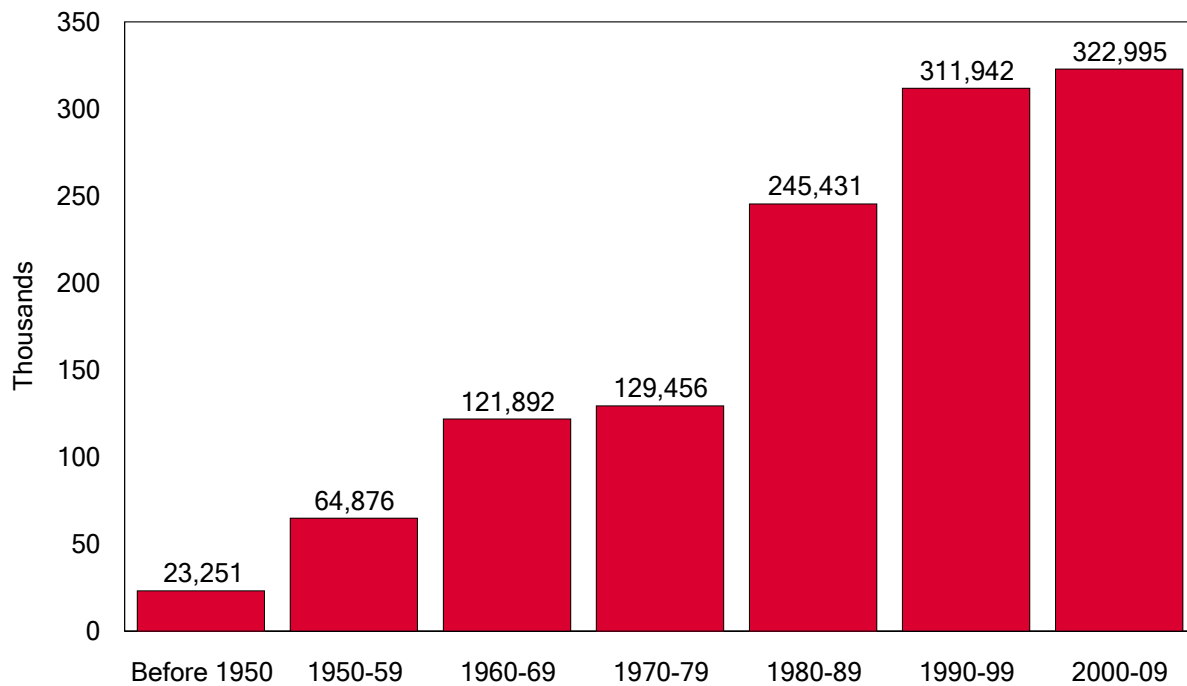
Perhaps more importantly these rates also indicate precisely why the City's Mexican-origin population is the fastest growing Latino national sub-group. With a crude birth rate of 27 and a general fertility rate of 111 in 2009, well above every other group, Mexican population reproductive rates were much higher than the other major Latino nationalities indicated in table 3.

It also should be noted that although Latinos made up 28% of the City's total population, when the City's youth are examined, Latinos comprised 35% of all people 18 years of age and younger in 2009 compared with 26% of non-Hispanic whites; 25% of non-Hispanic blacks; and 11% Asians. The implications of this for public education are monumental as Latinos comprised the largest segment of the City's school-age children, and it is certain that this portion will increase in the future.

Not only were reproductive rates among Latinos higher in comparative perspective with the City's other major race/ethnic groups, but Latinos continued to arrive in the U.S. and settle in New York in increasing numbers each decade after 1950. By 2009 about 51% of the City's Latino population was foreign born. Although the national groupings changed over time, more Latinos living in the New York arrived in the United States between 2000 and 2009 than in any prior decade. (See figure 2).

<sup>2</sup> The crude birth rate is the number of live births in a given year per 1,000 people. The general fertility rate is the number of live births in a year divided by the number of women aged 15-44, times 1000. See "SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS 2009 THE CITY OF NEW YORK" available on the internet at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/vs/vs.shtml> for data on births. Population data were derived from the PUMS data for New York City for 2009 used throughout this essay.

Figure 2  
Number of Foreign Born Latinos Living in New York City in 2009  
by Time Period of Arrival in the United States



There was, of course, a great deal of variation in the periodization of immigration to the U.S. among the City's Latinos by nationality. Among the five major Latino national subgroups Puerto Rican migration peaked in the 1950s and 1960s and then declined considerably. Colombian migration reached its apex in the 1980s and 1990s falling thereafter. The 1990s were the high point for Dominican migration but in numerical terms more Dominicans living in New York City in 2009 arrived after 2000 than any other sub-group. However, for Mexicans and Ecuadorians, the number of migrants arriving after 2000 was greater than in any other decade and will probably continue to increase. The growth of the foreign-born Mexican population in the City was impressive and along with reproductive rates helps explain the extraordinary growth rate of Mexican-origin New Yorkers. (These data are summarized in table 4).

Table 4  
 Number of Foreign-Born Latinos Living in New York City in 2009 by Time Period  
 of Arrival in the United States by Latino Nationality

	Mexicans	Puerto Ricans	Colombians	Ecuadorians	Dominicans	Other Latinos	All Latinos
Before 1950	347	20,121	-	-	1,254	1,529	23,251
1950-59	540	54,435	1,746	778	2,223	5,154	64,876
1960-69	2,372	54,521	7,221	8,686	24,478	24,614	121,892
1970-79	6,014	30,559	9,799	11,989	42,164	28,931	129,456
1980-89	29,170	31,283	21,066	27,887	85,243	50,782	245,431
1990-99	61,069	25,093	22,605	42,801	113,962	46,412	311,942
2000-09	83,223	22,497	18,344	53,239	96,349	49,343	322,995
Total	182,735	238,509	80,781	145,380	365,673	206,765	1,219,843

Note: For Puerto Ricans these are island-born persons.

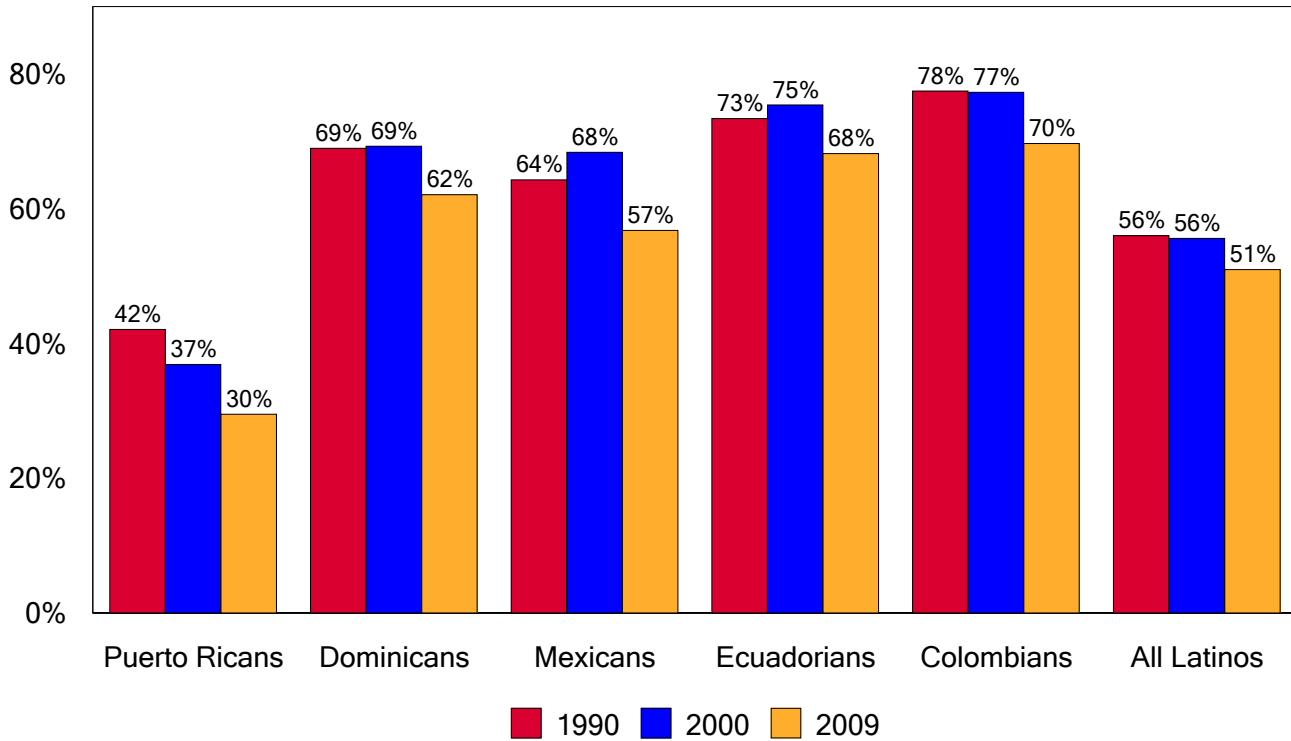
Yet, there some major transformations occurring after 2000 when the nativity of the City’s Latino population is considered. For the very first time since the end of the second World War the absolute number of foreign-born Latinos, combined with island-born Puerto Ricans, declined and population growth was fueled increasingly by the expansion of U.S.-born Latinos. Between 1990 and 2000 the foreign-born Latino population increased from 962,155 to 1,239,140 for a net gain of 276,985 people.<sup>3</sup> However, between 2000 and 2009, despite the continued arrival of significant numbers of Mexicans, Dominicans, and Ecuadorians among others, New York City’s foreign-born Latino population declined by -30,445 to 1,208,695. (See table 5). This means that foreign-born Latinos, in all likelihood an older segment of the population, had begun to gradually leave the City for surrounding suburban communities, they died, or they moved elsewhere in the U.S. or perhaps back to their home countries in relatively small numbers. The implications of this reversal for the future, if this trend holds, is that second, third, and subsequent generations of Latinos born in the U.S. will become demographically dominant in increasing absolute and relative numbers despite ongoing migration. This may have an extraordinary impact on socioeconomic indicators among the overall Latino population since domestic-born Latinos tended to demonstrate higher incomes, better educational attainment levels, and lower poverty rates than their foreign-born counterparts. These indicators will be considered below.

Thus, despite the ongoing migration of Dominicans, Mexicans, and Ecuadorians the overall percentage of the foreign born declined largely because of the high birth rates noted previously. (See figure 3).

<sup>3</sup> The discrepancy in the total number of foreign-born Latinos (1,239,240) with the total of 1,219,843 indicated in table 4 on the periodization of arrival to the U.S. is because there were missing data on the arrival year of 19,297 foreign-born city Latinos (1.6% of the total).



Figure 3  
Foreign-Born Latinos in New York City by Largest Nationalities, 1990 - 2009  
(in percentages of total populations)



Note: For Puerto Ricans foreign-born means born in Puerto Rico.

The spatial distribution of the City’s Latinos gradually shifted between 1990 and 2009. By 2009 about 80% of all Latinos lived in the Bronx (31%), Queens (27%), and Brooklyn (22%). Manhattan experienced a relative decline from 22% to 17% of the total Latino population between 1990 and 2009, while Staten Island accounted for a very small percentage of all Latinos over the entire period. (See figure 4).

There were, of course, varied patterns by Latino nationalities and these are indicated in figure 5. Over 40% of all Puerto Ricans and Dominicans in the City lived in the Bronx by 2009. But for Dominicans the second largest borough of residence was Manhattan where 28% of all Dominicans lived, concentrated in Washington Heights. For Puerto Ricans Brooklyn (23%) was the second largest borough of population concentration. Mexicans were concentrated in Brooklyn (31%), Queens (28%), and the Bronx (24%). Ecuadorians were heavily concentrated in Queens where 58% of the City’s Ecuadorian population lived. Columbians were the most concentrated of all the Latino national subgroups with 78% living in Queens.

In the Bronx 44% of all Latinos living there were Puerto Ricans while 33% were Dominicans in 2009. Puerto Ricans were also dominant in Brooklyn where they comprised 35% of all Latinos with Dominicans at 35%. Queens was the most diversified of all the boroughs in 2009 with respect to Latino national subgroups as Puerto Ricans and Ecuadorians, the largest groups, accounted for 20% each of the total Latino population. At 40% of all Latinos in Manhattan Dominicans were the borough's largest Latino contingent in 2009 followed by Puerto Ricans at 27%. (See figure 6).

Figure 4  
Distribution of Latino Population by Borough, 1990 - 2009

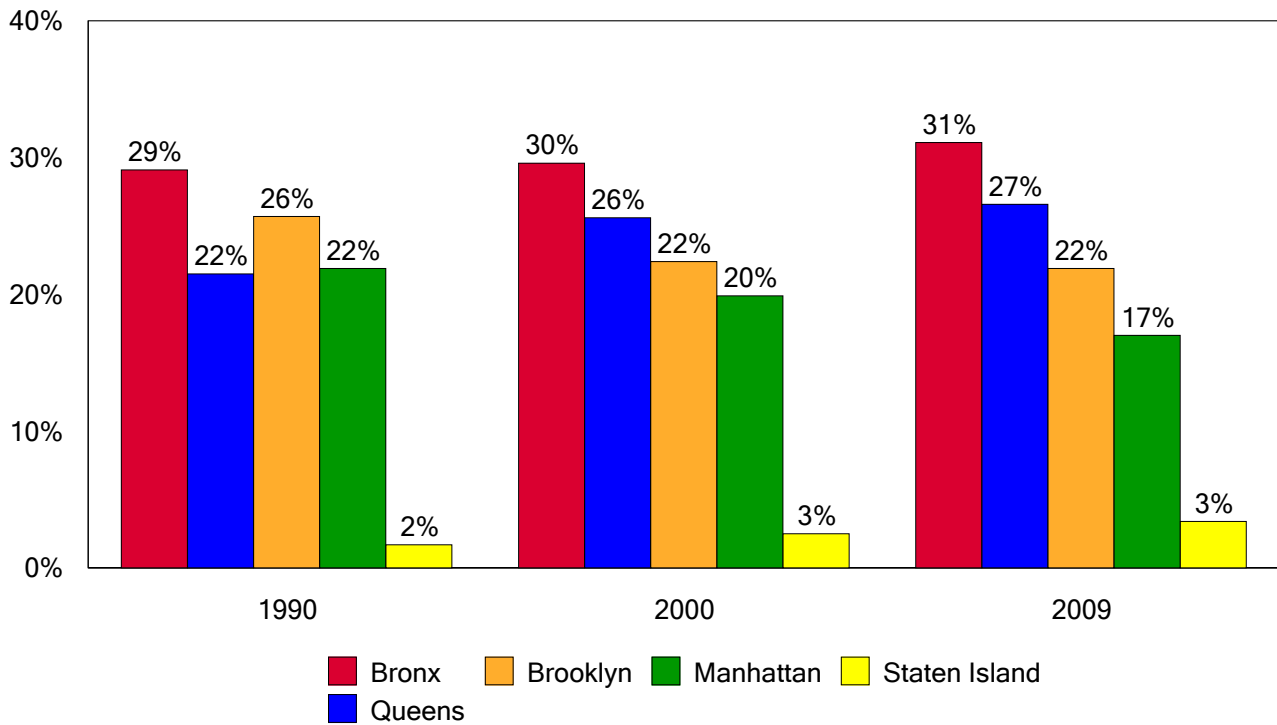


Figure 5  
Percentage of Total Latino Population of Each Borough by Largest Latino Nationalities, 2009

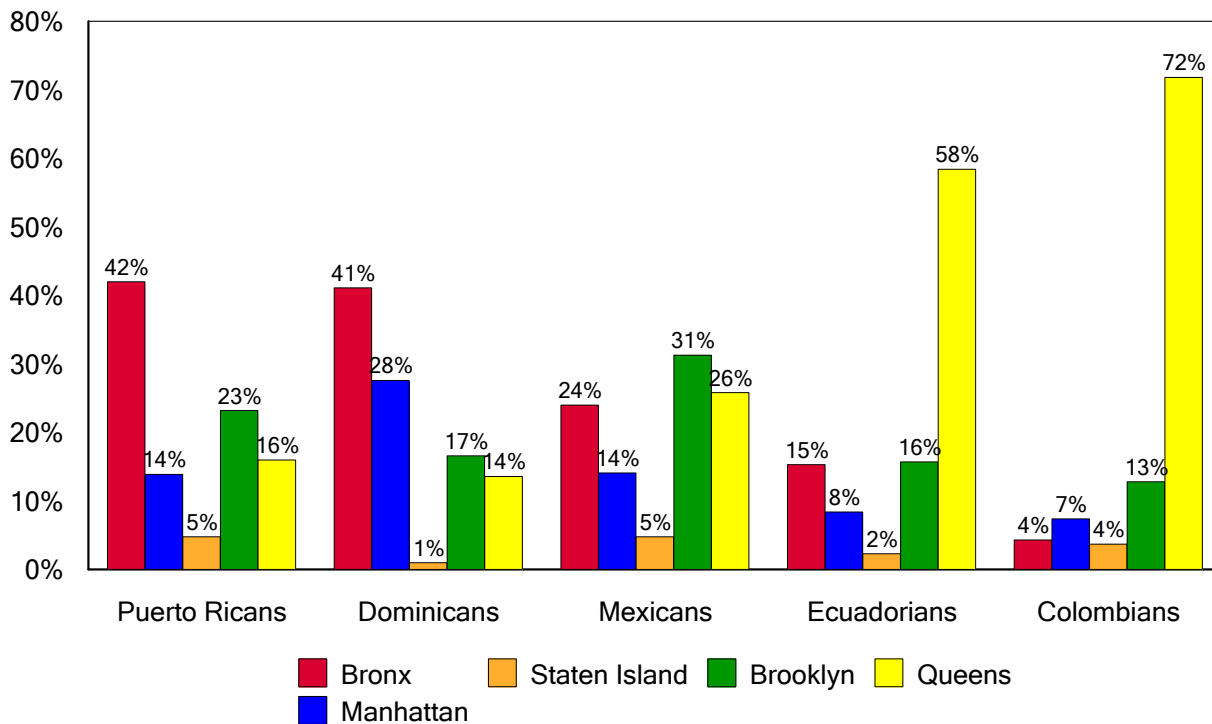


Figure 6  
Percentage of Total Latino Population of Each Borough by Major Latino Nationalities, 2009

