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The Latino Population of New York City, 2007

Laura Limonic

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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/>

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The most recent data released by the U.S. Census Bureau for 2007 indicate that New York City's Latino population increased by 2.5% between 2006 and 2007.¹ Puerto Ricans remained the largest national group among all Latinos (778,628) and 33.3% of the total Hispanic population of the City, an increase of .9% since 2006. Even though marginal, this is the first increase noted among the City's Puerto Rican population since the 1980s. Even though Dominicans decreased by 1.3% from 2006, and this is the first time since the 1980s this has occurred, they continued as New York's second largest national group (602,093) and 25.8% of all Latinos. Mexicans continued to be the fastest growing of the Latino nationalities increasing by a remarkable 9.8% between 2006 and 2007. By 2007 the City's Mexican population stood at 289,755 and 12.4% of the total Hispanic population. Mexicans in New York City have increased by 57.7% since 2000. (See Table 1).

Table 1
New York City's Latino Population by Selected Nationalities, 2007

Nationality	2000	2006	2007	% of Total Hispanic Population in 2006	% of Total Hispanic Population in 2007	% Change 2000 - 2007	% Change 2006-2007	Yearly Rate of Increase 2000 - 2007
Puerto Rican	799,558	771,984	778,628	33.8%	33.3%	-2.6%	0.9%	-0.4%
Dominican	532,647	609,885	602,093	26.7%	25.8%	13.0%	-1.3%	1.8%
Mexican	183,792	263,811	289,755	11.6%	12.4%	57.7%	9.8%	6.7%
Ecuadorian	146,200	186,469	201,708	8.2%	8.6%	38.0%	8.2%	4.7%
Colombian	105,471	107,712	113,469	4.7%	4.9%	7.6%	5.3%	1.0%
Other Nationalities	389,262	341,312	351,635	15.0%	15.0%	-9.7%	3.0%	-1.4%
Total Latinos	2,156,930	2,281,173	2,337,288	100.0%	100.0%	8.4%	2.5%	1.2%

Source: American Community Survey 2006 data from Steven Ruggles, Matthew Sobek, Trent Alexander, Catherine A. Fitch, Ronald Goeken, Patricia Kelly Hall, Miriam King, and Chad Ronnander. Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 3.0 [Machine-readable database]. Minneapolis, MN: Minnesota Population Center [producer and distributor], 2004 found at <http://usa.ipums.org/usa>

¹ All data in this report were derived from the U.S. Census Bureau 2000 Census and American Community Surveys 2005-2007 data from Steven Ruggles, Matthew Sobek, Trent Alexander, Catherine A. Fitch, Ronald Goeken, Patricia Kelly Hall, Miriam King, and Chad Ronnander. Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 3.0 [Machine-readable database]. Minneapolis, MN: Minnesota Population Center [producer and distributor], 2004 found at <http://usa.ipums.org/usa>. Since these data were derived from samples, there is an unknown margin of error that the Census Bureau estimates at +/- 10%. Data derived from the ACS 2007 American FactFinder on the Census Bureau web site (<http://www.census.gov>) indicate that the margin of error for Puerto Ricans was +/- 2.7%; for Dominicans +/- 4%; +/- 6.5% for Mexicans; +/-7.9% for Ecuadorians and +/-7.8% for Colombians. The variable Latinos was reconstructed by CLACLS to account for ancestry and birthplace data and thus the data on each nationality may not coincide with the precise data for the variable Hispanics in the ACS 2007 release and available on the census.gov web site through American FactFinder.

The sharp rise in the Mexican-origin population between 2006 and 2007 was due in large part to continued migration to New York City. Mexicans increased by some 26,000 people from 2006 to 2007 and about 44% of these were foreign-born. Among Dominicans, the total population declined over the same period by about 7,800. Only 21.8% of the decrease is attributable to foreign-born population of Dominicans, which might point to an out-migration of domestic born Dominicans from New York City. By way of contrast an astounding 84.5% of Ecuadorian population growth over the same time period was composed of foreign-born Ecuadorians. (See table 2 for the foreign-born/ domestic-born components of population growth between 2000 and 2007).

