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## Demographic, Economic, and Social Transformations in the South Bronx: Changes in the NYC Community Districts Comprising Mott Haven, Port Morris, Melrose, Longwood, and Hunts Point, 1990 - 2005

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*Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies*

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# *LATINO DATA PROJECT*

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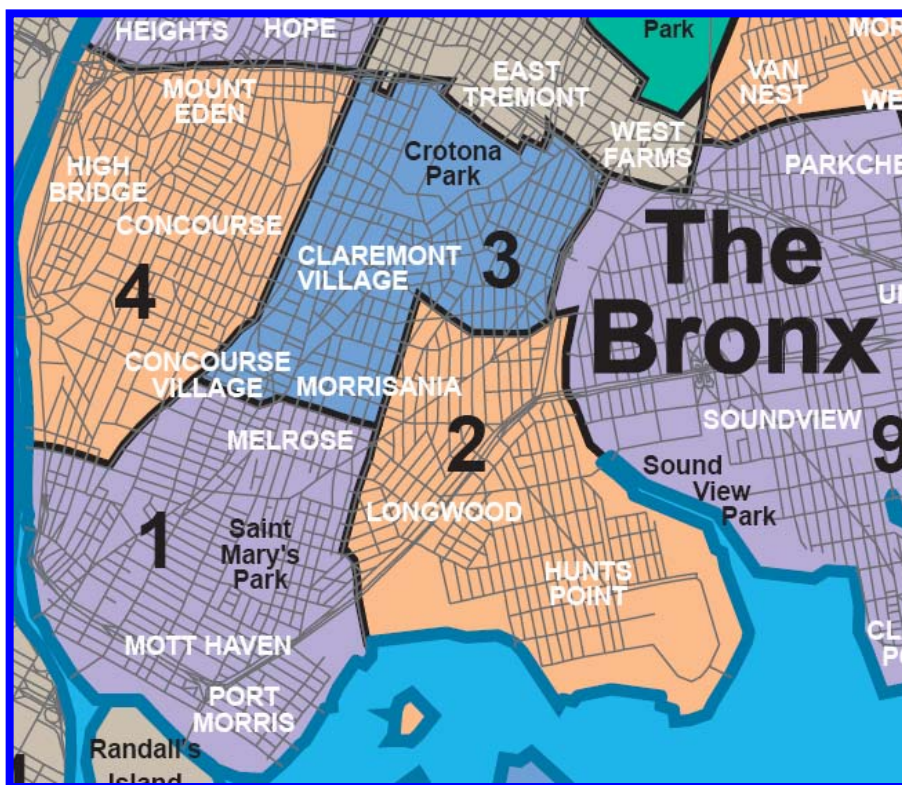
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Demographic, Economic, and Social Transformations in the South Bronx:  
Changes in the NYC Community Districts Comprising Mott Haven, Port Morris, Melrose,  
Longwood, and Hunts Point, 1990 - 2005<sup>1</sup>

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This report analyzes changes among the top five Latino national groups between 1990-2005 in the South Bronx neighborhoods of Mott Haven, Port Morris, Melrose, Longwood, and Hunts Point. It provides a profile of demographic and socioeconomic characteristics including population distribution, age, sex, homeownership, income, educational attainment, and employment. These characteristics are compared, whenever appropriate, with those of the other major racial/ethnic components of the population -- non-Hispanic Whites, non-Hispanic Blacks, and Asians.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> These neighborhoods comprise Bronx Community Districts 1 and 2.

<sup>2</sup> The analyses/findings reported here are based on data collected by the Census Bureau IPUMS (Integrated Public Use Microdata Series), available at <http://www.usa.ipums.org> for the corresponding years. This report analyzes data from PUMAS 05001 (1990) and 03710 (2000/05) in the Bronx.

## Demographic Indicators

Hispanics are becoming an increasingly larger percentage of the population in the United States. The Hispanic population has tripled during the last 25 years to over 42 million at the national level. (See Table 1). Over 75% of Hispanics live within seven states including California (29.8%), Texas (18.8%), Florida (8.1%), New York (7.3%), Illinois (4.3%), Arizona (4%), and New Jersey (3.1%). It is projected that by 2050, Hispanics will become over 24% of the total population.

Table 1  
Estimates of the Hispanic Population in United States and New York, 1980-2005

U.S.A.	1980 <sup>3</sup>	1990 <sup>4</sup>	2000 <sup>5</sup>	2005 <sup>6</sup>	Yearly Growth Rate	Overall Change
Hispanics	14,608,673	22,354,059	35,305,818	42,687,224	4.4%	192.2%
Total Population	226,545,805	248,709,873	281,421,906	296,410,404	1.1%	30.8%
% Hispanic	6%	9%	13%	14%		
<b>New York State</b>						
Hispanics	1,660,901	2,214,026	2,867,583	3,101,626	2.5%	86.7%
Total Population	17,558,072	17,990,445	18,976,457	19,254,630	0.4%	9.7%
% Hispanic	9%	12%	15%	16%		

New York is the state with the fourth largest Hispanic population in the nation. In the United States Mexicans represent the largest Hispanic subgroup, followed by Puerto Ricans, and Cubans. While Mexicans are the largest Latino subgroup in United States, Puerto Ricans have been the largest Latino subgroup in New York City since the late 1940s. Most Latinos of New York State reside in the New York City Metropolitan area (72%) and 31% live in the Bronx. Within the Bronx, the South Bronx neighborhoods comprising New York City Community Districts 1 and 2 (considered in this report) have the highest concentrations of Latinos in the borough. As indicated in Figure 1, in 1990 Latinos accounted for 66.7% of the total population in these neighborhoods, 69.3% in 2000, and 72% in 2005. The second largest racial/ethnic group is non-Hispanic Blacks -- 30.8% in 1990; 27.4% in 2000, and 24.3% in 2005. In years 1990 and 2000, non-Hispanic Whites were the third largest racial/ethnic group (2.2% and 2.3%,

<sup>3</sup> Gibson, C. & Jung, K. (2002). Historical Census Statistics on Population Totals by Race, 1790 to 1990, and by Hispanic Origin, 1970 to 1990, for the United States Regions, Divisions, and States. Population Division: U.S. Census Bureau. Working Paper No. 56

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (P.L. 94-171) Summary File for states and Census 2000 Redistricting Summary File for Puerto Rico, Tables PL1 and PL2. Census 2000 PHC-T-1. Population by Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin for the United States: 1990 and 2000

<sup>5</sup> Census 2000 PHC-T-6. Population by Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin for the United States: 2000. Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/population/cen2000/phc-t1/tab04.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau. Table 1. Estimates of the Population by Race Alone or in Combination and Hispanic or Latino Origin for the United States and States: July 1, 2005 (SC-EST2005-01)

respectively), and Asians were the smallest group accounting for .3% and 1% of the total population. In 2005, these groups remained the minority with Asians accounting for 1.9% of the total population, and non-Hispanic Whites accounting for 1.8%.

Over the past 15 years, the same five Latino subgroups in these neighborhoods have remained the majority of all Latinos in the South Bronx although there have been major changes in the relative distribution of each national group. (See Figures 2 and 3). In 1990 Puerto Ricans accounted for 76% of all Latinos in the South Bronx although this fell dramatically to 55% in 2000 and 53% in 2005. This was the result of an influx of other Latino national groups, especially Dominicans who were 11% of all South Bronx Latinos in 1990; 19% in 2000, and 22% in 2005. The Mexican population of the South Bronx also increased as a percentage of all Latinos from 4% in 1990, to 6% in 2000 and then 12% in 2005. Thus, Puerto Ricans still were the largest sector of the Latino population accounting for more than 50% of the Latino population in these neighborhoods in 2005, and 38% of the total population.