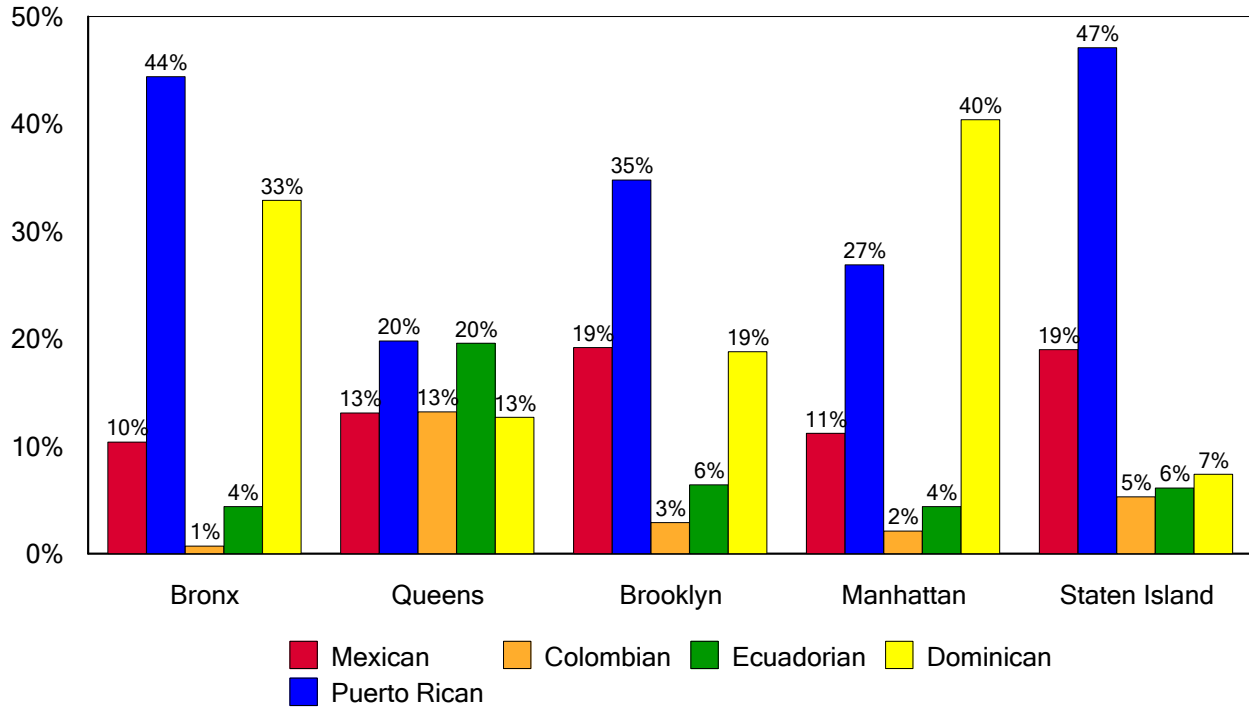
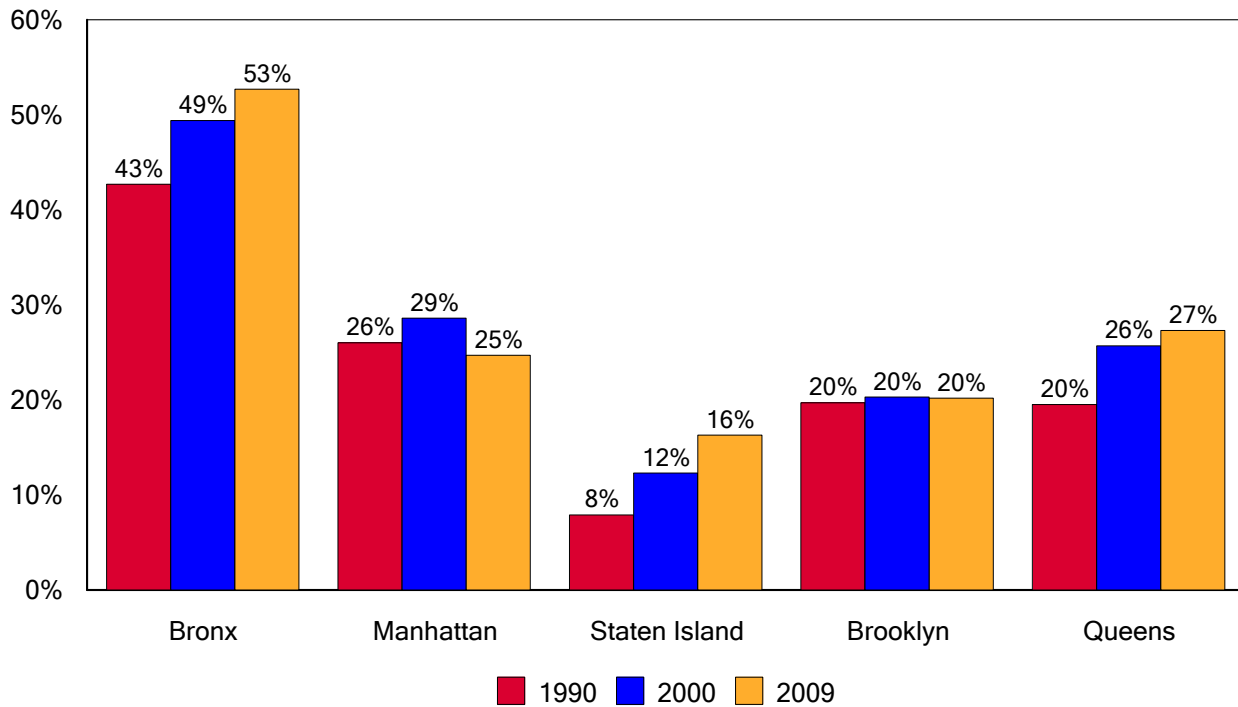


Figure 7  
Percentage of Total Population of Each Borough which is Latino, 1990 - 2009



The Bronx experienced a fairly significant demographic transformation between 1990 and 2009 as the Latino population surged. There were a little over 500,000 Latinos living in the borough in 1990 accounting for about 43% of all Bronx residents. By 2009 53% of the Bronx's population was comprised of Latinos – about 737,000 people. This was largely due to the large-scale relocation of the Dominican population from upper Manhattan, and Mexicans to the Bronx. In 1990 41% of all Dominicans in the City lived in Manhattan and 27% lived in the Bronx. By 2009 these relative proportions had been inverted – 41% of all New York City Dominicans lived in the Bronx and 28% in Manhattan. There had been a net gain of over 150,000 Dominicans in the Bronx. The other major Latino nationality which heavily contributed to the increase in the Bronx's population was Mexicans. Although the City's Mexican population was greater in Brooklyn and Queens by 2009, there was a net gain of nearly 65,000 Mexicans in the Bronx between 1990 and 2009. Over the same period the Bronx's Puerto Rican population declined by over 9,000. Of the total net gain of Latinos in the Bronx between 1990 and 2009 (233,520), 92% of the increase was comprised of Dominicans and Mexicans (216,367).

There were significant differences in the sex ratios among the foreign born when the largest Latino nationalities in the City are compared. These ratios, which are expressed in the number of males per 100 females, indicate very distinctive patterns of migration by sex. Among Mexicans there was a very clear preponderance of males who arrived and lived in New York City among the overall population and also in the working age category, or persons between 15 and 45 years of age. In 1990 there were 163 males for every 100 females among New York City's Mexican population. The ratio fell slightly to 152 in 2000 but rose to 157 in 2009. Among 15 to 45 year olds, there were 166 male Mexicans for every 100 female Mexicans in 2009 indicating the overwhelming predominance of males among Mexican migrants to the City.

The only other Latino nationality in which more men than women were evident was among foreign-born Ecuadorians, although male dominance was not as pronounced. In fact in 1990 there was parity among Ecuadorians who had arrived in the City from Ecuador as the sex ratio was 99. But by 2000 this ratio was 115 and this remained exactly the same in 2009 at 115. This suggests that after 1990 more male Ecuadorians arrived in the City than females. Within the 15-45 year old age category the sex ratio among Ecuadorians was 129 in 2009 which supports the conclusion that more male than female migrants arrived in the City.

However, Mexicans and Ecuadorians were the only Latino national subgroups demonstrating male demographic majorities. Among Colombians, Dominicans, and Puerto Ricans females prevailed by large margins among those who were foreign born, or in the case of Puerto Ricans those born on the island. This means unequivocally that women migrants predominated. The sex ratio was 85 among foreign-born Colombians in 1990 and 82 in 2009, or 82 males for every 100 females. Among foreign-born Dominicans the sex ratio was even more extreme: it was 80 in 1990 and fell to 74 in 2009. Among island-born Puerto Ricans the sex ratio was 78 in 1990 and 77 in 2009.<sup>4</sup> These data are summarized in figures 8 and 9. Complete data on domestic and foreign-born persons are provided in table 6.

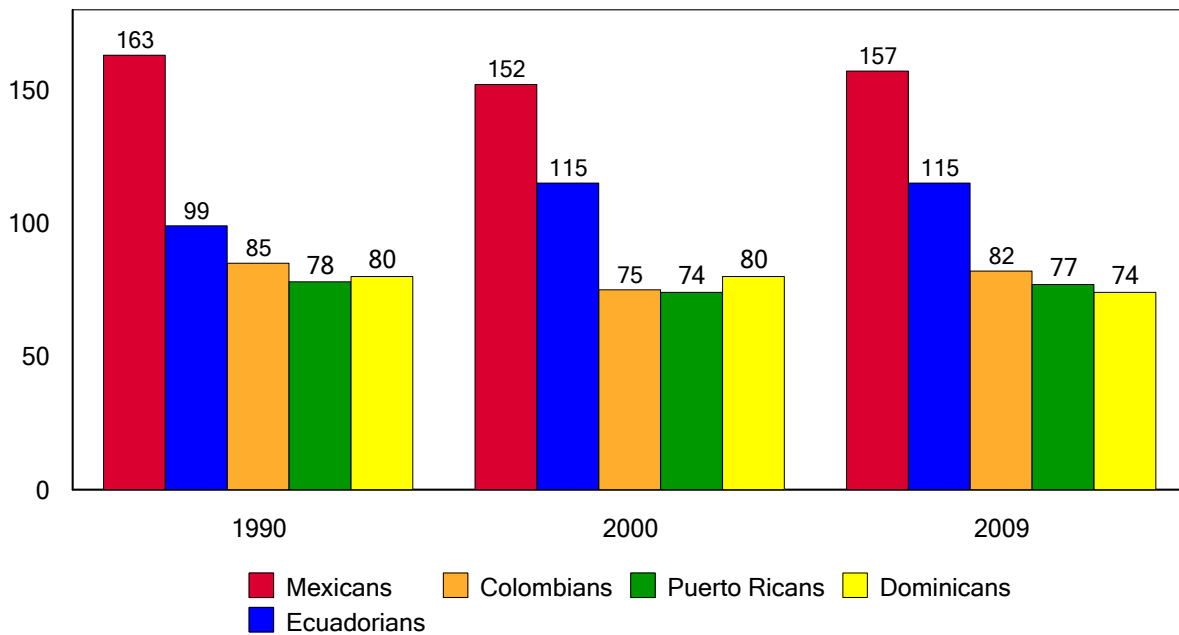
<sup>4</sup> Although the sex ratio is expressed as the number of males per 100 females another way to understand these data is the following: among Colombian foreign-born there were 122 females for every 100 males in 2009; 135 Dominican foreign-born females for every 100 males in the same year; and 130 Puerto Rican island-born females for every 100 males in 2009.

Table 5  
Foreign and Domestic-Born Components of New York City's Puerto Rican, Mexican, Dominican, Ecuadorian, and Colombian Populations by Borough, 1990 - 2009

Nationality	Borough	1990			2000			2009		
		Domestic-Born	Foreign-Born	Total	Domestic-Born	Foreign-Born	Total	Domestic-Born	Foreign-Born	Total
Puerto Rican	Bronx	190,418	146,173	336,591	207,678	123,573	331,251	230,516	96,884	327,400
	Manhattan	79,787	66,470	146,257	76,234	53,961	130,195	71,778	36,474	108,252
	Staten Island	13,699	5,197	18,896	23,607	6,559	30,166	31,155	6,604	37,759
	Brooklyn	154,318	107,650	261,968	132,682	83,676	216,358	119,574	60,891	180,465
	Queens	60,166	37,011	97,177	75,010	33,847	108,857	95,649	29,282	124,931
	Total	498,388	362,501	860,889	515,211	301,616	816,827	548,672	230,135	778,807
Dominican	Bronx	26,856	64,021	90,877	53,159	130,198	183,357	90,566	151,706	242,272
	Manhattan	42,127	94,855	136,982	57,378	129,344	186,722	59,417	103,288	162,705
	Staten Island	646	697	1,343	862	1,126	1,988	3,291	2,653	5,944
	Brooklyn	17,028	38,297	55,325	25,702	58,219	83,921	37,497	60,324	97,821
	Queens	17,913	35,031	52,944	31,011	60,380	91,391	32,509	47,614	80,123
	Total	104,570	232,901	337,471	168,112	379,267	547,379	223,280	365,585	588,865
Mexican	Bronx	3,848	7,835	11,683	11,622	23,875	35,497	32,064	44,591	76,655
	Manhattan	4,365	5,906	10,271	11,150	19,909	31,059	21,233	23,903	45,136
	Staten Island	966	775	1,741	2,655	4,943	7,598	8,098	7,149	15,247
	Brooklyn	6,955	12,289	19,244	18,794	42,093	60,887	44,977	54,890	99,867
	Queens	3,830	9,175	13,005	15,025	37,193	52,218	31,393	50,828	82,221
	Total	19,964	35,980	55,944	59,246	128,013	187,259	137,765	181,361	319,126
Ecuadorian	Bronx	3,996	8,281	12,277	5,677	15,248	20,925	10,395	21,857	32,252
	Manhattan	3,117	9,989	13,106	4,873	12,556	17,429	6,903	10,858	17,761
	Staten Island	165	312	477	662	965	1,627	1,846	3,035	4,881
	Brooklyn	4,844	13,690	18,534	7,268	20,014	27,282	9,846	23,283	33,129
	Queens	9,508	27,532	37,040	18,464	64,170	82,634	38,159	85,196	123,355
	Total	21,630	59,804	81,434	36,944	112,953	149,897	67,149	144,229	211,378
Colombian	Bronx	890	2,283	3,173	1,266	3,307	4,573	1,192	3,819	5,011
	Manhattan	1,862	6,123	7,985	2,053	5,753	7,806	2,351	6,265	8,616
	Staten Island	318	1,100	1,418	692	1,240	1,932	2,360	1,875	4,235
	Brooklyn	2,707	8,758	11,465	2,969	8,576	11,545	5,814	9,010	14,824
	Queens	14,221	50,518	64,739	17,938	65,916	83,854	23,457	59,812	83,269
	Total	19,998	68,782	88,780	24,918	84,792	109,710	35,174	80,781	115,955
Total Latinos	Bronx	244,947	258,773	503,720	327,839	331,993	659,832	388,666	348,574	737,240
	Manhattan	149,933	224,703	374,636	184,785	258,987	443,772	189,350	213,787	403,137
	Staten Island	18,516	11,490	30,006	34,465	20,768	55,233	52,921	27,165	80,086
	Brooklyn	210,030	232,916	442,946	228,510	269,625	498,135	256,591	262,374	518,965
	Queens	132,311	234,273	366,584	212,168	357,767	569,935	273,231	356,795	630,026
	Total	755,737	962,155	1,717,892	987,767	1,239,140	2,226,907	1,160,759	1,208,695	2,369,454

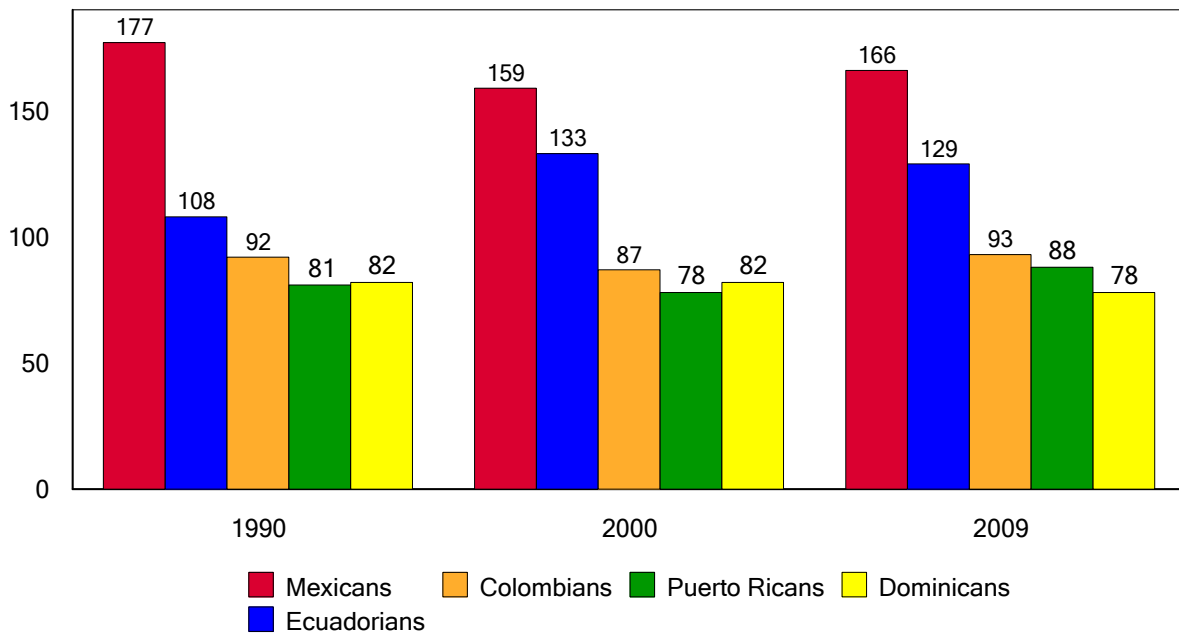
Note: Discrepancies in total population figures with Table 1 are due to the fact that there were some cases within each nationality where birthplace may have been unknown. For Puerto Ricans, foreign-born means born in Puerto Rico.

Figure 8  
Sex Ratios of the Foreign-Born by Largest Latino Nationalities in New York City, 1990 - 2009  
(males per 100 females)



Note: For Puerto Ricans these data are for those born in Puerto Rico.

Figure 9  
Sex Ratios of the Foreign-Born by Largest Latino Nationalities in New York City, 1990 - 2009  
Ages 15 - 45 (males per 100 females)



Note: For Puerto Ricans these data are for those born in Puerto Rico.

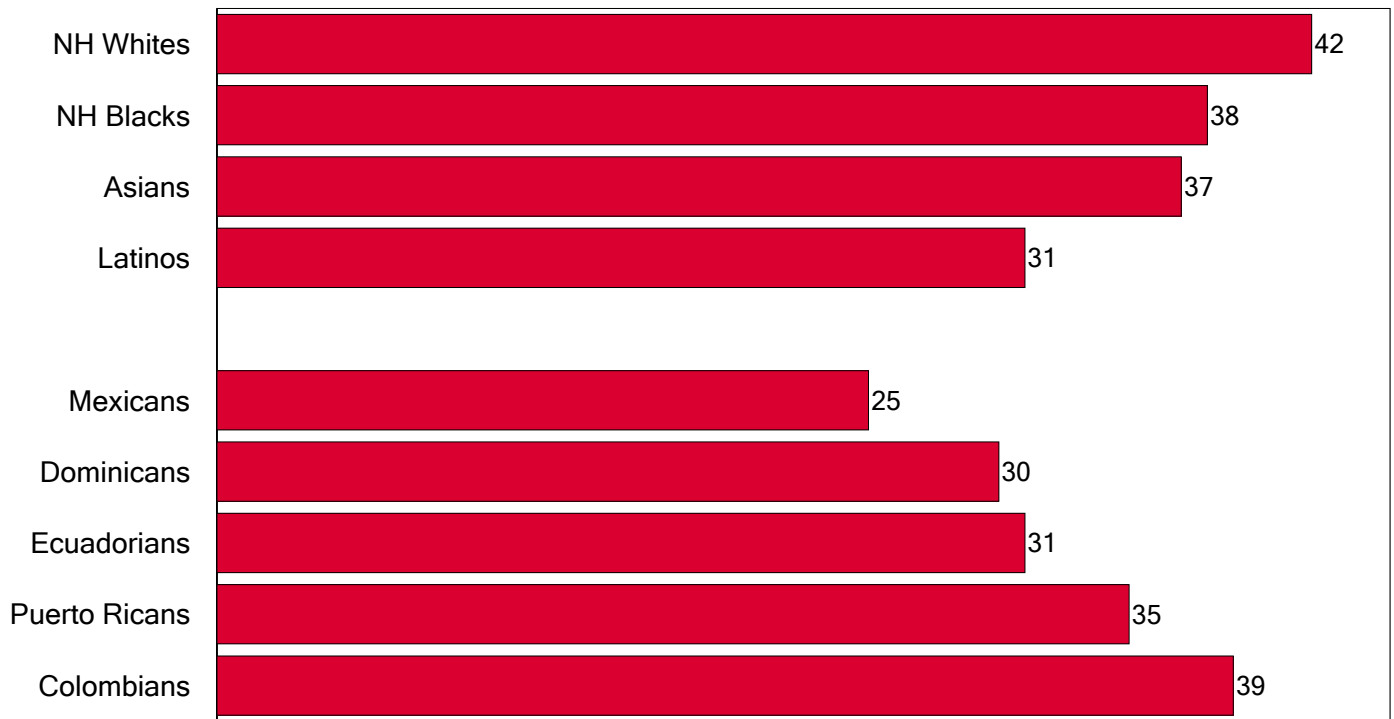
Table 6  
 Nativity of Five Largest Latino National Sub-groups in New York City, 1990 - 2009

	Domestic-Born Males	Domesitc Born Females	Total Domestic Born	Foreign-Born Males	Foreign-Born Females	Total Foreign Born	Total Population
1990							
Mexicans	10,372	9,592	35,980	22,295	13,685	35,980	71,960
Colombians	10,628	9,370	19,998	31,558	37,224	68,782	88,780
Ecuadorians	10,950	10,680	21,630	29,762	30,042	59,804	81,434
Dominicans	52,745	51,825	104,570	103,236	129,665	232,901	337,471
Puerto Ricans	242,895	255,493	498,388	159,319	203,182	362,501	860,889
2000							
Mexicans	30,915	28,331	59,246	77,225	50,788	128,013	187,259
Colombians	11,751	13,167	24,918	36,367	48,425	84,792	109,710
Ecuadorians	18,848	18,096	36,944	60,419	52,534	112,953	149,897
Dominicans	85,159	82,953	168,112	169,058	210,209	379,267	547,379
Puerto Ricans	250,174	265,037	515,211	128,593	173,023	301,616	816,827
2009							
Mexicans	71,350	66,415	137,765	110,837	70,524	181,361	319,126
Colombians	16,762	18,412	35,174	36,458	44,323	80,781	115,955
Ecuadorians	33,717	33,432	67,149	77,137	67,092	144,229	211,378
Dominicans	115,922	107,358	223,280	155,457	210,128	365,585	588,865
Puerto Ricans	265,839	282,833	548,672	99,972	130,163	230,135	778,807

Note: For Puerto Ricans foreign-born means born in Puerto Rico.

