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A New Report from the Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies at The Graduate Center, CUNY Studies Health Insurance Coverage in the Country.

NEW YORK, February 6, 2020—The Graduate Center of The City University of New York’s Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies (CLACLS) has released a report on the changes in healthcare coverage in the New York Metropolitan Area and the United States by race and ethnicity.

The report, titled “Healthcare Coverage in the United States and New York Metropolitan Area, 2009 - 2015” examines the trends in health insurance coverage and the impact of the Affordable Care Act of 2010 on different sectors of the population.

The data published by the American Community Survey between 2009 and 2015 clearly show a decrease in the uninsured population in both areas of study among the total population from (13.2% to 9.7%), including among those living above and below the poverty threshold. The trends in the New York metropolitan area largely mirrored that of the country in general.

Particularly, this decrease was larger among the foreign-born population than the domestic-born. From 2009 to 2013, foreign-born individuals in the United States were 2.5 times more likely to be without insurance than domestic-born individuals. In 2015, that figure increased to about 2.8. Similarly, in the New York metropolitan area, foreign-born individuals were about 3.1 times more likely to be without insurance than their domestic-born counterparts in 2009, but almost 3.6 times more likely in 2015.

Other key findings:

- Men were more likely to be without insurance than women in both areas. For example,
the uninsured rate in the U.S. decreased from 17.5% in 2009 to 11.1% in 2015 among men; among women, this rate decreased from 13.4% to 8.3% over the same period.

- There was a dramatic drop in the uninsured rates among the poorest Americans between 2009 and 2015, from 27.8% to 17.4% in the whole country. In the New York metropolitan area, however, the decline was not as sharp: from 19.7% in 2009 to 17.4% in 2015.

- By race and ethnicity, the lowest rates of uninsured population were found among non-Hispanic whites, followed by Asians and non-Hispanic blacks. Latinos had the highest uninsured rates both in the country and the NY metropolitan area. These rates decreased from 31.2% to 19.7% among Latinos in the U.S. and from 24.8% to 16.2% in the NY metropolitan area over the period under study.

- Significant changes in healthcare coverage were also correlated with nativity. In the United States, 32.0% of foreign-born individuals did not have health insurance in 2009, while in 2015 that figure had dropped to 21.6%. There was a decrease among domestic-born individuals without health insurance, from 12.8% in 2009 to 7.7%. In the New York area, foreign-born without insurance amounted to 24.5% in 2009 but 16.8% in 2015, and domestic-born without insurance went from 8.0% to 4.7%. Increases in healthcare coverage were therefore notably greater for both foreign-born populations under study.

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About The Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies
The core mission of CLACLS is to actively support and advance the study of Latin America, the Caribbean, and Latinos in the U.S. in the doctoral programs of The Graduate Center, and to provide opportunities for Latino students at the Ph.D. level. CLACLS’s flagship program is the Latino Data Project, established in 2003 by Laird W. Bergad founding and current CLACLS director. Bergad is a distinguished professor in the Department of Latin American, Puerto Rican, and Latino Studies at Lehman College and with the Ph.D. Program in History at The Graduate Center. The Latino Data Project conducts detailed quantitative research on the Latino population of the United States and New York City metropolitan region, analyzing raw data files produced by the U.S. Census Bureau and other government agencies.

About The Graduate Center, CUNY
The Graduate Center of The City University of New York (CUNY) is a leader in public graduate education devoted to enhancing the public good through pioneering research, serious learning, and reasoned debate. The Graduate Center offers ambitious students more than 40 doctoral and master’s programs of the highest caliber, taught by top faculty from throughout CUNY — the nation’s largest public urban university. Through its nearly 40 centers, institutes, and initiatives, including its Advanced Science Research Center (ASRC), The Graduate Center influences public policy and discourse and shapes innovation. The Graduate Center’s extensive public programs
make it a home for culture and conversation.