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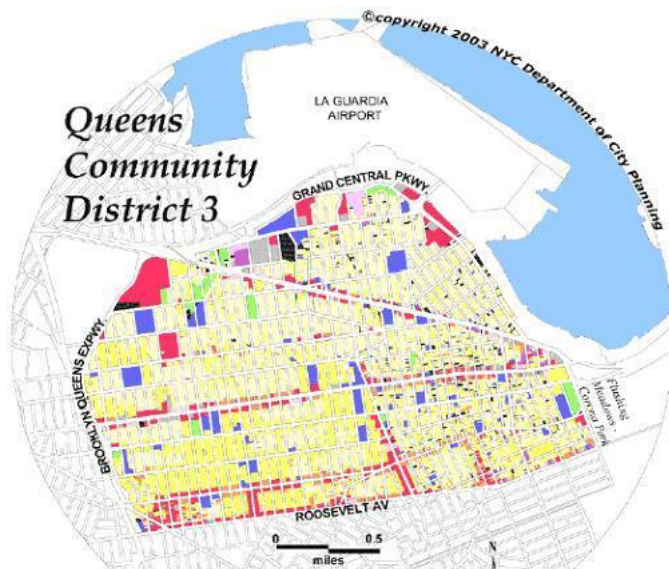
THE GRADUATE CENTER
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Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies

Gentrification in Northern Queens? Demographic and Socioeconomic Transformations in Queens Community District 3: Jackson Heights and Corona 1990 - 2016

Lawrence Cappello, Ph.D.



Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies

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

212-817-8438

clacls@gc.cuny.edu

<http://clacls.gc.cuny.edu/>



LATINO DATA PROJECT



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 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://clacls.gc.cuny.edu>

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, Department of Latin American, Latino and Puerto Rican Studies, Lehman College, Ph.D. Program in History, Executive Director, CLACLS

Victoria Stone-Cadena, Ph.D., Associate Director

Karen Okigbo, Administrative Director

Sebastián Villamizar-Santamaría, Director of Quantitative Research

Andreina Torres Angarita, Events Coordinator

Antonio Ramos, Graphic Designer

Rafael Davis Portela, Research Associate

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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://clacls.gc.cuny.edu/>

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Executive Summary

Few would deny the meteoric rise in real estate value throughout New York City in recent decades, especially in the boroughs of Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens. This has resulted in speculative investment opportunities for people of all race/ethnic groups seeking reasonably priced housing in poorer neighborhoods. Commonly referred to as “gentrification,” this process has been the subject of much debate. Many pundits claim it displaces poor residents and “white washes” the racial composition of traditionally minority neighborhoods. Others argue that gentrification brings increased job opportunities, diminished crime rates, and a general improvement to a neighborhood’s quality of life. Whatever one’s perspective, gentrification is a seemingly omnipresent topic of discussion in contemporary urban America.¹

This report examines the extent of gentrification in the New York City neighborhood of Jackson Heights/Corona (officially designated Queens Community District #3), one of the borough’s predominately Latino neighborhoods. It presents key socioeconomic and demographic trends between 1990 and 2016. To describe the conditions facing Jackson Heights/Corona residents, this report presents data on race/ethnicity, income structures, poverty rates, employment, educational attainment, citizenship status, and language acquisition.²

The findings may come as a surprise to some. In short, the Latino community of Jackson Heights/Corona is not being displaced in any meaningful way. On the contrary, while there has certainly been an increase in the income of non-Hispanic whites living in the district over the last decade, the non-Hispanic white population has decreased sharply between 1990 and 2016, while the Latino community has grown considerably.

This is not to say the neighborhood isn’t changing; it is. The total number of Latinos in Jackson Heights/Corona has almost doubled since 1990, and the ethnic makeup of the neighborhood’s Latino community has changed significantly. The total percentage of Puerto Ricans in the population and as a percentage of all Latinos has decreased, while the percentage of Mexicans and Ecuadorians has risen in recent decades. Also, while the majority of Jackson Heights/Corona residents are foreign-born, the number of domestic-born persons moving into the neighborhood has increased steadily over the last two decades.

Although unemployment is down across-the-board, since 1990, Latinos have consistently been the poorest race/ethnic group in Jackson Heights/Corona, and recent data suggest they are growing poorer still. The median household income of Latino residents is lower than it was in 2010 (when adjusted for

¹ See particularly: Lance Freeman, *There Goes the ‘Hood’: Views of Gentrification from the Ground Up* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2006) and Ruth Glass, editor, London; *Aspects of Change* (University College, London. Centre for Urban Studies. London, MacGibbon & Kee, 1964).