Figure 1  
Racial/Ethnic Groups in the South Bronx as a Percentage of the Total Population, 1990-2005

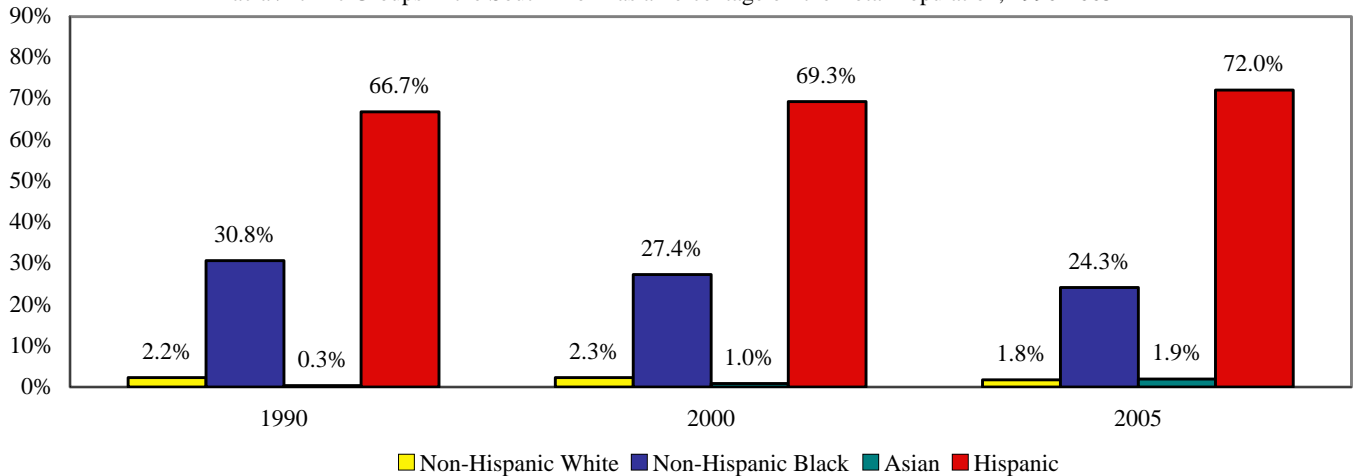


Figure 2  
Total Population, Total Latinos, and Latino Nationalities in South Bronx, 1990-2005

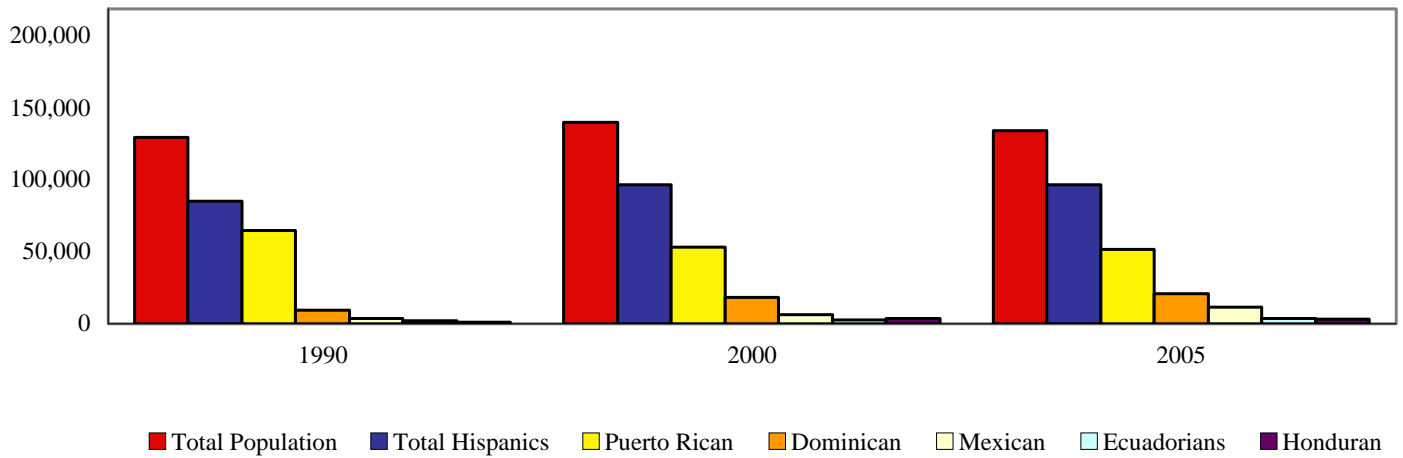
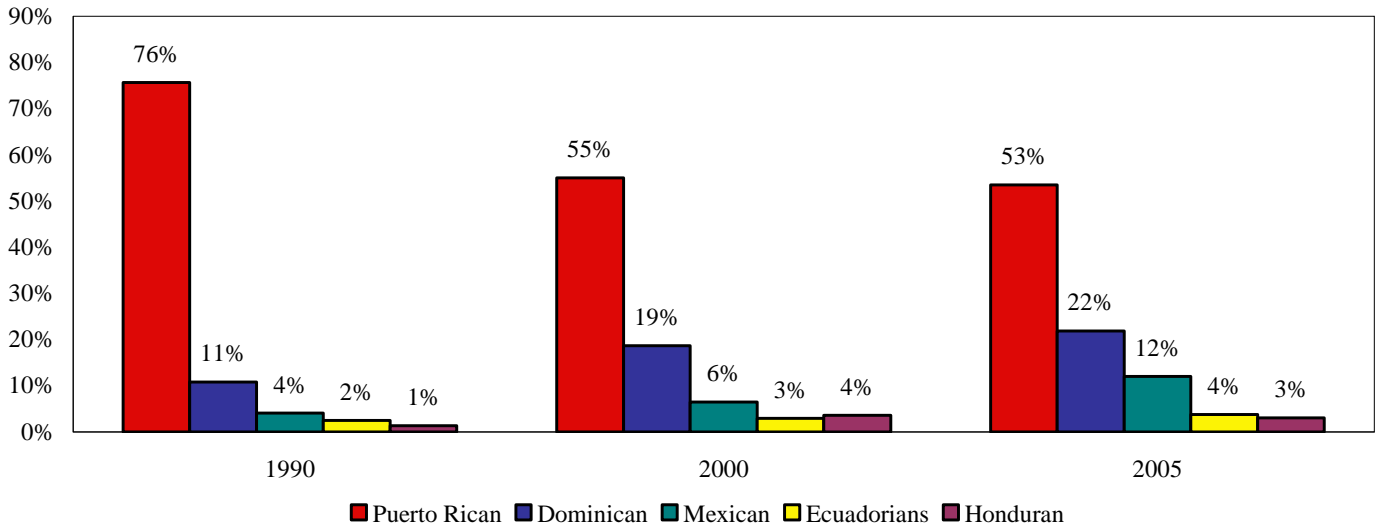
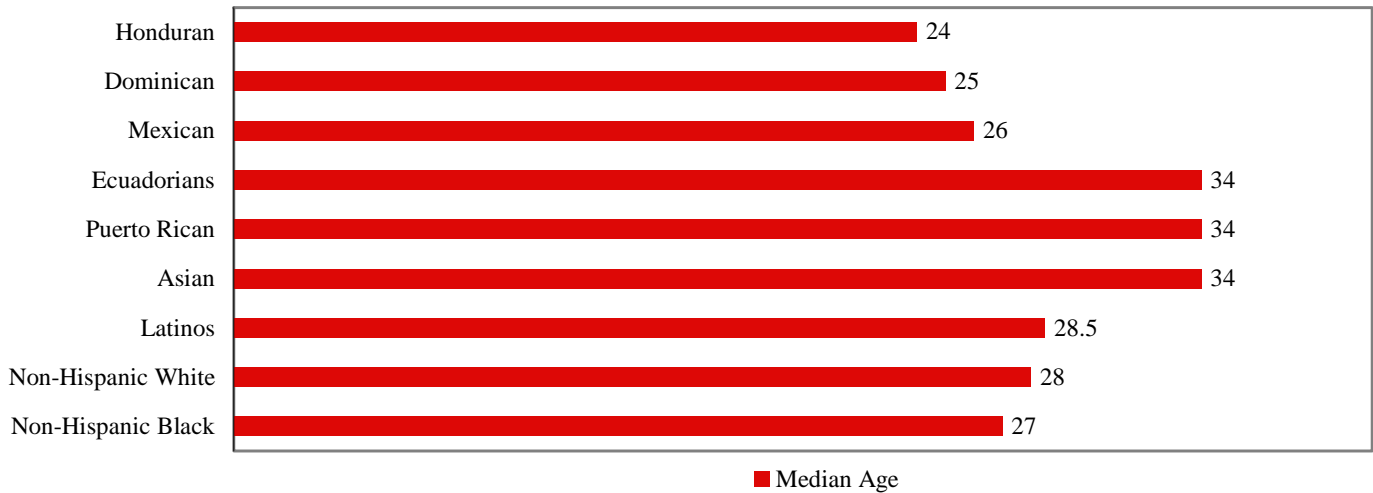


