Private and Public School Attendance Patterns among New York City’s Racial/Ethnic Groups and Latino Nationalities in 2000

Cecilia Salvatierra

Public versus private education enrollment data from the 2000 U.S. Census indicated that there were sharp differences in New York City among the four principal racial/ethnic groups: African Americans, Asians, Latinos and Whites. Additionally, there were substantial differences among the seven largest Latino nationalities of New York City: Colombians, Cubans, Dominicans, Ecuadorians, Mexicans, Peruvians, and Puerto Ricans.

There were also important distinctions in public/private educational enrollment between the sexes among the four racial/ethnic groups as well as the seven Latino nationalities.

This report will begin by examining total public/private education enrollment from nursery/pre-school to graduate school among the four principal racial/ethnic groups and among the seven largest Latino nationalities. It will then consider aggregate public/private education enrollment by sex.

The report will also show private/private education enrollment by each of the seven school-grade groups: nursery/pre-school; grades 1-4; grades 5-8; grades 8-12; undergraduate; and graduate school.

Total Public/Private Education Enrollment by Ethnic/Racial Groups and by Latino Nationalities

Data indicated that total White educational enrollment for all grades was evenly divided between public and private education, with 49.6% of all students enrolled in public educational institutions and 50.4% enrolled in private institutions. This was in stark contrast to the three principal minority racial/ethnic groups where educational enrollment was heavily concentrated in public education. Latinos had the highest public education enrollment with 83.6% of all students enrolled in public education and 16.4% in private education. African-American education enrollment data showed that 81% were enrolled in public education and 19% were in private education while among Asians 74.7% of all students were enrolled in public education and 25.3% were in private institutions. See Figure 1 and Table 1.

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1 All figures and tables are derived from Census Data 2000, Summary File 4.
Figure 1. Percentage of Total Population 3 years + Enrolled in Nursery/Pre-School thru Graduate School by Race/Ethnic Group

Table 1. Total Population 3 years + Enrolled in Nursery/Pre-School thru Graduate School by Race/Ethnic Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Population 3 years + Enrolled in Public Education</th>
<th>Population 3 years + Enrolled in Private Education</th>
<th>Percentage of total population 3 years + Enrolled in Public Education</th>
<th>Percentage of total population 3 years + Enrolled in Private Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>677,645</td>
<td>566,439</td>
<td>83.6%</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>637,867</td>
<td>516,476</td>
<td>81.0%</td>
<td>19.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>224,675</td>
<td>167,838</td>
<td>74.7%</td>
<td>25.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>583,398</td>
<td>289,535</td>
<td>49.6%</td>
<td>50.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data on public versus private education enrollment among the seven largest Latino nationalities indicated that Cubans (28.9%), Peruvians (26.5%), and Colombians (23.0%) had the highest private educational enrollment. Private education enrollment for Ecuadorians was 19.1%, the fourth highest. The older established Latino nationalities
such as Puerto Ricans (16.2%) and Dominicans (13.7%) had the second and third lowest private education enrollment respectively. Mexicans, who constituted the third largest Latino population in the City, had the lowest private education enrollment at 12.2%.

These data suggest that private school enrollment patterns are, not surprisingly, related to differential income distribution profiles among these populations. Income distribution data indicate that Cubans households were the wealthiest among Latino nationalities in New York City followed by of Colombians, Ecuadorians, and Peruvians of whom over 30% of all households earned $50,000 yearly or more; slightly over 20% of Dominican and Puerto Rican households earned $50,000 yearly or more. Mexicans had the lowest household incomes of all the Latino national groups.