Latinos were the youngest of the major race/ethnic groups in the City. In 2009 they had a median age of 31 compared with 42 among non-Hispanic whites; 38 among non-Hispanic blacks; and 37 among Asians. There were, however, differences in the age structures of the five largest Latino national subgroups. Mexicans, with their high birth and fertility rates, were the youngest with a median age of 25. They were followed by Dominicans at 30; Ecuadorians, 31; Puerto Ricans, 35; and Colombians at 39, the oldest of all Latino nationalities. Additionally, Latinos had the greatest concentrations of people under 15 years of age among the City’s major race/ethnic groups although there were considerable variations by Latino nationality with Mexicans having the largest proportion of their populations between 0 and 14 years of age. (See figures 10 and 11).<sup>5</sup>

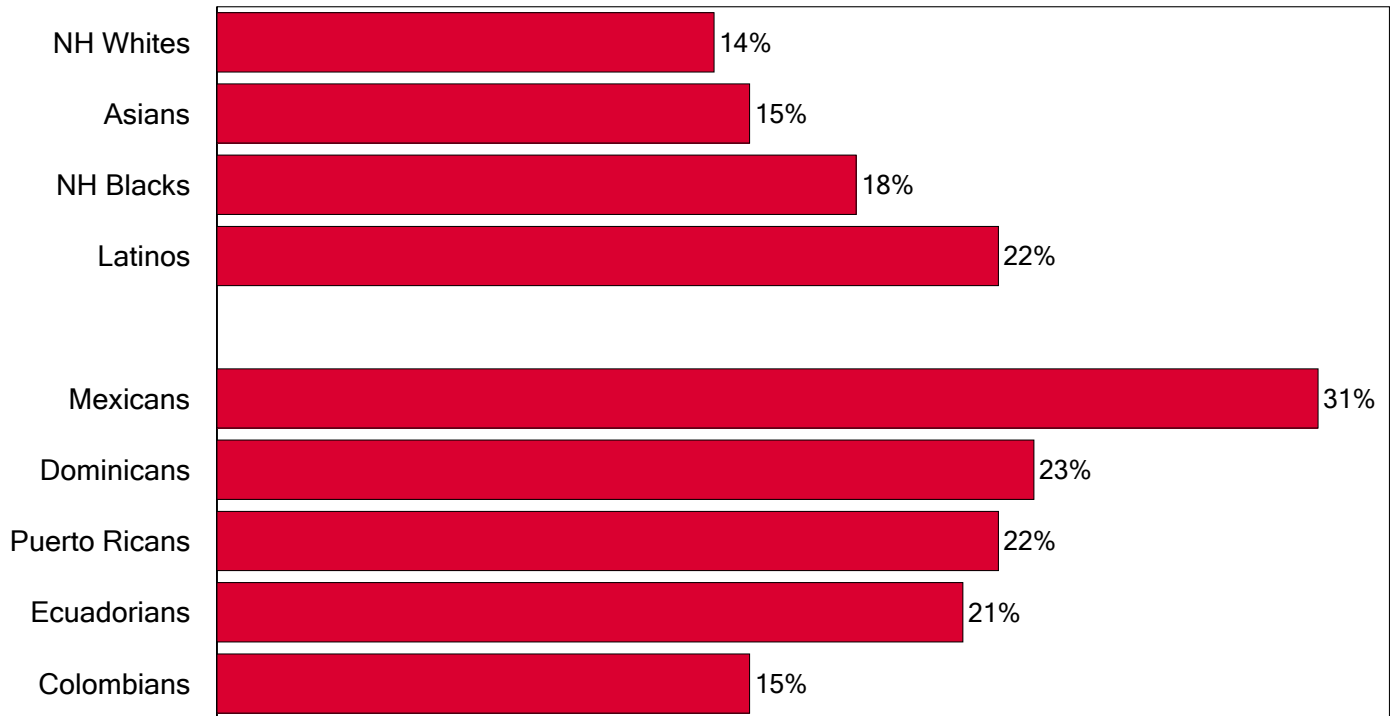
Figure 10  
Median Ages of New York Cities Major Race/Ethnic Groups and Five Largest Latino Nationalities  
2009



<sup>5</sup> It was noted previously that 35% of the City’s population 18 years of age and younger were Latinos.



Figure 11  
 Percent of New York Cities Major Race/Ethnic Groups and Five Largest Latino Nationalities  
 between 0 and 14 years of Age, 2009



### Citizenship and the Electorate

The percentage of Latinos who were U.S. citizens in New York City changed very little between 1990 and 2009. The constant arrival of foreign-born migrants offset the numbers of domestic-born Latinos who were citizens by birth so that the ratios of citizens to non-citizens remained at about 3 to 1, or 75% of all Latinos who were citizens. What changed was an increase in the relative proportion of all Latinos who were naturalized citizens. In 1990 about 10% of New York’s Latino population were naturalized citizens; 16% in 2009. (See figure 12). With the exception of the Mexican population, with its large foreign-born influx, there were sharp declines in the non-citizenship rate among Colombians (from 58% in 1990 to 31% in 2009); Ecuadorians (58% to 46%); and Dominicans (51% to 34%). These declines were the result of a combination of births in the U.S. and naturalization. (See figures 13 and 14). Puerto Ricans, of course, are all citizens by birth.

Even though there was little transformation in the relative rates of citizenships among Latinos, there was a substantial increase in the absolute number of citizens who were Latinos. This had an important impact on the shape of the New York City electorate, defined as citizens 18 years of age and older and thus eligible to vote.

Figure 12  
Citizenship Status Among New York City Latinos, 1990 - 2009

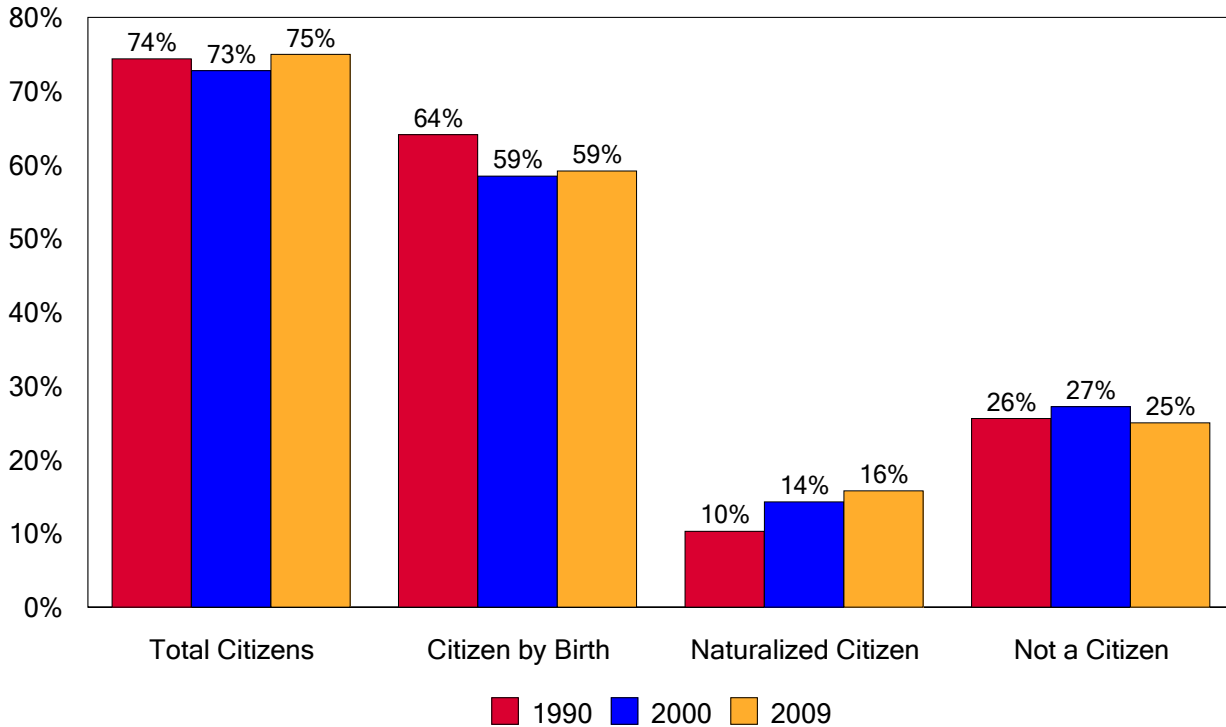


Figure 13  
Percentage of Latinos who were Not Citizens in New York City by Nationality, 1990 - 2009

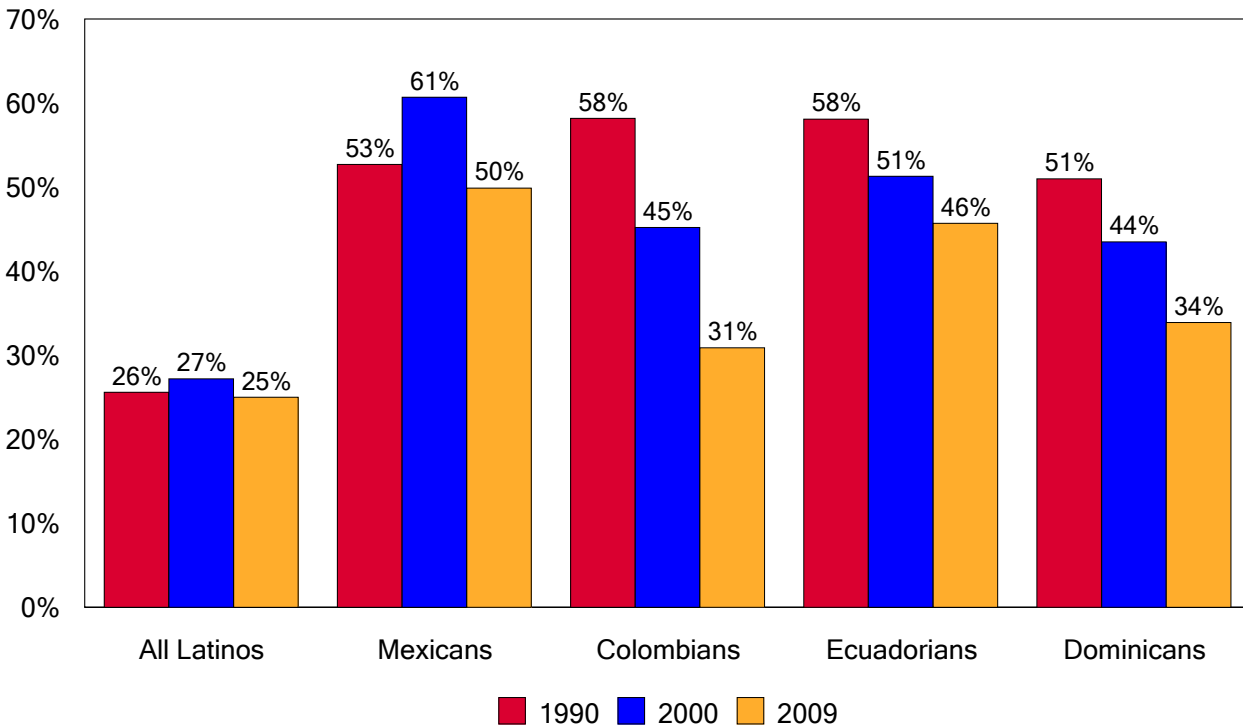
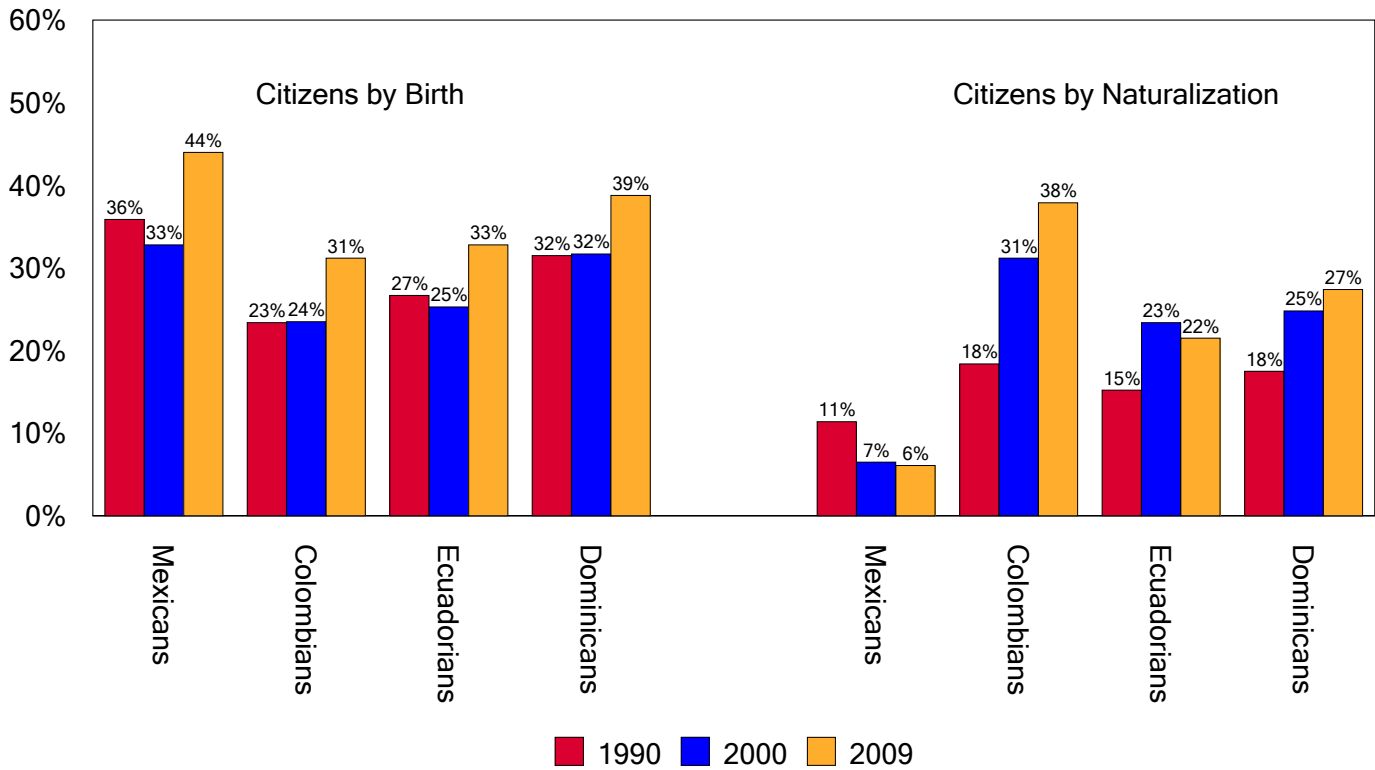


Figure 14  
Percentage of Latinos who were Citizens by Birth of Naturalized by Nationality, 1990 - 2009



The most important trend in the City’s electorate after 1990 was the relative decline of non-Hispanic whites from 54% to 43% in 2009 and the increase in the percentage of Latinos who were eligible to vote from 18% in 1990 to 22% in 2009. Non-Hispanic blacks remained about the same at 24% of all eligible voters and Asians increased from 4% to 9% of the City’s electorate.<sup>6</sup> (See table 7).

Latinos made up about one-fifth of all eligible voters in Manhattan and Queens in 2009, 16% in Brooklyn, and 13% in Staten Island, a major rise from the 6% found in 1990. But the Bronx stands out as the one borough where Latinos are poised to become the majority of the electorate. In 1990 37% of eligible voters in the Bronx were Hispanics; 46% in 2009. (See figure 15).

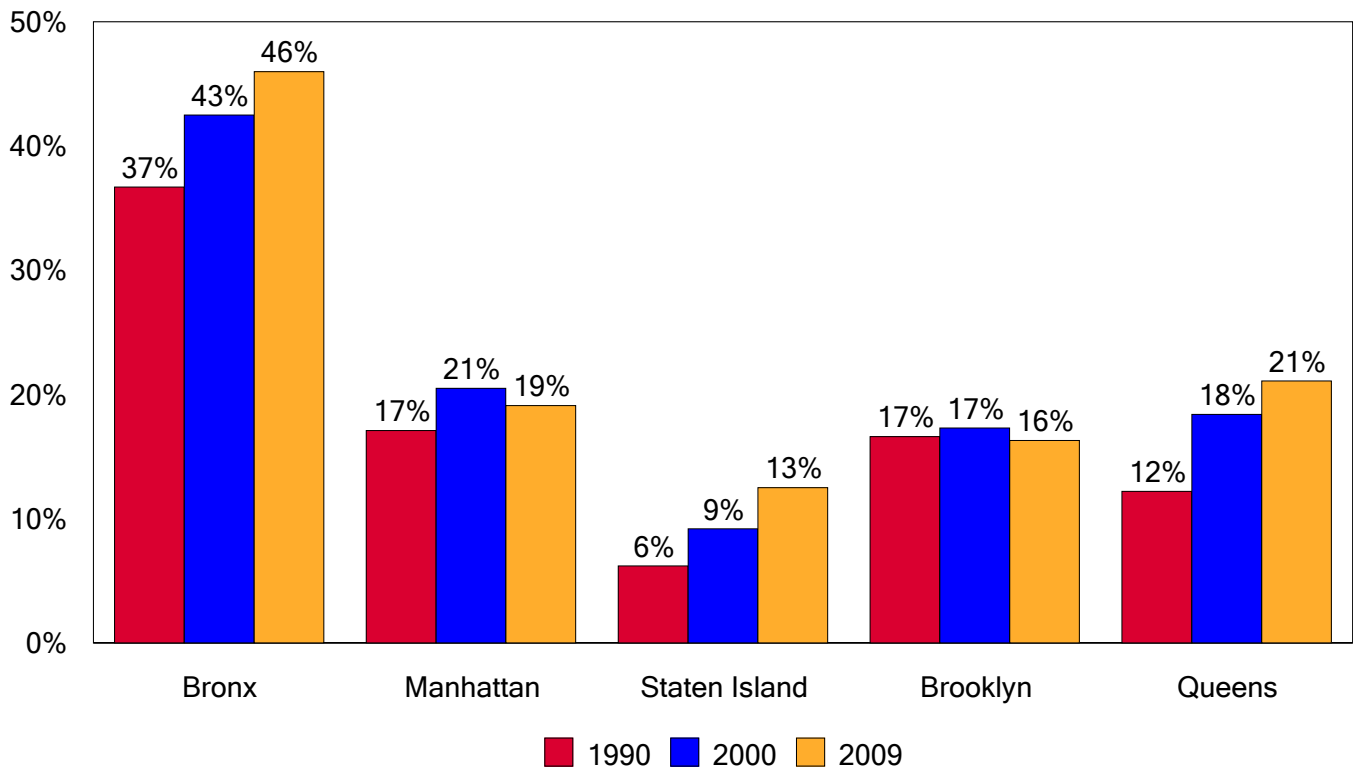
The Latino electorate itself was transformed because of the demographic shifts among the City’s Latinos outlined above. The most important trend was the relative decline of Puerto Ricans as a percentage of all Latino voters and the rise of Dominicans. In 1990 70% of the Latino electorate was of Puerto Rican origin and they comprised 13% of the City’s total eligible voters. But by 2009 Puerto Ricans had declined to 48% of the Latino electorate and 11% of the citizen voting-age population in the City. Over the same period Dominicans increased from 10% to 21% of all Latino possible voters and from 2% to 5% of the City’s total electorate.