Figure 3  
Latino Nationalities in South Bronx as Percentage of the Total Latino Population 1990-2005



Latinos in the South Bronx had a median age of 28.5 in 2005. (See Figure 4). As a group, Latinos tend to be younger than Asians, but older than non-Hispanic Whites and non-Hispanic Blacks. Among Latinos, Puerto Ricans and Ecuadorians tend to be older than other Latinos, while Hondurans were the youngest Latino subgroup.

Figure 4  
 Median Age of Population in the South Bronx by Latino Nationality and Racial/Ethnic Group, 2005



### Homeownership

Although the majority of the population in the South Bronx rented the homes or apartments they lived in, the percentage of people that owned their homes has increased in the last 15 years. (See Figures 5 and 6). Homeownership patterns for the Latino subgroups reflect those of the total population. The percentage of Latinos who owned their homes in these neighborhoods in 2005 was comparable to that of non-Hispanic Whites (10%), both greater than that of non-Hispanic Blacks (8%), and Asians (9%).

Figure 5  
 Homeownership or Rental Rates in the South Bronx as Percentage of the Total Population, 1990-2005

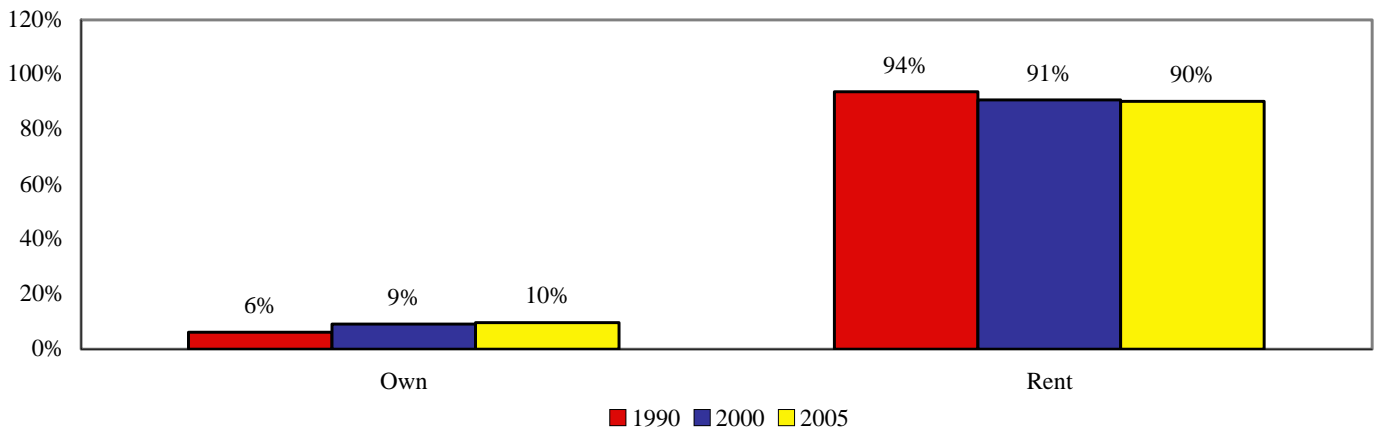


Figure 6  
Homeownership in the South Bronx by Racial/Ethnic Group, 1990-2005

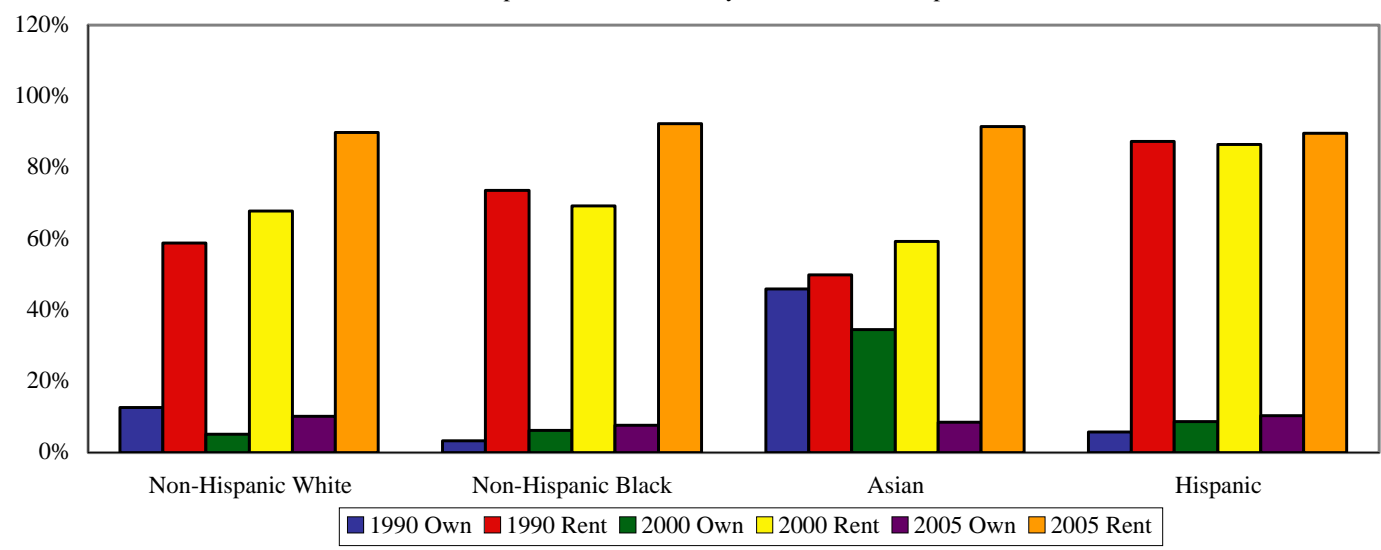
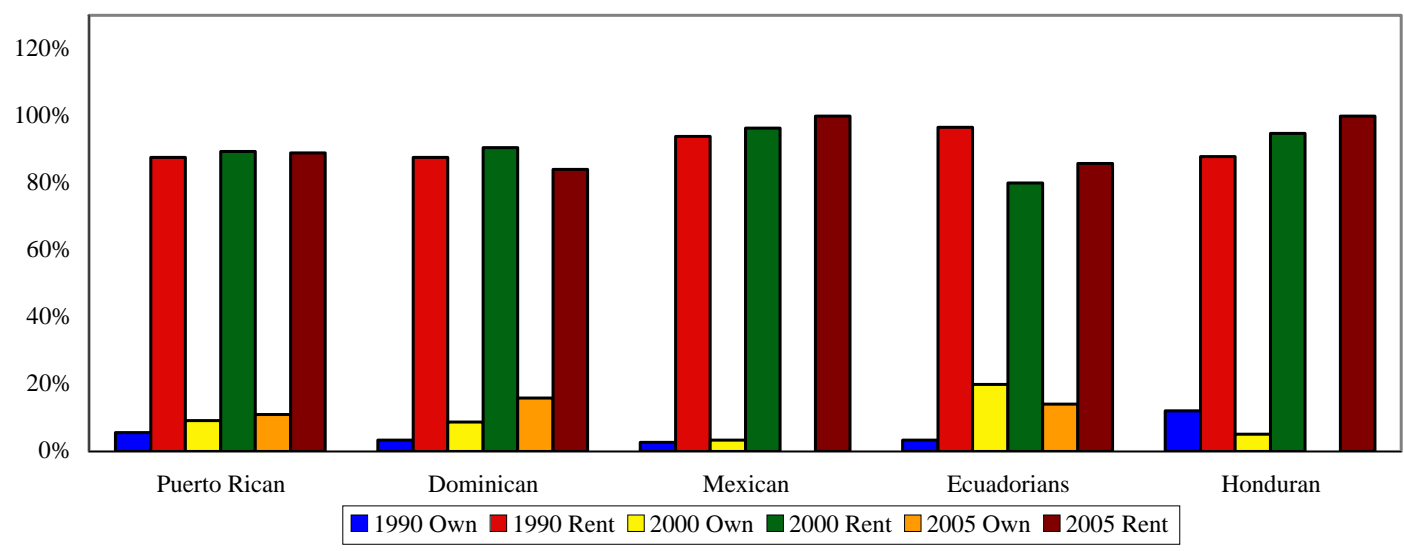