Figure 2. Percentage of Total Population 3 years + Enrolled in Nursery/Pre-School thru Graduate School by Latino Nationality

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**Table 2. Total Population 3 years + Enrolled in Nursery/Pre-School thru Graduate School by Latino Nationalities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latino Nationality</th>
<th>Population 3 years + Enrolled in Public and Private Education</th>
<th>Population 3 years + Enrolled in Public Education</th>
<th>Population 3 years + Enrolled in Private Education</th>
<th>Percentage 3 years + Enrolled in Public Education</th>
<th>Percentage 3 years + Enrolled in Private Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mexican</td>
<td>45,640</td>
<td>40,060</td>
<td>5,580</td>
<td>87.8%</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican</td>
<td>138,384</td>
<td>119,419</td>
<td>18,965</td>
<td>86.3%</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puerto Rican</td>
<td>245,318</td>
<td>205,599</td>
<td>39,719</td>
<td>83.8%</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuadorian</td>
<td>24,861</td>
<td>20,110</td>
<td>4,751</td>
<td>80.9%</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombian</td>
<td>21,998</td>
<td>16,929</td>
<td>5,069</td>
<td>77.0%</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peruvian</td>
<td>5,620</td>
<td>4,129</td>
<td>1,491</td>
<td>73.5%</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuban</td>
<td>9,067</td>
<td>5,431</td>
<td>2,211</td>
<td>71.1%</td>
<td>28.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Male/Female Public/Private Education Enrollment by Ethnic/Racial Groups and by Latino Nationalities**

Male/female public versus private education data for the three main minority racial/ethnic groups indicated that females had slightly higher levels of total private education enrollment than their male counterparts. In the Latino groups 17.5% of all females and 15.3% of all males were enrolled in private educational institutions. Similarly, the African-American and Asian female private education enrollments were higher than male private education enrollment. 20.3% of all African-American females and 17.6% of all African-American males were enrolled in private education; 26.7% of all Asian females and 23.9% of all Asian males were enrolled in private education. This was in contrast to White male/female private education enrollment patterns which indicated that private education enrollment was equally distributed between the sexes with 50.5% of males and 50.2% of females were enrolled. See Figure 3 and Table 3.
Table 3. Percentage of Total Population 3 years + Enrolled in Nursery/Pre-School thru Graduate School by Race/Ethnic Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Male Public Education</th>
<th>Male Private Education</th>
<th>Female Public Education</th>
<th>Female Private Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>84.7%</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>82.5%</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>82.4%</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
<td>79.7%</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>76.1%</td>
<td>23.9%</td>
<td>73.3%</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>49.5%</td>
<td>50.5%</td>
<td>49.8%</td>
<td>50.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data on male/female total public/private education enrollment among the seven largest Latino nationalities indicated that most nationalities had higher female private educational enrollment rates with the exception of Cubans and Mexicans. Peruvian female private education enrollment was the highest at 28.6% of all females enrolled, while 24.2% of all males were enrolled in private institutions. Colombians, with 25.3% of all females and 20.3% of all males enrolled in private education, had the highest differentiation between male and female private education enrollment. Dominicans (14.8% of all females versus 12.5% of all males), Ecuadorians (19.6% of all females versus 18.7% of all males) and Puerto Ricans (17.2% of all females versus 15.2% of all males) also had marginally higher female private education enrollments. Mexican male/female private education enrollment was the same with each sex at 12.2%. Although Cubans have the highest private education enrollment of the seven nationalities, it was also the only nationality that had slightly lower female private education.
enrollment (28.0%) than male private education enrollment (29.9%). See Figure 4 and Table 4.

Figure 4. Percentage of Total Population Enrolled in Nursery/Pre-School thru Graduate School by Latino Nationalities by Sex

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latino Nationality</th>
<th>Male Public Education</th>
<th>Male Private Education</th>
<th>Female Public Education</th>
<th>Female Private Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colombian</td>
<td>79.7%</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
<td>74.7%</td>
<td>25.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuban</td>
<td>70.1%</td>
<td>29.9%</td>
<td>72.0%</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>85.2%</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuadorian</td>
<td>81.3%</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
<td>80.4%</td>
<td>19.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexican</td>
<td>87.8%</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
<td>87.8%</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peruvian</td>
<td>75.8%</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
<td>71.4%</td>
<td>28.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puerto Rican</td>
<td>84.9%</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
<td>82.8%</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Public versus Private Education Enrollment among Racial/Ethnic Groups by School Grade

