



City University of New York (CUNY)
CUNY Academic Works

Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and
Latino Studies

Centers & Institutes

2009

The Latino Population of New York City, 2008

Laird Bergad

Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies

[How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!](#)

More information about this work at: https://academicworks.cuny.edu/clacsl_pubs/21

Discover additional works at: <https://academicworks.cuny.edu>

This work is made publicly available by the City University of New York (CUNY).
Contact: AcademicWorks@cuny.edu



Center for Latin American, Caribbean & Latino Studies

The Latino Population of New York City, 2008

Laird W. Bergad
Director

Center for Latin American, Caribbean
& Latino Studies

Center for Latin American,
Caribbean & Latino Studies

Graduate Center
City University of New York
365 Fifth Avenue
Room 5419
New York, New York 10016

212-817-8438

clacsl@gc.cuny.edu

<http://web.gc.cuny.edu/lastudies>



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/>

For additional information you may contact the Center at 212-817-8438 or by e-mail at clacls@gc.cuny.edu.

Staff:

Laird W. Bergad, Distinguished Professor, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Lehman College, Ph.D. Program in History, Executive Director, CLACLS

Carolina Barrera-Tobón, Administrative Director

Victoria Stone-Cadena, Development and Outreach Coordinator

Howard Caro-López, Director of Quantitative Research

Debora Upegui-Hernández, Special Events Coordinator

Laura Limonic, Research Associate

Copyright @ 2009
Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies
Room 5419
Graduate Center
City University of New York
365 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10016
212-817-8438
clacls@gc.cuny.edu
<http://web.gc.cuny.edu/lastudies>

Table of Contents

Demography..... 4

Educational Attainment..... 10

Household Income..... 11

Poverty..... 17

Employment and Unemployment..... 18

English Language Abilities..... 22

Citizenship and the New York City Latino Electorate..... 25

Highlights..... 26

Demography

Although a slight decline (-0.1%) was registered for the Latino population of New York City between 2007 and 2008 according to data released by the American Community Survey of the U.S. Census Bureau in November 2009, between 2000 and 2008 New York City’s Latinos increased by nearly 5%.¹ Puerto Ricans continued as New York’s largest Latino national subgroup, and one-third of all Latinos, although the City’s Puerto Rican population decreased by 4% from 2000. Dominicans, the second largest Latino nationality and 26% of all Latinos in 2008, increased by 5.5% from 2000. For the very first time in year to year population estimates, the Census Bureau indicated that there was a small decline in the Dominican population between 2007 and 2008 of -4.1%. It is unknown whether this was due to the 8% margin of error noted by the Bureau in its calculation of the Dominican population. The Mexican population continued its impressive expansion in the City and rose from 8.4% of all Latinos in 2007 to 12.4% in 2008. New York City’s Mexican community increased by 60% between 2000 and 2008. Ecuadorians were the fourth large Latino national sub-group at 8.6% of all Latinos and they had increased by 35% since 2000. Colombians, New York City’s fifth most numerous Latino nationality and 5% of all Latinos in 2008, registered a very significant decline of -11% from 2000. (See table 1).

Table 1
New York City's Latino Population by Selected Nationalities, 2000 - 2008

Nationality	2000	2007	2008	% of Total Hispanic Population in 2007	% of Total Hispanic Population in 2008	% Change 2000 - 2008	% Change 2007-2008	Yearly Rate of Increase 2000 - 2008
Puerto Rican	816,827	778,628	787,827	36.7%	33.3%	-3.6%	1.2%	-0.5%
Dominican	547,379	602,093	577,472	24.6%	25.8%	5.5%	-4.1%	0.7%
Mexican	187,259	289,755	299,298	8.4%	12.4%	59.8%	3.3%	6.0%
Ecuadorian	149,897	201,708	202,411	6.7%	8.6%	35.0%	0.3%	3.8%
Colombian	109,710	113,469	97,580	4.9%	4.9%	-11.1%	-14.0%	-1.5%
Other Nationalities	351,635	351,635	370,753	15.8%	15.0%	5.4%	5.4%	0.7%
Total Latinos	2,226,907	2,337,288	2,335,341	100.0%	100.0%	4.9%	-0.1%	0.6%

Note: The Census Bureau has estimated the following margins of error for the 2008 ACS data: Puerto Ricans, 6.1%; Dominicans, 7.9%; Mexicans, 14.5%; Ecuadorians, 15.0%, Colombians, 14.7%.

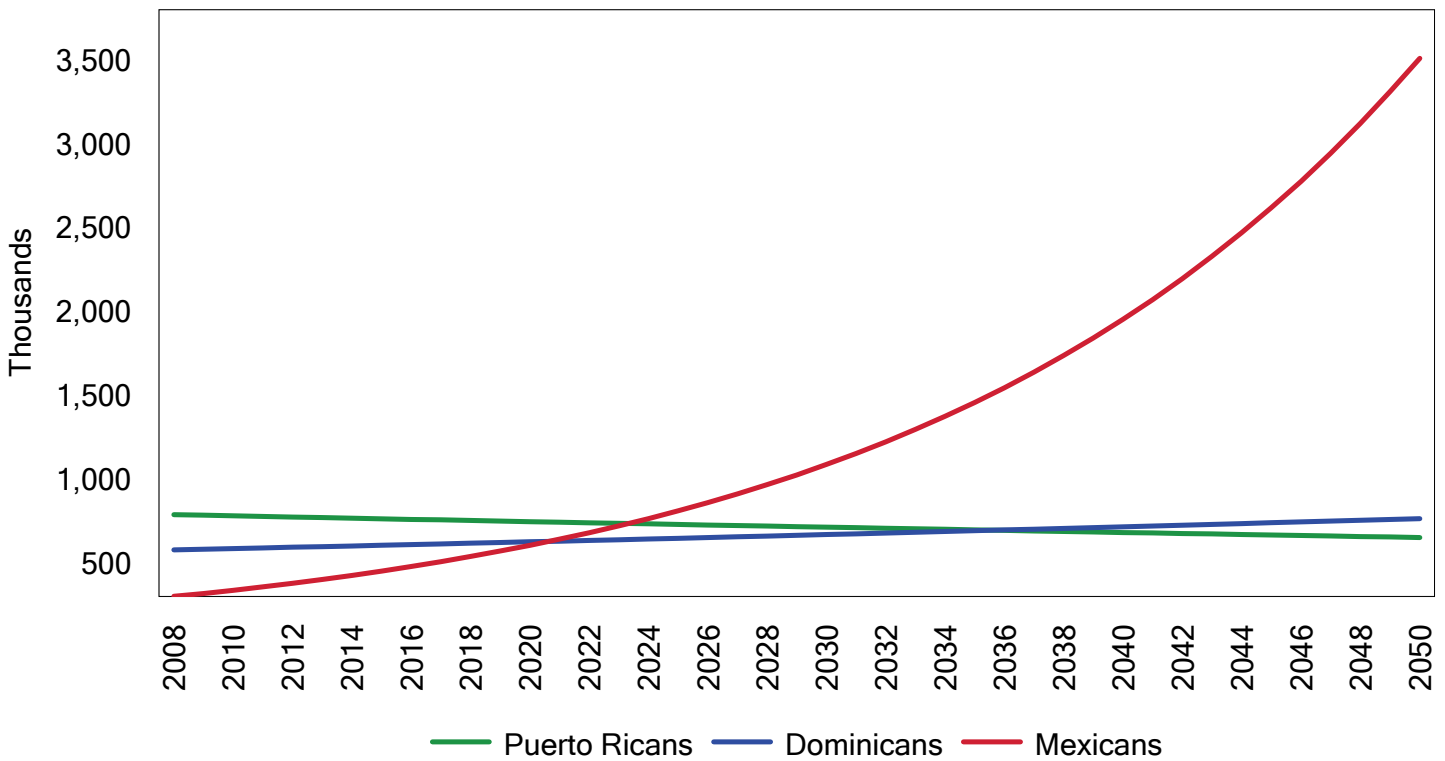
¹ All data in this report were derived from Steven Ruggles, Matthew Sobek, Trent Alexander, Catherine A. Fitch, Ronald Goeken, Patricia Kelly Hall, Miriam King, and Chad Ronnander. Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 4.0 [Machine-readable database]. Minneapolis, MN: Minnesota Population Center [producer and distributor], 2009. located on the internet at <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/>.

The decline indicated between 2007 and 2008 may have been the result of sampling and an undetermined margin of error. Margins of error indicated in table 1 were only calculated for Latino nationalities.

Latino nationalities were calculated by CLACLS using ancestry data and birthplace data to reduce the number of ‘other Hispanics’ to national origin groups. Thus, the data supplied by IPUMS and the U.S. Census Bureau have been recoded. In these calculations of Latinos all Europeans, Spaniards, Canary Islanders etc. have been eliminated and Brazilians added as Latinos.

If annual population growth rates between 2000 and 2008 are used to calculate the future national distribution of New York City’s Latino population, Mexicans will surpass both Puerto Ricans and Dominicans in 2024 to become the City’s largest national Latino sub-group. Dominicans will surpass Puerto Ricans in 2036 to become the second largest Latino nationality. There are no assurances that these annual population growth rates will continue into the future. (See figure 1).

Figure 1
Hypothetical Population Projections Among Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, and Mexicans in New York City Using Annual Population Growth Rates between 2000 and 2008



Mexican population growth in New York was linked to migration from Mexico, or of other foreign-born Mexicans arriving from different regions in the U.S., and dynamic natural population increase. Mexican women had the highest fertility rates among all Latino nationalities in the City.² About 49% of Mexican population increase between 2000 and 2008 was because of the growth of the foreign-born population; 51% from natural reproduction. Complete data on domestic and foreign born by the five largest Latino nationalities in the City are provided in table 2.

² See “SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS 2007 THE CITY OF NEW YORK” available on the internet at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/vs/vs.shtml>.

Table 2
Foreign and Domestic-Born Components of New York City's Puerto Rican, Mexican, Dominican, Ecuadorian, and Colombian Populations by Borough, 2000 - 2008

Nationality	Borough	2000			2008			2000	2008
		Domestic Born	Foreign-Born	Total	Domestic Born	Foreign-Born	Total	% of Population Foreign Born	% of Population Foreign Born
Puerto Rican	Bronx	207,678	123,573	331,251	216,291	104,130	320,421	37.3%	32.5%
	Manhattan	76,234	53,961	130,195	73,587	39,733	113,320	41.4%	35.1%
	Staten Island	23,607	6,559	30,166	34,191	7,036	41,227	21.7%	17.1%
	Brooklyn	132,682	83,676	216,358	137,082	55,150	192,232	38.7%	28.7%
	Queens	75,010	33,847	108,857	92,134	28,493	120,627	31.1%	23.6%
	Total	515,211	301,616	816,827	553,285	234,542	787,827	36.9%	29.8%
Dominican	Bronx	53,159	130,198	183,357	88,076	139,695	227,771	71.0%	61.3%
	Manhattan	57,378	129,344	186,722	59,361	107,095	166,456	69.3%	64.3%
	Staten Island	862	1,126	1,988	1,844	1,318	3,162	56.6%	41.7%
	Brooklyn	25,702	58,219	83,921	39,058	50,427	89,485	69.4%	56.4%
	Queens	31,011	60,380	91,391	32,292	58,306	90,598	66.1%	64.4%
	Total	168,112	379,267	547,379	220,631	356,841	577,472	69.3%	61.8%
Mexican	Bronx	11,622	23,875	35,497	26,305	44,650	70,955	67.3%	62.9%
	Manhattan	11,150	19,909	31,059	19,501	23,617	43,118	64.1%	54.8%
	Staten Island	2,655	4,943	7,598	4,944	8,236	13,180	65.1%	62.5%
	Brooklyn	18,794	42,093	60,887	39,047	53,682	92,729	69.1%	57.9%
	Queens	15,025	37,193	52,218	26,313	53,003	79,316	71.2%	66.8%
	Total	59,246	128,013	187,259	116,110	183,188	299,298	68.4%	61.2%
Ecuadorian	Bronx	5,677	15,248	20,925	9,657	19,657	29,314	72.9%	67.1%
	Manhattan	4,873	12,556	17,429	3,804	12,053	15,857	72.0%	76.0%
	Staten Island	662	965	1,627	834	1,428	2,262	59.3%	63.1%
	Brooklyn	7,268	20,014	27,282	7,017	22,070	29,087	73.4%	75.9%
	Queens	18,464	64,170	82,634	39,855	86,036	125,891	77.7%	68.3%
	Total	36,944	112,953	149,897	61,167	141,244	202,411	75.4%	69.8%
Colombian	Bronx	1,266	3,307	4,573	2,508	2,472	4,980	72.3%	49.6%
	Manhattan	2,053	5,753	7,806	3,751	6,230	9,981	73.7%	62.4%
	Staten Island	692	1,240	1,932	1,109	1,210	2,319	64.2%	52.2%
	Brooklyn	2,969	8,576	11,545	2,489	7,176	9,665	74.3%	74.2%
	Queens	17,938	65,916	83,854	16,698	53,937	70,635	78.6%	76.4%
	Total	24,918	84,792	109,710	26,555	71,025	97,580	77.3%	72.8%

Note: Discrepancies in total population figures with Table 1 are due to the fact that there were some cases within each nationality where birthplace may have been unknown. For Puerto Ricans, foreign born means born in Puerto Rico.