Figure 7 indicates that among Latinos, Dominicans had the highest rate of homeownership in 2005 (16%), followed by Ecuadorians (14%), and Puerto Ricans (11%). The precise reasons for these disparities in homeownership are unknown and not revealed by the data analyzed.

Figure 7  
Homeownership in the South Bronx by Latino Nationality Group, 1990-2005

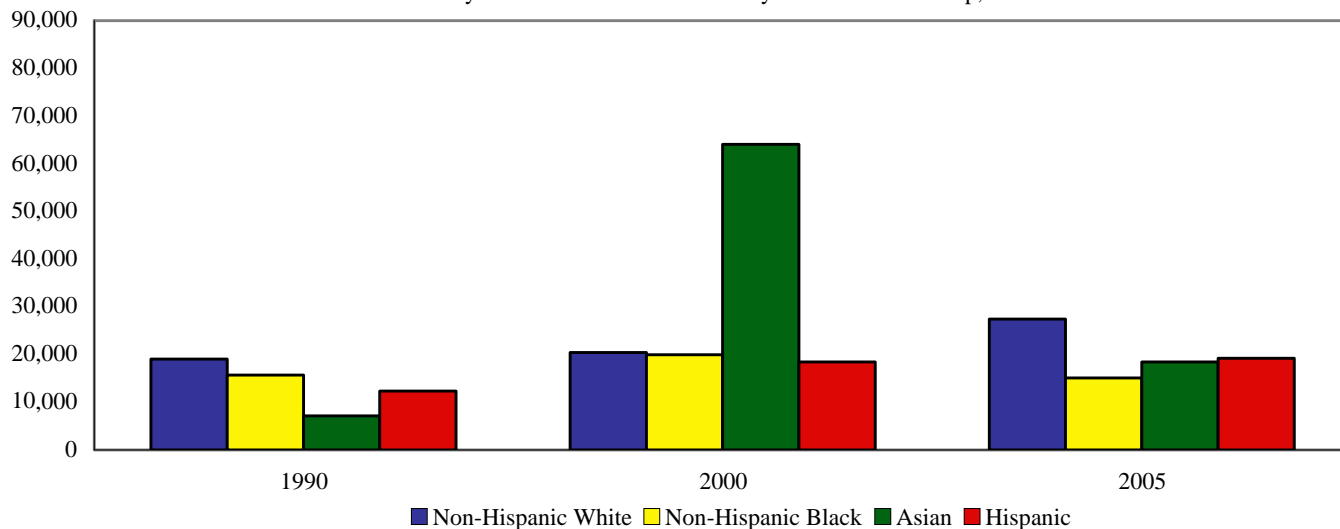




## Economic Characteristics

As indicated in Figure 8, the annual median family income of the majority of the South Bronx residents has increased from 1990 to 2005, except among non-Hispanic Blacks. In 1990, the median family income for non-Hispanic Blacks was \$15,683, increasing to \$20,000 in 2000, and decreasing to \$15,026 in 2005. One possible explanation for this decrease in median family income is that people with lower incomes have moved into the community and/or those with higher incomes have moved out. A similar pattern is also evident among the Asian community who were reported to have a median family income of \$64,000 in 2000, but it decreased to \$18,458 in 2005. It is likely that a significant number of Asians with higher incomes have moved out of these communities after 2000. These data also show that non-Hispanic Whites had the highest median household incomes in 1990 and 2005.

Figure 8  
Median Family Income in the South Bronx by Racial/Ethnic Group, 1990-2005



Median family income data for the top Latino subgroups are indicated in Figure 9. The data indicate that only Ecuadorians and Hondurans had a constant increase in median family income from 1990 to 2005 with a yearly growth rate of 6% and 5%, respectively. These were the two national groups with the highest median incomes in 2000 and 2005, even though they comprised the lowest percentage of the population. Although the median family income of Dominicans decreased between 2000 and 2005, they represented the third highest earning group in 2005 with a median income of \$21,596, followed by Puerto Ricans (\$16,188) and Mexicans (\$13,243). It is important to note that Puerto Ricans had the lowest median family incomes in 1990 and 2000 even though they represented over 75% and 55% of the population in these years, suggesting that most Puerto Rican families in the South Bronx are families with few resources. The same can be said for Mexicans who had a marked decrease in income between 2000 and 2005, from \$21,250 to \$13,243, even though the number of Mexicans in the South Bronx has increased steadily during the past 15 years. This suggests that poorer Mexican immigrant families are settling in the South Bronx.

Figure 9  
Median Family Income in the South Bronx by Latino Nationality Group, 1990-2005