School-grade specific data showed that the nursery/pre-school group had the highest private education enrollment rate, excluding the college level, among all racial/ethnic groups. Data indicated that 27.4% of Latinos, 34.3% of African Americans, 43% of Asians and 71.9% of Whites enrolled in nursery/pre-school were found in private educational institutions. Data also indicated that Latinos had the lowest nursery/pre-school private education enrollment among the four main racial/ethnic groups. The high percentage of nursery/pre-school enrollment across all race/ethnic groups suggests a shortage of public institutions for pre-school students in New York City. See Figure 5.

School-grade specific data also showed that Latinos had the lowest private education enrollment in the grades 1-4 group out of all school-grade groups. Data indicated that 9.6% of Latinos, 12.6% of African Americans, 12.0% of Asians and 43.2% of Whites were enrolled in private education for grades 1-4. See Figure 7.

Data indicated that private education enrollment increased substantially at the college level for all racial/ethnic groups: 31.7% of Latinos; 32.1% of African Americans; 37.9% Asians; and 52.3% of Whites were enrolled in private education at the undergraduate level. See Figure 10.

Data also indicated that private education enrollment continued to increase at the graduate level for all racial/ethnic groups. Data showed that 61% of Latinos, 58.3% of African Americans, 67.1% Asians, and 68.4% of Whites were enrolled in private education at the graduate level. This data also indicated that Latinos had the highest private education enrollment in the graduate school group out of all grade groups.

The data on college level private education suggest that those families who can afford to send their children to college are deciding to send them to private institutions. It may also suggest that private institutions are encouraging increased admittance for minority students, particularly at the graduate level, through offering financial assistance in some form. See Figure 11.

Data on public/private education enrollment among the four racial/ethnic groups arranged by school-grade are presented in Figures 5-11 below.
Figure 5. Percentage of Total Population Enrolled in Nursery/Pre-School by Race/Ethnic Groups

Figure 6. Percentage of Total Population Enrolled in Kindergarten by Race/Ethnic Groups
Figure 7. Percentage of Total Population Enrolled in Grades 1 - 4 by Race/Ethnic Groups

Figure 8. Percentage of Total Population Enrolled in Grades 5-8 by Race/Ethnic Groups
Figure 9. Percentage of Total Population Enrolled in Grades 9 - 12 by Race/Ethnic Groups

![Bar chart showing the percentage of total population enrolled in Grades 9 - 12 by race/ethnic groups (Latinos, African-Americans, Asians, Whites). The chart distinguishes between public and private education.]

Figure 10. Percentage of Total Population Enrolled in Undergraduate Schools by Race/Ethnic Groups

![Bar chart showing the percentage of total population enrolled in undergraduate schools by race/ethnic groups (Latinos, African-Americans, Asians, Whites). The chart distinguishes between public and private education.]

Legend:
- Public Education
- Private Education
Public versus Private Education Enrollment among Latino Nationalities by School Grade

Data on public versus private education enrollment on the seven major Latino nationalities are arranged by school-grade and are presented in Figures 12-17 below.
Figure 13. Percentage of Total Population Enrolled in Grades 1-4 by Latino Nationalities

Figure 14. Percentage of Total Population Enrolled in Grades by 5-8 by Latino Nationalities
Figure 15. Percentage of Total Population Enrolled in Grades 9 - 12 by Latino Nationalities

Figure 16. Percentage of Total Population Enrolled in Undergraduates by Latino Nationalities
Latinos had the widest differentiation between male/female private educational enrollment among the four racial/ethnic groups. School-grade specific data showed that females had higher private education enrollment in five school-grade groups. These included all grades with the exception of both the undergraduate and graduate school-grade groups. At the undergraduate level 32.9% of all males and 30.8% of all females were enrolled in private education. At the graduate level 61.9% of all males and 60.6% of all females were enrolled in private education. The widest difference takes place in the nursery/pre-school group where 15.3% of all males and 28.1% of all females were enrolled in private institutions.