Latinos accounted for approximately 28% of the City’s total population in 2008, although there was variation across the boroughs. Nearly 52% of the Bronx’s residents were Latinos; 27% of the Queens population; 25% in Manhattan; 20% in Brooklyn; and 15% in Staten Island. (See table 3).

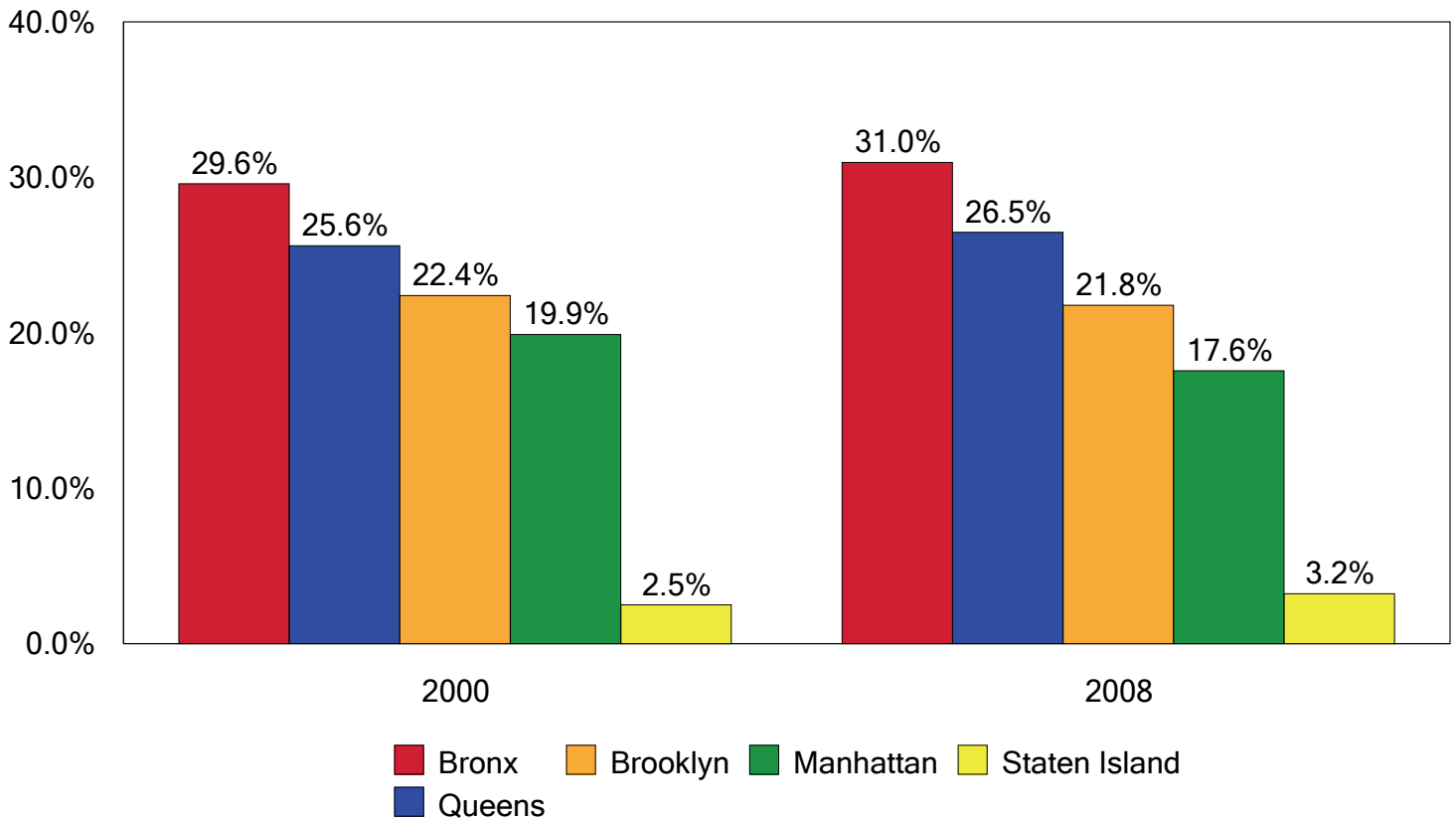
Table 3
New York City Population by Race/Ethnicity by Borough, 2008

Race/Ethnicity	Bronx	Brooklyn	Manhattan	Queens	Staten Island	New York City
Non-Hispanic White	172,968	938,357	802,910	697,286	326,207	2,937,728
Non-Hispanic Black	422,750	849,937	220,941	412,351	42,794	1,948,773
Asian	47,909	231,579	171,202	496,214	36,062	982,966
Latinos	723,160	508,605	410,193	618,141	75,242	2,335,341
Others	25,498	28,095	29,726	69,001	7,174	159,494
Total Population	1,392,285	2,556,573	1,634,972	2,292,993	487,479	8,364,302

Race/Ethnicity	% of Total	% of Total	% of Total	% of Total	% of Total	% of Total
Non-Hispanic White	12.4%	36.7%	49.1%	30.4%	66.9%	35.1%
Non-Hispanic Black	30.4%	33.2%	13.5%	18.0%	8.8%	23.3%
Asian	3.4%	9.1%	10.5%	21.6%	7.4%	11.8%
Latinos	51.9%	19.9%	25.1%	27.0%	15.4%	27.9%
Others	1.8%	1.1%	1.8%	3.0%	1.5%	1.9%
Total Population	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The Bronx accounted for 31% of the City’s total Latino population in 2008, up from 29.6% in 2000. Nearly 27% of all Latinos lived in Queens; 22% in Brooklyn; 18% in Manhattan; and only 3% in Staten Island. (See figure 2).

Figure 2
Distribution of Latino Population by Borough, 2000 - 2008



Puerto Ricans were the largest Latino nationality in the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Staten Island, while in Manhattan, Dominicans were the largest Latino national sub group. In Queens Ecuadorians and Puerto Ricans were the largest Latino nationalities at about one-quarter each of all Latinos living in the borough in 2008. (See figure 3).

About 41% of all New York City Puerto Ricans lived in the Bronx in 2008 and another 24% in Brooklyn. Thus, a little over two-thirds of the City’s Puerto Ricans were concentrated in these two boroughs. Dominicans were concentrated in the Bronx (39% of all City Dominicans) and Manhattan (29%); while Mexicans were more equitably distributed in the Bronx , Brooklyn, Queens, and Manhattan. Both Ecuadorians (62%) and Colombians (72%) were heavily concentrated in Queens. (See figure 4).

Figure 3
Percentage of Total Latino Population of Each Borough by Largest Latino Nationalities, 2008

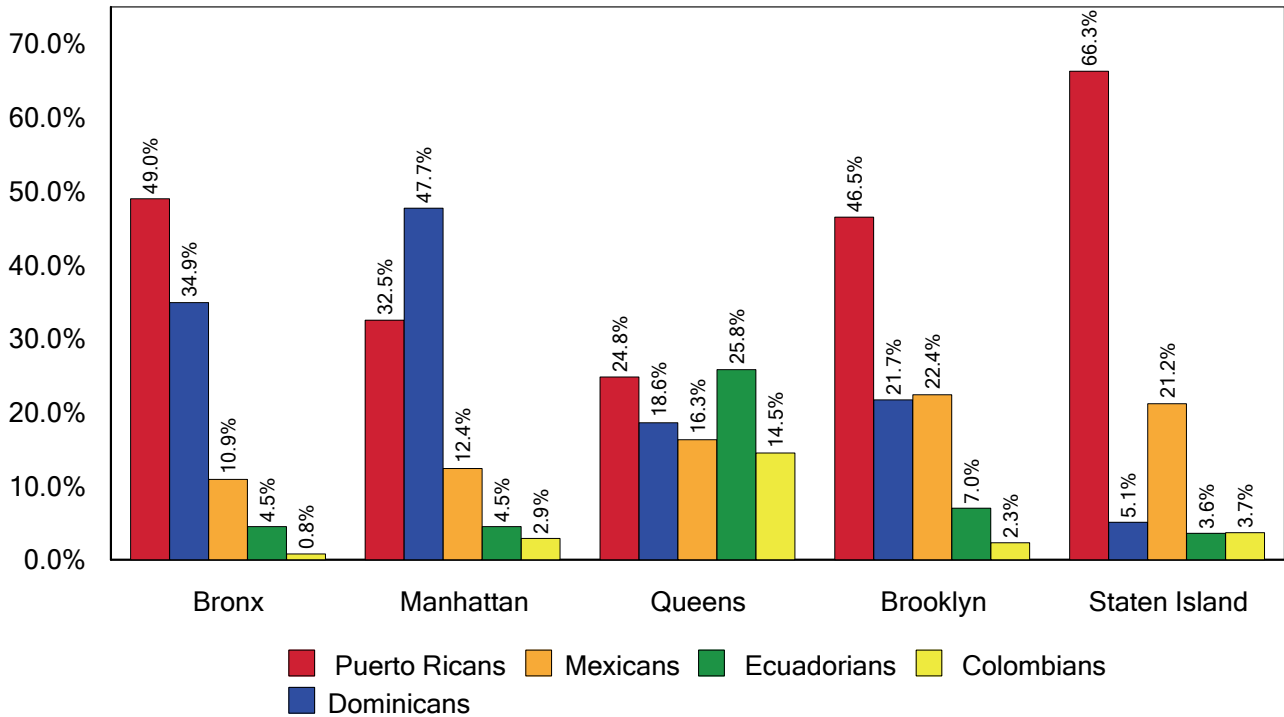
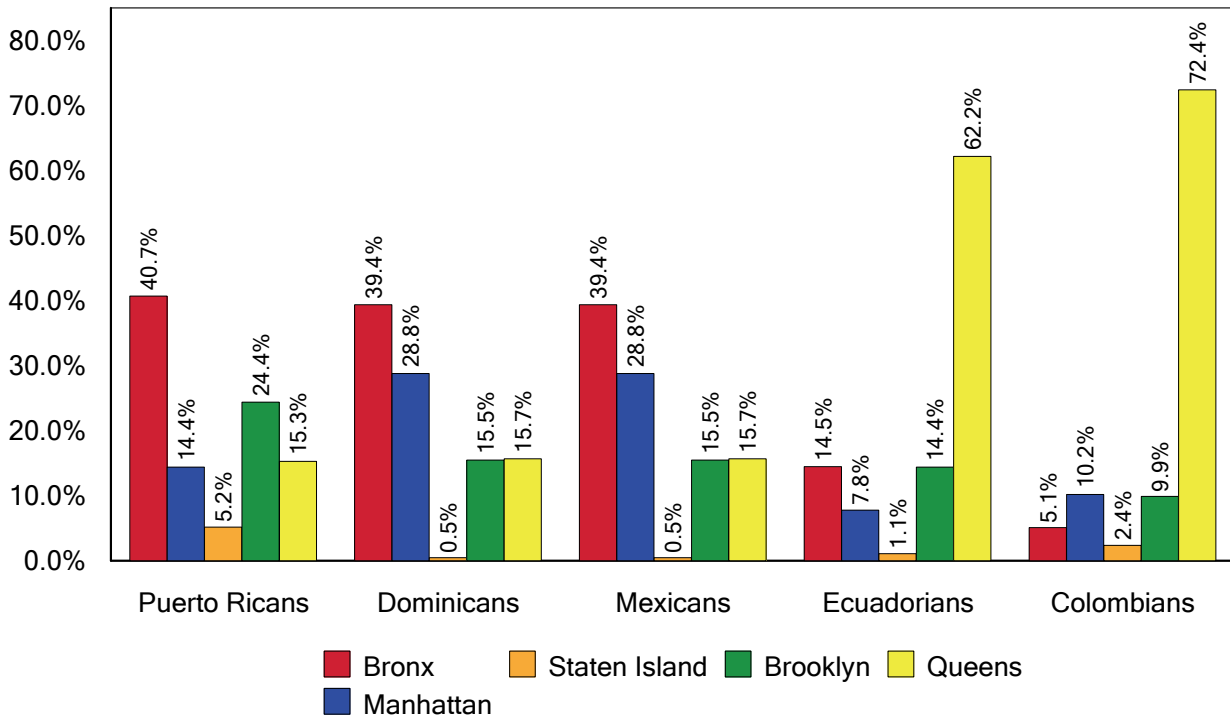