² The 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 and the US Census Bureau’s American Community Survey. This report analyzes data from PUMAS 05403 (1990) and 04102 (2000/2010/2016) in Queens.

inflation in 2016 dollars), and Latino poverty rates have risen steadily since 1990. Almost half of the community's Mexican population lived in poverty in 2016.

The neighborhood's citizenship rates are also up since 1990, especially among the Dominican and Colombian populations, as are the percentage of Latinos who speak English "well or very well."

Finally, educational attainment rates have shown consistent improvement among all race/ethnic groups and all Latino national subgroups. Among all race/ethnic groups, instances of high school non-completion have declined sharply and the percentage of the population with a bachelor's degree or higher has increased steadily since 1990. Despite this improvement, the 2016 data indicate that Latinos had the lowest levels of educational attainment in Jackson Heights/Corona, particularly the Mexican population (almost half of whom have not graduated high school).

Complete and detailed data for non-Hispanic whites, non-Hispanic blacks, Asians, and Latinos are presented throughout the report. These data may be used as basic reference materials for researchers, journalists, students, and information seekers.

General Demography

Since the 1980s, Queens Community District 3 has been transformed by the influx of a large Latino population comprised of multiple nationalities. Latinos accounted for 65 percent of the Jackson Heights/Corona community in 2016, with approximately 109,000 residents, increases from 45 percent and 61,000 residents in 1990. (See tables 1 and 2).

Asians were the second largest race/ethnic group at approximately 28,000 residents and an 18 percent share of the population in 2016. In 1990, nearly 17,000 residents were Asian, comprising 12 percent of the population. Non-Hispanic whites are the third largest group with approximately 17,000 residents and 10 percent of the population in 2016, a sharp decline from 1990 when they made up 26 percent of the neighborhood's population. Non-Hispanic blacks are the smallest race/ethnic group in the community, at approximately 7,000 residents comprising only 4 percent of Jackson Heights/Corona residents in 2016. This is a notable decrease from 1990, when nearly 20,000 non-Hispanic blacks accounted for 15 percent of the neighborhood's population. (See figure 1).

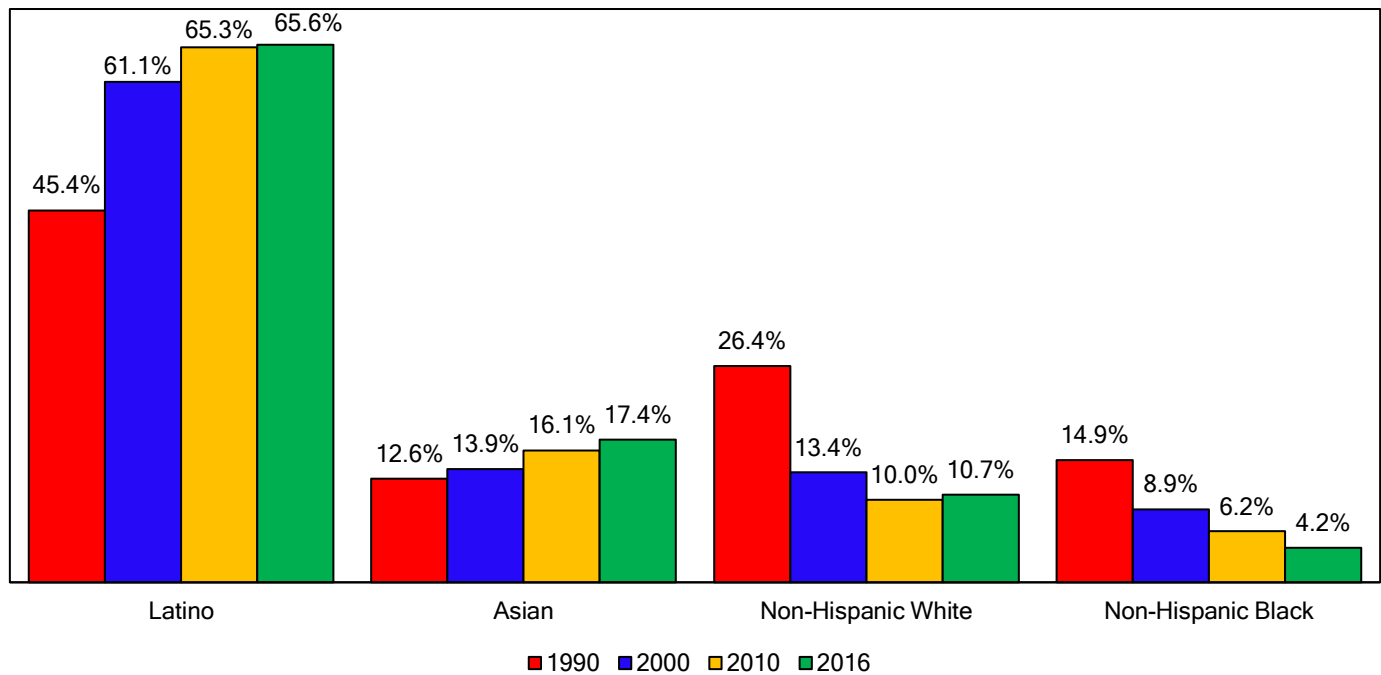
Table 1
Total Population in Jackson Heights/Corona by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
Non-Hispanic White	35,857	23,614	17,094	17,761
Non-Hispanic Black	20,262	15,705	10,594	7,041
Latino	61,766	107,224	111,125	109,035
Asian	17,193	24,328	27,437	28,971
Other	893	4,715	3,875	3,300
Total	135,971	175,586	170,125	166,108