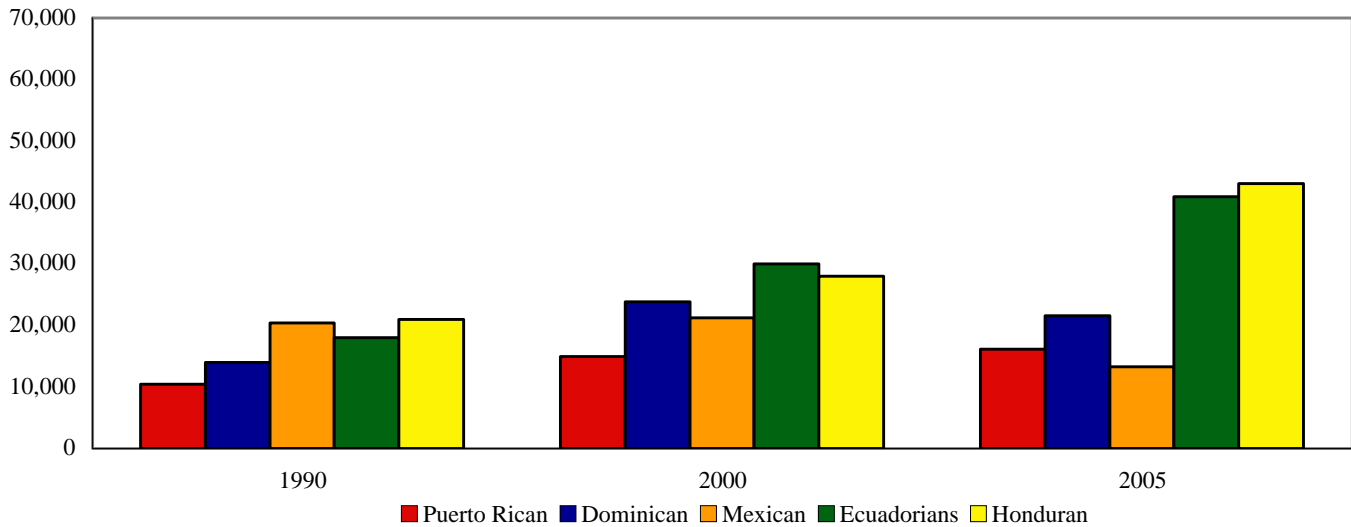
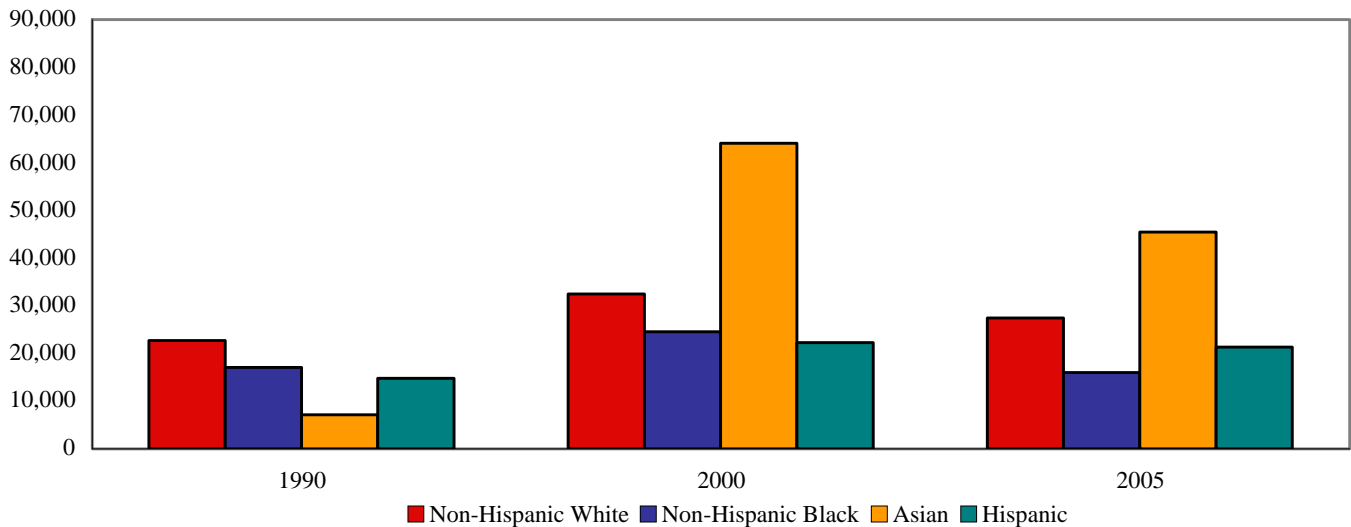


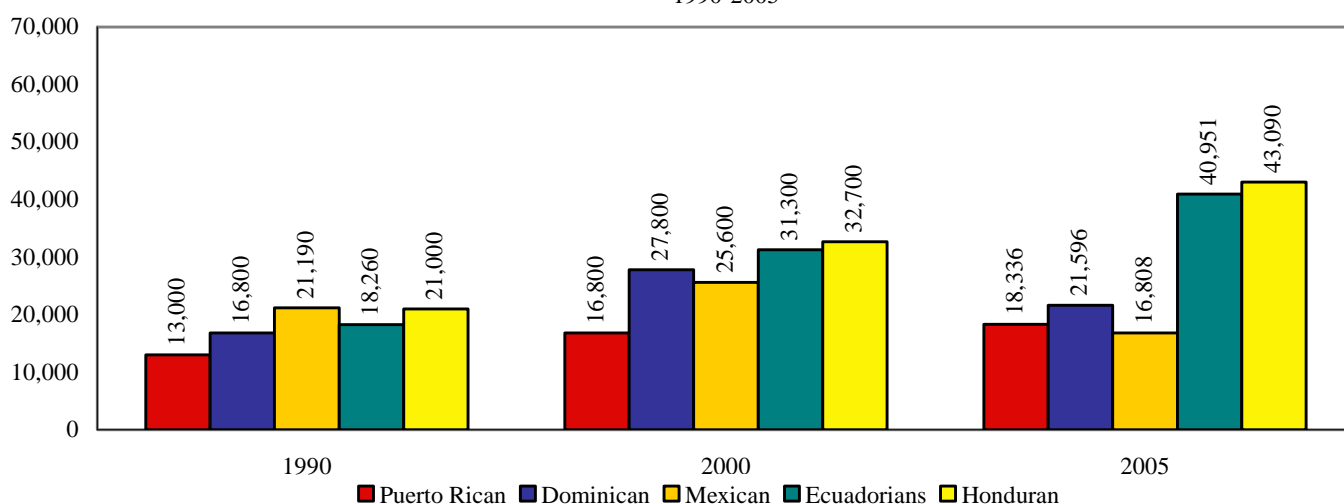
Figure 10 indicates the median household income among racial/ethnic groups from 1990 to 2005. Similar to median family income, there have been fluctuations in household income during the past 15 years. Among all racial/ethnic groups, household incomes have decreased between 2000 and 2005 from \$32,500 to \$27,402 for non-Hispanic Whites, from \$24,500 to \$16,044 among non-Hispanic Blacks, from \$64,000 to \$45,453 among Asians, and from \$22,300 to \$21,290 for Latinos. Latinos had the lowest percent decrease in median income, while Asians had the greatest decrease, and although not as marked as family income, the difference in income between 2000 and 2005 was substantial. Asians and non-Hispanic Whites had the highest median household incomes although these groups comprised the smallest segments of the community, representing only 1.9% and 1.8% of the population respectively.

Figure 10  
Median Household Income in the South Bronx by Racial/Ethnic Group, 1990-2005



There were also fluctuations in median household income among Latino national groups. (See Figure 11). Puerto Ricans had the lowest median income in 1990 and 2000. In 2005 Puerto Ricans were the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest income group, after Mexicans who experienced a considerable decline in income from 2000 to 2005. Again, household income patterns were comparable to those for family income. Ecuadorians and Hondurans had a constant increase in median household income from 1990 to 2005, achieving a yearly growth rate of 6% and 5%, respectively. Ecuadorians and Hondurans represented the smallest segments of the Latino community in the South Bronx, making only 4% and 3% of the population, respectively; however, they had the highest median household incomes.

Figure 11  
Median Household Income in the South Bronx by Latino Nationality Group,  
1990-2005



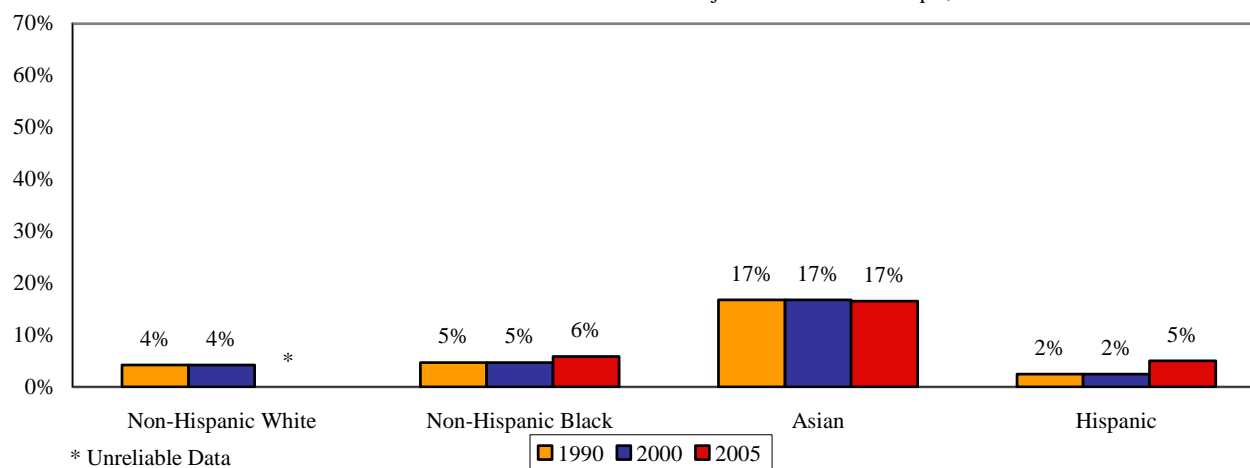
### Social Characteristics

South Bronx Latinos over 25 years of age had levels of educational attainment which compared to the general population, with only 5% of its total population age 25 and over acquiring a BA or higher degree in 2005. Figure 12 indicates that 4% of non-Hispanic Whites at or above age 25 had attained a Bachelor's degree or higher education in 1990 and 2000.<sup>7</sup> Among non-Hispanic Blacks, there was a marginal increase in the last five years, with those attaining a BA or higher degree rising from 5% in 1990 and 2000, to 6% in 2005. Asians, as a group, have not changed, remaining at 17% of its population achieving a BA or higher degree in 1990, 2000, and 2005. Thus, in the South Bronx, with the exception of Asians, there were similar educational attainment levels among the other racial/ethnic groups with respect to higher educational achievement.