Although, African Americans also showed higher total female private education enrollment, it was considerably less than their Latino counterparts. African Americans had higher female private education enrollment in all but the graduate school-grade group where 59.3% of all males and 57.8% of all females were enrolled in private education. The widest difference was found in the nursery/pre-school group where 17.6% of all males and 36.0% of all females were enrolled in private education.

Asians also showed that differentiation in aggregate male/female private education enrollment was small. School-grade specific data indicated that Asians had higher female private education enrollment in four of the seven school-grade groups (pre-
school/nursery, 9-12, undergraduate, and graduate school-grade groups) and had lower female private education enrollment in three of the seven school-grade groups (kindergarten, 1-4, 5-8, 9-12 school-grade groups). However, significant differences in enrollment took place in the pre-school/nursery group where 23.9% of all males and 45.9% of all females were enrolled in private institutions. At the undergraduate level, 36.3% of all males and 39.3% of all females were enrolled in private education; and at the graduate level 65.2% of all males and 68.9% of all females were enrolled in private institutions.

Whites had the narrowest difference in total male/female private education distribution patterns. School-grade specific data showed that the only school-grade group where there was a wide differentiation between male-female private educational enrollment was at the graduate level where 71.9% of all males and 65.7% of all females were enrolled in private education.

Data on public versus private education enrollment by school-grade and by sex for the four racial/ethnic groups are presented in Figures 18-24 below.

Figure 18. Percentage of Total Population Enrolled in Nursery/Pre-School by Race/Ethnic Groups by Sex
Figure 19. Percentage of Total Population Enrolled in Kindergarten by Race/Ethnic Groups by Sex

Males

Females

Figure 20. Percentage of Total Population Enrolled in Grades 1-4 by Race/Ethnic Groups by Sex

Males

Females
Figure 21. Percentage of Total Population Enrolled in Grades 5-8 by Race/Ethnic Groups by Sex

![Bar chart showing percentage of total population enrolled in Grades 5-8 by race/ethnic group and sex.]

Figure 22. Percentage of Total Population Enrolled in Grades 9-12 by Race/Ethnic Groups by Sex

![Bar chart showing percentage of total population enrolled in Grades 9-12 by race/ethnic group and sex.]

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Figure 23. Percentage of Total Population Enrolled in Undergraduate Schools by Race/Ethnic Groups by Sex

Males

Females

Figure 24. Percentage of Total Population Enrolled in Graduate Schools by Race/Ethnic Groups by Sex

Males

Females
Male/Female Public versus Private Education Enrollment among the Latino Nationalities by School-Grade

As this report has indicated, five of the seven Latino nationalities had higher female than male private enrollment: Colombians, Dominicans, Ecuadorians, Mexicans, Peruvians, and Puerto Ricans. Cubans and Mexicans had higher male than female private enrollment. The differentials by sex at each grade level among the Latino nationalities are indicated in Figures 25 thru 31.

Figure 25. Percentage of Total Population Enrolled in Nursery/Pre-School by Latino Nationality by Sex
Figure 26. Percentage of Total Population in Kindergarten by Latino Nationality by Sex

Figure 27. Percentage of Total Population Enrolled in Grades 1-4 by Latino Nationality by Sex
Figure 28. Percentage of Total Population Enrolled in Grades 5-8 by Latino Nationality by Sex

Males

Females

Figure 29. Percentage of Total Population Enrolled in Grades 9-12 by Latino Nationality by Sex

Males

Females
Figure 30. Percentage of Total Population Enrolled in Undergraduate Schools by Latino Nationality by Sex

Figure 31. Percentage of Total Population Enrolled in Graduate Schools by Latino Nationality by Sex