Table 2
Percentage of Total Population in Jackson Heights/Corona by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
Latino	45.4%	61.1%	65.3%	65.6%
Asian	12.6%	13.9%	16.1%	17.4%
Non-Hispanic White	26.4%	13.4%	10.0%	10.7%
Non-Hispanic Black	14.9%	8.9%	6.2%	4.2%
Other	0.7%	2.7%	2.3%	2.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Figure 1
Percentage of Total Population in Jackson Heights/Corona by Race/Ethnicity,
1990-2016



An examination of the various Latino national subgroups residing in Jackson Heights/Corona shows that Ecuadorians accounted for the largest nationality in 2016, at 26 percent of the total Latino population. The second largest subgroup was Mexicans, who comprised 25 percent of all Latinos in the community.

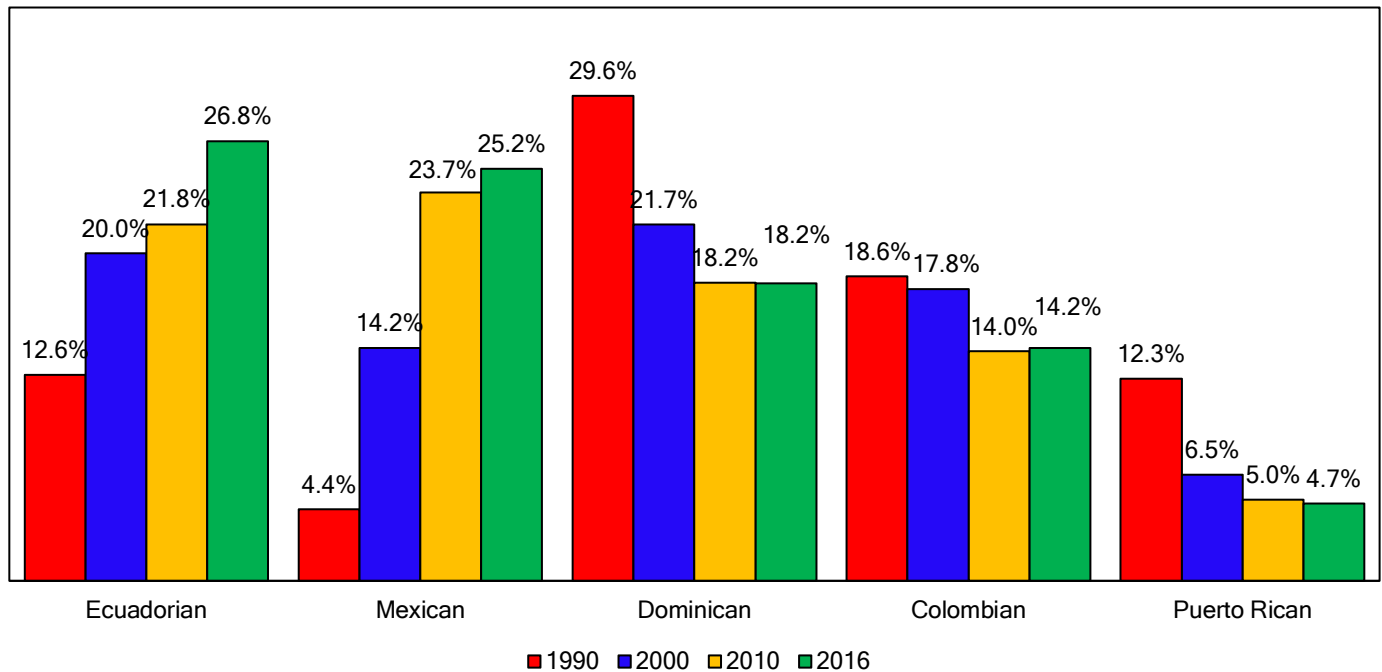
Both the Ecuadorian and Mexican populations have experienced considerable growth since 1990, when they accounted for only 12 percent and 4 percent of the neighborhood's Latino population, respectively. The expansion of the Mexican population is particularly striking, as the total number of Mexicans increased from 2,691 in 1990 to 27,438 in 2016, more than a ten-fold increase. This shift in demographics is one of the most significant changes to occur in Jackson Heights/Corona since 1990. (See table 3).