Table 2
Foreign and Domestic-Born Components of New York City's Mexican, Dominican, and Ecuadorian Populations by Borough, 2000 - 2007

Nationality	Borough	2000			2006			2007			% of Population Increase 2000 - 2007 Foreign-Born	% of Population Increase 2006 - 2007 Foreign-Born
		Domestic Born	Foreign-Born	Total	Domestic Born	Foreign-Born	Total	Domestic Born	Foreign-Born	Total		
Mexican	Bronx	11,419	23,780	35,199	24,553	43,211	67,764	27,148	43,474	70,622	55.6%	9.2%
	Manhattan	10,602	19,510	30,112	13,376	19,125	32,501	14,310	26,148	40,458	64.2%	88.3%
	Staten Island	2,353	4,888	7,241	2,645	8,212	10,857	4,666	8,021	12,687	57.5%	-10.4%
	Brooklyn	18,461	41,345	59,806	29,759	46,484	76,243	35,459	52,800	88,259	40.3%	52.6%
	Queens	14,415	37,019	51,434	22,522	53,924	76,446	25,855	51,874	77,729	56.5%	-159.8%
	Total	57,250	126,542	183,792	92,855	170,956	263,811	107,438	182,317	289,755	52.6%	43.8%
Dominican	Bronx	51,308	127,090	178,398	92,977	147,377	240,354	91,568	142,442	234,010	27.6%	77.8%
	Manhattan	55,258	127,463	182,721	69,193	114,504	183,697	63,053	110,620	173,673	186.2%	38.7%
	Staten Island	818	1,126	1,944	2,245	2,425	4,670	1,030	1,567	2,597	67.5%	41.4%
	Brooklyn	24,610	56,855	81,465	38,120	56,179	94,299	36,888	58,361	95,249	10.9%	229.7%
	Queens	29,233	58,886	88,119	33,893	52,972	86,865	37,793	58,771	96,564	-1.4%	59.8%
	Total	161,227	371,420	532,647	236,428	373,457	609,885	230,332	371,761	602,093	0.5%	21.8%
Ecuadorian	Bronx	5,542	14,985	20,527	8,489	15,857	24,346	6,375	18,937	25,312	82.6%	318.8%
	Manhattan	4,716	12,221	16,937	4,845	8,821	13,666	7,660	13,114	20,774	23.3%	60.4%
	Staten Island	583	901	1,484	1,572	2,020	3,592	1,700	2,087	3,787	51.5%	34.4%
	Brooklyn	6,951	19,807	26,758	9,826	22,594	32,420	11,881	24,323	36,204	47.8%	45.7%
	Queens	17,359	63,135	80,494	32,503	79,942	112,445	31,978	83,653	115,631	58.4%	116.5%
	Total	35,151	111,049	146,200	57,235	129,234	186,469	59,594	142,114	201,708	56.0%	84.5%

If population growth continues at the yearly rates found between 2000 and 2007 Dominicans will surpass Puerto Ricans and become the largest sector of the City's Latino population in 2020. Mexicans will surpass Puerto Ricans to become the second largest Latino national group behind Dominicans in 2022, two years later; and in only another 2 years, by 2024, Mexicans will surpass Dominicans to become New York City's most numerous Latino nationality, in less than two decades. (Figure 1).

In 2007 Latinos comprised 28% of the City's total population. In the Bronx over 50% of all residents were Latinos; 27.5% in Queens; 25.5% in Manhattan; 20.4% in Brooklyn, and only 14.8% in Staten Island. (See Table 3).

The spatial distribution of New York City's Hispanics has remained about the same between 2000 and 2007 with about 30% of all Latinos living in the Bronx; about 22% residing in Brooklyn; 27% in Queens in 2007; 18% in Manhattan in 2007, a slight decline from the nearly 20% of all Hispanics found in 2000; and 3% in Staten Island in 2007. (See Table 4 and Figure 2).

Figure 1
Population Projections Among New York City Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, and Mexicans

