

New York City’s Puerto Rican Population Experienced a Sharp Decline Between 2012 and 2022 While The Dominican Population Increased

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The Latino Data Project was developed in 2003 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://clacls.gc.cuny.edu>.

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Data from the 2012, 2017 and 2022 American Community Survey’s one-year samples indicate that the Puerto Rican population of New York City has declined sharply from 2012 while the Dominican population of the City has increased.¹

In 2012 there were 705,201 Puerto Ricans living in the City’s five boroughs; 715,413 in 2017; and 574,296 in 2022. There was an overall decline of -19% between 2012 and 2022, and -20% after 2017 in all likelihood related to the abandoning of the City for the surrounding counties north of the City, Long Island, and in New Jersey in the aftermath of the COVID 19 pandemic.

Over the same period the Dominican population of the City rose from 681,753 in 2012; to 748,264 in 2017; and a slight decline after 2017 to 745,900 in 2022. This was a 9.4% increase between 2012 and 2022 and a marginal contraction of -0.3% between 2017 and 2022.

If the City’s surrounding counties are examined along with New York City, the Puerto Rican population declined by -7.2% between 2012 and 2022 with the sharpest decline (-9.6%) occurring between 2017 and 2022. The one exception to this pattern was in the northern suburban counties which experienced a 33% increase between 2012 and 2022. (See table 1). These data suggest that Puerto Ricans are not only leaving the City but the New York metropolitan area as well.

Table 1
Puerto Rican Population Growth by Region in the New York Metropolitan Region, 2012 - 2022

Region	2012	2017	2022	Change 2012 - 2017	Change 2017- 2022	Change 2012 - 2022
New York City	705,701	715,473	574,296	1.4%	-19.7%	-18.6%
New Jersey Counties	266,609	274,329	248,068	2.9%	-9.6%	-7.0%
Northern Suburban Counties	160,370	162,425	213,123	1.3%	31.2%	32.9%
Long Island Counties	94,918	108,544	104,236	14.4%	-4.0%	9.8%
Totals	1,227,598	1,260,771	1,139,723	2.7%	-9.6%	-7.2%

¹ The CLACLS utilizes birthplace and ancestry data to estimate the numbers of each Latino nationality using the U.S. Census Bureau’s HISPAND variable. For methodological question please be in touch with the Center at claccls@gc.cuny.edu.

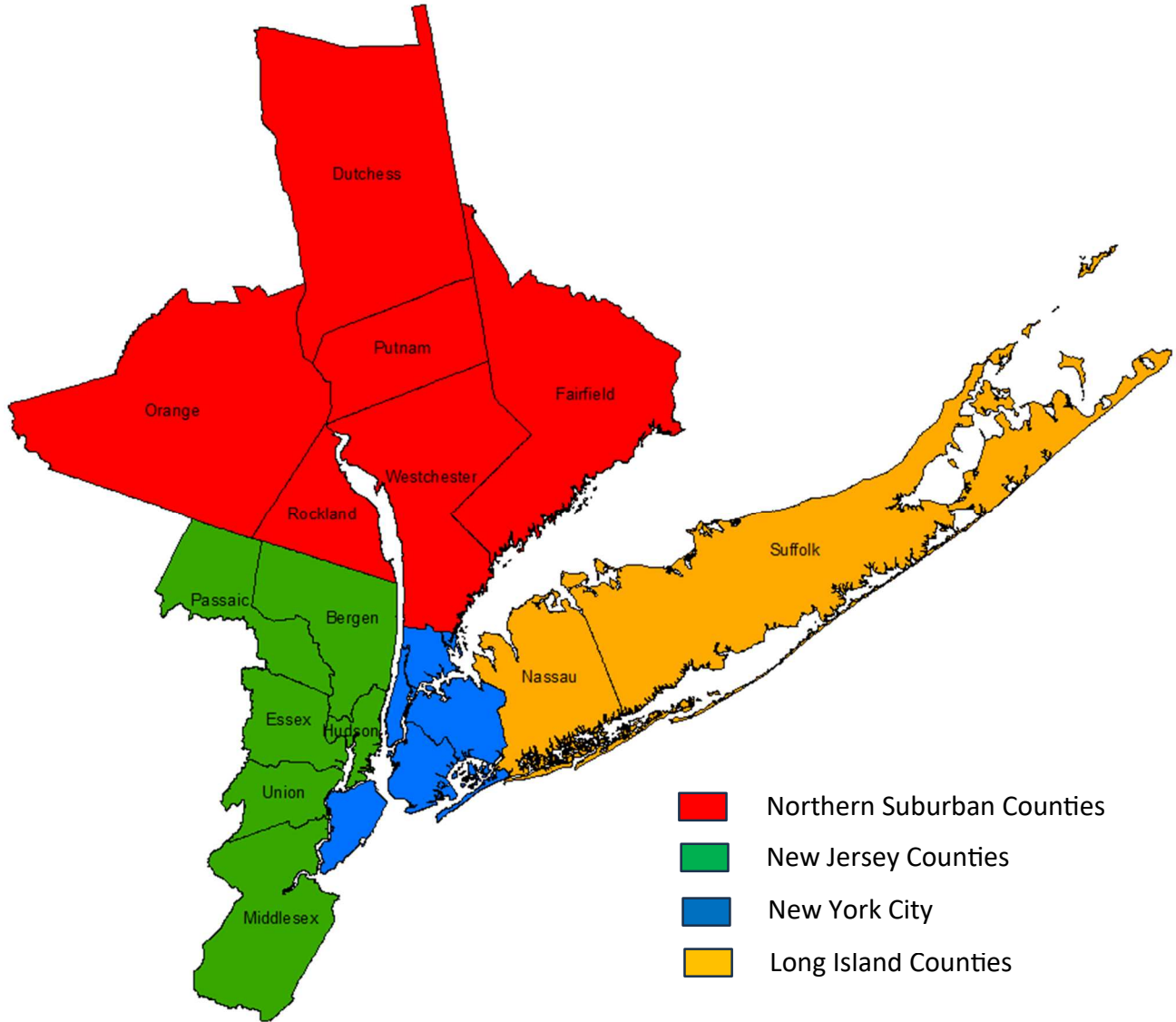
The Dominican population rose by 22.3% between 2012 and 2022 in the New York metropolitan region (see Map 1) in sharp contrast to the decline experienced among Puerto Ricans. There was a slight decline in the City’s Dominican population after 2017 of -0.3%. The growth of the Dominican population in the surrounding counties was substantial between 2012 and 2022. (See table 2).