Dominicans were the third largest Latino nationality in 2016, accounting for 18 percent of the Latino population, followed by Colombians at 14 percent, and Puerto Ricans at approximately 5 percent. (See figure 2).

Table 3
Five Largest Latino Nationalities in Jackson Heights/Corona, 1990-2016

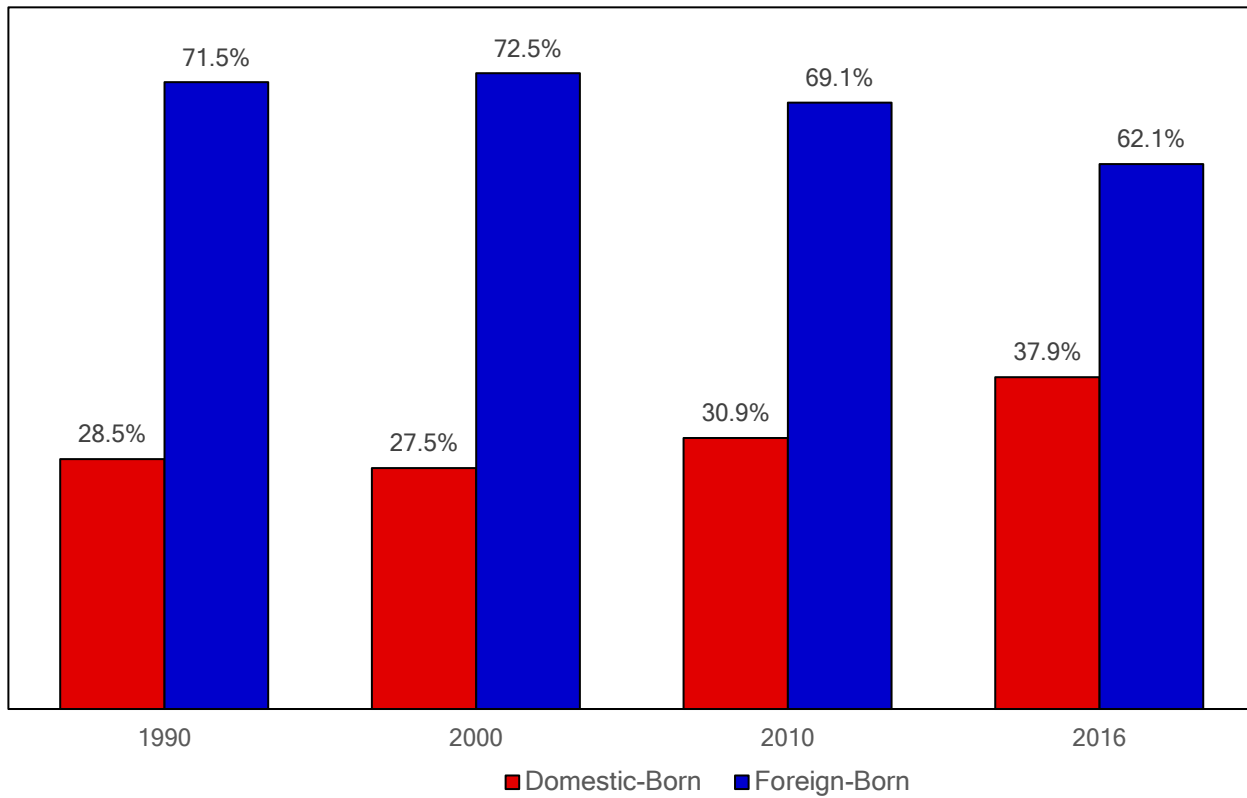
	1990	2000	2010	2016
Ecuadorian	7,777	21,438	24,191	29,274
Mexican	2,691	15,224	26,358	27,438
Dominican	18,298	23,314	20,205	19,792
Colombian	11,486	19,077	15,577	15,513
Puerto Rican	7,626	6,935	5,516	5,130
Other	13,888	21,236	19,278	11,888
Total	61,766	107,224	111,125	109,035

Figure 2
Latino National Subgroups in Jackson Heights/Corona as a Percentage of all Latinos 1990-2016



The Jackson Heights/Corona population has always been mostly foreign-born since 1990, but recent data suggest this trend is in decline. In 1990, 72 percent of the population was foreign-born. This declined to 62 percent in 2016. (See figure 3).