<sup>6</sup> While these data are for eligible voters there are no precise data on who actually voted in local, state, or national elections from the City.

Table 7  
Composition of New York City Electorate, 1990 - 2009  
(citizens 18 years of age and older)

	Population			% of Total		
	1990	2000	2009	1990	2000	2009
Non-Hispanic White	2,470,830	2,085,379	2,233,841	54.1%	44.5%	43.3%
Non-Hispanic Black	1,097,530	1,164,353	1,223,215	24.0%	24.8%	23.7%
Asian	164,534	308,327	479,396	3.6%	6.6%	9.3%
Latino	829,615	1,018,383	1,156,630	18.2%	21.7%	22.4%
Other	5,801	110,895	68,918	0.1%	2.4%	1.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,568,310</b>	<b>4,687,337</b>	<b>5,162,000</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Figure 15  
Percentage of Electorate who were Latinos by New York City Borough, 1990 - 2009



The decline of Puerto Ricans in their relative strength as voters was also reflected at the borough level. In the Bronx 83% of all Latinos eligible to vote in 2009 were Puerto Ricans; 61% in 1990. In Manhattan they were 61% of the Latino electorate in 1990; 38% in 2009. Brooklyn and Queens also experienced the relative decline of the Puerto Rican electorate as well. (See table 8). This process was paralleled by the relative increase of Dominicans: from 8% to 25% in the Bronx between 1990 and 2009; 17% to 33% in Manhattan over the same period; 5% to 15% in Brooklyn. It was only in Queens that Ecuadorians and Colombians were a major elector force and Mexicans still have had a fairly small presence as eligible voters.

Table 8  
 Latino Electorate by Borough and Nationality, 1990 - 2009  
 (in percentages of total)

		1990				
		Bronx	Manhattan	Staten Island	Brooklyn	Queens
Mexicans		1.2%	2.5%	3.9%	2.3%	2.0%
Puerto Ricans		83.0%	61.3%	70.3%	74.5%	46.5%
Colombians		0.3%	1.6%	1.7%	1.3%	10.2%
Ecuadorians		1.0%	1.8%	0.6%	1.6%	5.3%
Dominicans		7.8%	17.2%	3.4%	5.8%	10.8%

		2000				
		Bronx	Manhattan	Staten Island	Brooklyn	Queens
Mexicans		1.4%	3.2%	4.9%	3.3%	3.1%
Puerto Ricans		70.2%	45.7%	64.4%	61.7%	33.8%
Colombians		0.5%	1.8%	3.1%	1.8%	13.7%
Ecuadorians		2.4%	3.2%	2.1%	3.3%	10.0%
Dominicans		16.0%	30.3%	3.2%	11.3%	14.9%

		2009				
		Bronx	Manhattan	Staten Island	Brooklyn	Queens
Mexicans		2.8%	7.3%	6.6%	6.9%	4.2%
Puerto Ricans		61.0%	37.8%	61.8%	54.1%	31.2%
Colombians		1.1%	2.9%	7.5%	2.6%	13.8%
Ecuadorians		3.0%	3.4%	4.2%	2.8%	14.3%
Dominicans		25.3%	32.9%	2.6%	14.5%	13.6%

**Educational Attainment**

In general terms Latinos collectively were the poorest educated of the City’s major race/ethnic groups from 1990 to 2009 although there was some evidence of improvement. By 2009 15% of Latino adults had graduated college compared with 51% of non-Hispanic whites, 39% of Asians, and 21% of non-Hispanic blacks. Additionally 39% of Hispanic adults had not graduated high school compared with 26% of Asians, 19% of non-Hispanic blacks, and only 9% of non-Hispanic whites. Nevertheless the college graduation rate for Latinos had increased from 9% in 1990 and the non-high school graduation rate had fallen from an extraordinary 51% in 1990. (See figures 16 and 17).

Figure 16  
 Percentage of Population Achieving a B.A. Degree or Higher, 1990 - 2009  
 by Race/Ethnicity (population 25 years of age and higher)

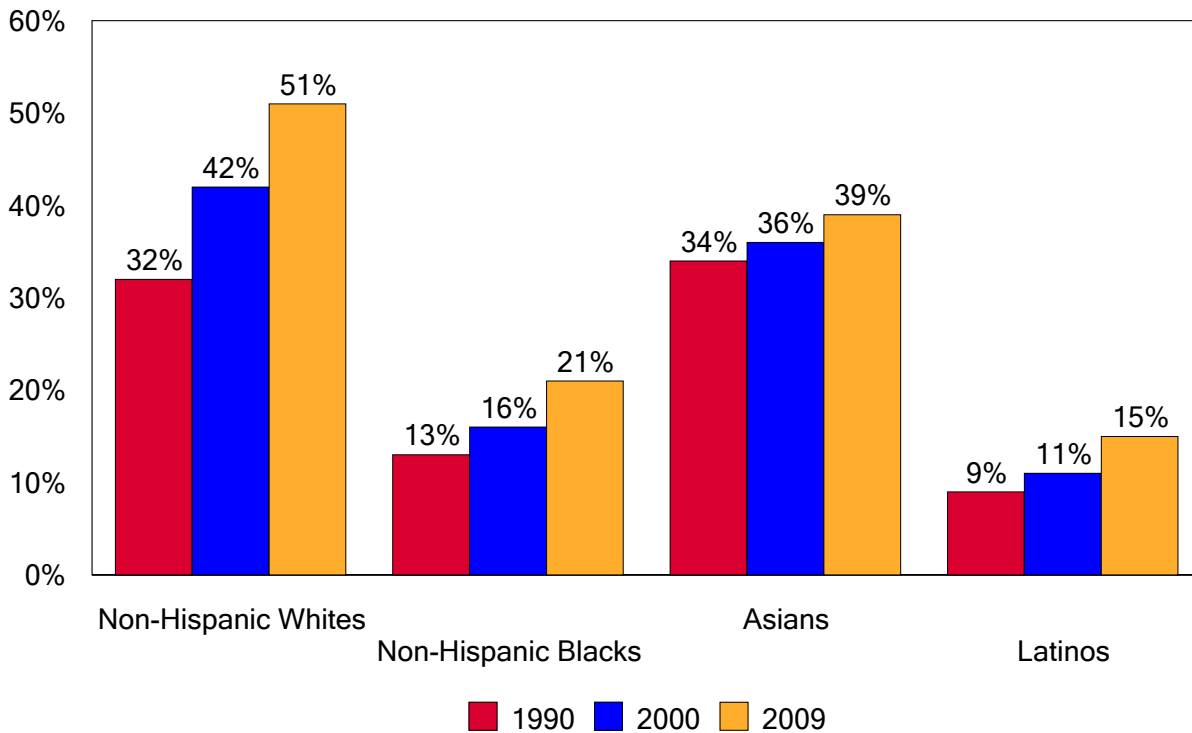
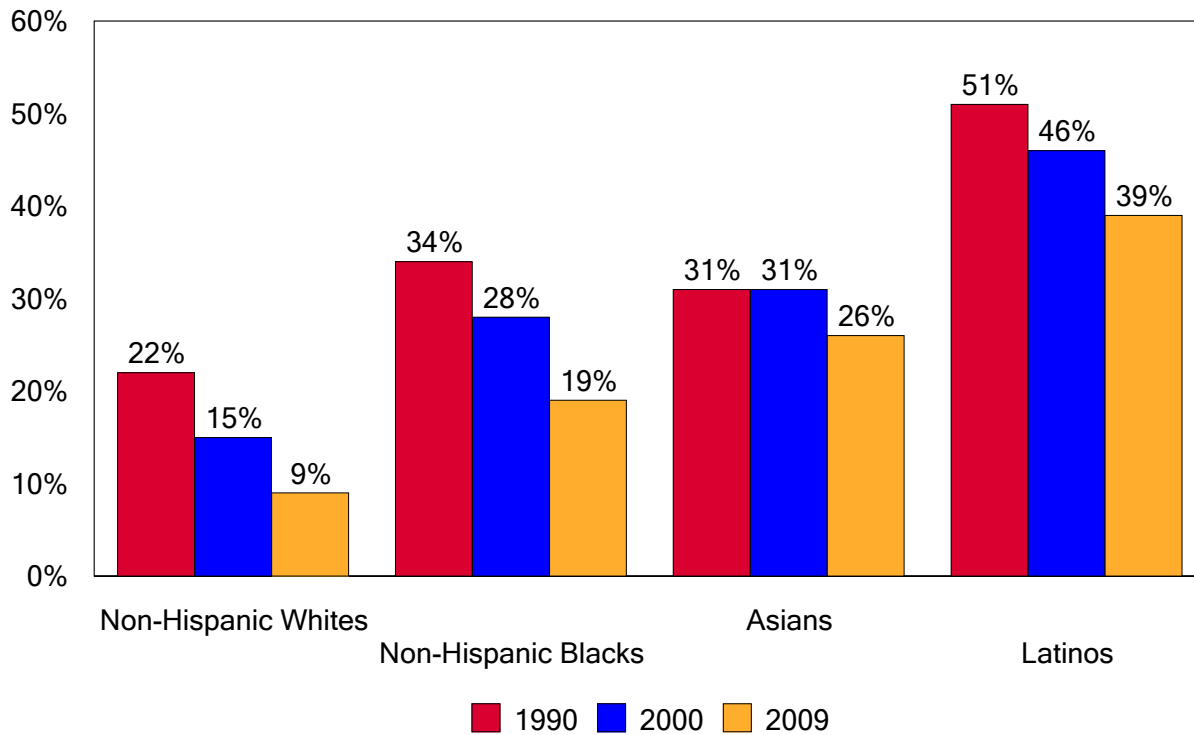


Figure 17  
 Percentage of Population which did not Graduate High School, 1990 - 2009  
 by Race/Ethnicity (population 25 years of age and higher)



The general picture when the Latino nationalities are examined individually is about the same. With the exception of Mexicans who were impacted by the arrival of large number of poorly educated foreign-born migrants, each of the other four of the City’s largest Latino national subgroups experienced significant improvements in the college graduation rate. Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, and Ecuadorians each had 12%-13% of their adult populations having attained a B.A. degree or higher by 2009 and these rates were major improvements from 1990. (See figure 18). Colombians stand out for the comparatively high rate of college graduation – 22% in 2009.

The high school graduation rate also improved but those who had not graduated high school remained an appallingly high percentage of each nationality with the exception of Colombians. Puerto Ricans experienced a significant fall in the rate of non-high school graduation from 54% in 1990 to 36% in 2009. For Dominicans the drop was from an astounding 60% in 1990 to a still very high 44% in 2009, about the same rate as found among Ecuadorians (43%) in the same year. The arrival of so many foreign-born Mexicans meant that non-high school graduation rates were extraordinarily high and did not improve: 53% in 1990 and 56% in 2009. (See figure 19).

Yet, these general rates mask the extraordinary differentiations found when these data are parsed by sex and nativity. The greatest factor was nativity. Domestic-born Latinos among the five largest national subgroups had college graduation rates in 2009 which dwarfed those of their foreign-born counterparts, even among the poorest educated groups when total populations over 25 years of age are considered. For example, only about 10% of all Mexican adults had graduated college in 2009. But in the same year 38% of domestic-born Mexican males and 42% of females had achieved a B.A. degree or higher. Additionally

Figure 18  
 Percentage of Population Achieving a B.A. Degree or Higher, 1990 - 2009  
 by Latino Nationality (population 25 years of age and higher)

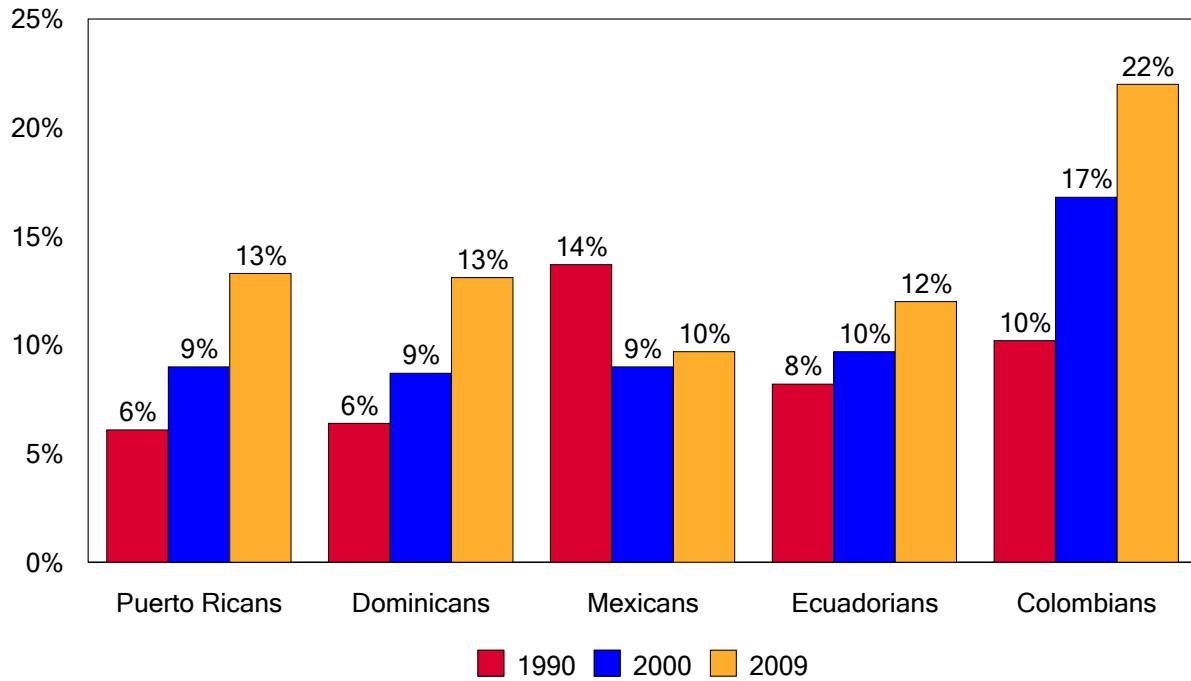
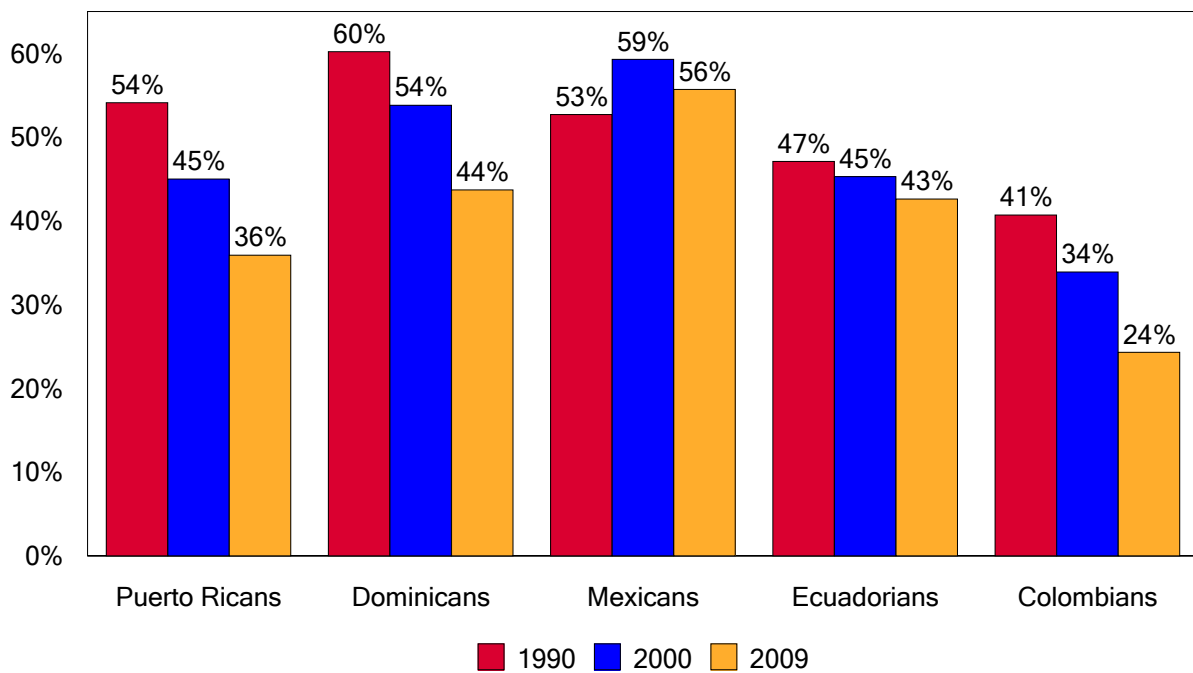


Figure 19  
 Percentage of Population which did not Graduate High School, 1990 - 2009  
 by Latino Nationality (population 25 years of age and higher)





an astounding 69% of all domestic-born Mexican males and 77% of females had some college, an associates degree, or had achieved a B.A. Only 4% of foreign-born Mexican males and 6% of females had graduated from College.

For each nationality there were similar, but not verbatim patterns, although what is most impressive is the college graduation rate for domestic-born females. Among Dominicans 41% of adult women had achieved a B.A. degree or higher by 2009 compared with only 13% of Dominican men. Some 41% of Ecuadorian domestic-born women had graduated college compared with 34% of men. For Colombians, 35% of U.S. born women and 25% of men had completed a college education. Puerto Ricans had the lowest rates. Among U.S. born Puerto Rican women 20% had completed a B.A. degree compared with 14% of men.

Additionally, 77% of domestic-born adult Mexican women had attended some college, achieved an Associates or B.A. degree or higher compared with 69% of men. For Puerto Rican stateside-born women 52% had at least attended college or graduated with degrees compared with 41% of men. For Colombians there was greater parity by sex: 79% of men and 72% of women born in the U.S. had at least attended some college. For Ecuadorians it was an incredible 85% of domestic-born women and 56% of domestic-born men who had attended college or graduated with A.A. or B.A. degrees or higher. (These data are found in table 9).

## Income

Latinos had the lowest median household incomes in New York City from 1990 to 2009 compared with the other major race/ethnic groups, and there was absolutely no improvement in these medians when inflation is factored in. In fact, the failure to increase median incomes was similar to Asians and non-Hispanic blacks. Only non-Hispanic whites experienced increases in real income between 1990 and 2009. (See figure 20).

However, once again nativity was an important variable in measuring median incomes. With the exception of Dominicans, who experienced a decline in median household incomes if they were domestic born, and Puerto Ricans whose incomes stagnated if born on the U.S. mainland, Mexicans, Ecuadorians, and Colombians born in the U.S. experienced increases in real median incomes after 1990. (See figure 21). However, for foreign-born Latino households in the five most numerous groupings, not only were median incomes much lower in absolute terms than found among the U.S. born, but there was either stagnation or decline in real incomes between 1990 and 2009 in in each group. (See figure 22).

If household heads are considered by both nativity and sex not only did males earn higher incomes than females whether domestic or foreign born, but domestic-born males and females always had median household incomes which were greater than the foreign born. (Complete data are provided in table 10).

When the distribution of household income is delineated by categories Latinos had the greatest concentrations of households earning less than \$20,000 annually and the smallest proportion of overall New York City households earning more than \$75,000 annually than the other race/ethnic groups. Nearly a quarter of all Latino households earned less than \$20,000 each year and this did not change significantly between 1990 and 2009. In 2009 19% of non-Hispanic black households, 14% of Asian, and 12% of non-Hispanic white households were found in this income category. These data are in inflation-adjusted 2009 dollars. (See figure 23).