<sup>7</sup> Please note that reliable information was not available for non-Hispanic Whites on educational attainment for year 2005.

There was considerable variation in educational attainment levels among Latino nationalities. (See Figure 13). Mexicans had the lowest percentage of individuals 25 years of age and over who had attained a BA or higher degree in 2005 (less than 1%), followed by Puerto Ricans at 3%. Among other Latino groups, changes were more dramatic. Even though the percentage of Ecuadorians and Hondurans 25 years of age or over in 1990 and 2000 attaining these levels of education was between 0% and 3%, in 2005 the increase in percentage was substantial among both groups to 15% each, making them the Latino groups with the highest percentage of people age 25 and over with a BA or higher degree, followed by Dominicans (12%). As noted before, these two groups also were the groups with the highest median incomes, suggesting a positive correlation between educational levels and median income.

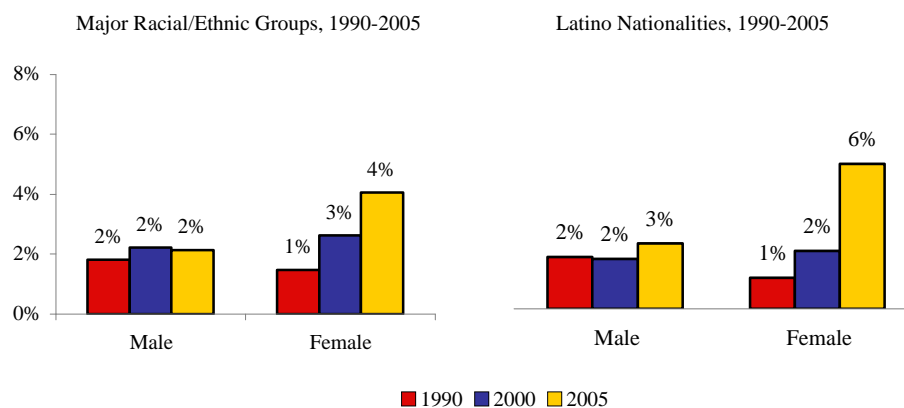
Figure 12  
Percentage of Population in the South Bronx 25 Years of Age and Over with Educational Attainment Levels at BA or Above Across Major Racial/Ethnic Groups , 1990-2005



There were also noticeable differences in educational attainment between males and females. Since 2000, the percentage of females attaining higher levels of education has increased. (See Figure 14). Specifically, in 1990, 2% of all males in the general population above age 25 had a BA or higher degree, compared to 1% of all females. In 2000, the percentage of males in the general population with similar educational achievement levels remained constant at 2%, while the percentage of females attaining a BA or higher degree increased to 3%. The largest difference occurred between 2000 and 2005 when 4% of all females in the total population attained a BA or beyond, compared to 2% of all males.

Among Latinos, the percentage of Latino males and females above age 25 who had a Bachelor's or higher degree was 2% and 1%, respectively, in 1990, mirroring rates among the general population. In 2000, the percentage of females 25-year-old and older achieving a BA or higher degree increased to 2%, while the percentage of males remained constant at 2%. The difference in educational attainment became more pronounced in 2005 when 6% of all females attained a BA or higher degree compared to 3% of all males across Latino subgroups.

Figure 14  
Percentage of Population in the South Bronx 25 Years of Age and Over with Educational Attainment Levels at BA or Above by Sex Across Major Racial/Ethnic Groups and Latino Nationalities, 1990-2005



## Employment

Employment data for the total population revealed an overall increase in the number of people who were employed among the population between 16 and 60 years of age. Figure 15 indicates not only that the percentage of people employed has increased, but that the percentage of people unemployed or not in the labor force has decreased. No specific reasons are given for those “not in the labor force”; reasons could range from debilitating illnesses to people who have chose, for whatever motivation, not to seek work. Asians, as a group, have had the greatest yearly increase (14%) in employment rate during the past 15 years, followed by Latinos, for which the yearly increase was the same as that for the pooled total population (2%). On the other hand, the rate of yearly increase for non-Hispanic Whites (1%) and non-Hispanic Blacks (less than 1%) was minimal. Latinos also had a lower percentage of its population outside of the labor force compared to the total population in 1990 and 2000, but in 2005 37% of the Latino population was not in the labor force compared to 36% of the total population. (See Figure 17). The percentage of the population who were unemployed was comparable across the 15-year period examined here.

Figure 15  
Employment Status in the South Bronx Among the Total Population Ages 16-60, 1990-2005

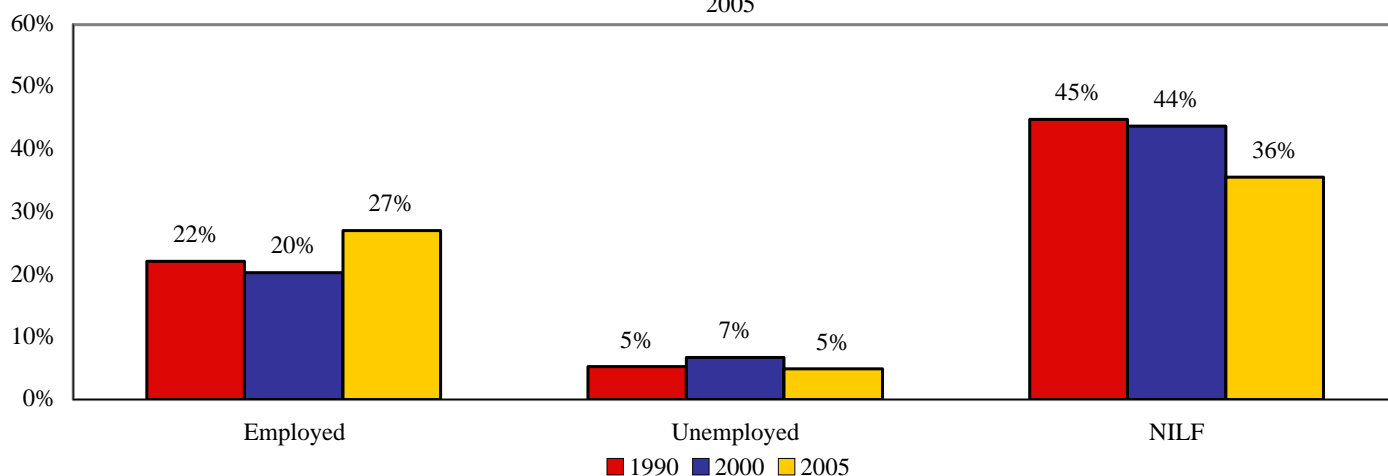
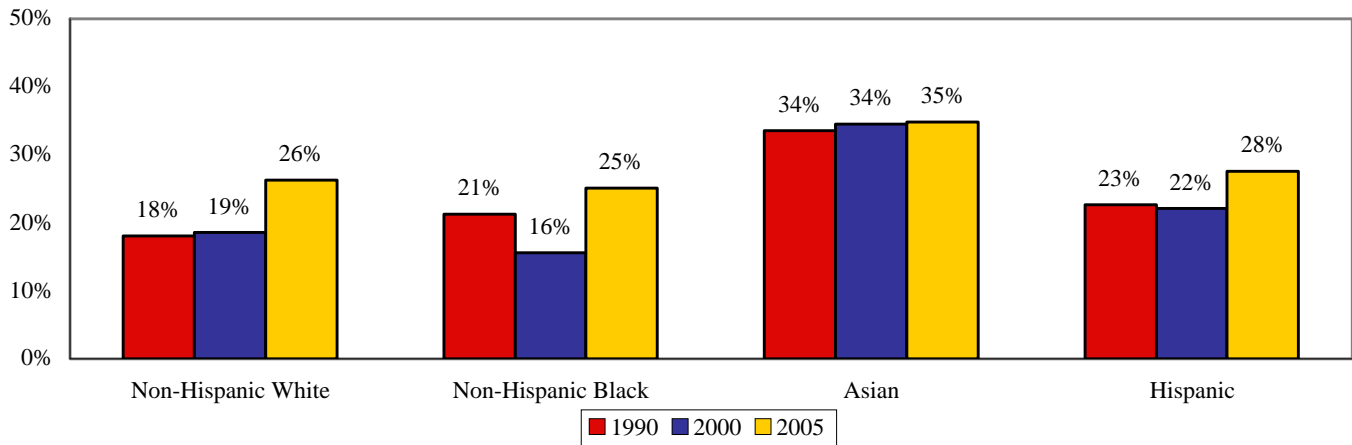