Figure 3
Percentage of Foreign-Born and Domestic-Born Population
in Jackson Heights/Corona,
1990-2016



With the exception of Puerto Ricans, the majority of Latinos in Jackson Heights/Corona were foreign-born in 2016. (For Puerto Ricans ‘foreign-born’ means born in Puerto Rico).

Ecuadorians had the largest foreign-born population at 78 percent in 2016. About 75 percent of Colombians residing in Jackson Heights/Corona were foreign-born, compared with 71 percent of Dominicans, and 63 percent of Mexicans in 2016. (See tables 4 and 5).

As with the rest of the neighborhood’s population, all of these groups have shown a slight decline in foreign-born persons. This decline is most pronounced among the Mexican population, which dropped fifteen percentage points between 1990 and 2016.

Table 4
Percentage of Domestic-Born Population for Five Largest Latino Groups
in Jackson Heights/Corona, 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
Mexican	22.4%	22.5%	36.5%	36.5%
Puerto Rican	61.9%	58.4%	56.1%	63.1%
Colombian	20.7%	17.4%	25.3%	25.3%
Ecuadorian	21.9%	18.2%	21.9%	21.9%
Dominican	28.9%	33.3%	29.3%	29.3%
Other	20.3%	33.1%	33.5%	33.5%

Table 5
Percentage of Foreign-Born Population for Five Largest Latino Groups
in Jackson Heights/Corona, 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
Mexican	77.6%	77.5%	63.5%	63.5%
Puerto Rican	38.1%	41.6%	43.9%	29.9%
Colombian	79.3%	82.6%	74.7%	74.7%
Ecuadorian	78.1%	81.8%	78.1%	78.1%
Dominican	71.1%	66.7%	70.7%	70.7%
Other	79.7%	66.9%	66.5%	66.5%

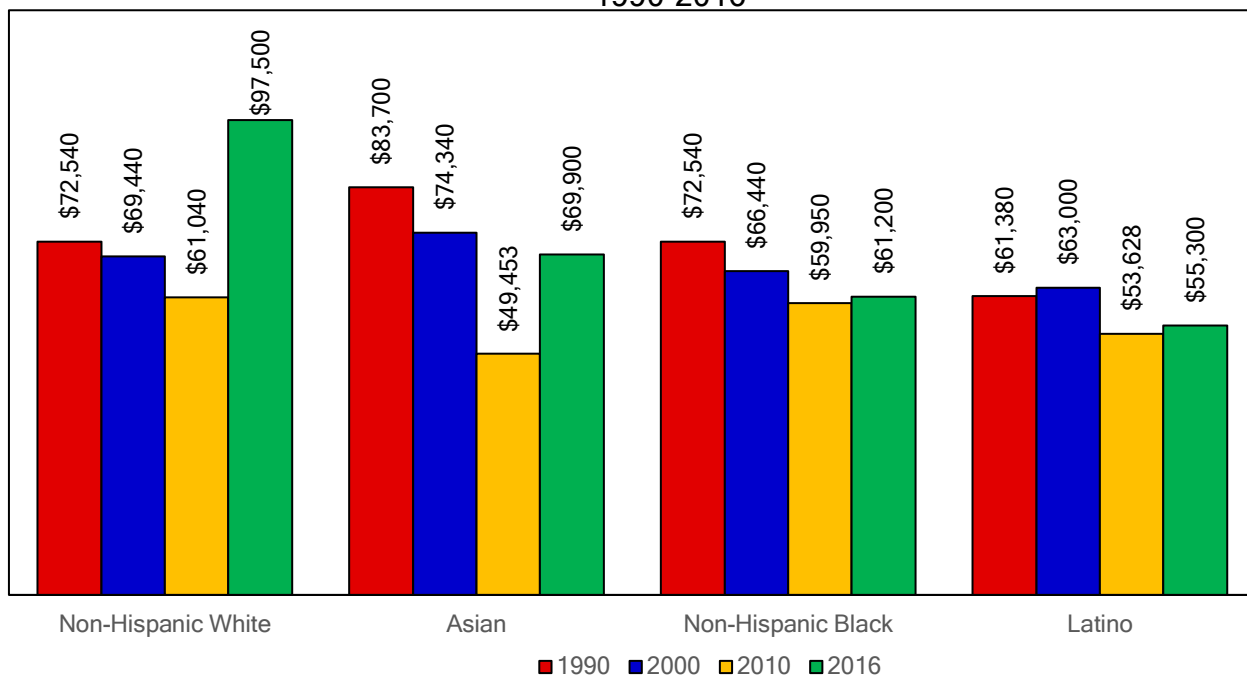
Income

When examining trends in household income it is evident that Jackson Heights/Corona is growing poorer.