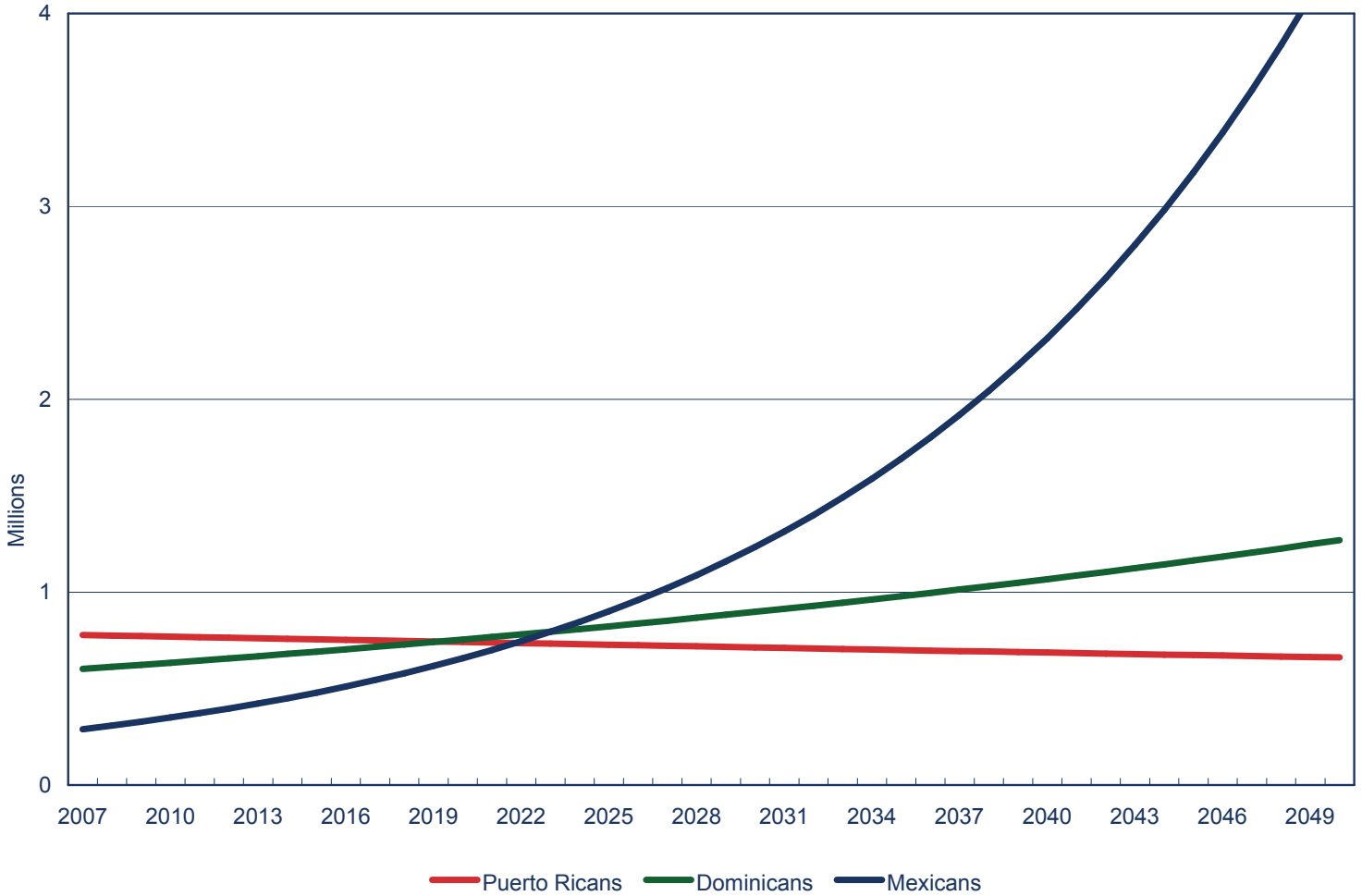
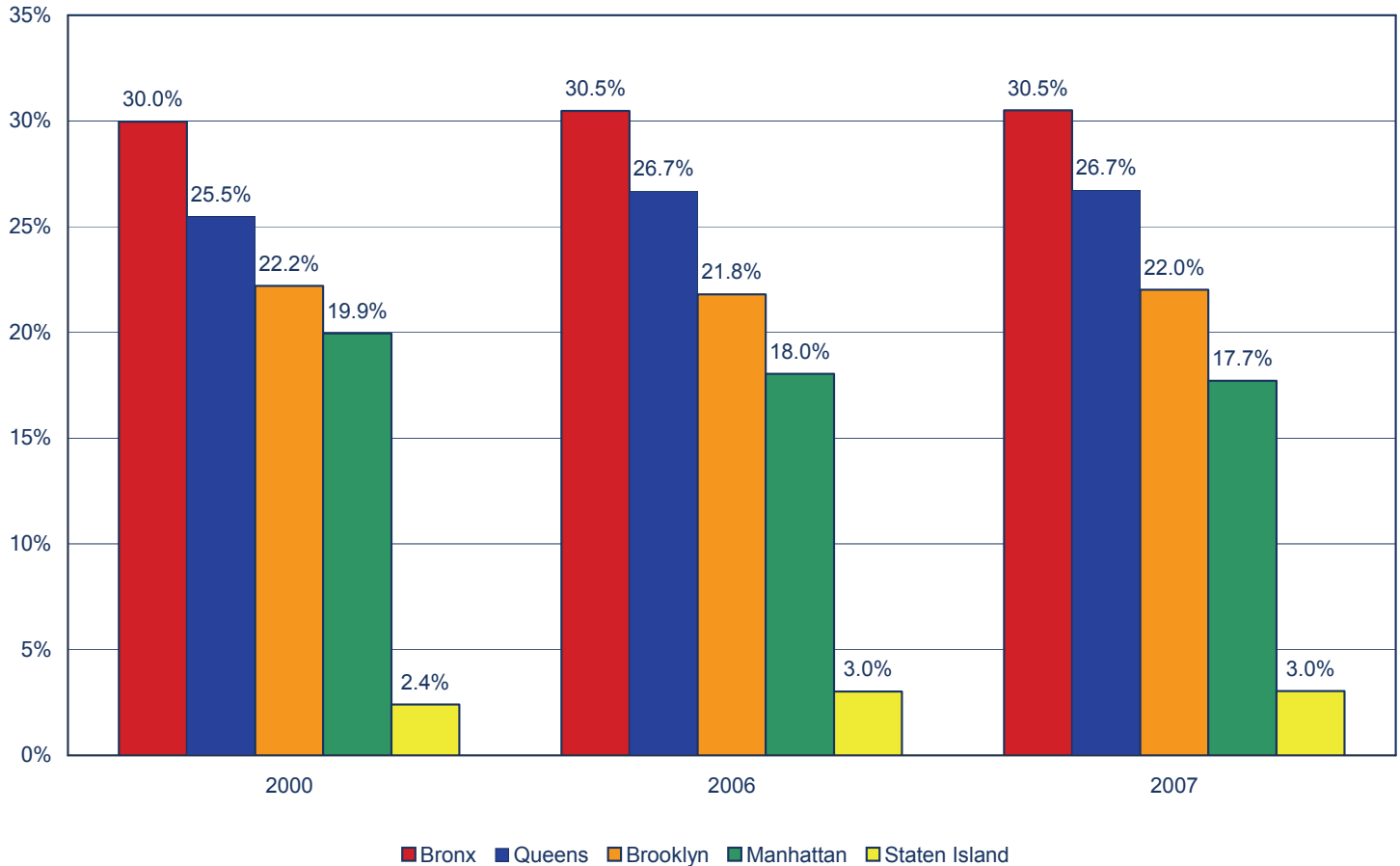