Table 9  
 Educational Attainment Rates by Sex and Nativity for Five Largest Latino Nationalities in New York City, 2009  
 (population 25 years of age and older)

Nationality	Education Attainment Level	Domestic-Born Males	Foreign-Born Males	Domestic-Born Females	Foreign-Born Females
Mexicans	Did Not Graduate High School	13%	63%	7%	63%
	High School Graduate	18%	23%	16%	21%
	Some College No Degree	21%	7%	26%	9%
	Associates Degree	10%	3%	9%	1%
	BA or Higher	38%	4%	42%	6%
	<b>Some College, AA, or B.A. degree or higher</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>16%</b>
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
Puerto Ricans	Did Not Graduate High School	27%	48%	24%	51%
	High School Graduate	32%	29%	25%	24%
	Some College No Degree	20%	12%	20%	12%
	Associates Degree	8%	4%	11%	5%
	BA or Higher	14%	7%	20%	9%
	<b>Some College, AA, or B.A. degree or higher</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>26%</b>
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
Colombians	Did Not Graduate High School	0%	23%	15%	29%
	High School Graduate	21%	32%	13%	26%
	Some College No Degree	41%	18%	13%	17%
	Associates Degree	14%	5%	24%	8%
	BA or Higher	25%	22%	35%	20%
	<b>Some College, AA, or B.A. degree or higher</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>45%</b>
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
Ecuadorians	Did Not Graduate High School	11%	50%	5%	42%
	High School Graduate	33%	25%	10%	28%
	Some College No Degree	12%	11%	22%	16%
	Associates Degree	10%	5%	22%	4%
	BA or Higher	34%	8%	41%	10%
	<b>Some College, AA, or B.A. degree or higher</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>30%</b>
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
Dominicans	Did Not Graduate High School	17%	47%	20%	47%
	High School Graduate	40%	24%	12%	23%
	Some College No Degree	24%	14%	23%	14%
	Associates Degree	6%	3%	4%	5%
	BA or Higher	13%	12%	41%	12%
	<b>Some College, AA, or B.A. degree or higher</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>30%</b>
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Figure 20  
 Median Household Income by Race/Ethnicity New York City, 1990 - 2009  
 (in inflation adjusted 2009 dollars)

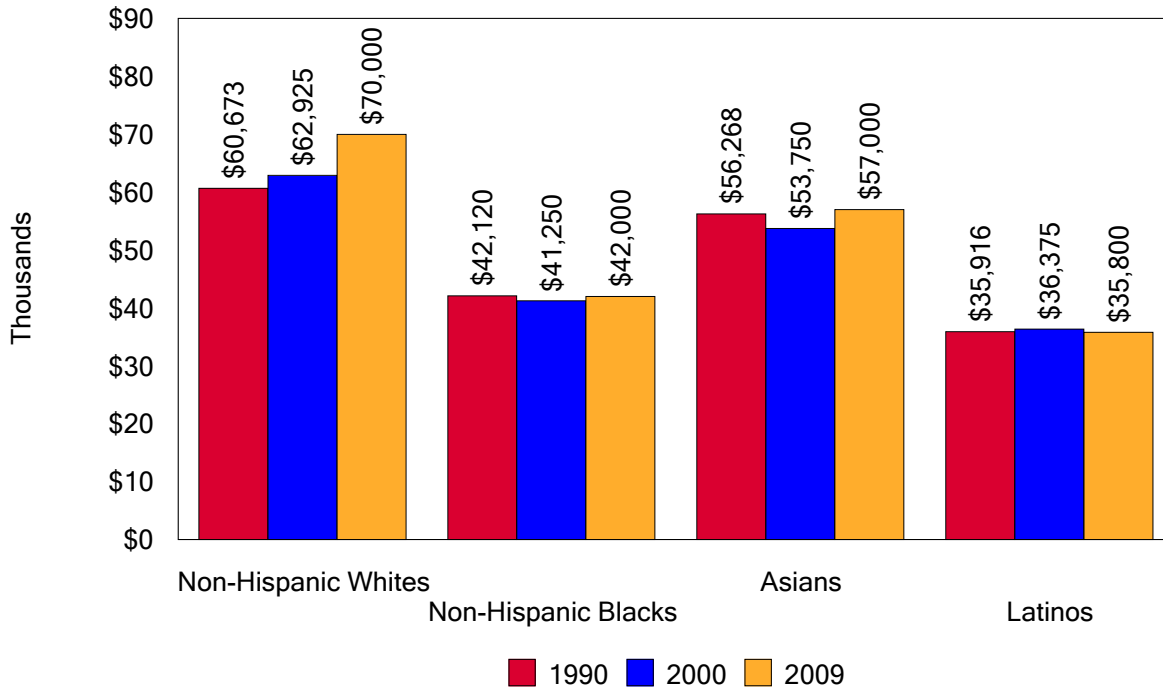


Figure 21  
 Median Household Income by Latino Nationality for Domestic Born, New York City, 1990 - 2009  
 (in inflation adjusted 2009 dollars)

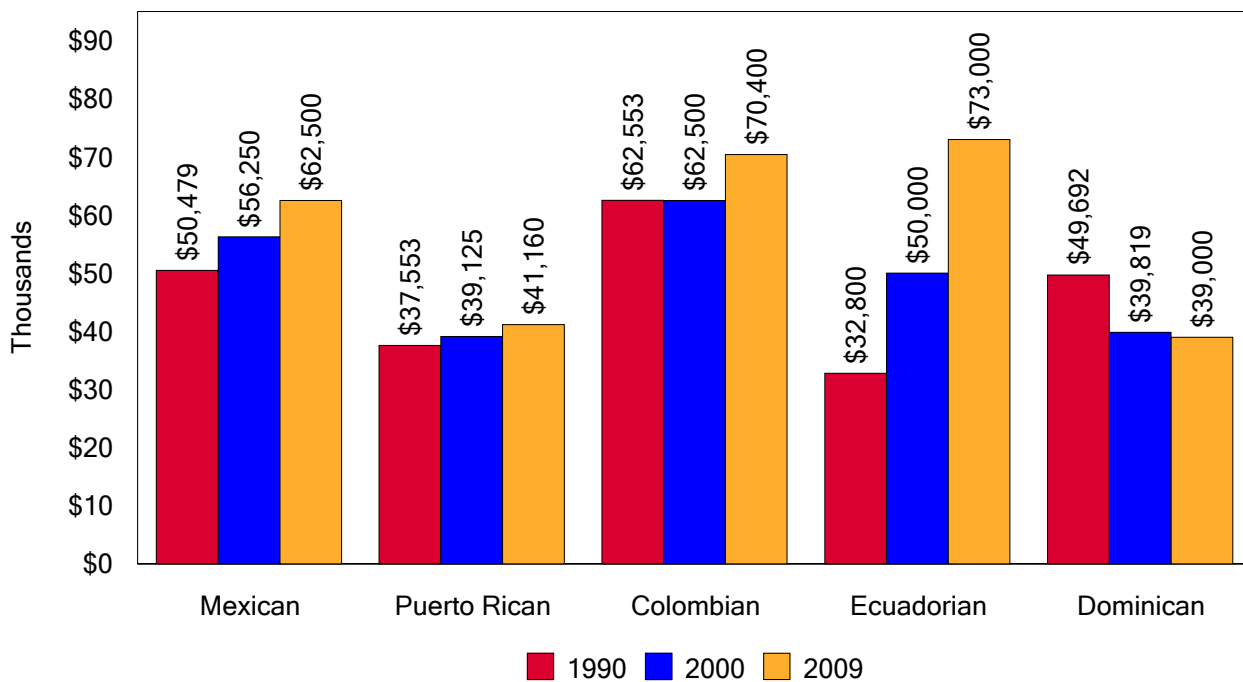


Figure 22  
 Median Household Income by Latino Nationality for Foreign Born, New York City, 1990 - 2009  
 (in inflation adjusted 2009 dollars)

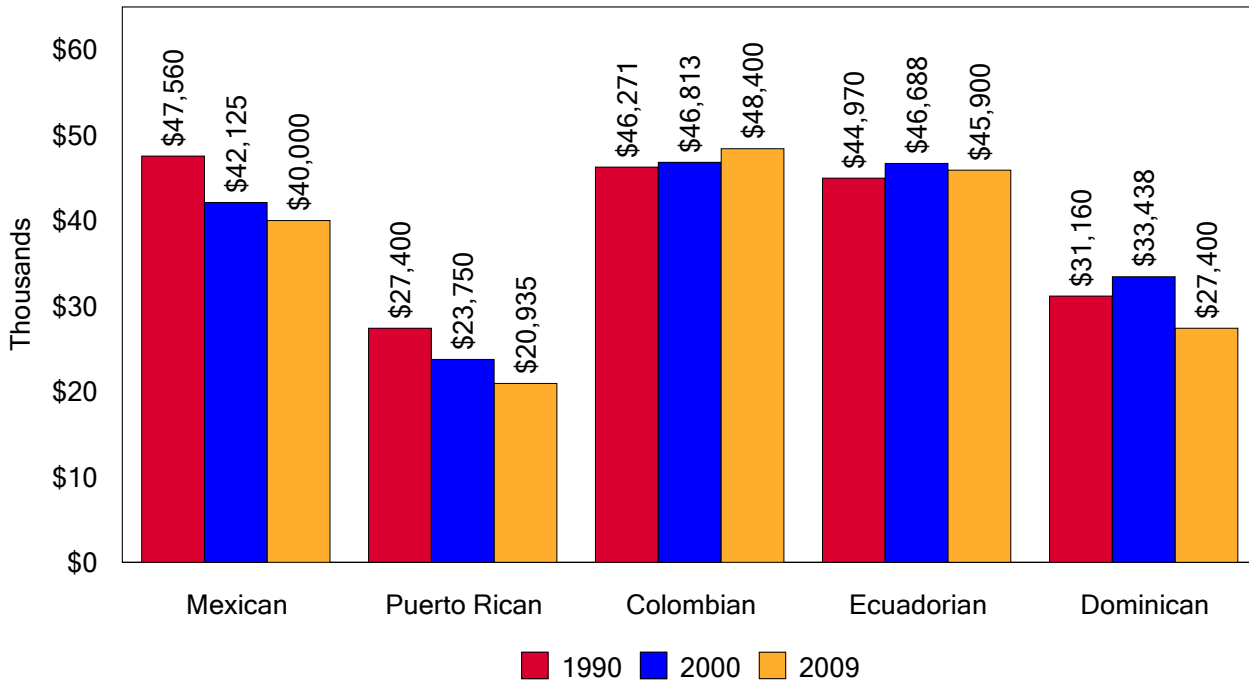


Figure 23  
 Percentage of Households Earning Less than \$20,000 Annually  
 by Race/Ethnicity in New York City, 1990 - 2009

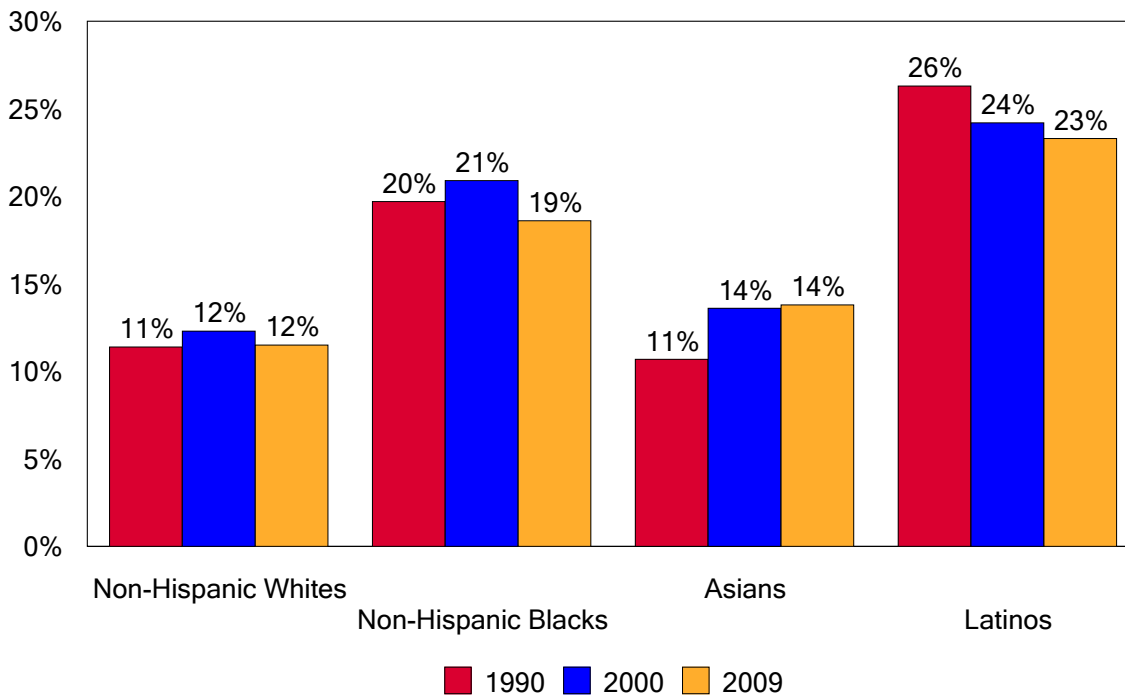


Table 10  
 Median Household income for Household Heads  
 by Nativity and Sex, New York City 1990 - 2009

1990				
Domestic Born		Foreign Born		
Male	Female	Male	Female	
Mexican	\$ 54,120	\$ 47,970	\$ 49,200	\$ 37,474
Puerto Rican	\$ 54,833	\$ 24,600	\$ 42,640	\$ 16,170
Colombian	\$ 62,976	\$ 57,516	\$ 52,480	\$ 36,037
Ecuadorian	\$ 32,800	\$ 24,309	\$ 51,660	\$ 32,579
Dominican	\$ 59,040	\$ 26,240	\$ 44,280	\$ 21,320

2000				
Domestic Born		Foreign Born		
Male	Female	Male	Female	
Mexican	\$ 63,525	\$ 48,313	\$ 45,875	\$ 33,750
Puerto Rican	\$ 53,750	\$ 30,000	\$ 37,125	\$ 17,038
Colombian	\$ 66,500	\$ 61,250	\$ 52,750	\$ 38,563
Ecuadorian	\$ 46,875	\$ 52,500	\$ 51,250	\$ 36,250
Dominican	\$ 50,000	\$ 34,688	\$ 43,625	\$ 26,250

2009				
Domestic Born		Foreign Born		
Male	Female	Male	Female	
Mexican	\$ 61,515	\$ 62,500	\$ 44,300	\$ 30,100
Puerto Rican	\$ 52,200	\$ 36,500	\$ 33,250	\$ 15,600
Colombian	\$ 78,700	\$ 52,500	\$ 59,000	\$ 39,100
Ecuadorian	\$ 79,500	\$ 48,720	\$ 50,270	\$ 39,400
Dominican	\$ 61,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 22,400

About a quarter of all Latino households earned \$75,000 or more between 1990 (24%) and 2009 (27%). However, these percentages were much lower than non-Hispanic black households in which about a third were in this income category between 1990 (34%) and 2009 (36%). In 2009 55% of non-Hispanic white households and 43% of the City’s Asian households earned \$75,000 or greater. (See figure 24 and table 10 for complete income distribution data by category by race/ethnicity). These data are presented in inflation-adjusted 2009 dollars.

Figure 24  
 Percentage of Households Earning More than \$75,000 Annually  
 by Race/Ethnicity in New York City, 1990 - 2009

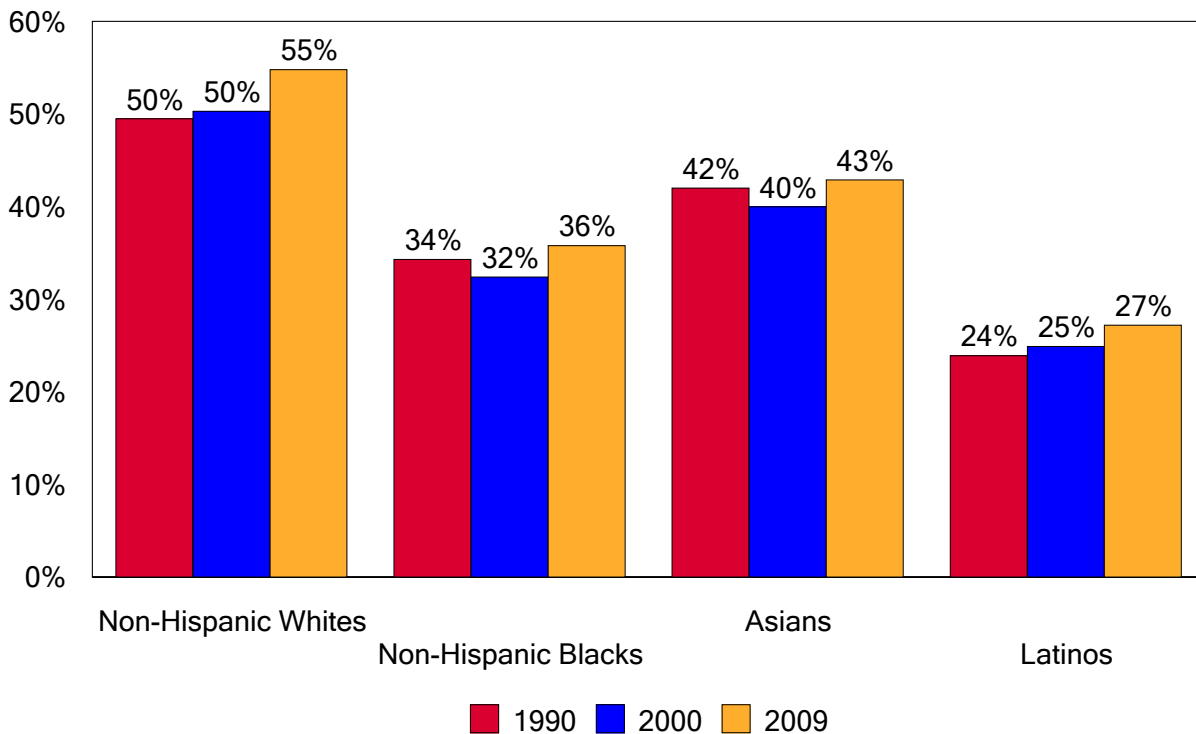


Table 11  
 Distribution of Household Income by Race/Ethnicity New York City 1990 - 2009  
 (in percentages and inflation adjusted 2009 dollars)

	Non-Hispanic Whites			Non-Hispanic Blacks		
	1990	2000	2009	1990	2000	2009
Less than 10,000	4.2%	4.3%	3.9%	10.6%	11.4%	8.6%
10,000-19,999	7.2%	8.0%	7.6%	9.1%	9.5%	10.0%
20,000-29,999	6.4%	6.6%	6.4%	8.8%	9.1%	10.1%
30,000-39,999	6.8%	7.3%	6.4%	10.1%	10.4%	9.2%
40,000-49,999	7.9%	6.7%	6.3%	9.1%	8.9%	9.0%
50,000-74,999	18.1%	16.8%	14.7%	18.0%	18.3%	17.3%
75,000-99,999	15.1%	13.9%	13.1%	13.6%	12.7%	12.1%
100,000 - 199,999	25.0%	25.1%	26.6%	16.6%	16.8%	20.4%
200,000 +	9.3%	11.3%	15.1%	4.1%	2.9%	3.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

	Asians			Latinos		
	1990	2000	2009	1990	2000	2009
Less than 10,000	3.9%	4.1%	4.3%	12.6%	11.7%	9.8%
10,000-19,999	6.8%	9.5%	9.5%	13.7%	12.5%	13.6%
20,000-29,999	9.1%	9.9%	10.0%	10.9%	11.2%	11.6%
30,000-39,999	9.6%	9.5%	8.6%	10.6%	11.2%	11.2%
40,000-49,999	9.5%	8.8%	7.7%	10.2%	9.8%	9.1%
50,000-74,999	19.2%	18.1%	17.0%	18.1%	18.6%	17.6%
75,000-99,999	15.9%	13.0%	12.5%	11.0%	11.2%	10.8%
100,000 - 199,999	21.4%	20.9%	22.2%	10.7%	11.7%	13.4%
200,000 +	4.7%	6.1%	8.2%	2.2%	2.0%	3.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Puerto Ricans and Dominicans were the City’s poorest Latino national subgroups, this despite the arrival of so many foreign-born Mexican immigrants between 1990 and 2009. Additionally, they had smaller percentages of their households in the upper income-earning categories. Close to 30% of Puerto Rican and Dominican households earned incomes of less than \$20,000 in 2009 while for Mexicans, Ecuadorians, and Colombians less than 16% of households were in this category. In the \$75,000 and over category there were fewer relative households among Puerto Ricans (26%), Dominicans (20%), and Mexicans (26%) than Ecuadorians and Colombians (about 35%). (See figures 25 and 26 and table 12 for complete data in inflation adjusted 2009 dollars).