Table 2
Dominican Population Growth by Region in the New York Metropolitan Region, 2012 - 2022

Region	2012	2017	2022	Change 2012 - 2017	Change 2017- 2022	Change 2012 - 2022
New York City	681,753	748,264	745,900	9.8%	-0.3%	9.4%
New Jersey Counties	201,919	262,657	310,102	30.1%	18.1%	53.6%
Northern Suburban Counties	69,783	77,130	106,364	10.5%	37.9%	52.4%
Long Island Counties	50,646	61,562	66,124	21.6%	7.4%	30.6%
Totals	1,004,101	1,149,613	1,228,490	14.5%	6.9%	22.3%



Map 1 New York Metropolitan Area



By 2022 almost half of all Puerto Ricans living in the New York metropolitan region lived outside of New York City while about 61% of all Dominicans lived in the City. (See Figures 1 and 2).

Figure 1
 Puerto Rican Population by Region in the New York Metropolitan Area, 2012 - 2022
 (in percentages)

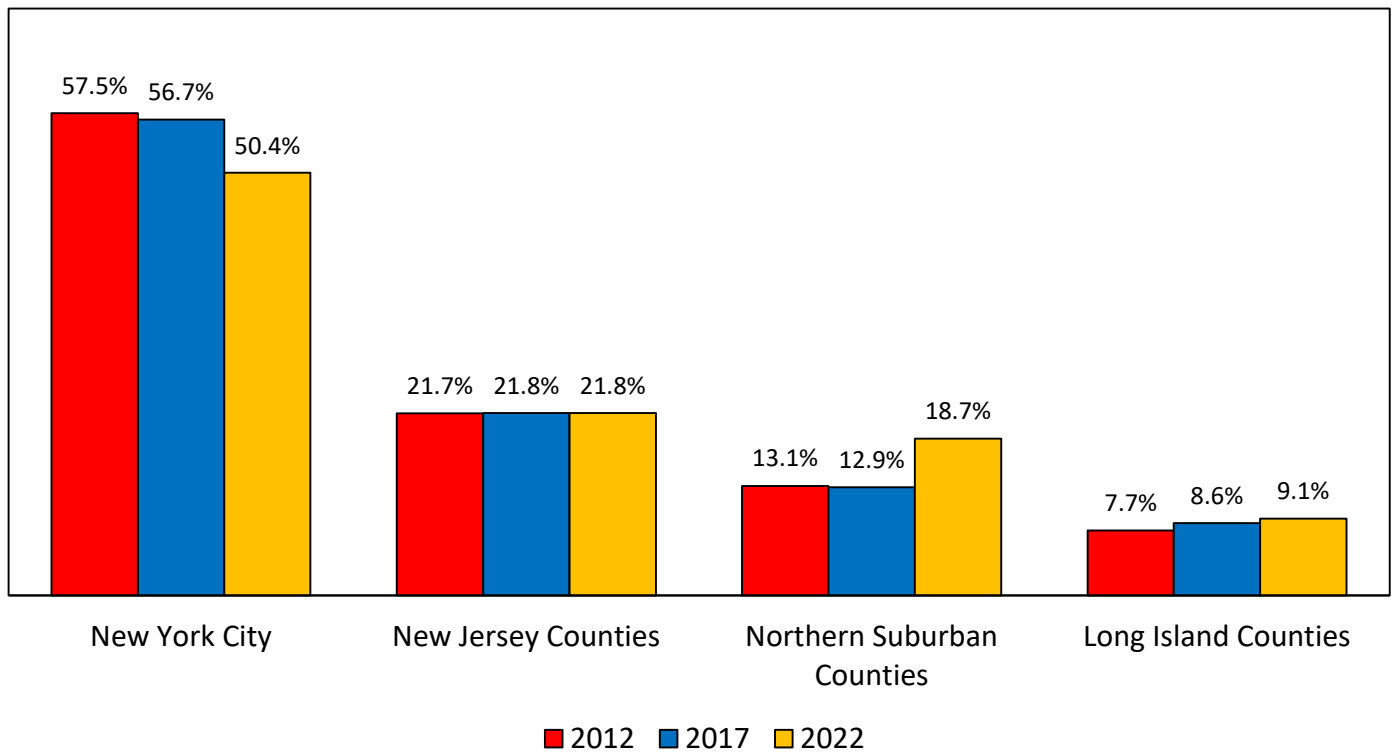




Figure 2
Dominican Population by Region in the New York Metropolitan Area, 2012 - 2022
(in percentages)