Figure 16  
Percentage of Population Employed in the South Bronx Ages 16-60 by Racial/Ethnic Group, 1990-2005



These trends reflect current employment patterns among the primary racial/ethnic groups. It ought to be noted that Figure 16 indicates that the percentage of employed Latinos was greater than that for the general population, with the exception of Asians from 1990 to 2005. A larger percentage of Asians was employed in 2005 (35%), compared to 28% of all Latinos, 26% of all non-Hispanic Whites, and 25% of all non-Hispanic Blacks.

Figure 17  
Employment Status Distribution in the South Bronx Among Latino Population Age 16-60, 1990-2005

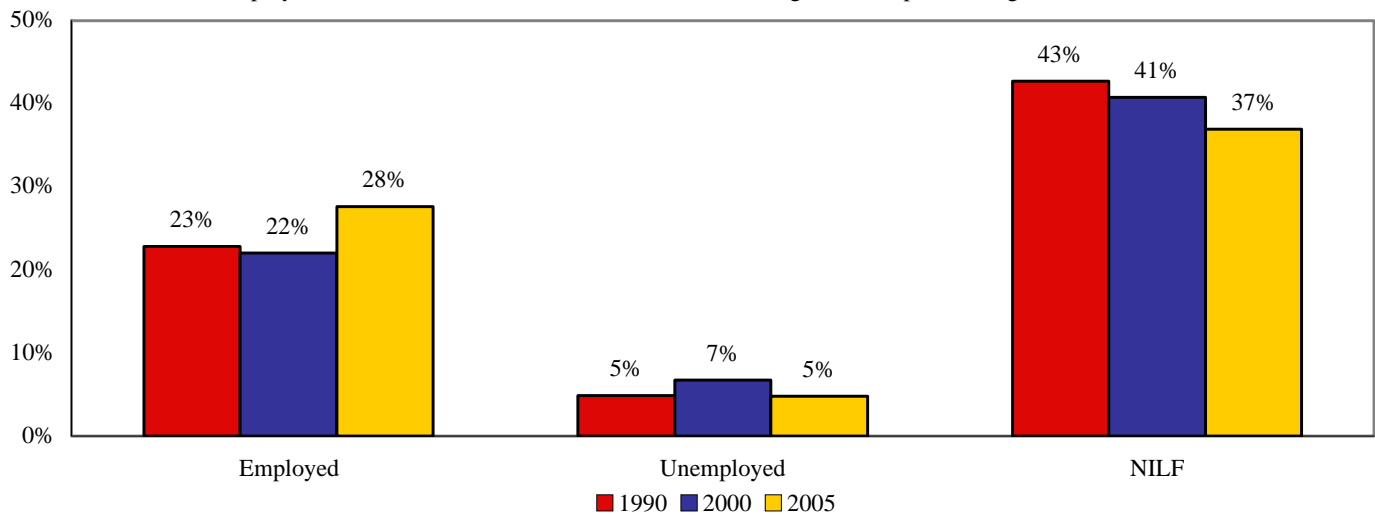
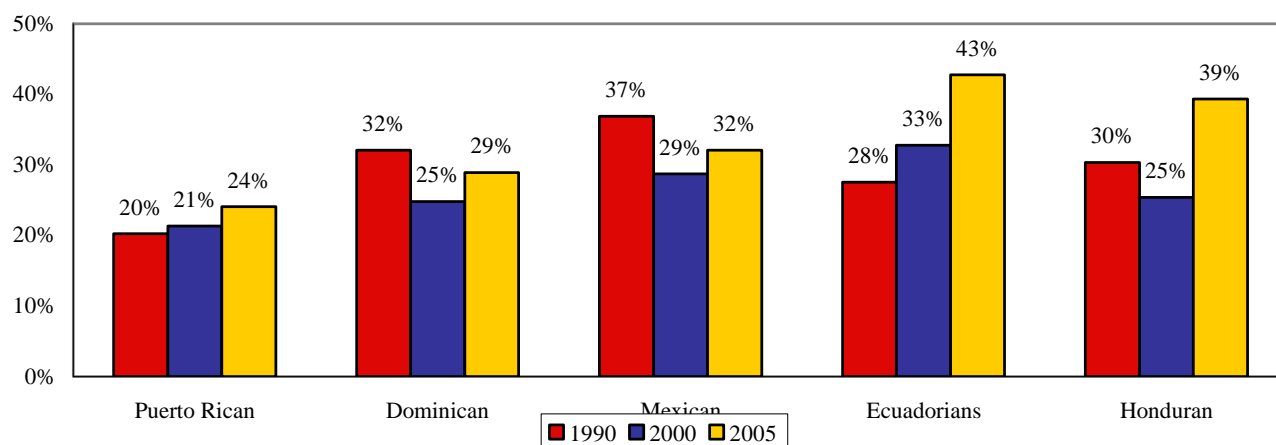


Figure 18  
Percentage of Population Employed in the South Bronx Ages 16-60 by Latino Nationality Group,  
1990-2005



Even though Puerto Ricans were the largest Latino subgroup, Figure 18 shows that they had the lowest percentage of people employed among people age 16 to 60 from 1990 through 2005 with only 24% of its population employed in 2005. In 2005 29% of all Dominicans of the same age group were employed, 32% of all Mexicans, 39% of all Hondurans, and 43% of all Ecuadorians. In fact, the percentage of Mexican and Dominicans employed has decreased during the past 15 years as their presence in these neighborhoods has almost tripled from 1,287 people age 16-60 in 1990 to 3,726 in 2005 among Mexicans; and it has doubled from 2,969 people age 16-60 in 1990 to 6,127 people in 2005 among Dominicans. As indicated before, Mexicans, as a group, also have the lowest median family (\$13,243) and household (\$16,808) incomes, after Puerto Ricans.

### Foreign and Domestic Born Latinos

The percentage of foreign-born Latinos increased substantially between 1990 and 2000, and remained somewhat stable between 2000 and 2005, suggesting a slowdown in migration. (See Figure 19). In 2005, 26% of all Latinos in the South Bronx were foreign-born. As indicated in Figure 20, over 81% of Hondurans in year 1990 were foreign-born, whereas by 2005 the percentage of foreign-born Hondurans had declined significantly to 55%. This suggests that the growth in the Honduran population in the South Bronx, which almost tripled since 1990, has resulted mainly from domestic-born Hondurans from other districts migrating to the South Bronx and/or due to domestic births from existing population in the area. The same can be said for Dominicans, Mexicans, and Ecuadorians, for which there was a significant decline in the percentage of foreign-born even though the number of individuals in each of these Latino subgroups have increased.