Table 3
New York City Population by Race/Ethnicity by Borough, 2007

Race/Ethnicity	Bronx	% of Total	Brooklyn	% of Total	Manhattan	% of Total	Queens	% of Total	Staten Island	% of Total	New York City	% of Total
Non-Hispanic White	175,670	12.8%	907,327	35.9%	783,225	48.3%	683,031	30.1%	321,298	66.8%	2,870,551	34.7%
Non-Hispanic Black	416,509	30.3%	836,712	33.1%	215,333	13.3%	405,310	17.9%	48,320	10.0%	1,922,184	23.2%
Asian	45,554	3.3%	223,185	8.8%	175,178	10.8%	478,910	21.1%	33,688	7.0%	956,515	11.6%
Latinos	712,843	51.9%	514,692	20.4%	414,057	25.5%	624,573	27.5%	71,123	14.8%	2,337,288	28.2%
Others	23,293	1.7%	46,788	1.9%	33,394	2.1%	78,454	3.5%	6,855	1.4%	188,784	2.3%
Total Population	1,373,869	100.0%	2,528,704	100.0%	1,621,187	100.0%	2,270,278	100.0%	481,284	100.0%	8,275,322	100.0%

Figure 2
Distribution of Latino Population by New York City Borough, 2000 - 2007



If we examine the borough residential patterns of New York City’s largest Latino national groups in 2007 we find the following patterns (See Table 5 and Figure 3):

- **Bronx:** Puerto Ricans (44.3%) and Dominicans (32.8%) accounted for 77.1% of the Bronx’s Latino population.
- **Manhattan:** Dominicans made up 41.9% of all Manhattan Latinos; Puerto Ricans were 27.5% and together they were 69.4% of all Latinos in the borough.
- **Brooklyn:** 39% of all Latinos in Brooklyn were Puerto Ricans; 18.5% Dominicans; and 17.2% were Mexicans.
- **Queens:** Queens had the most equitable distribution of Latino national groups and no one nationality was predominant in 2007. Ecuadorians at 18.5% were the largest nationality, but only by a small margin over Puerto Ricans at 17.2% of the borough’s Latino population. Dominicans were 15.5% of all Queens Latinos; Colombians 13.4%; and Mexicans made up 12.5% of the Latino population of Queens

- Staten Island: Only 3% of the City’s Latino population resided in Staten Island. Puerto Ricans at 57.5% of all Latinos were the borough’s largest nationality followed by Mexicans at 17.8%.