The data indicate that, with the exception of non-Hispanic whites, median household income declined for the other major race/ethnic group between 1990 and 2016 in inflation adjusted dollars.

Non-Hispanic whites were the highest income earners in 2016, with a median household income of \$97,500, a significant increase from \$72,540 in 1990 when adjusted for inflation to 2016 dollars. The median household income among Asians was \$69,900 in 2016, down from \$83,700 in 1990. Non-Hispanic black households earned a median household income of \$61,200 in 2016, a decrease from \$72,540 in 1990. Latinos had the lowest household income levels, with \$55,300 in 2016 which was a decrease from \$61,380 in 1990. (See figure 4).

Figure 4
Median Household Income of Jackson Heights/Corona Population
by Race/Ethnicity (Adjusted for Inflation to 2016 Dollars),
1990-2016

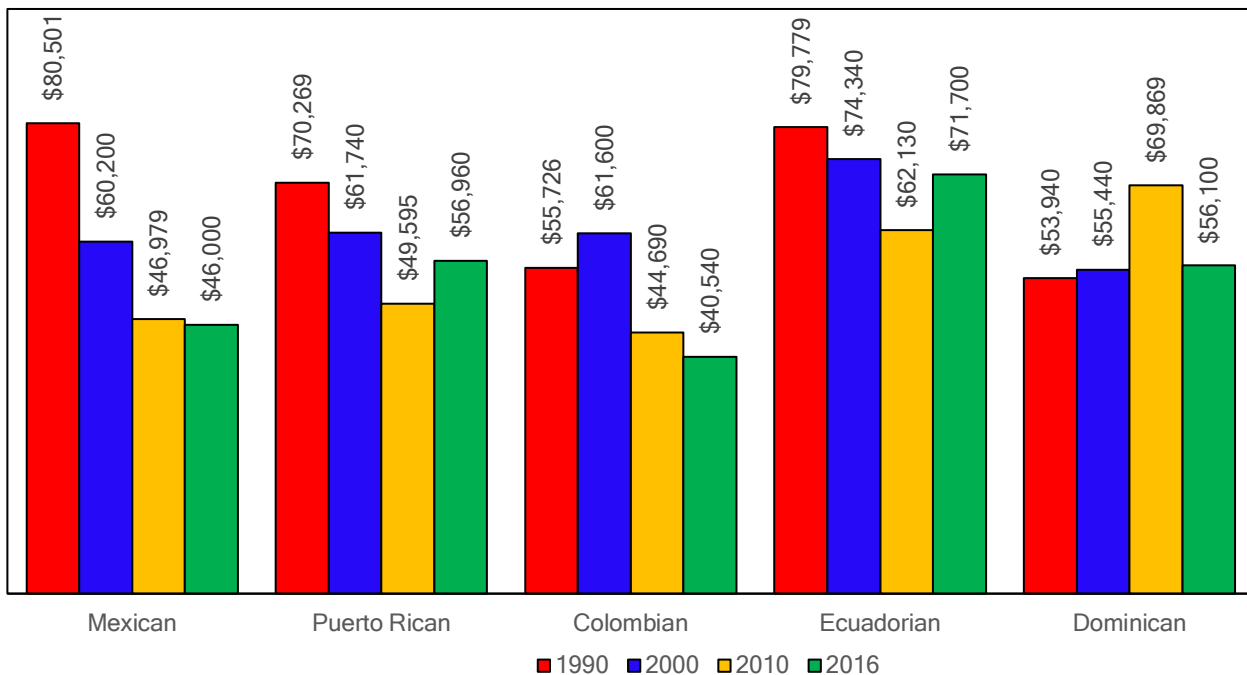


Among the various Latino subgroups living in Jackson Heights/Corona, Ecuadorians had the highest median household income at \$71,700 in 2016. Puerto Ricans had the second highest median household income at \$56,960, followed closely by Dominicans at \$56,100, Mexicans at \$46,000, and finally Colombians at \$40,540. (See table 6 and figure 5).