Figure 19  
 Percentage of Domestic-Born and Foreign -Born Latinos in the South Bronx,  
 1990-2005

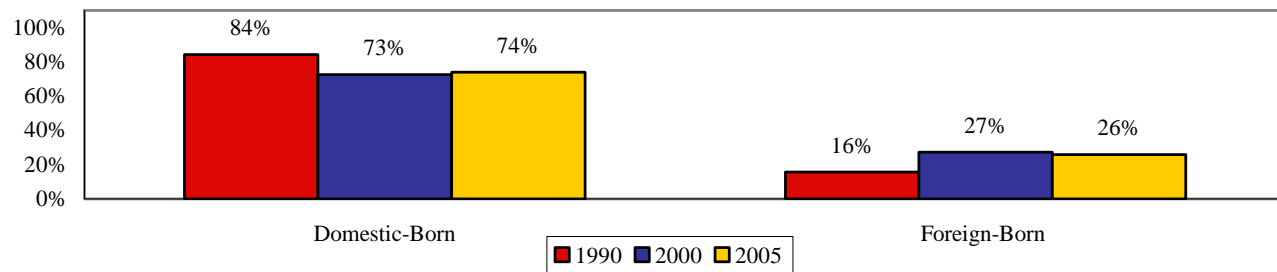
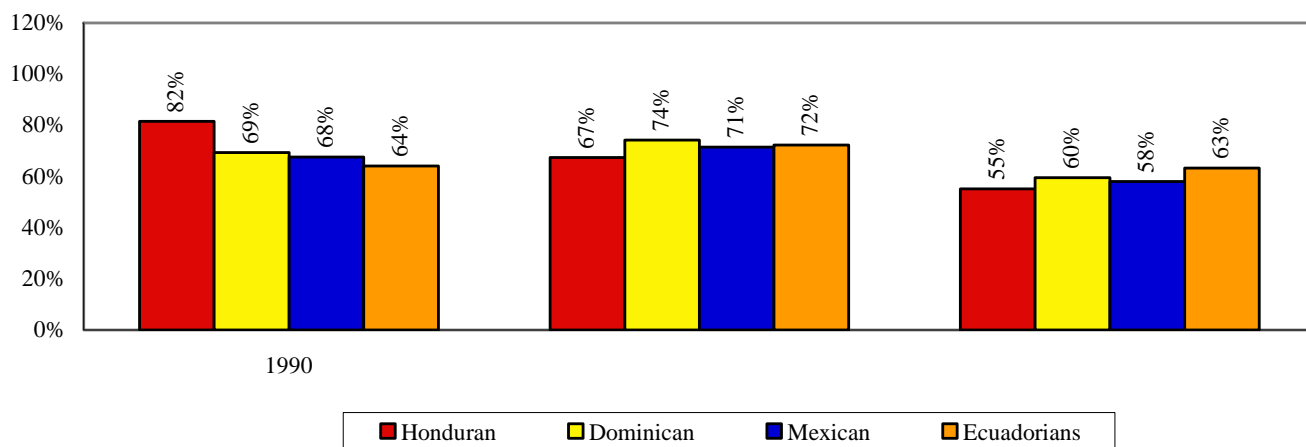


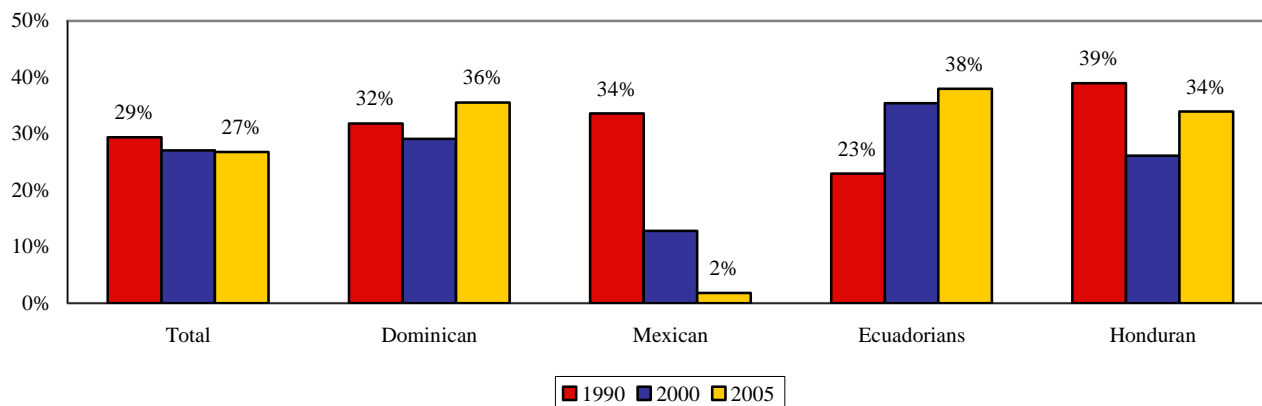
Figure 20  
 Foreign-Born as Percentage of Selected Latino Nationalities in the South Bronx, 1990-2005



## Citizenship

The percentage of foreign-born naturalized citizens above the age of 18 among the Latino population in the South Bronx has remained stable since 2000, with 27% of all foreign-born Latinos becoming naturalized citizens. Naturalized citizens have all the rights of American citizenship -- except that of becoming President of the United States -- including the right to vote. The percentage of foreign-born naturalized citizens in 2005 among Latino subgroups was similar across national groups, with the exception of Mexicans. In 2005, Ecuadorians had the largest percentage of foreign-born naturalized citizens over 18 years of age (38%), followed by Dominicans (36%), and Hondurans (34%) who had the greatest percent increase since 2000. Although the number of Mexicans in these neighborhoods more than tripled since 1990, comprising 12% of the total Latino population, only 2% of the foreign-born Mexicans were naturalized citizens in 2005. This marked a significant decrease from 1990, suggesting an influx in the number of Mexican immigrants who are not citizens and the possible movement of naturalized citizens out of these districts.

Figure 21  
Foreign-Born Naturalized Citizens Age 18 and Over in the South Bronx  
as a Percentage of all Foreign-Born by Latino Nationality, 1990-2005



## Concluding Highlights

Taken together, the data reviewed in this report allow the following conclusions:

- Puerto Ricans are the largest Latino subgroup in the South Bronx, accounting for over half of the total population by 2005 although their relative percentages have fallen from over 70% in 1990.
- Latinos in the South Bronx tend to be older than non-Hispanic Whites and non-Hispanic Blacks.
- The percentage of Latinos who are homeowners is comparable to that of non-Hispanic Whites.
- The annual median incomes of the majority of the South Bronx residents have increased over the last 15 years, with greater fluctuations among median household incomes. Non-Hispanic Whites and Asians have the largest median incomes even though they are the smallest segment of the total population in the South Bronx. Among Latinos, Hondurans and Ecuadorians have the largest median incomes even though they are the smallest segment of the Latino population in the South Bronx.
- There are similar educational attainment levels among racial/ethnic groups, with the exception of Asians who have significantly higher educational attainment levels. Among Latinos, Hondurans and Ecuadorians have the highest percentage of people 25-years-old and over who have a BA degree or higher.
- Among the overall population, as well as within the Latino population, females outperform males in educational attainment.
- Among the total population, the percentage of people employed has increased from 1990 to 2005 in the South Bronx, while the percentage of people unemployed and/or not in the labor force has decreased. Since 1990, Puerto Ricans have the lowest percentage of people age 16-60 who were employed.
- The percentage of foreign-born Latinos in the South Bronx has remained stable since 2000, suggesting a slowdown in migration.
- The percentage of Latinos above the age of 18 who are foreign-born naturalized citizens in the South Bronx has remained stable since 2000. Among Latinos, Ecuadorians have the largest percentage of foreign-born naturalized citizens, while Mexicans have the lowest percentage.