Figure 25  
 Percentage of Households Earning Less than \$20,000 Annually  
 by Latino Nationality in New York City, 1990 - 2009

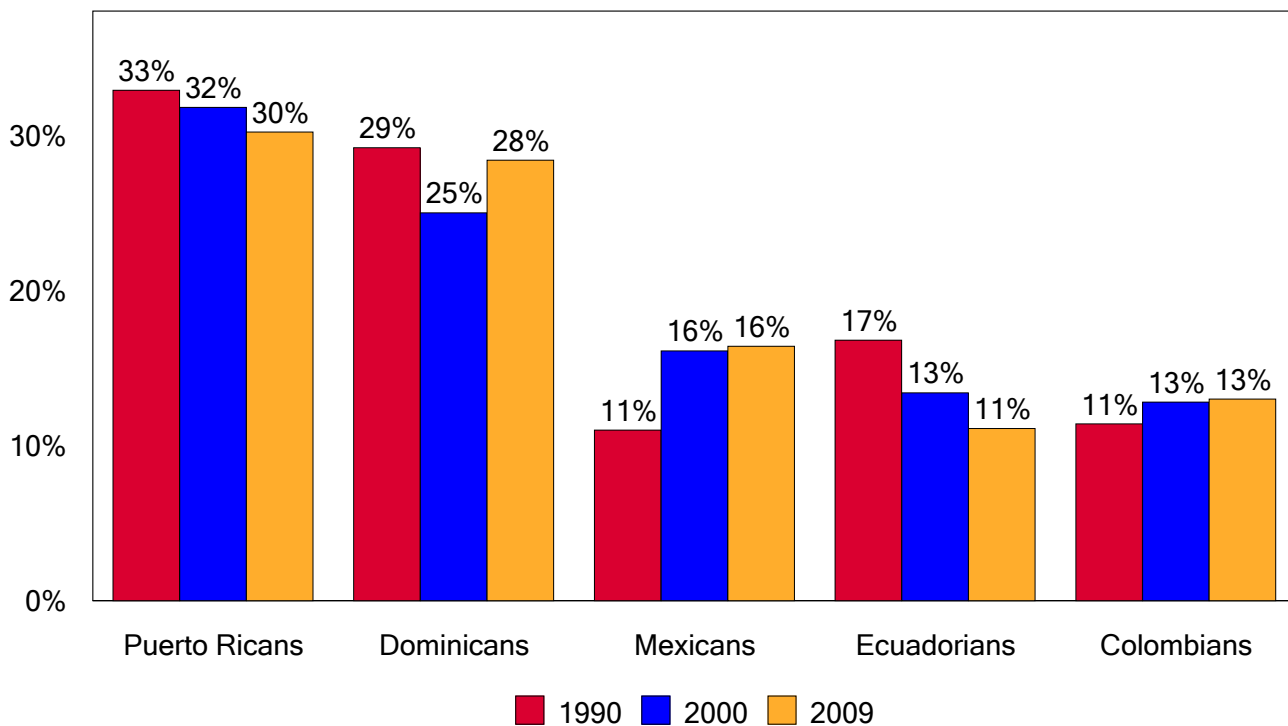




Figure 26  
Percentage of Households Earning Less more than \$75,000 Annually  
by Latino Nationality in New York City, 1990 - 2009

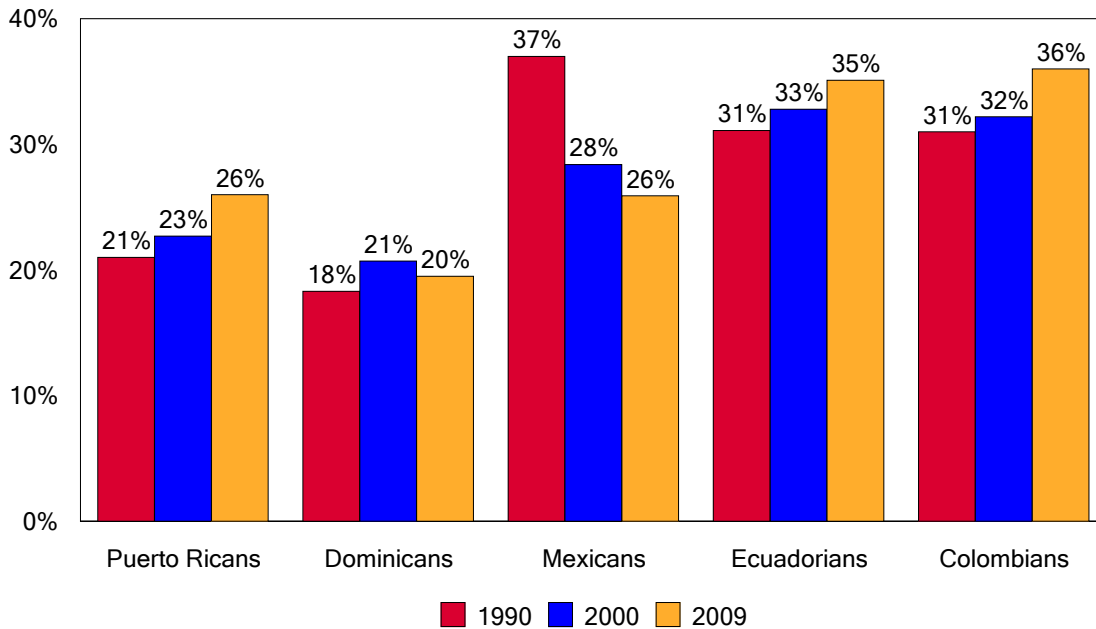


Table 12  
Distribution of Household Income by Latino Nationality, New York City  
1990 - 2009 (in percentages and inflation adjusted 2009 dollars)

	Puerto Ricans			Dominicans			Colombians		
	1990	2000	2009	1990	2000	2009	1990	2000	2009
Less than 10,000	17.1%	16.9%	14.6%	12.6%	11.7%	11.0%	3.7%	4.5%	4.6%
10,000-19,999	15.8%	14.8%	15.7%	16.6%	13.3%	17.4%	7.7%	8.3%	8.4%
20,000-29,999	10.6%	10.9%	10.2%	12.3%	12.5%	14.5%	11.0%	9.8%	9.3%
30,000-39,999	9.7%	9.8%	10.5%	11.9%	12.5%	11.7%	11.5%	11.4%	10.1%
40,000-49,999	9.2%	8.7%	8.3%	11.1%	11.2%	8.8%	12.3%	11.8%	9.6%
50,000-74,999	16.6%	16.0%	14.6%	17.4%	18.1%	17.2%	22.9%	22.0%	21.9%
75,000-99,999	10.1%	10.6%	9.8%	8.9%	9.8%	9.3%	14.6%	12.5%	16.1%
100,000 - 199,999	9.0%	10.8%	13.7%	8.2%	9.2%	8.8%	14.5%	16.1%	15.1%
200,000 +	1.9%	1.4%	2.5%	1.1%	1.7%	1.3%	1.8%	3.6%	4.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

	Mexicans			Ecuadorians		
	1990	2000	2009	1990	2000	2009
Less than 10,000	4.4%	6.0%	4.8%	5.6%	5.2%	3.8%
10,000-19,999	6.6%	10.0%	11.6%	11.2%	8.2%	7.3%
20,000-29,999	10.2%	11.2%	14.4%	10.2%	10.6%	7.9%
30,000-39,999	11.2%	12.6%	12.5%	10.5%	10.8%	13.4%
40,000-49,999	12.0%	10.2%	10.4%	10.3%	10.3%	12.1%
50,000-74,999	18.6%	21.6%	20.4%	21.1%	22.2%	20.3%
75,000-99,999	16.2%	13.3%	10.9%	13.1%	16.4%	12.9%
100,000 - 199,999	16.9%	13.3%	12.4%	16.8%	14.9%	19.7%
200,000 +	3.9%	1.9%	2.6%	1.2%	1.5%	2.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Poverty

Although poverty rates declined from one-third of all Latinos in 1990 to 27% in 2009, the Hispanic population of New York City had the highest poverty rates of any of the major race/ethnic groups. For non-Hispanic whites the rate was 11% in 2009; 19% for non-Hispanic blacks; and 18% for Asians. (See figure 27). Worse still, the poverty rates for Latino children 14 years of age and younger were the highest in the City at 37% in 2009 although there had been a decline from an astronomical 45% in 1990. In 2009 this compared with a childhood poverty rate of 15% for non-Hispanic whites, 28% for non-Hispanic blacks, and 20% for Asian children. (See figure 28).

Figure 27  
Poverty Rates in New York City by Race/Ethnicity, 1990 - 2009

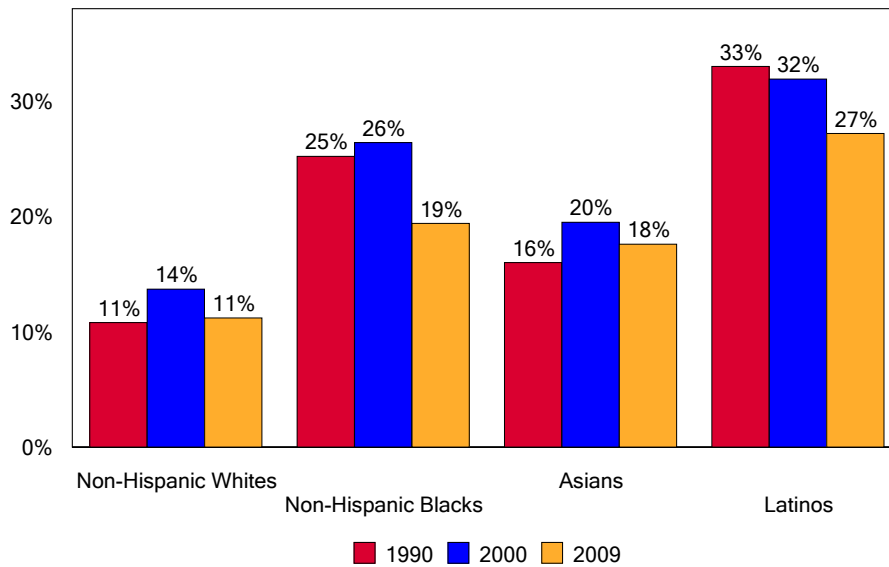
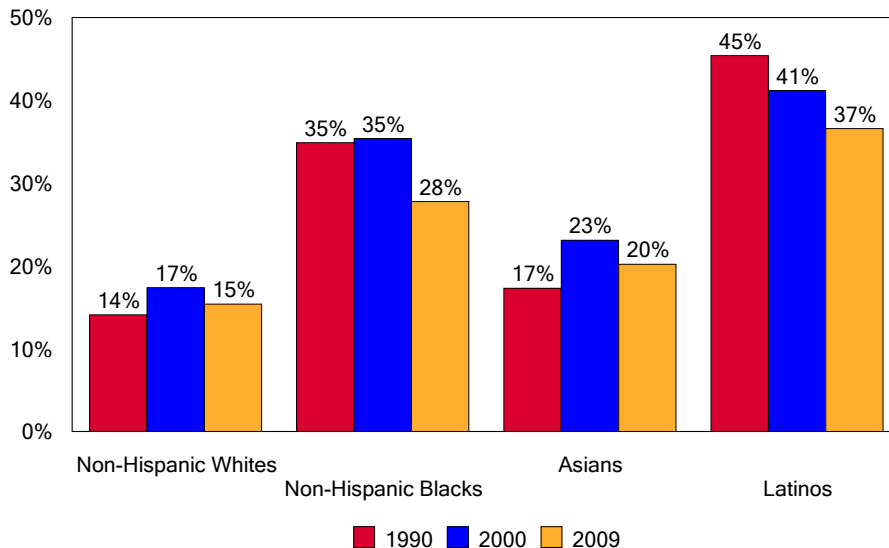


Figure 28  
Childhood Poverty Rates in New York City by Race/Ethnicity, 1990 - 2009  
(population 14 years old or under)



Among the five major Latino nationalities there was a marginal decline in the poverty rates for all groups between 1990 and 2009 with the exception of Mexicans. But nearly a third of all Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, and Mexicans lived in poverty in 2009 compared with 17% of Ecuadorians and 13% of Colombians. (See figure 29). Childhood poverty rates were near catastrophic for Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, and Mexicans with 40% or more of all children living in poverty compared with 18% of Ecuadorian children and a rate of 17% for Colombians. (See figure 30). Complete age-specific poverty rates are found in Table 13.

Figure 29  
Poverty Rates in New York City by Latino Nationality, 1990 - 2009

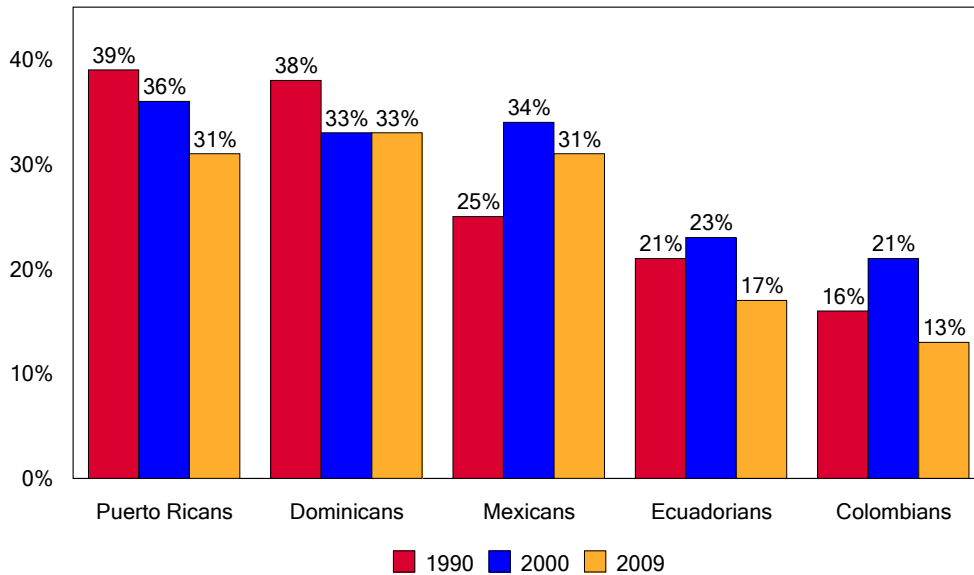


Figure 30  
Childhood Poverty Rates in New York City by Latino Nationality, 1990 - 2009  
(population 14 years old or under)

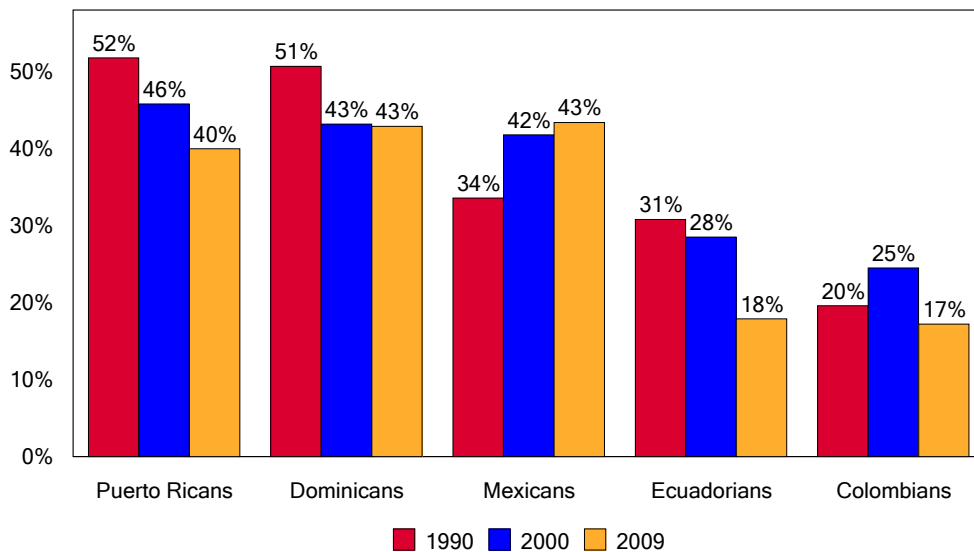


Table 13  
Age-Specific Poverty Rates by Race/Ethnicity and  
Latino Nationality in New York City, 1990 - 2009

	1990			
	0-14	15-44	45-59	60 +
Non-Hispanic Whites	14%	10%	7%	13%
Non-Hispanic Blacks	35%	23%	16%	26%
Asians	17%	16%	12%	18%
Latinos	45%	30%	22%	30%

	2000			
	0-14	15-44	45-59	60 +
Non-Hispanic Whites	17%	13%	9%	16%
Non-Hispanic Blacks	35%	25%	19%	26%
Asians	23%	20%	14%	22%
Latinos	41%	29%	24%	31%

	2009			
	0-14	15-44	45-59	60 +
Non-Hispanic Whites	15%	11%	8%	12%
Non-Hispanic Blacks	28%	18%	17%	16%
Asians	20%	16%	16%	21%
Latinos	37%	25%	21%	27%

	1990			
	0-14	15-44	45-59	60 +
Mexicans	34%	22%	17%	26%
Puerto Ricans	52%	35%	27%	36%
Colombians	20%	16%	11%	21%
Ecuadorians	31%	18%	12%	23%
Dominicans	51%	34%	26%	28%

	2000			
	0-14	15-44	45-59	60 +
Mexicans	42%	31%	29%	32%
Puerto Ricans	46%	33%	28%	37%
Colombians	24%	21%	17%	18%
Ecuadorians	29%	22%	17%	24%
Dominicans	43%	31%	26%	30%

	2009			
	0-14	15-44	45-59	60 +
Mexicans	43%	27%	18%	22%
Puerto Ricans	40%	30%	26%	29%
Colombians	17%	12%	12%	15%
Ecuadorians	18%	16%	15%	19%
Dominicans	43%	29%	25%	38%

### Employment and Unemployment

Measuring unemployment is not as straight forward as it may appear because unemployment rates only consider those people who are actively seeking work. In order to evaluate labor markets it is important to also consider those people who are designated as out of the work force regardless of reason, and to focus upon the core of the working age population – individuals between ages 16 and 60. The U.S. Census Bureau does not delineate the precise reasons that people are not seeking work.

Latinos in New York City had the highest rates of unemployment in 2009 at 10% compared with non-Hispanic blacks at 9% and non-Hispanic whites and Asians at 6% each. (See figure 31). The Latino ‘out-of-the-workforce’ rate of 29%, a sharp decline from the 41% of 2000, however, was comparable with non-Hispanic whites in 2009 (28%), non-Hispanic blacks (31%), and Asians who had the lowest rate at 22% . (See figure 32).