Table 6
Median Household Income of Jackson Heights/Corona Population by Five Largest Latino Groups (Adjusted for Inflation to 2016 Dollars), 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
Mexican	\$ 80,501	\$ 60,200	\$ 46,979	\$ 46,000
Puerto Rican	\$ 70,269	\$ 61,740	\$ 49,595	\$ 56,960
Colombian	\$ 55,726	\$ 61,600	\$ 44,690	\$ 40,540
Ecuadorian	\$ 79,779	\$ 74,340	\$ 62,130	\$ 71,700
Dominican	\$ 53,940	\$ 55,440	\$ 69,869	\$ 56,100

Figure 5
Median Household Income of Jackson Heights/Corona Population by Five Largest Latino Groups (Adjusted for Inflation to 2016 Dollars), 1990-2016



When examining income structures by race/ethnicity, the data indicate that approximately 63 percent of non-Hispanic white households earned a median income of over \$75,000 in 2016, with 11 percent making more than \$200,000 and only 14 percent with incomes less than \$30,000. By comparison, among Latino households approximately 36 percent earned over \$75,000 in 2016, with only 3 percent earning above \$200,000. Approximately 23 percent of Latino households had median incomes less than \$30,000 in 2016. (See table 7).

Table 7
Percentage of Households at Median Household Income Categories in Jackson Heights/Corona by Race/Ethnicity, 2016

	Non-Hispanic Whites	Non-Hispanic Blacks	Latino	Asian
Less than 10,000	2.1%	11.6%	3.1%	2.0%
10,000-19,999	7.1%	0.0%	10.8%	7.1%
20,000-29,999	5.0%	18.9%	8.6%	9.1%
30,000-39,999	4.3%	2.1%	12.4%	13.0%
40,000-49,999	2.1%	6.3%	11.4%	4.3%
50,000-74,999	15.6%	21.1%	17.2%	19.4%
75,000-99,999	14.2%	18.9%	9.9%	10.7%
100,000 - 199,999	38.3%	21.1%	23.3%	21.7%
200,000 +	11.3%	0.0%	3.3%	12.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Among the Latino national subgroups, 43 percent of Ecuadorian households had median household incomes over \$100,000 and 7 percent made less than \$30,000 in 2016. Puerto Ricans were the most stratified, with 27 percent of Puerto Ricans residing in households with a median income over \$100,000 and 43 percent under \$30,000. Dominicans were also largely stratified with 20 percent of households earning over \$100,000 and 42 percent earning under \$30,000. Colombians had the most stable earnings, with 20 percent of households earning over \$100,000 and 18 percent earning under \$30,000 in 2016. Finally, 16 percent of Mexican households earned median incomes over \$100,000 while 27 percent earned less than \$30,000. (See table 8).

Table 8

Percentage of Households at Median Household Income Categories in Jackson Heights/Corona by Five Largest Latino Groups, 2016

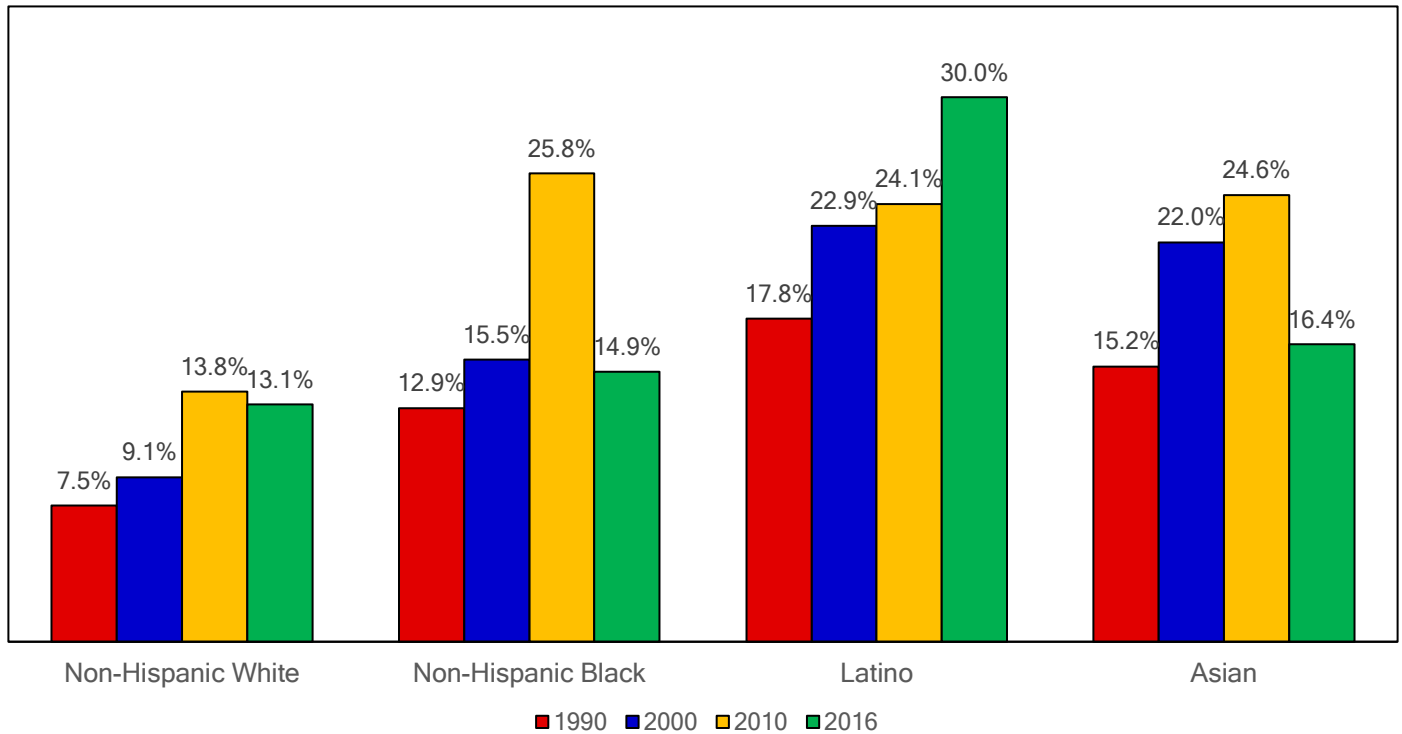
	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Colombian	Ecuadorian	Dominican
Less than 10,000	0.6%	8.1%	5.5%	0.0%	6.5%
10,000-19,999	17.4%	18.9%	8.2%	2.5%	19.6%
20,000-29,999	9.9%	16.2%	4.5%	5.4%	15.2%
30,000-39,999	13.7%	2.7%	21.8%	6.9%	4.3%
40,000-49,999	13.7%	2.7%	24.5%	11.3%	1.4%
50,000-74,999	18.6%	16.2%	6.4%	26.1%	17.4%
75,000-99,999	9.3%	8.1%	9.1%	4.4%	15.9%
100,000 - 199,999	16.1%	21.6%	16.4%	37.4%	16.7%
200,000 +	0.6%	5.4%	3.6%	5.9%	2.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Poverty