Figure 4
Percentage of Largest Latino Nationalities Living in Each Borough, 2008



Educational Attainment

Latinos in New York City had the lowest rates of college completion compared with the other race/ethnic groups and the highest non-high school completion rates. However, there were significant improvements in both between 2000 and 2008. The percentage of Latino adults who graduated college, or achieved higher educational levels, rose from 11% to 14% between 2000 and 2008. Over the same period the non-high school graduation rate declined from 46% to 38%. Improvements in educational attainment levels were also found within the other major race/ethnic groups. (See figure 5).

Within the Latino nationalities Colombians had the highest college completion rates at 21% of all adults in 2008 which was an increase from 17% in 2000. Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Mexicans, and Ecuadorians experienced improvements in educational attainment from 2000 to 2008. Between 9% and 12% of their adult populations had graduated college in 2008. An extraordinarily high 53% of all New York City Mexican adults had not graduated high school in 2008 and this reflected the fact that 89% of the 25 years of age and older Mexican population was foreign born. The high rates of Dominican non-high school graduation (44% in 2008) was also linked to the fact that 89% of all Dominicans 25 years of age and older was foreign born. (Complete data are found in figure 6).

Figure 5
Educational Attainment by Race/Ethnic Group in New York City, 2000 - 2008
For Population 25 Years of Age and Greater

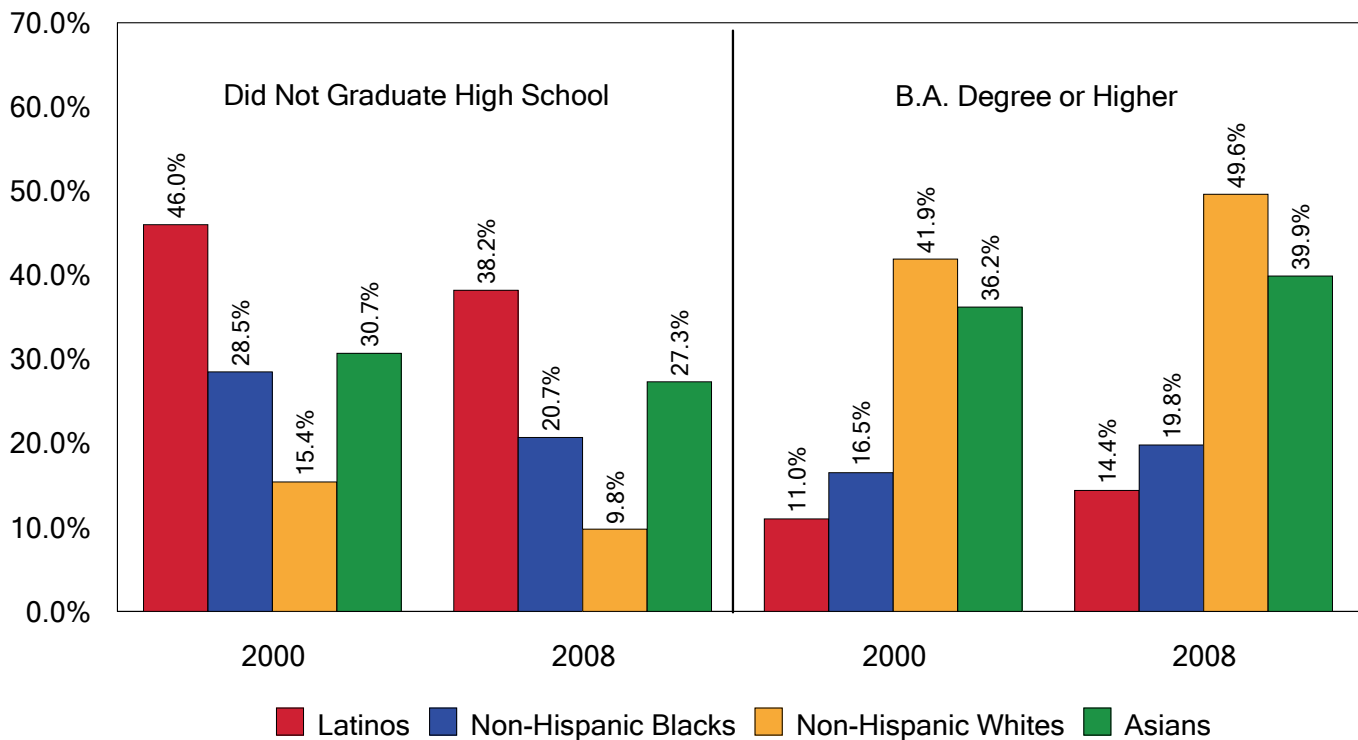
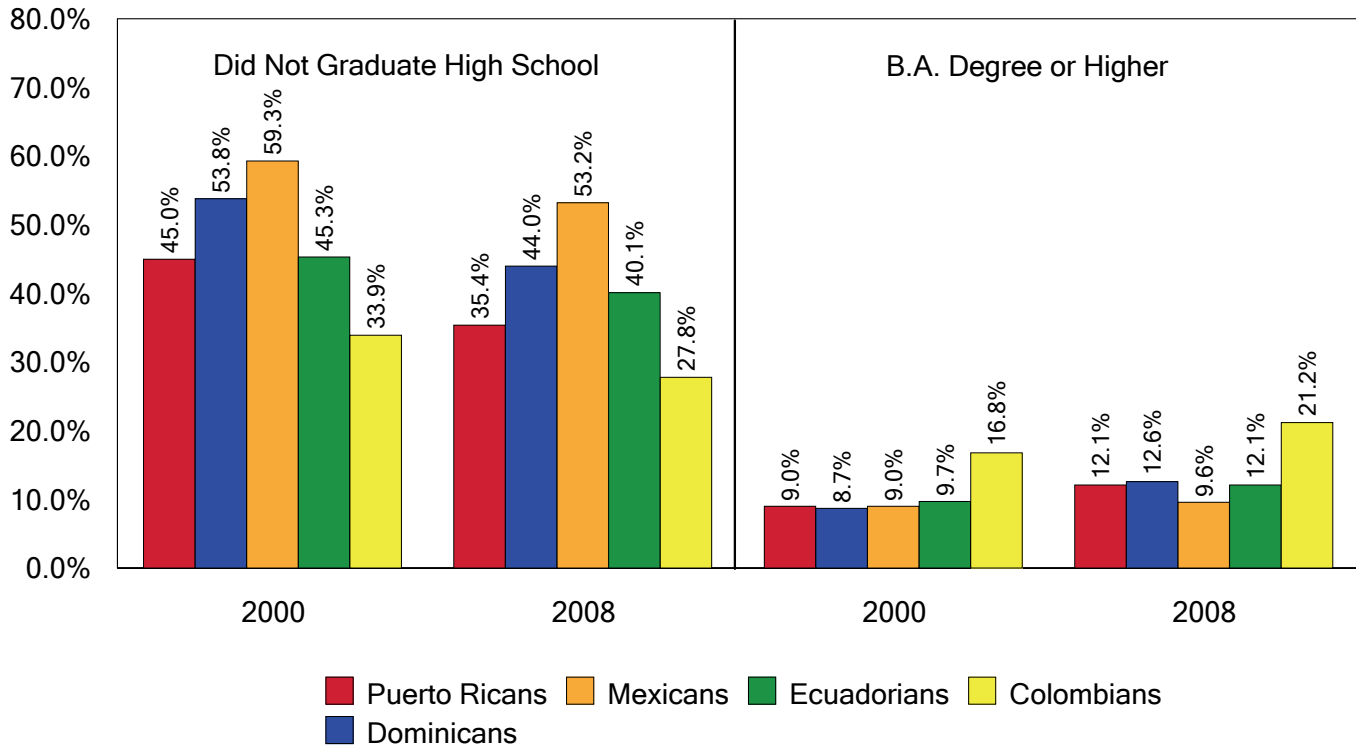


Figure 6
Educational Attainment by Largest Latino Nationalities in New York City, 2000 - 2008
For Population 25 Years of Age and Greater