Table 4
Distribution of New York City's Latino Population by Borough, 2000-2007

Borough	Latinos 2000	% of Total	Latinos 2006	% of Total	Latinos 2007	% of Total
Bronx	646,384	30.0%	695,262	30.5%	712,843	30.5%
Manhattan	430,270	19.9%	411,578	18.0%	414,057	17.7%
Staten Island	52,025	2.4%	68,777	3.0%	71,123	3.0%
Brooklyn	478,836	22.2%	497,139	21.8%	514,692	22.0%
Queens	549,415	25.5%	608,417	26.7%	624,573	26.7%
Total	2,156,930	100.0%	2,281,173	100.0%	2,337,288	100.0%

Table 5
Percentage of Total Latino Population of Each Borough
by Largest Latino Nationalities 2007

Nationality	Bronx	Manhattan	Queens	Brooklyn	Staten Island
Puerto Ricans	44.3%	27.5%	17.2%	39.0%	57.5%
Dominicans	32.8%	41.9%	15.5%	18.5%	3.7%
Mexicans	9.9%	9.8%	12.5%	17.2%	17.8%
Ecuadorians	3.6%	5.0%	18.5%	7.0%	5.3%
Colombians	1.0%	1.9%	13.4%	2.5%	3.0%
Others	8.4%	13.9%	23.0%	15.8%	12.7%
Total Latinos	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

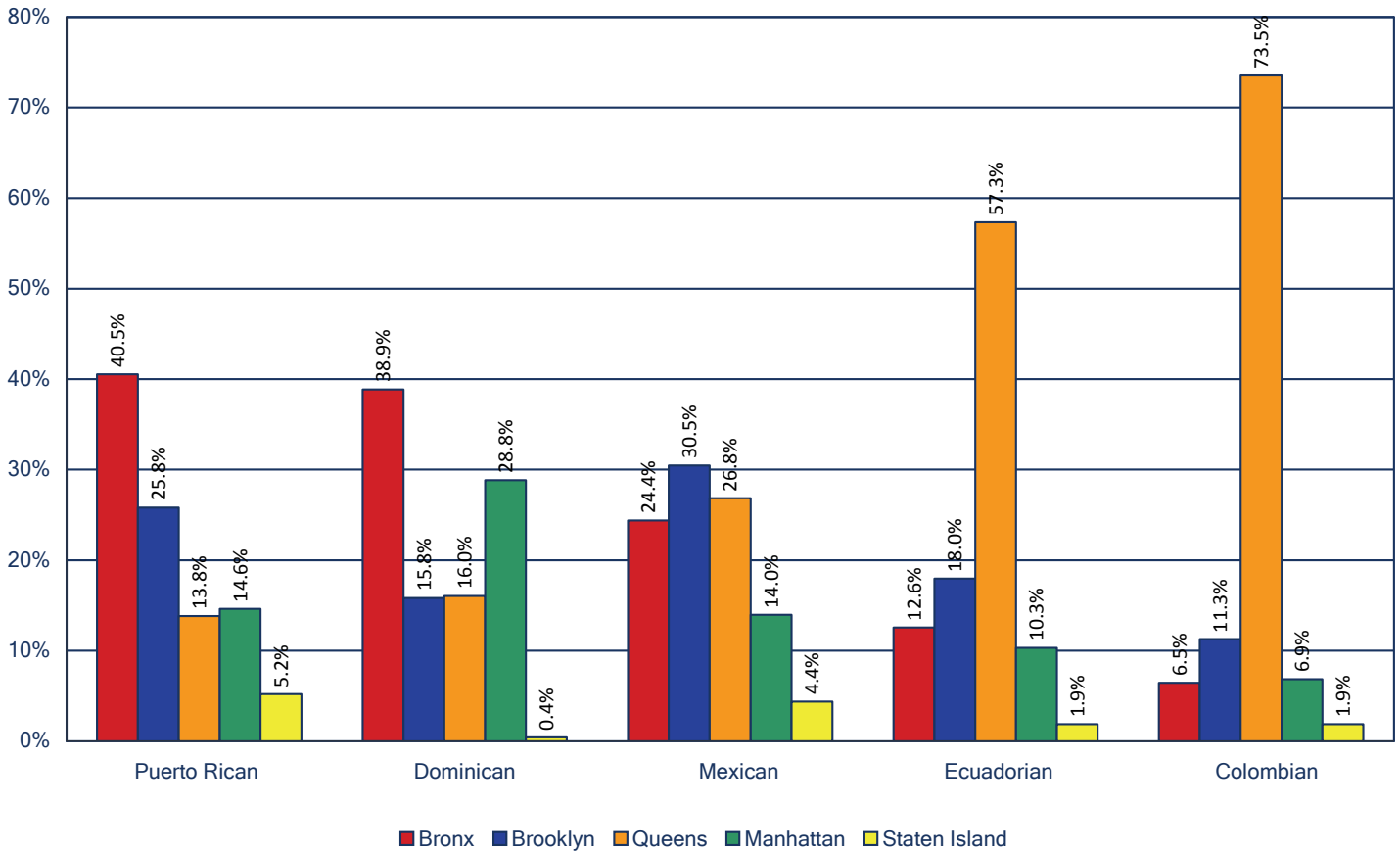
If we examine the residential patterns of New York City's largest Latino national groups in 2007 by the boroughs in which they lived we find the following patterns (See Table 7 and Figure 4):