Figure 31  
Unemployment Rates by Race/Ethnicity New York City, 1990 - 2009  
(population ages 16 - 60)

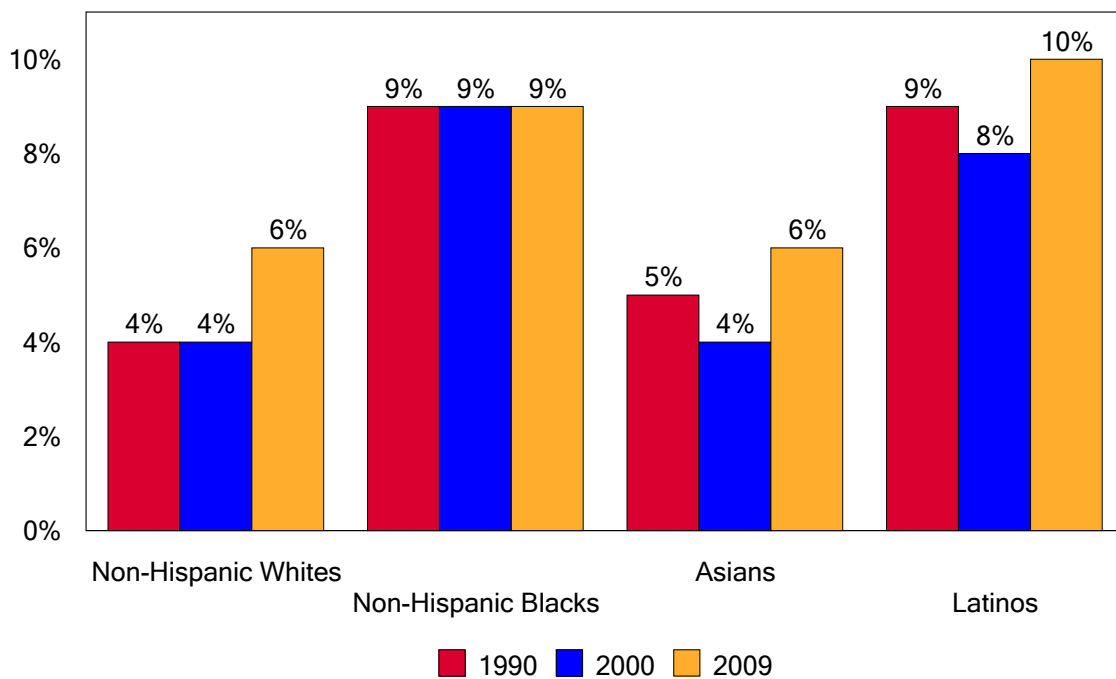
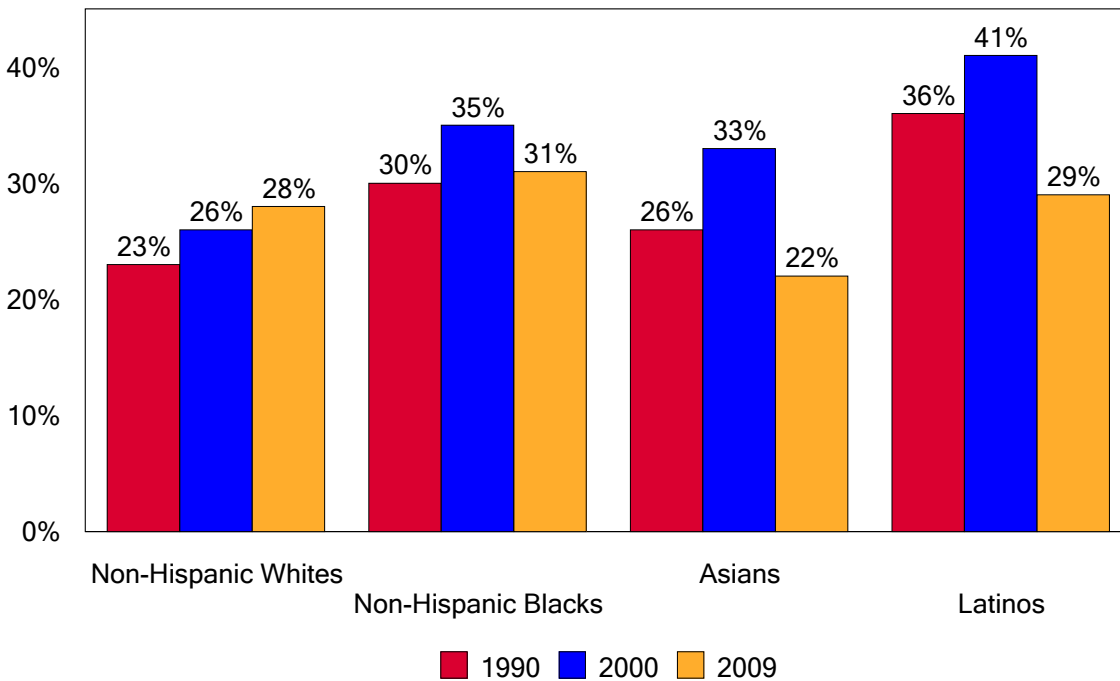


Figure 32  
Out of the Work Force Rates by Race/Ethnicity New York City, 1990 - 2009  
(population ages 16 - 60)



Mexicans had the lowest unemployment rate among the largest Latino nationalities in the City at 6% in 2009, while each of the other four groups were between 9%-10%. (See figure 33). There were real differences in the out of the work force rate in 2009. Puerto Ricans (37%) and Dominicans (32%) had out of the work force rates in 2009, and in previous years, which were significantly higher than Mexicans (27%), Colombians (23%), and Ecuadorians (23%). (See figure 34). When these data are analyzed by sex the differentials among males were even more exaggerated. Some 35% of all Puerto Rican men between the ages of 16 and 60 were out of the work force in 2009 and 28% of Dominican males were also not looking for work. This may be contrasted with Mexican males (11%), Ecuadorians (12%), and Colombians at 17% in 2009.

For women, however, Mexicans had the highest out of the work force rates at 48% compared with Puerto Rican women at 28%, Dominicans and Ecuadorians at 34% each, and Colombian women at 28%. The precise reasons for these differentials by sex are not revealed by the extant data. However, given the high birth and fertility rates for Mexican women discussed previously it is likely that their high out of the work force rate may be linked to greater child-care responsibilities than among the other Latino nationalities. The high out of the work force rate among Puerto Rican and Dominican males is a topic which deserves more detailed consideration using sources that are not available from the U.S. Census Bureau. (See figure 35).

Figure 33  
Unemployment Rates by Latino Nationality New York City, 1990 - 2009  
(population ages 16 - 60)

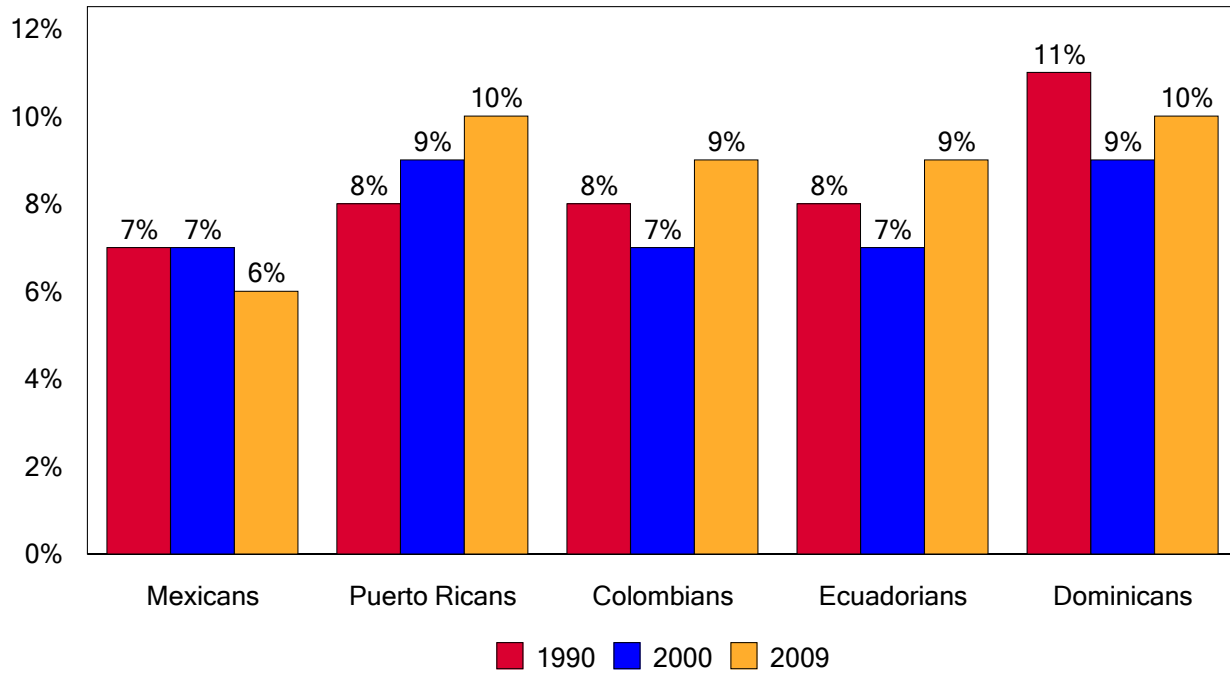


Figure 34  
Out of the Work Force Rates by Latino Nationality New York City, 1990 - 2009  
(population ages 16 - 60)

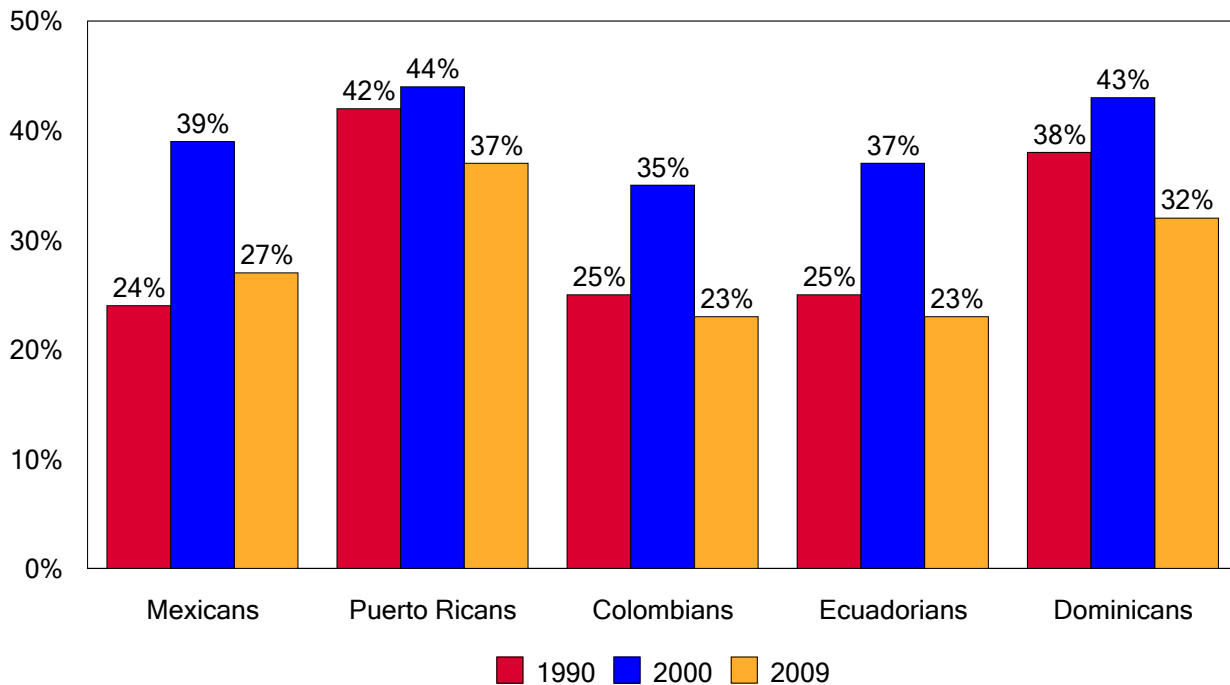
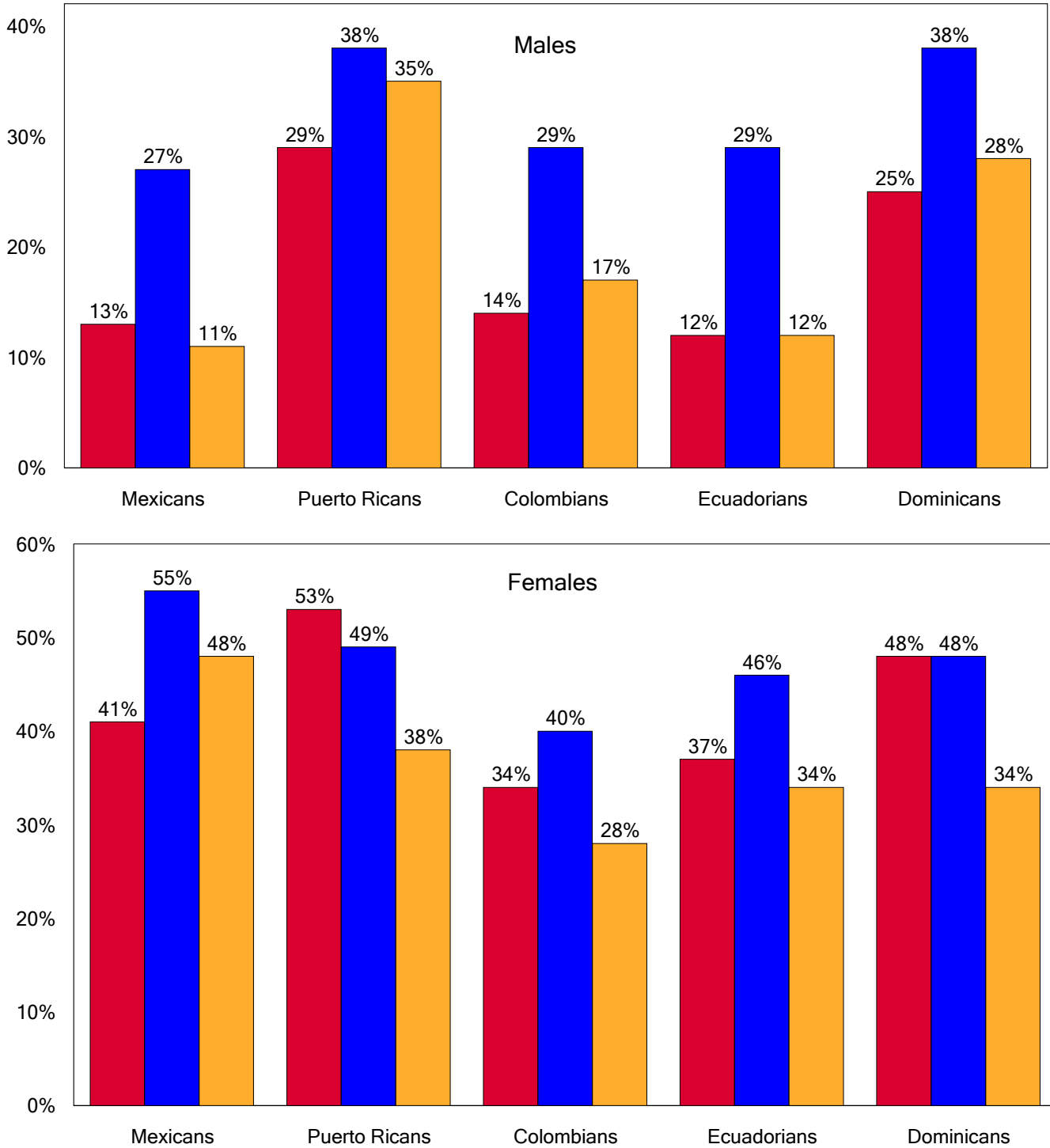


Figure 35  
Out of the Work Force Rates by Latino Nationality and Sex New York City, 1990 - 2009  
(population ages 16 - 60)





Language

Because of the large influx of foreign-born migrants from Mexico, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic the percentages of Latinos who spoke English well, very well, or exclusively did not change very much between 1990 and 2009, hovering around three-quarters of the City’s total Latino population. (See figure 36). Over the same period there was little variation in the dominant language spoken at home by all Latinos, although there was a slight drop from the 88% of all households who spoke predominantly Spanish in 1990 to 84% in which Spanish was the dominant language in 2009. Thus, bilingualism was a prominent trait within New York’s Latino communities as a large proportion of Latinos spoke English with competency but generally spoke Spanish at home. (See figure 37). However, with the fluctuations in migration patterns there were variations when the largest nationalities are considered.

Figure 36  
English Language Ability for all Latinos in New York City, 1990 - 2009  
Population 5 Years of Age and Older

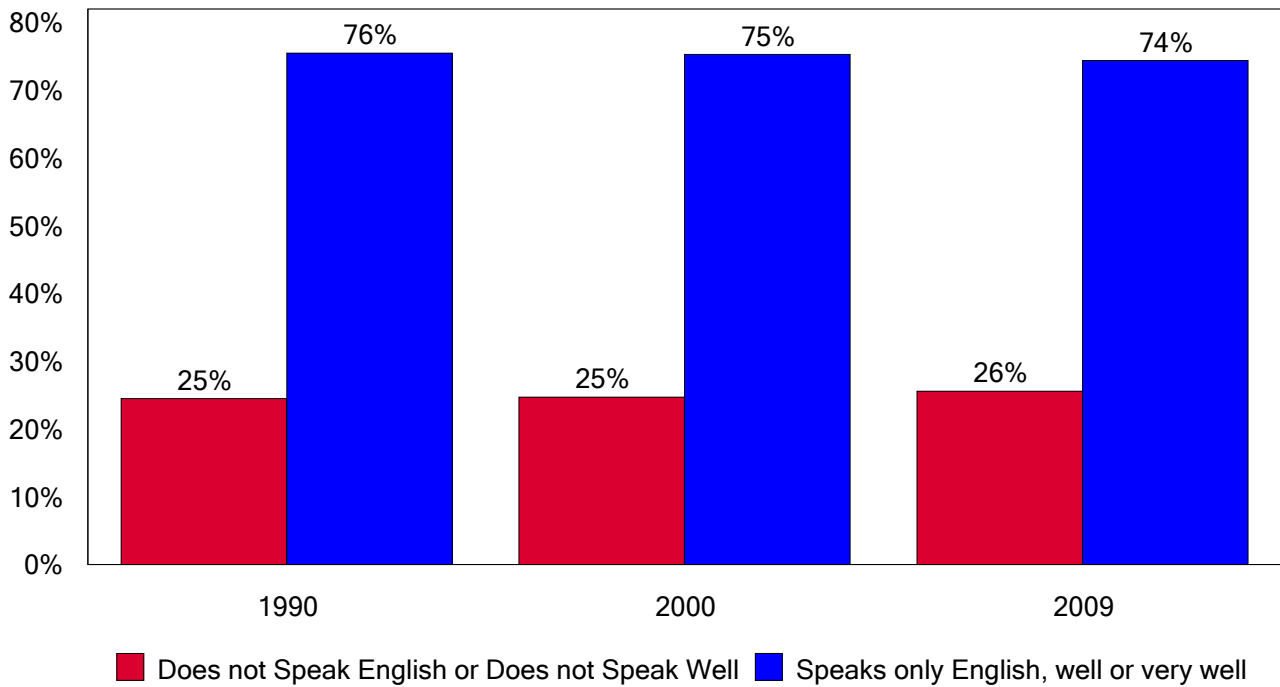
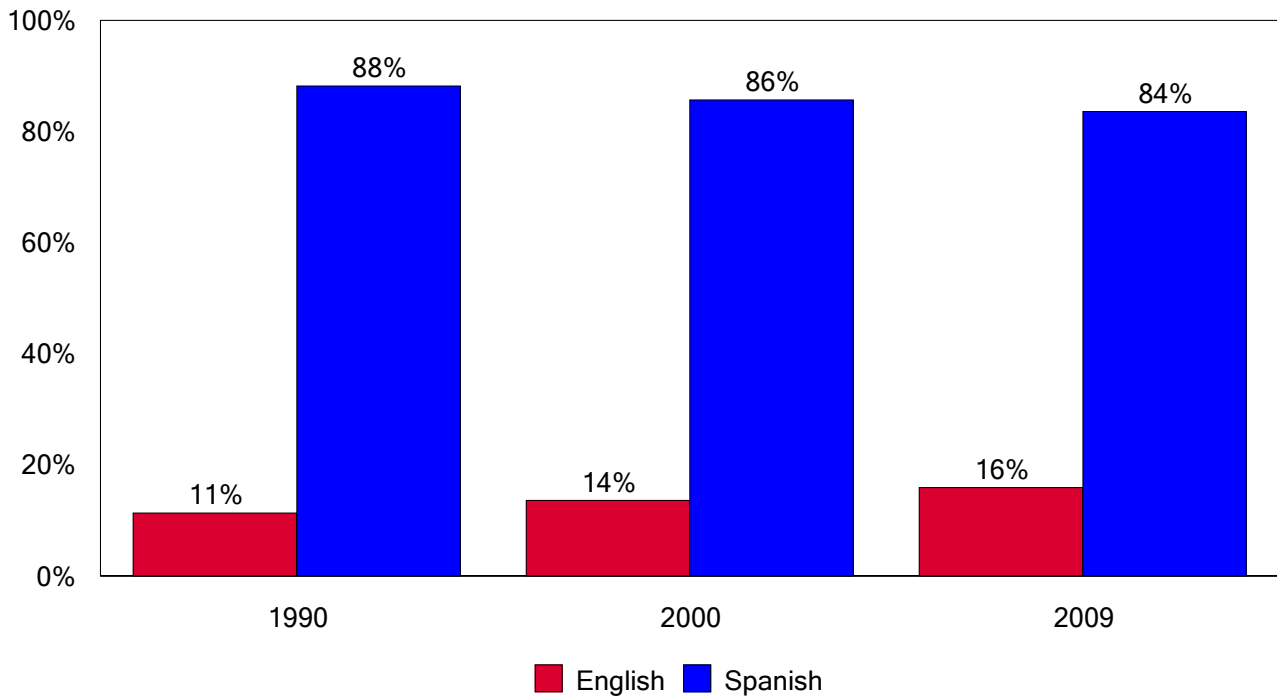


Figure 37  
Language Spoken at Home for all Latinos in New York City, 1990 - 2009  
Population 5 Years of Age and Older



English language abilities between 1990 and 2009 improved for Puerto Ricans, of whom 90% had good English language skills in 2009, and marginally for Dominicans and Colombians. It is not surprising that for Mexicans and Ecuadorians, the two most recent immigrant groups who had large numbers of foreign-born within their respective populations, English language abilities did not improve at all. Each of the latter groups had over 40% of their overall populations who did not speak English well or at all. (See figure 38).