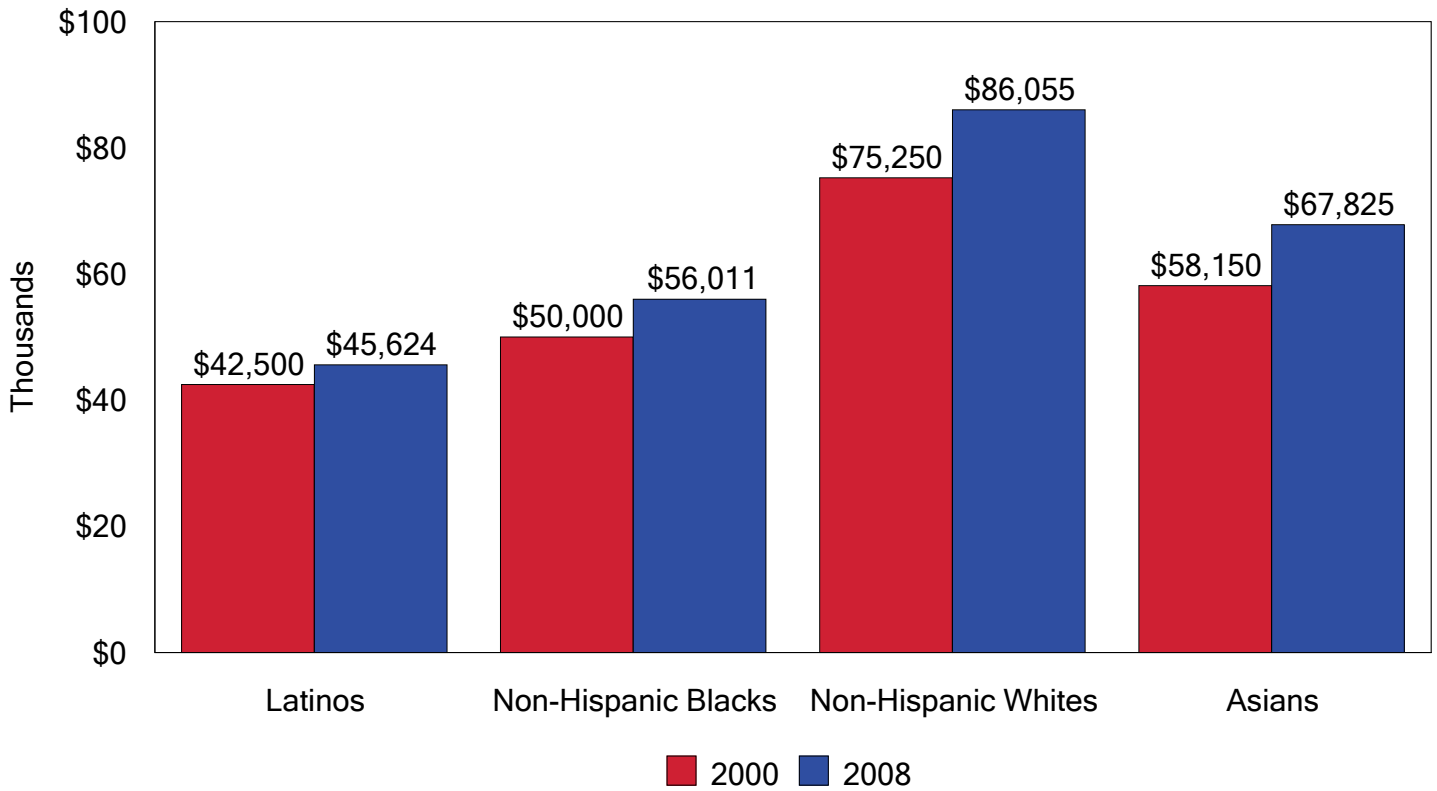


Household Income

Latinos had the lowest median household incomes of any of the major race/ethnic groups in New York City in 2008 at \$45,624. Additionally, the increase in median household income between 2000 and 2008 was 7.4% and this was considerably lower than the 12% increase for non-Hispanic blacks, 14% rise among non-Hispanic whites, and 17% for Asians over the same period. (See figure 7).

Among the City’s largest Latino nationalities Ecuadorians and Colombians had the highest median household incomes in 2008 at about \$56,000 and \$57,000 respectively. Dominican households had the lowest median incomes at \$37,680 and experienced a decline from 2000 of -2.8%. Mexican median household income was \$40,939 and this was a decrease of -15% from 2000. Puerto Rican median household income in the City was \$43,791 in 2008 and this represented an increase of 17% from 2000. (See figure 8). The precise reasons for these changes in median household income are difficult to determine from extant census data. We do know that in the case of Mexicans the continual arrival of immigrants who earned lower median incomes in all likelihood resulted in lower median household incomes.

Figure 7
 Median Household Income by Race/Ethnic Group in New York City, 2000 - 2008
 In 2008 Inflation Adjusted Dollars

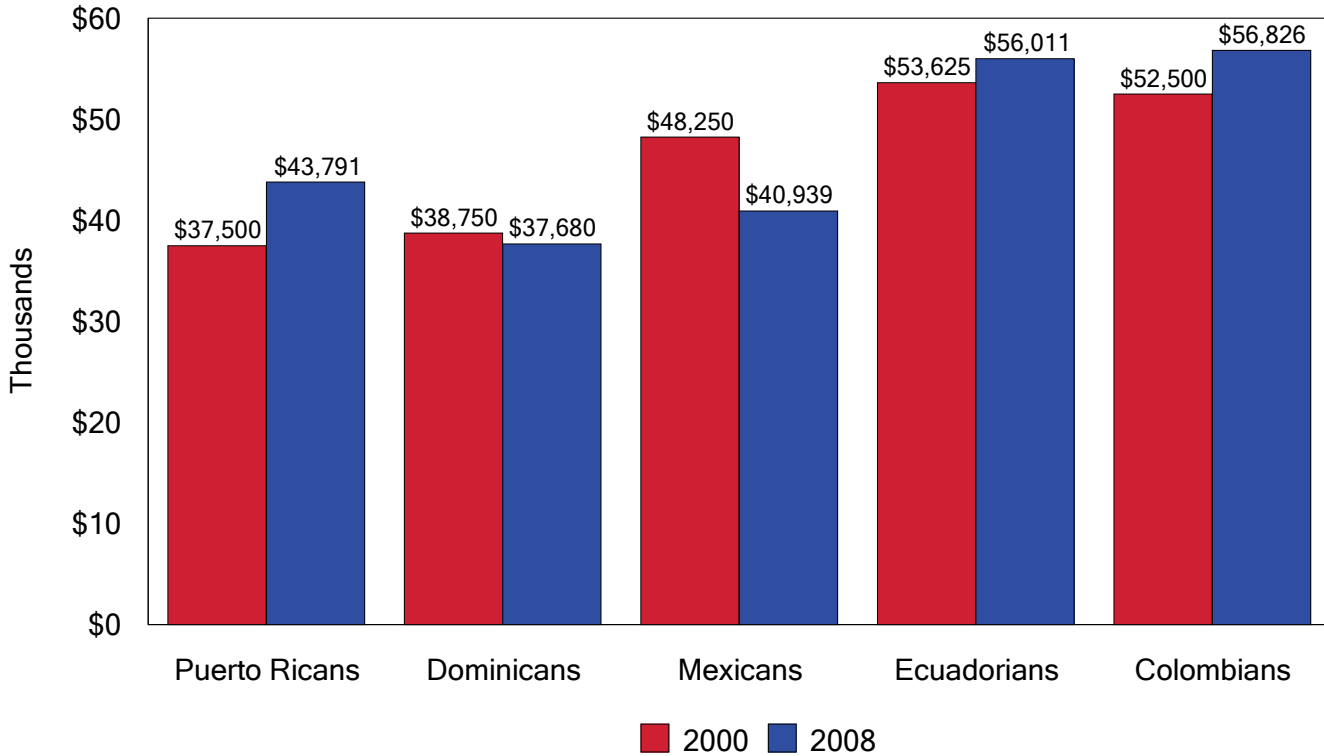


Note: 2000 dollars have been converted into 2008 dollars using the Bureau of Labor Statistics Inflation Calculator of 1.25 located on the internet at <http://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpicalc.pl>.

Percent Increase 2000 - 2008

Latinos	7.4%
Non-Hispanic Blacks	12.0%
Non-Hispanic Whites	14.4%
Asians	16.6%

Figure 8
 Median Household Income by Largest Latino Nationalities in New York City, 2000 - 2008
 In 2008 Inflation Adjusted Dollars



Note: 2000 dollars have been converted into 2008 dollars using the Bureau of Labor Statistics Inflation Calculator of 1.25 located on the internet at <http://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpicalc.pl>.

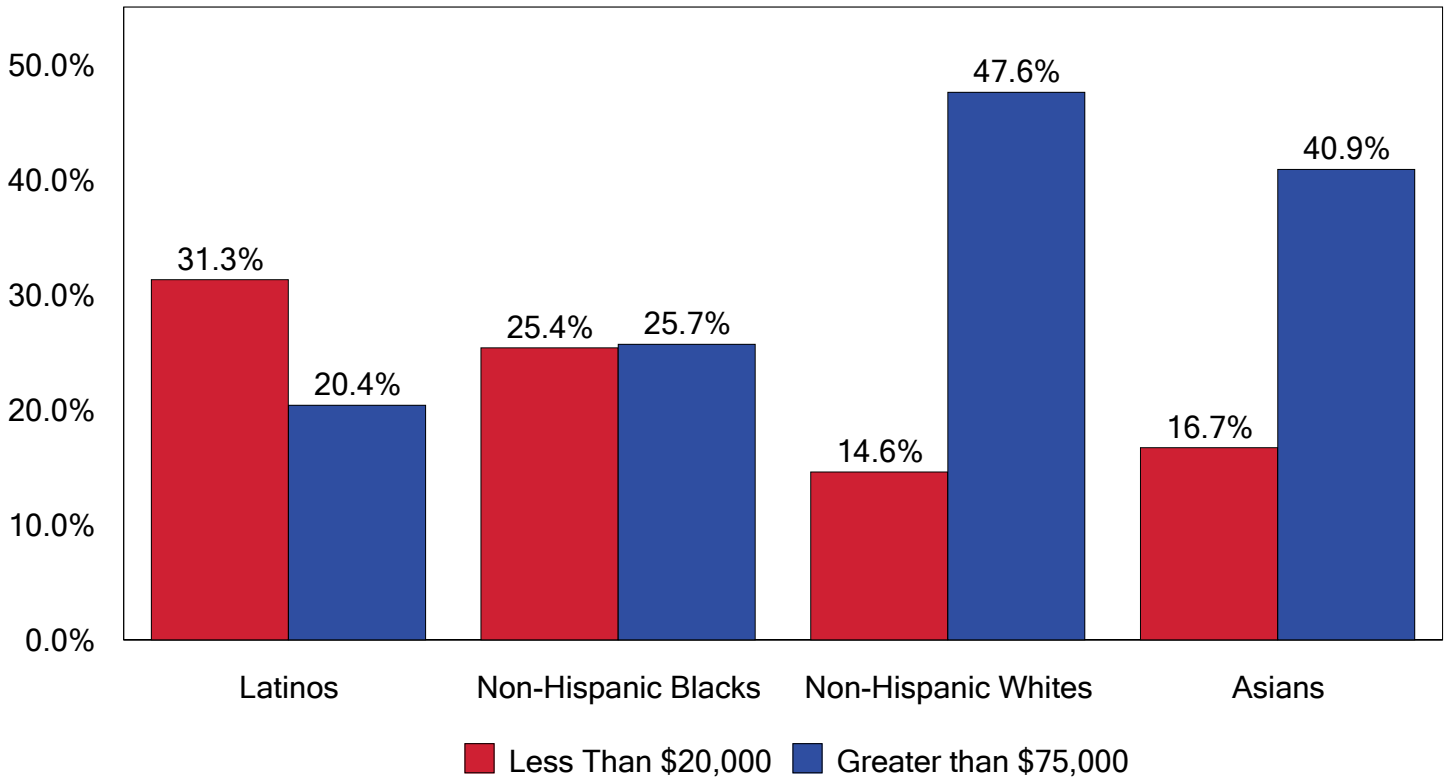
Percent Increase 2000 - 2008	
Puerto Ricans	16.8%
Dominicans	-2.8%
Mexicans	-15.2%
Ecuadorians	4.4%
Colombians	8.2%

These median household income data do not indicate anything about the distribution of wealth within the City’s Latino communities. As was the case with all of New York’s race/ethnic groups there was a very clear social structure highlighted by an inequitable distribution of income. However, among Latinos there were greater percentages of poor households, and fewer households which were relatively well off, compared with the City’s other race/ethnic groups. About 31% of Latino households in 2008 earned under \$20,000 yearly, but they only received 6.7% of total Latino income. However, 20% of all Latino households earned greater than \$75,000 and they controlled 53% of Latino total income. (See table 4 and figure 9 for complete household income distribution data). Income concentration at the top of the socioeconomic hierarchy was not unique among Latinos, but it should be clearly recognized. Although there were many poor Latino households, there were many which were fairly well off economically.