- **Puerto Ricans:** Nearly two-thirds of the City's Puerto Rican population lived in the Bronx (40.5%) and Brooklyn (25.8%) while 14.6% of all Puerto Ricans lived in Manhattan, and 13.8% in Queens.
- **Dominicans:** The matrix of Dominican settlement continues to move to the Bronx where 38.9% of the City's Dominican population lived in 2007 compared with 28.8% in Manhattan, 15.8% in Brooklyn, and 16% in Queens.
- **Mexicans:** 81.7% of the City's Mexican population lived in Queens (26.8%), Brooklyn (30.5%), and the Bronx (24.4%). Only 14% of all NYC Mexicans lived in Manhattan.
- **Ecuadorians:** Unlike Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, and Mexicans, Ecuadorians were heavily concentrated in one borough - Queens - where 57.3% lived in 2007. 18% of all Ecuadorians lived in Brooklyn, and 12.6% in the Bronx.

Table 6
Percentage of Largest Latino Populations Living in Each Borough, 2007

Borough	Puerto Ricans	Dominicans	Mexicans	Ecuadorians	Colombians
Bronx	40.5%	38.9%	24.4%	12.6%	6.5%
Manhattan	14.6%	28.8%	14.0%	10.3%	6.9%
Staten Island	5.2%	0.4%	4.4%	1.9%	1.9%
Brooklyn	25.8%	15.8%	30.5%	18.0%	11.3%
Queens	13.8%	16.0%	26.8%	57.3%	73.5%
NYC Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Figure 4
Percentage of Largest Latino National Populations Living in Each Borough, 2007



The 2007 data underscore the significant transformations that have been occurring within the Latino population of New York City since the end of large-scale Puerto Rican migration in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Dominicans arrived in increasing numbers from 1980 onward and are poised to become the City’s largest Latino nationality within the next 12 years as the Puerto Rican population continues to decline. Among Dominicans there has been a shift away from the previous matrix of Dominican settlement in Washington Heights toward the Bronx where the majority of Dominicans now reside.

The City’s Mexican population continues its extraordinary expansion both because of high fertility rates and the arrival of large numbers of foreign-born Mexicans. If these trends continue into the future Mexicans will become the largest of the Latino sub-groups within the next two decades. Ecuadorians continue to increase in significant numbers. Much of this expansion can be attributed to immigration. The foreign-born account for the greater portion of growth of the City’s Ecuadorian population growth..

The Colombian population grew 5.3% between 2006 and 2007. However, within the largest Latino groups in New York City, Colombians are the smallest. The rate of population growth for Colombians is projected to be much slower than for all other groups, except Puerto Ricans. Mexicans, Dominican and Ecuadorians will far surpass Puerto Ricans and Colombians. It will be interesting to see if this trend of population contraction among Colombians and Puerto Ricans continues when the 2008 data are released next year.