Bilingualism, indicated by the use of Spanish at home, was the norm for all national groups, although Puerto Ricans stand out because of a significant decline in the use of Spanish at home. In 1990 87% of all Puerto Rican households used Spanish as the dominant language even though 84% reported good English language skills. But by 2009 72% of all Puerto Ricans reported speaking Spanish at home with 90% reporting good English language skills. Puerto Ricans, of course, are the oldest Latino national sub group in the City, and as more and more Puerto Ricans are born in the U.S. and as there has been a secular decrease in the number of Puerto Ricans born on the island, it is apparent that a major change has been underway in language choice at home. It is likely that this pattern will eventually be reproduced in the future with other Latino nationalities – the predominance of bilingualism but with a gradually increasing percentage of households using English, exclusively among those who were born in the U.S. (See figure 39). Indeed among Puerto Ricans born on the U.S. mainland, 20% reported speaking English at home in 1990 and 38% in 2009.

Figure 38  
English Language Ability for Latinos in New York City by Nationality, 1990 - 2009  
Population 5 Years of Age and Older

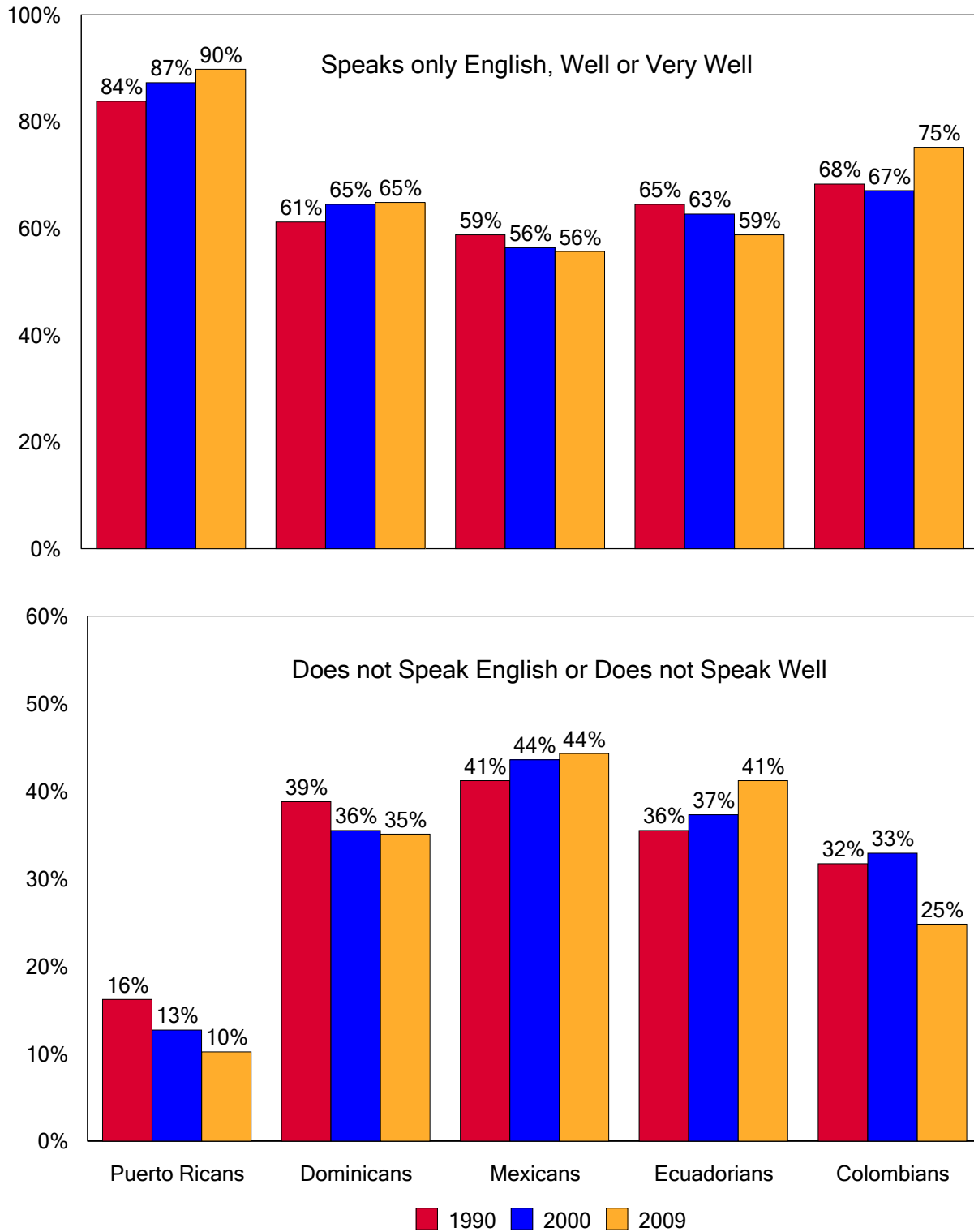
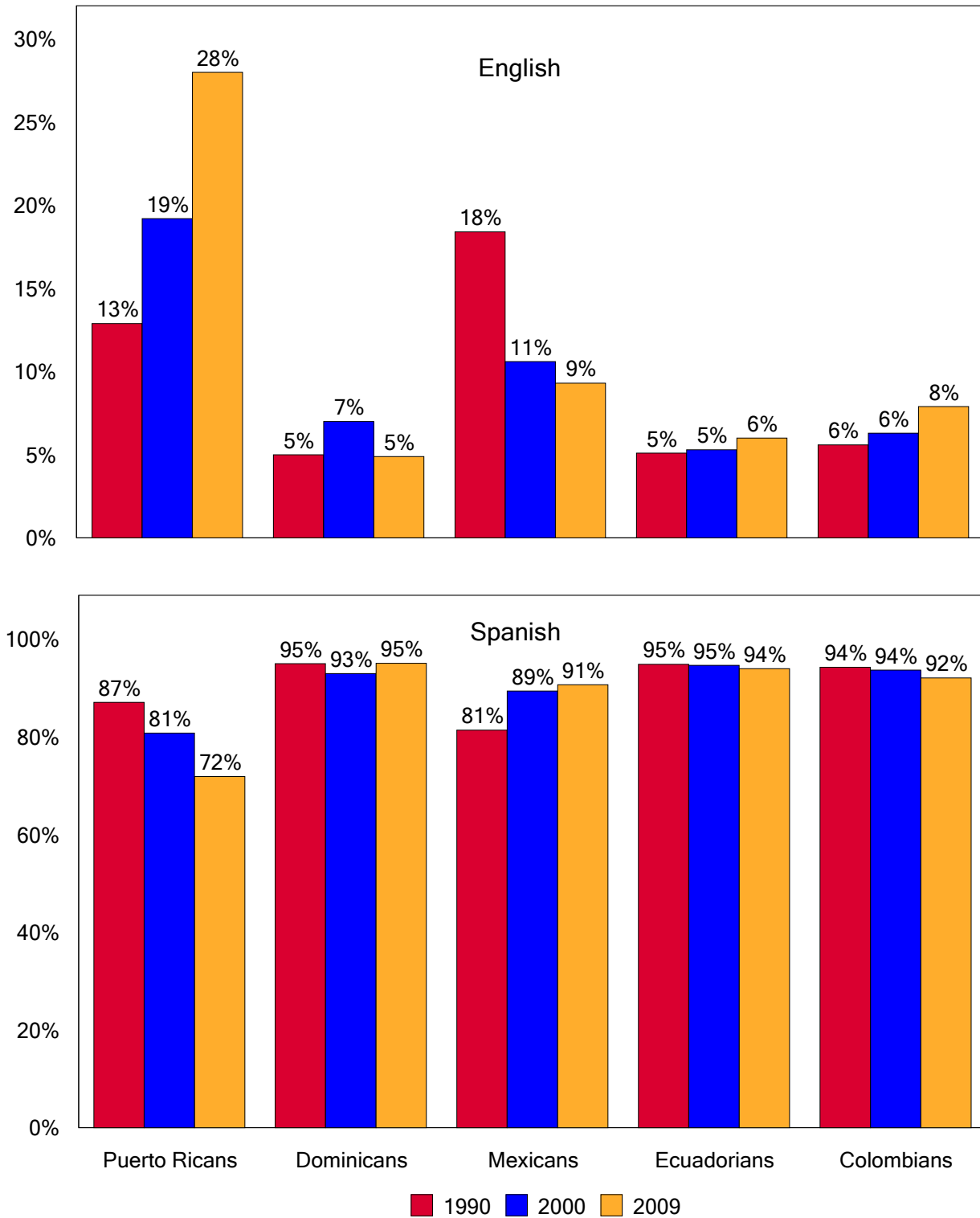


Figure 39  
Language Spoken at Home for Latinos in New York City by Nationality, 1990 - 2009  
Population 5 Years of Age and Older



### Health Insurance

The 2009 American Community Survey data has included information on health insurance coverage, as this has become an political and health issue of national importance. In New York City Latinos had the highest rate of uninsured people compared with the other race/ethnic groups at 21%, although a fairly high percentage had some kind of insurance (79%). (See figure 40).

Puerto Ricans were the most covered nationality with 89% possessing some kind of health coverage, while Mexicans were the group with the lowest percentage of insured persons at 56%. There was clearly a direct correlation between those nationalities who had greater percentages of their overall populations who had arrived recently and lower rates of health insurance coverage. Ecuadorians, the second most numerous group of recently arrived migrants also had the second lowest rate of health insurance coverage at 70%. (See figure 41 for complete data).

Figure 40  
Health Insurance Coverage by Race/Ethnicity New York City, 2009

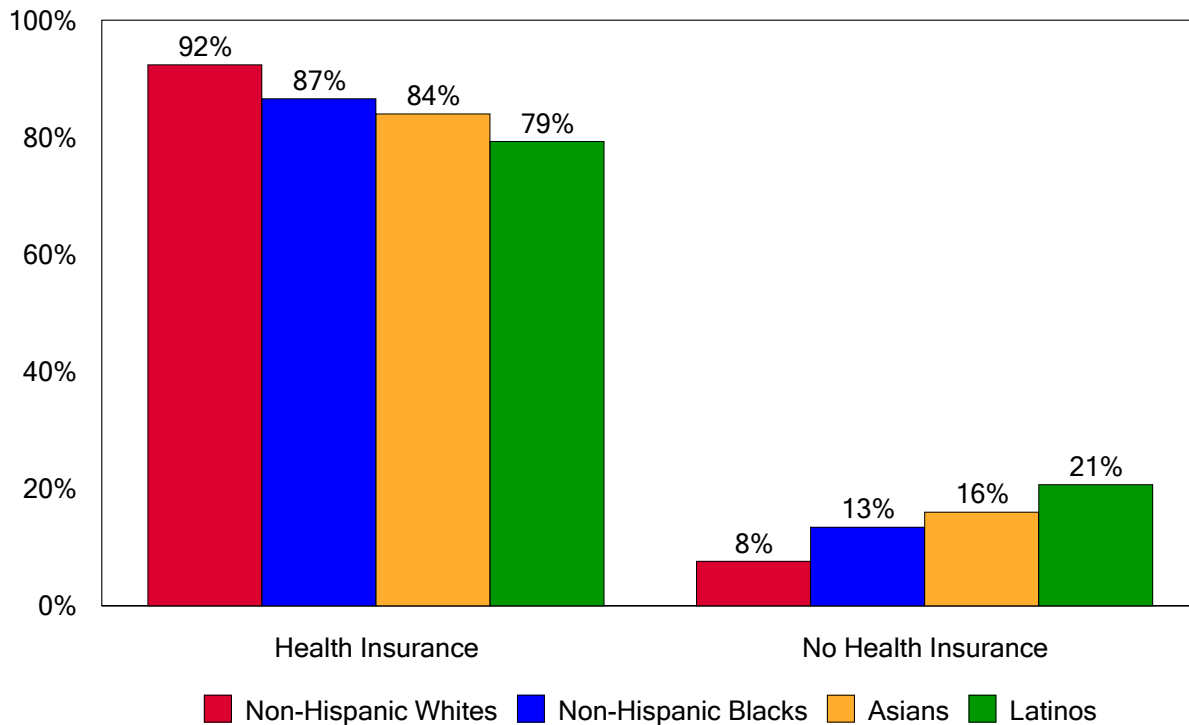
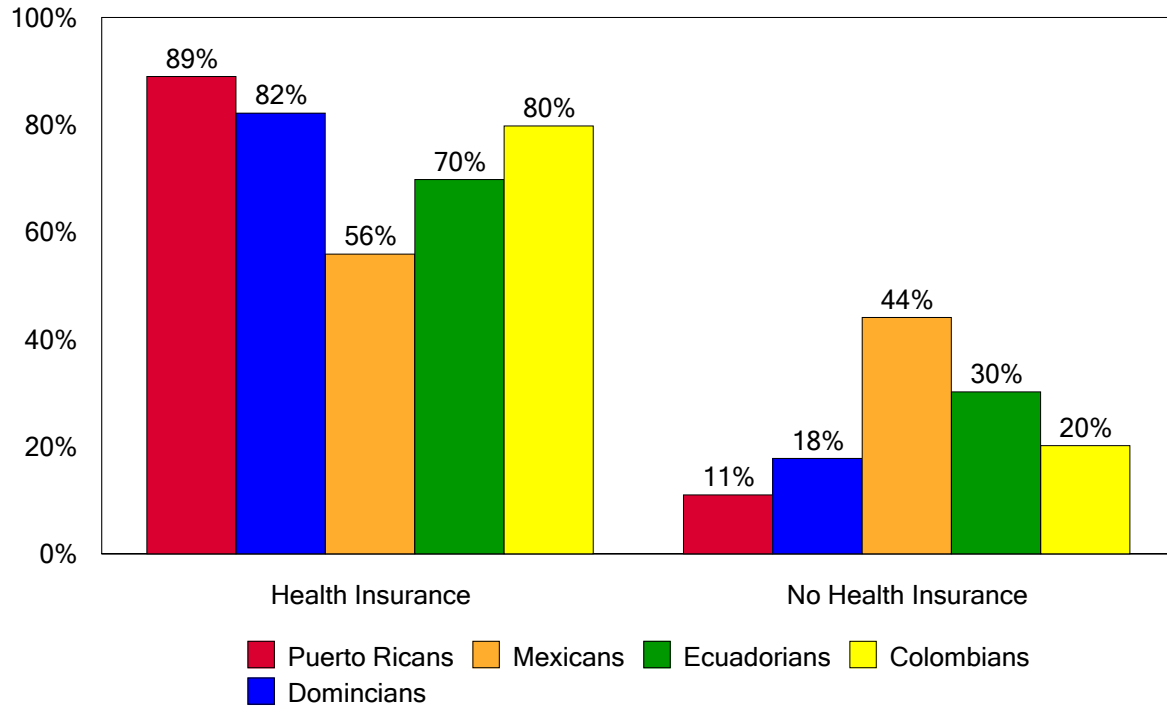


Figure 41  
Health Insurance Coverage by Latino Nationality New York City, 2009



## Highlights

- The City's Latino population continued its steady increase from 1.7 million people and 24% of the total population in 1990 to nearly 2.4 million and 28% of all New Yorkers in 2009.
- Within the Latino population Puerto Ricans declined in absolute and relative terms from 49% of all Latinos in 1990 to 33% in 2009. Over the same period Dominicans increased from 20% to 25% of all Latinos and are poised to surpass Puerto Ricans in absolute terms within the next decade.
- Mexicans were the fastest growing Latino national subgroup and increased from 3% to 14% of the City's Hispanic population between 1990 and 2009.
- Mexican population increase was linked to large-scale migration after 1990 and extraordinarily high fertility and birth rates compared with other groups. If these rates hold Mexicans will become New York City's largest Latino nationality within two decades.
- Ecuadorians also continued to arrive in the City in large numbers between 1990 and 2009.
- By 2009 over 80% of the City's Latinos lived in the Bronx, Queens, and Brooklyn.
- About 53% of the total population of the Bronx was of Latino origin.
- About 42% of all Puerto Ricans in the City lived in the Bronx while 41% of all Dominicans lived there in 2009.
- There were extraordinary differences in the sex ratios of Latino nationalities in New York City. There were 157 Mexican men for every 100 women in 2009 and 115 Ecuadorian men for every 100 women in the same year.
- In every other group females were dominant: For Puerto Ricans there were 100 women for every 77 men; 100 women for every 74 male Dominicans; and 100 female Colombians for every 82 males in 2009.
- These data suggest overwhelming female migration for Dominicans, Puerto Ricans, and Colombians while males dominated migratory flows for Mexicans and Ecuadorians.
- About 75% of all Latinos in the City were citizens because of birth or naturalization and naturalization rates increased from 1990 to 2009.
- Latinos increased from 18% to 22% of all eligible voters between 1990 and 2009.
- Latinos in the City had the lowest college graduation rate of all the race/ethnic groups in 2009 at 15% of all adults. But this was an increase from 9% in 1990.

- Latinos also had the largest portion of their adult population which had not graduated high school at 39%, a decline from 51% of non-high school graduates in 1990.
- Latinos had the lowest median household incomes of the City's race/ethnic groups in 2009 and experienced no real increase in inflation-adjusted dollars from 1990.
- Yet, there were significant differences in the median incomes of domestic-born household heads and foreign-born household heads, with Colombians and Ecuadorians doing quite well.
- More Latinos lived in poverty compared with the City's other race/ethnic groups (27%) in 2009 and the childhood poverty rate was even higher at 37%.
- Latinos had higher unemployment rates and fairly high out-of-the-workforce rates compared with non-Hispanic whites and blacks and Asians.
- Bilingualism was an integral part of Latino culture in the City as 75% of all Latinos reported good English language skills in 2009 but 84% reported speaking Spanish at home.
- Nearly 80% of all Latinos in the City reported having some kind of health insurance coverage in 2009, although this was lower than the City's other race/ethnic groups.