Table 4
Household Income Distribution Structure by Head of Household, Race/Ethnicity, New York City, 2008

	Latinos		Non-Hispanic Blacks		Non-Hispanic Whites		Asians	
	% of Households	% of Income	% of Households	% of Income	% of Households	% of Income	% of Households	% of Income
Less than 10,000	15.2%	2.0%	12.6%	1.3%	5.5%	0.3%	6.3%	0.5%
10,000-19,999	16.1%	4.7%	12.8%	3.4%	9.1%	1.2%	10.4%	1.8%
20,000-29,999	12.0%	5.8%	11.4%	5.1%	7.6%	1.7%	10.0%	3.0%
30,000-39,999	10.7%	7.3%	10.8%	6.7%	7.4%	2.3%	8.4%	3.5%
40,000-49,999	9.5%	8.3%	8.9%	7.2%	6.8%	2.8%	7.8%	4.2%
50,000-74,999	16.1%	19.3%	17.8%	19.6%	16.0%	9.0%	16.1%	12.0%
75,000-99,999	9.0%	15.2%	10.9%	16.9%	12.4%	9.7%	12.9%	13.6%
100,000 - 199,999	9.6%	25.5%	13.2%	31.6%	22.5%	28.2%	21.6%	35.1%
200,000 +	1.8%	11.9%	1.6%	8.2%	12.7%	44.8%	6.4%	26.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Figure 9
 Percentage of Households Earning Less than \$20,000 and Greater than \$75,000
 by Race/Ethnicity, New York City 2008



Puerto Ricans (38%) and Dominicans (35%) had the highest percentage of households earning below \$20,000 and thus may be considered the poorest of the City’s largest Latino nationalities despite the fact that Mexicans are New York’s most recently arrived Latino immigrant group. Some 25% of Mexican households were in this lower echelon of the household income hierarchy. Ecuadorians and Colombians not only had the highest median household incomes, but they also had the fewest households which earned less than \$20,000 annually, and the greatest portion of households earning more than \$75,000 annually as indicated in figure 10. It ought to be emphasized that these two Latino nationalities had, by far, the largest percentage of adults who had completed B.A. degrees or higher, as was indicated previously. The connection between educational attainment levels and household income levels is very graphic within Latino communities.

Yet, as to be expected, within each Latino national group there was a great degree of social and economic stratification. With the exception of Mexican households, 20% or more of Puerto Rican, Dominican, Ecuadorian, and Colombian households earned upward of \$75,000 in 2008, and they controlled over half of total income. Among Mexican households, however, only 13% were in this upper level income-earning category and they accounted for 36% of total Mexican household income, significantly less than among the other Latino national groups examined here. (See table 5).

Figure 10
 Percentage of Households Earning Less than \$20,000 and Greater than \$75,000
 by Largest Latino Nationalities, New York City 2008

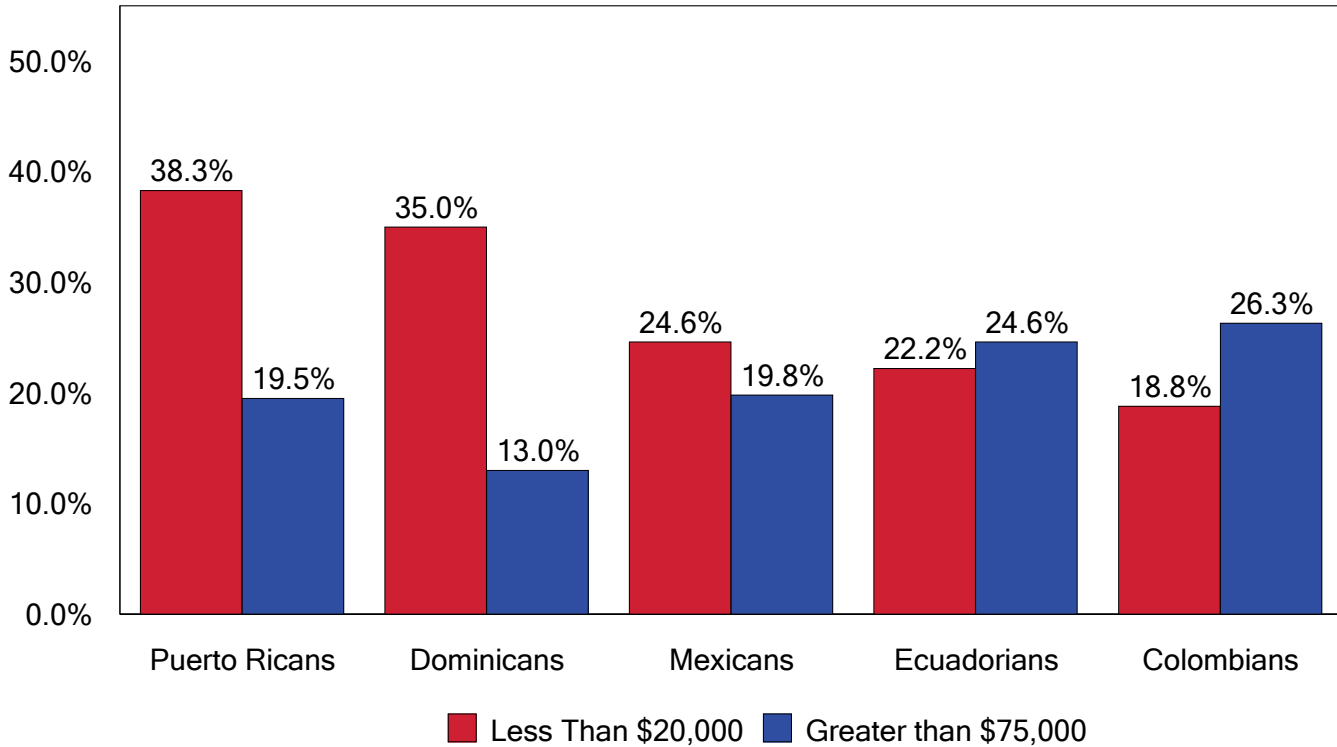


Table 5

Household Income Distribution Structure by Head of Household and Largest Latino Nationalities, New York City, 2008

	Puerto Ricans		Dominicans		Mexicans		Ecuadorians		Colombians	
	% of Households	% of Income	% of Households	% of Income	% of Households	% of Income	% of Households	% of Income	% of Households	% of Income
Less than 10,000	22.0%	3.2%	15.5%	2.5%	6.4%	0.6%	7.5%	0.9%	5.6%	0.5%
10,000-19,999	16.3%	5.0%	19.5%	7.1%	18.1%	5.4%	14.7%	4.0%	13.2%	3.3%
20,000-29,999	10.6%	5.5%	14.0%	8.6%	14.6%	6.7%	14.7%	6.5%	9.4%	3.7%
30,000-39,999	8.0%	5.9%	12.4%	10.7%	13.8%	8.9%	11.5%	7.2%	13.9%	8.0%
40,000-49,999	9.0%	8.5%	9.0%	10.0%	11.0%	9.1%	9.1%	7.4%	11.3%	8.4%
50,000-74,999	14.6%	19.2%	16.6%	24.9%	16.2%	18.2%	17.9%	19.7%	20.3%	20.6%
75,000-99,999	9.1%	16.7%	6.7%	14.4%	8.8%	14.2%	10.4%	15.8%	12.4%	18.0%
100,000 - 199,999	8.8%	25.3%	6.0%	19.2%	9.8%	24.4%	12.8%	30.3%	12.0%	26.9%
200,000 +	1.7%	10.6%	0.3%	2.4%	1.2%	12.6%	1.3%	8.3%	1.9%	10.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Poverty

Although the percentage of Latinos living in poverty declined from 32% to 27% between 2000 and 2008, Latinos still had the highest poverty rates in New York City in 2008 compared with non-Hispanic blacks (22%), Asians (18%), and non-Hispanic whites (12%). (See figure 11). Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, and Mexicans had the highest poverty rates, all close to or greater than 30% in 2008. It is not surprising that Ecuadorians (20%) and Colombians (15%) had the lowest poverty rates among New York City’s largest Latino nationalities since they had greater educational attainment indexes and higher median household incomes. (See figure 12).

Figure 11
Percentage of Population Living in Poverty by Race/Ethnic Group in New York City, 2000 - 2008

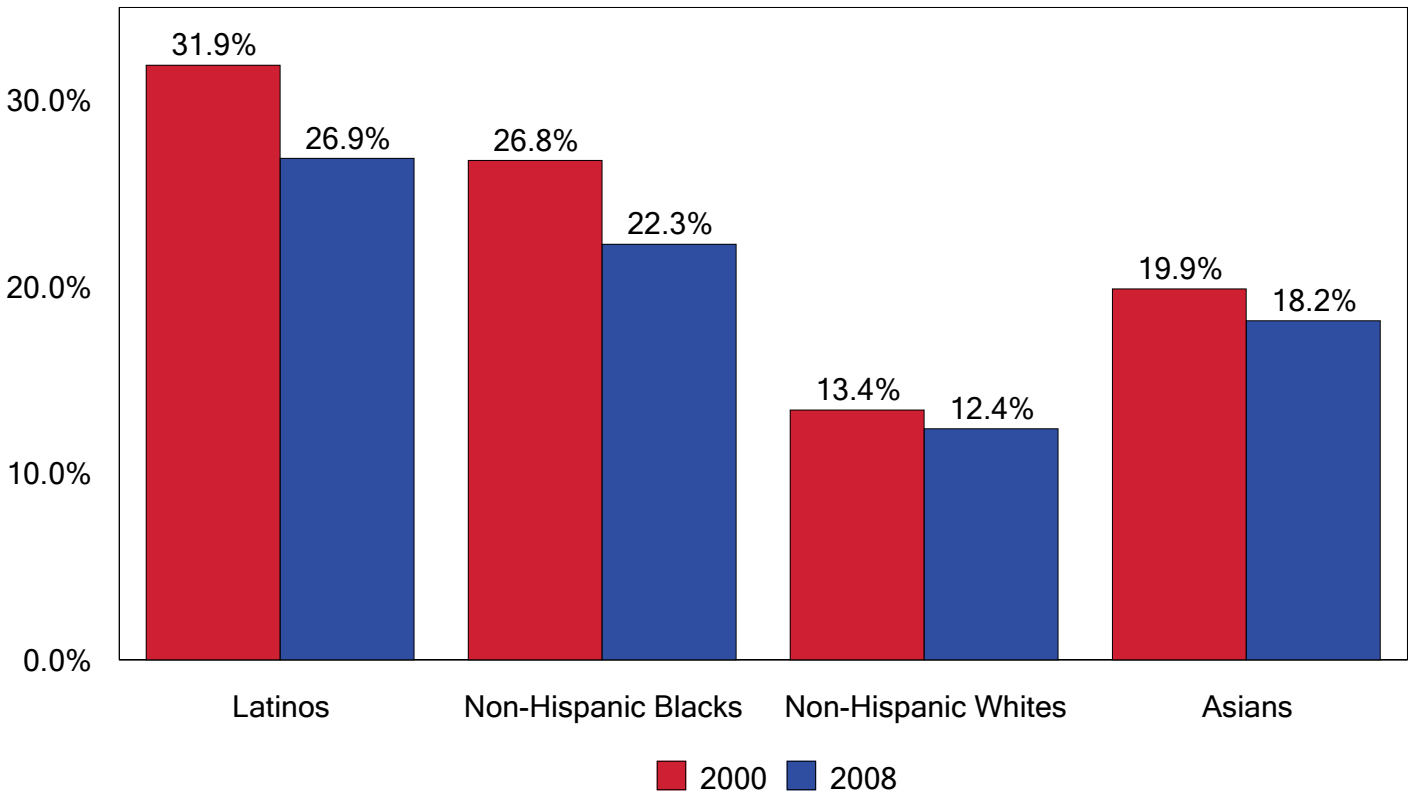
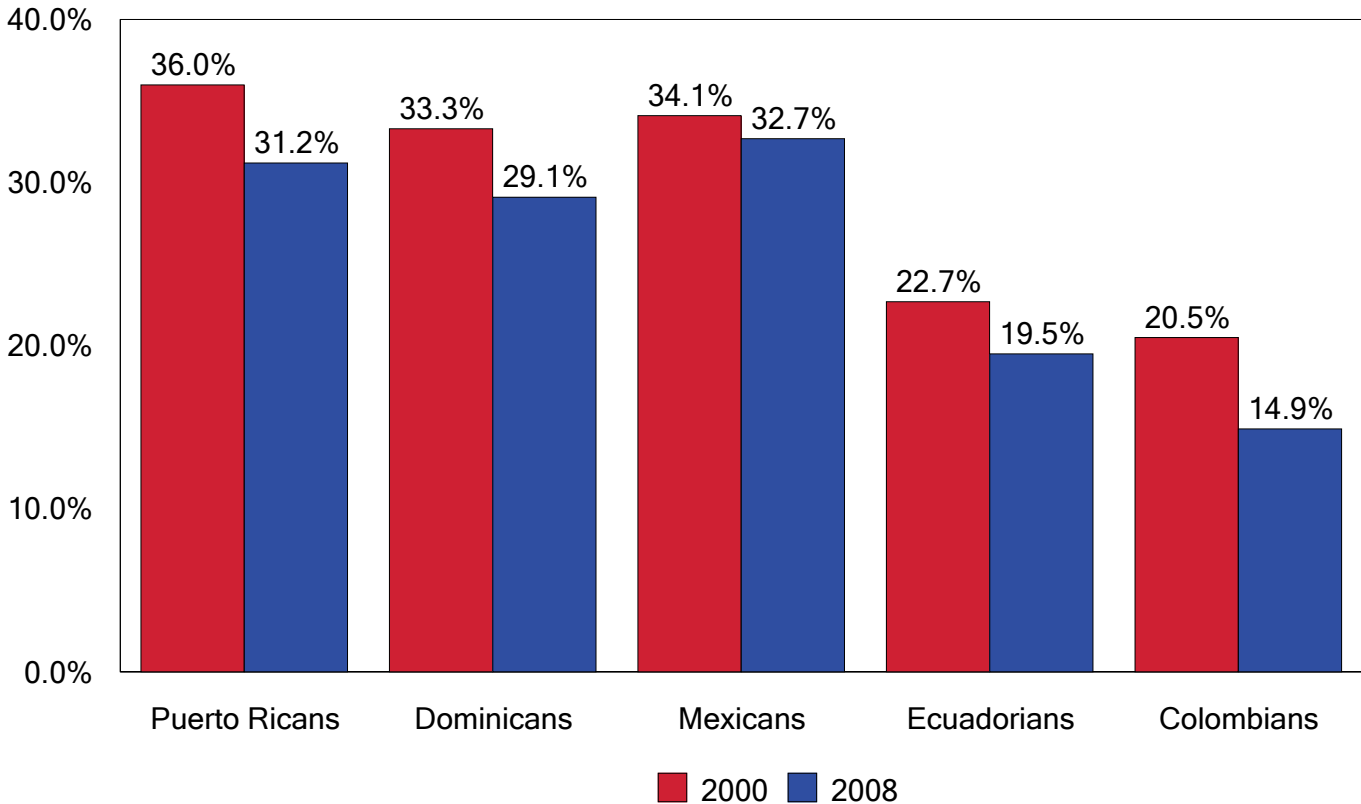


Figure 12
 Percentage of Population Living in Poverty by Largest Latino Nationalities in New York City, 2000 - 2008



Employment and Unemployment

Latinos between the ages of 16 and 60 experienced a decline in unemployment rates between 2000 (8.3%) and 2008 (6.1%). They also had a lower unemployment rate than found among non-Hispanic blacks in 2008 (7.5%) but higher rates than found among non-Hispanic whites and Asians, both about 4%. (See figure 13). However, employment and unemployment data do not include those individuals who are not actively seeking work for whatever reason. A more instructive indicator of labor markets is to examine those who were ‘not in the labor force.’ Latinos demonstrated some major improvements between 2000 when 41% of all working-age adults were out of the labor force, and 2008 when this had declined substantially to 29%. Although the percentage of non-Hispanic whites aged 16-60 was somewhat less at 23%, by 2008 Latinos had similar non labor force participation rates as non-Hispanic blacks (also 29%) and Asians (27%). (See figure 14). These data suggest a major improvement in the employment situation for Latinos between 2000 when nearly 50% of all working-age adults were either unemployed or not seeking work, to 2008 when about 35% fell into these two labor market categories. This was despite the economic crisis occurring after 2007.

Figure 13
Unemployment Rates by Race/Ethnic Group in New York City, 2000 - 2008
For Population Ages 16 - 60

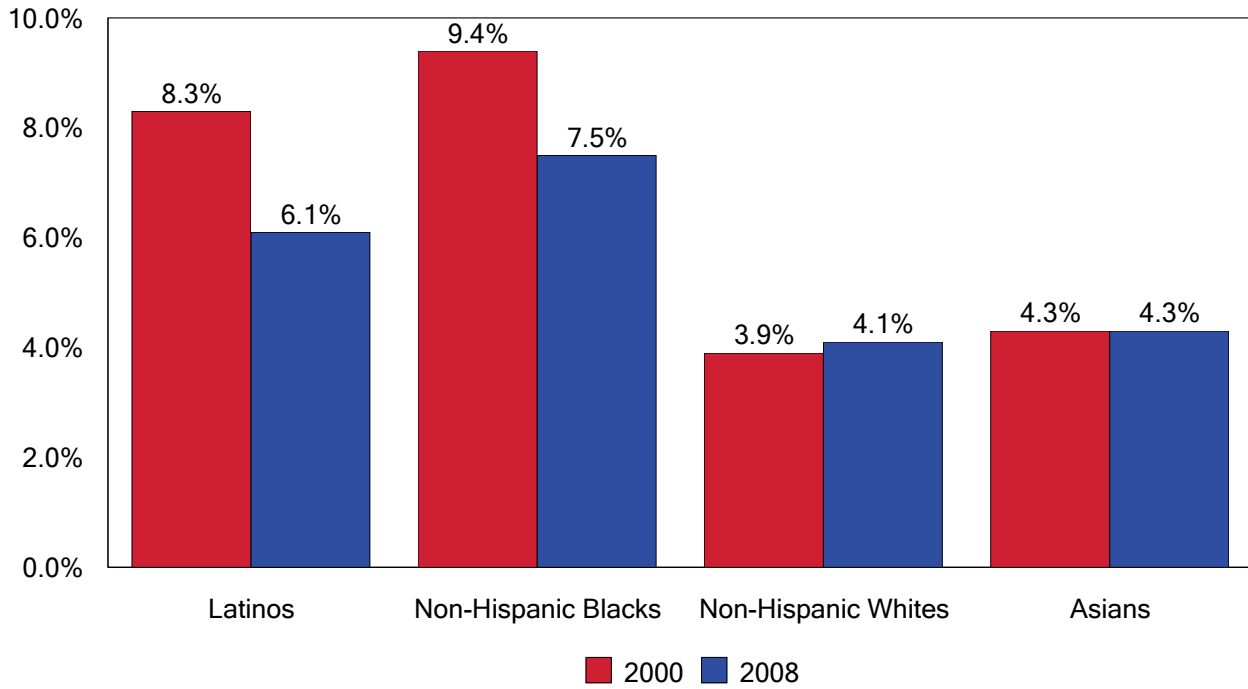
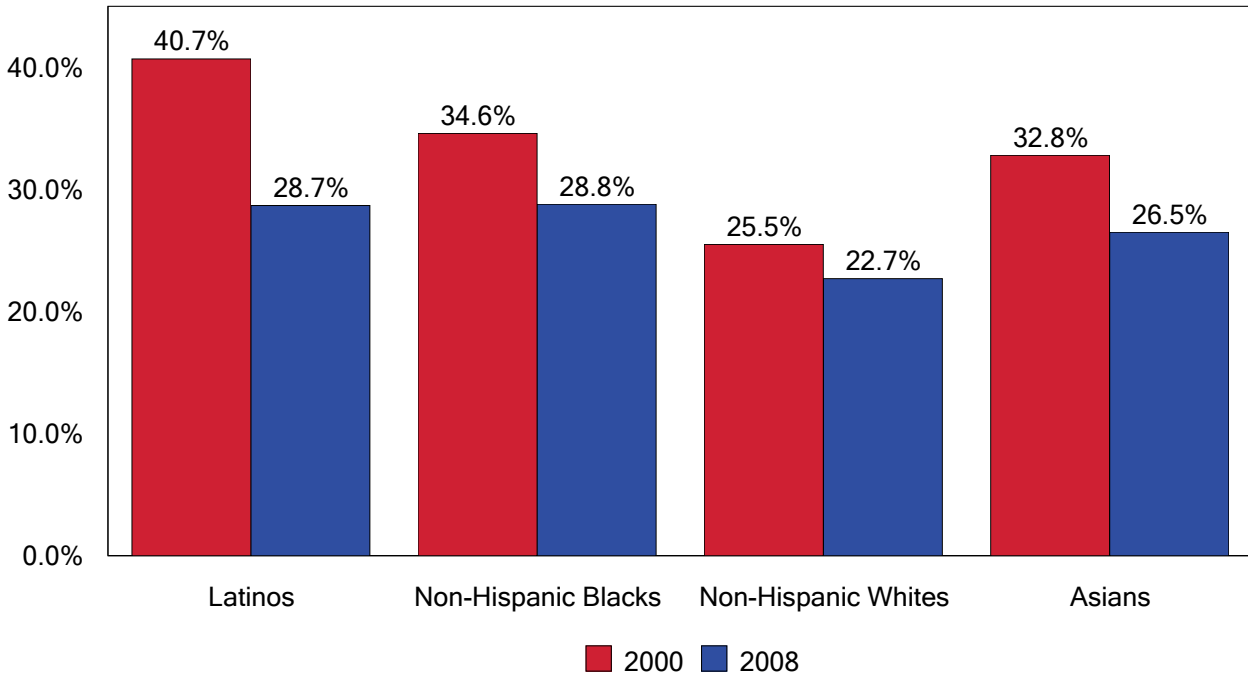


Figure 14
'Not in Labor Force' Rates by Race/Ethnic Group in New York City, 2000 - 2008
For Population Ages 16 - 60



Among the largest Latino nationalities there were parallel declines in both the unemployment rate and the 'not in the labor force' rate between 2000 and 2008. Dominicans continued to have the highest unemployment rate between 2000 (9.4%) and 2008 (7.5%). However, Puerto Ricans stand out as having the highest percentage of persons who were out of the labor force in both 2000 (44%) and 2008 (37%). If we combine the unemployment rate and the out of the labor force rate, this stood at about 52% of all Puerto Rican adults in 2000 and about 44% in 2008. For 2008 a significantly lower percentage of Dominicans (35%) were unemployed or not seeking work. The rate was 30% among Mexicans; 28% among Ecuadorians; and 25% among Colombians. (See figures 15 and 16, and table 6).

Figure 15
Unemployment Rates by Largest Latino Nationalities in New York City, 2000 - 2008
For Population Ages 16 - 60

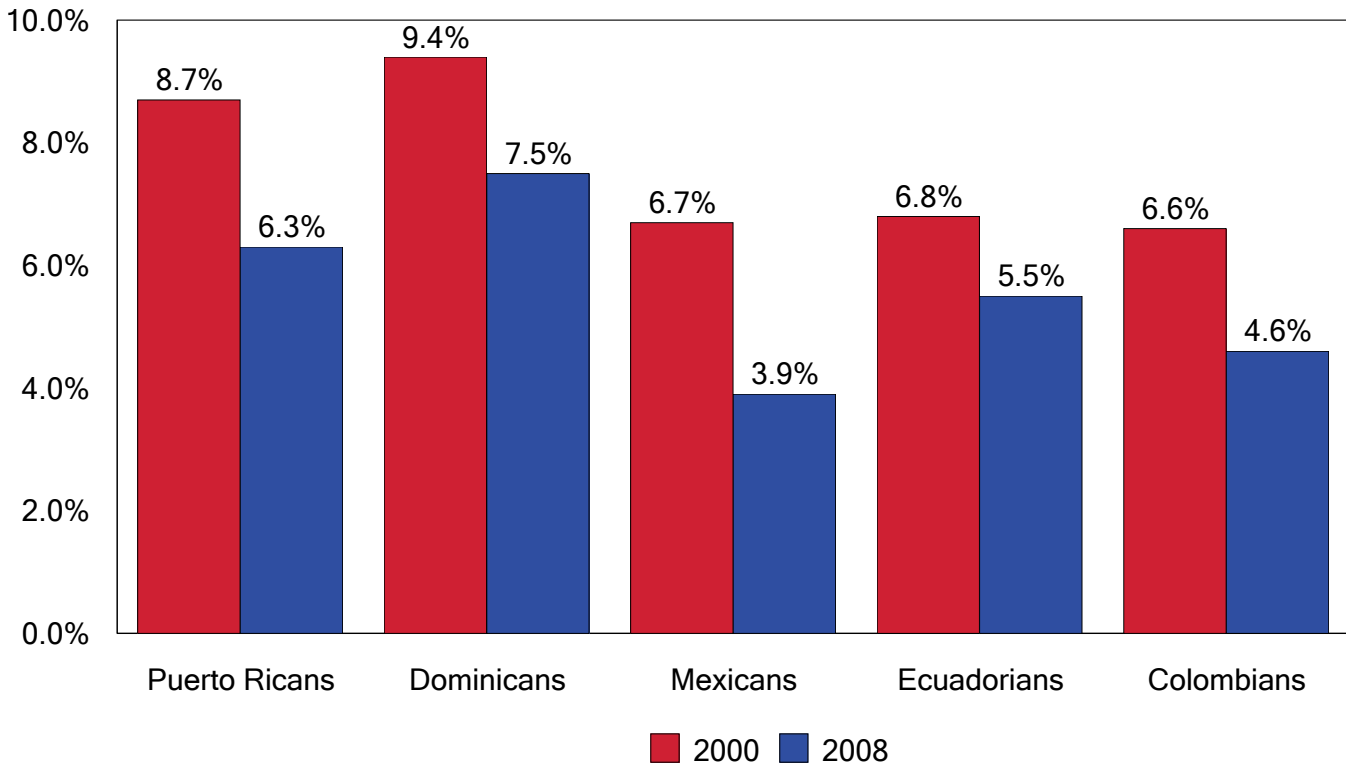


Figure 16
 'Not in Labor Force' Rates by Largest Latino Nationalities in New York City, 2000 - 2008
 For Population Ages 16 - 60

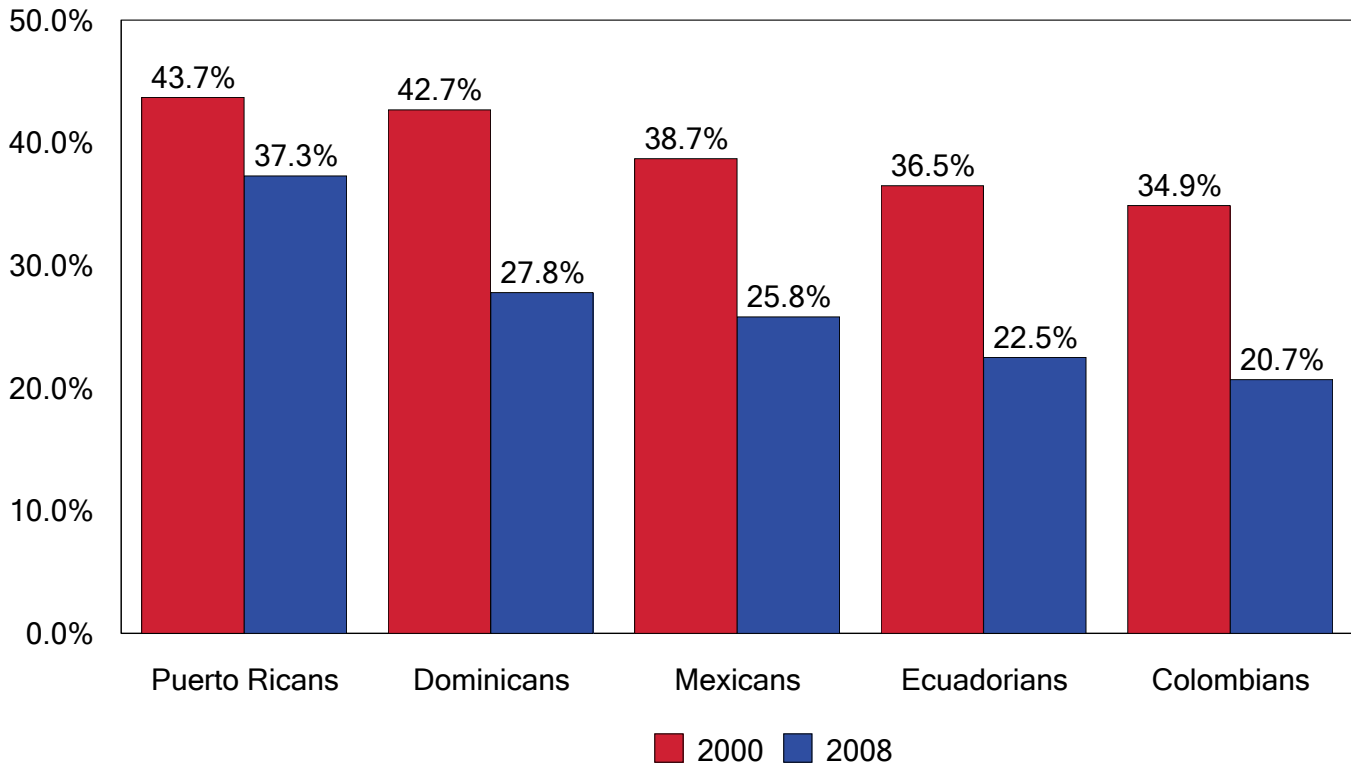


Table 6
 Unemployment and Out of the
 Workforce Rates Combined for
 Largest Latino Nationalities
 New York City 2000 - 2008

	2000	2008
Puerto Ricans	52.4%	43.6%
Dominicans	52.1%	35.3%
Mexicans	45.4%	29.7%
Ecuadorians	43.3%	28.0%
Colombians	41.5%	25.3%

English Language Abilities

The ability to speak English was heavily influenced by nativity and the length of time foreign-born Latinos have been in the United States. About 26% of all New York City Latinos in 2008 indicated that they either spoke no English (8%) or spoke English poorly (18%). Among Mexicans the combined rate was a very high 44%, followed by Ecuadorians (40%), Dominicans (36%), Colombians (29%), and Puerto Ricans (9%). (See table 7 and figure 17). As expected foreign-born Latinos had poorer English language skills at much higher rates than U.S.-born Latinos. (See table 8). It may be anticipated that these patterns will persist into the future. As more children of the foreign-born are born and raised in the U.S. greater percentages of each Latino nationality will have better English-language skills. However, future immigration patterns will also impact overall English language skill rates. At the present juncture it appears that Mexicans are the only Latino national sub-group whose foreign-born population continues to increase significantly, and this will produce lower English-language skill rates among the City’s Mexican population if these patterns will continue.

Table 7
English Language Abilities for Population 5 years of Age and Over for All Latinos and Largest Latino Nationalities, New York City 2008

	All Latinos	Puerto Ricans	Dominicans	Mexicans	Ecuadorians	Colombians
Does not speak English	8.0%	1.9%	13.1%	13.9%	12.9%	5.3%
Yes, speaks only English	14.2%	26.1%	4.1%	7.2%	4.1%	8.2%
Yes, speaks very well	43.0%	52.3%	43.1%	27.2%	35.3%	38.5%
Yes, speaks well	16.8%	12.3%	16.8%	21.0%	20.7%	24.7%
Yes, but not well	18.1%	7.5%	22.8%	30.7%	27.1%	23.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Figure 17
 English Language Ability for all Latinos and Largest Latino Nationalities, New York City 2008
 Population 5 Years of Age and Older

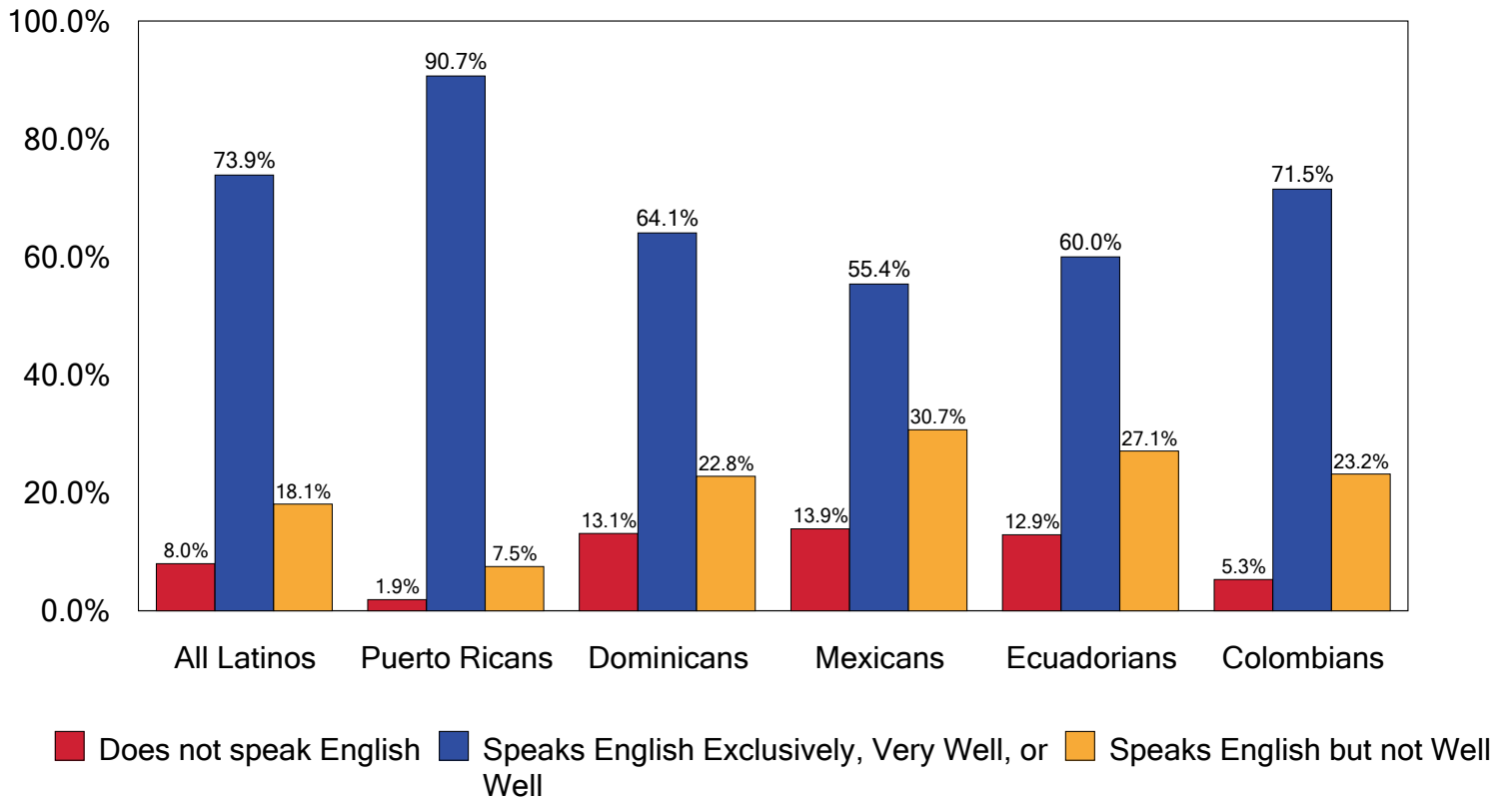


Table 8
 English Language Abilities for Population 5 years of Age and Over for All Latinos and
 Largest Latino Nationalities by Nativity, New York City 2008

	All Latinos		Puerto Ricans		Dominicans	
	Domestic Born	Foreign Born	Domestic Born	Foreign Born	Domestic Born	Foreign Born
Does not speak English	0.2%	13.8%	0.1%	5.6%	0.5%	19.3%
Yes, speaks only English	27.6%	4.1%	35.9%	5.5%	8.4%	2.0%
Yes, speaks very well	61.7%	28.8%	55.9%	44.6%	81.4%	24.3%
Yes, speaks well	8.3%	23.2%	6.5%	24.4%	8.5%	20.9%
Yes, but not well	2.2%	30.1%	1.6%	19.8%	1.2%	33.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

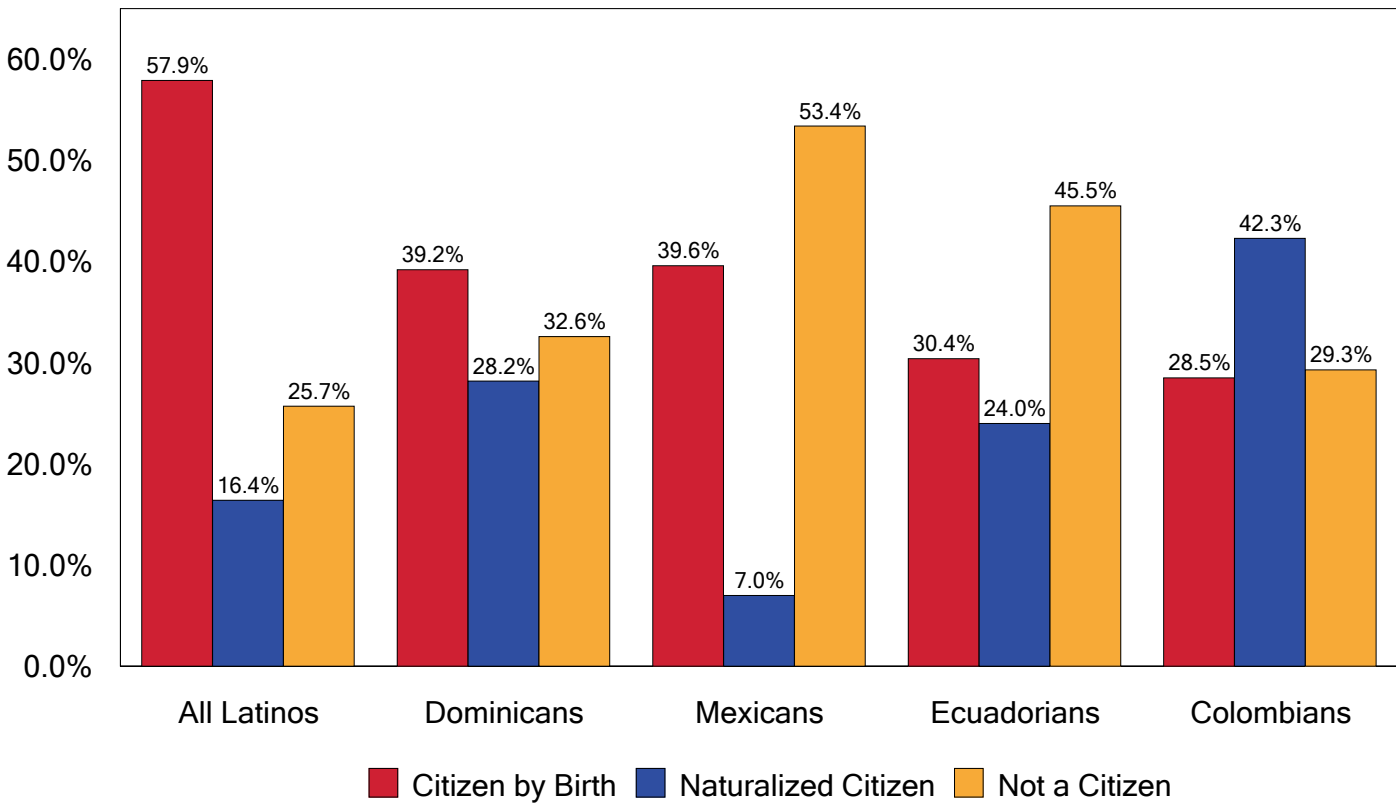
	Mexicans		Ecuadorians		Colombians	
	Domestic Born	Foreign Born	Domestic Born	Foreign Born	Domestic Born	Foreign Born
Does not speak English	0.6%	19.9%	0.6%	16.6%	0.0%	6.9%
Yes, speaks only English	17.6%	2.5%	8.6%	2.7%	19.0%	4.8%
Yes, speaks very well	56.5%	13.8%	76.4%	22.9%	68.4%	29.1%
Yes, speaks well	18.4%	22.2%	10.7%	23.7%	11.7%	28.8%
Yes, but not well	6.8%	41.6%	3.7%	34.1%	1.0%	30.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Note: For Puerto Ricans foreign born means born in Puerto Rico.

Citizenship and the New York City Latino Electorate

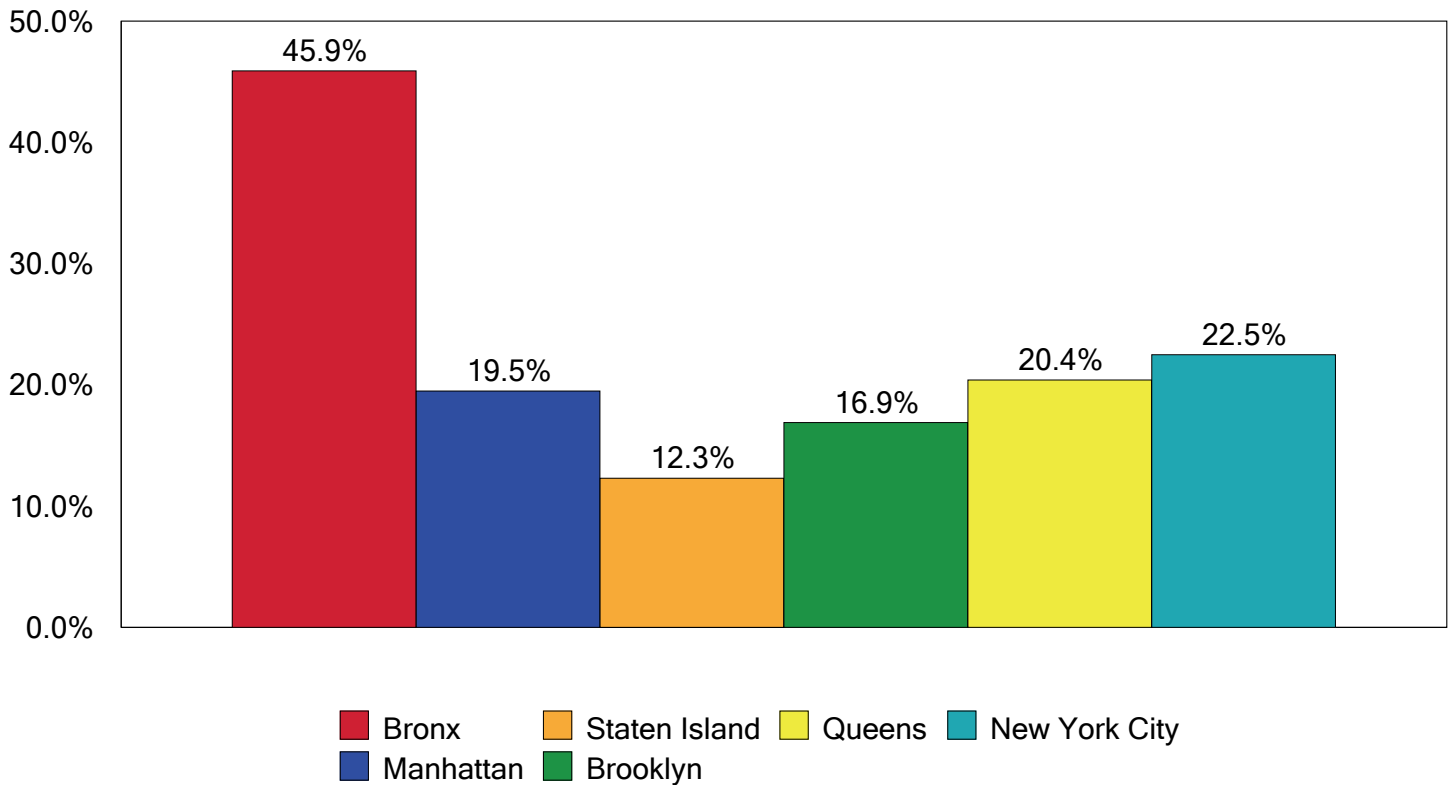
About 74% of all Latinos in the City were either citizens by birth (58%) or naturalized citizens (16%) in 2008. These data were heavily influenced by the Puerto Rican population since all Puerto Ricans are citizens of the U.S. whether domestically born or born on the island. More than two-thirds of all Dominicans and Colombians were citizens, 55% of Ecuadorians, and 47% of Mexicans. (See figure 18).

Figure 18
Citizenship Status for all Latinos and Largest Latino Nationalities, New York City 2008



Latino citizens who were 18 years of age or older in 2008 comprised 22.5% of all potential New York City voters. In the Bronx nearly 46% of the electorate was comprised of Latinos followed by Queens (20%), Manhattan (20%), Brooklyn (17%), and Staten Island (12%). (See figure 19).

Figure 19
 Latinos as Percentage of Electorate by New York City Borough, 2008
 Population who are Citizens and 18 Years of Age and Older



Highlights

- There were over 2.3 million Latinos living in New York City in 2008 an increase of 5% from 2000.
- Latinos were 28% of the City’s total population in 2008 and accounted for 52% of the population of the Bronx, 27% of Queens, 25% of Manhattan, 20% of Brooklyn, and 15% of Staten Island.
- Some 31% of all City Latinos lived in the Bronx, 27% in Queens, 22% in Brooklyn, 18% in Manhattan, and 3% in Staten Island.
- Puerto Ricans continue to be the largest Latino national sub-group at one-third of all Latinos, although their absolute numbers and relative percentage of all Latinos has declined since 2000.
- Dominicans are the second largest Latino nationality having increased by 5.5% since 2000 and they comprise 26% of all New York City Latinos.
- Mexicans made up about 12% of the City’s Latinos in 2008 and they continue to be the most rapidly growing sector of the Latino population having increased by 60% since 2000.

- While college graduation rates have improved among Latinos since 2000, they have the lowest rates of the major race/ethnic groups in the City.
- Colombians and Ecuadorians had the highest college graduation rates and Mexicans the lowest. About 12% of Puerto Ricans and Dominicans 25 years of age and older had achieved a B.A. degree or greater.
- Greater percentages of Latinos have not graduated high school than found among the other race/ethnic groups although there has been improvement since 2000.
- Among the largest Latino nationalities Mexicans and Dominicans had the highest percentages of their adult populations who had not graduated high school in 2008 despite improvements from 2000.
- Latinos have the lowest median household incomes in the City compared with the other race/ethnic groups.
- Latinos have more households living in poverty and earning less than \$20,000 yearly than the City's other race/ethnic groups, although over 20% of all Latino households earned more than \$75,000.
- Puerto Ricans and Dominicans had the highest portion of households earning under \$20,000 annually; and the lowest proportion earning greater than \$75,000 compared with Mexicans, Ecuadorians, and Colombians. They also had the highest poverty rates along with Mexicans, about one third of total populations of each group.
- Latinos had the highest rate of unemployed and persons 'not in the labor force' when compared with the other major race/ethnic groups in the City in 2008.
- Puerto Ricans and Dominicans had the highest unemployment rates as well as 'not in the labor force' rates compared with the other Latino nationalities.
- About three-quarters of all Latinos reported speaking English exclusively, well, or very well in 2008. Puerto Ricans, by far were the one Latino nationality with the best English language skills. Some 91% reported good English language skills and only 2% reported not speaking English compared with about 13% of Dominicans, Mexicans, and Ecuadorians who could not speak any English
- About three-quarters of the City's Latinos were citizens of the U.S. because of birth (58%) or naturalization (16%).
- Latinos comprised 23% of the total potential electorate in the City in 2008, that is citizens 18 years of age and older. In the Bronx 46% of potential voters were Latinos followed by Queens (20%), Manhattan (20%), Brooklyn (17%), and Staten Island (12%).