In many regards poverty rates in Jackson Heights/Corona mirror the declining rates in median household income. Between 1990 and 2016, every race/ethnic group in the community had increased poverty rates. In short, the neighborhood is growing poorer.

Latinos had the highest rates of poverty in 2016 at 30 percent, up from 18 percent in 1990. Asians had the second highest poverty rates at 16 percent, up slightly from 15 percent in 1990. They were followed by non-Hispanic blacks at 15 percent in 2016, up from 13 percent in 1990. Non-Hispanic whites had the lowest rates of poverty, with 13 percent in 2016 an increase from 7 percent in 1990. (See figure 6).

Figure 6
Percentage of Jackson Heights/Corona Population in Poverty
by Race/Ethnicity,
1990-2016



Among the Latino subgroups, Mexicans had the highest rate of poverty in 2016 at 48 percent, followed by Dominicans at 32 percent, Puerto Ricans at 21 percent, Ecuadorians at 20 percent, and finally Colombians at 17 percent. (See table 9).

All of these Latino subgroups experienced increased levels of poverty over the twenty-six year period examined in this report. If these increases in poverty rates remain constant, the majority of Mexicans living in Jackson Heights/Corona are projected to be living in poverty by the end of the decade.

Table 9
Percentage of Jackson Heights/Corona Population in Poverty
by Five Largest Latino Groups, 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
Mexican	9.5%	32.4%	38.8%	48.3%
Puerto Rican	21.3%	21.2%	25.7%	21.4%
Colombian	15.2%	20.1%	26.0%	17.7%
Ecuadorian	11.7%	14.1%	21.7%	20.9%
Dominican	20.1%	26.8%	14.1%	32.6%
Other	19.9%	23.8%	15.6%	22.7%

Employment

In contrast to the income and poverty data, employment rates in the Jackson Heights/Corona neighborhood increased between 1990 and 2016, for all race/ethnic groups in the working age population (aged 16-60).

A likely explanation for these seemingly contradictory trends is that while more residents found gainful employment in recent decades, their jobs were at significantly lower wages than those held by previous generations. The nationwide increase in part-time work in place of full-time work has risen since the mid-2000s.

Working-age non-Hispanic whites had the lowest rate of unemployment in the Jackson Heights/Corona area at 1.7 percent in 2016, down from 5 percent in 1990. Non-Hispanic blacks had the second lowest unemployment rates at 3.2 percent, down from 6 percent in 1990. Latinos had the highest rate of unemployment in the neighborhood, at 4.4 percent, almost half their rate in 1990. Asian unemployment remained relatively steady at 4.2 percent from 5.3 percent in 1990. (See tables 10 through 13).

Table 10
Percentage of "Employed" Non-Hispanic Whites in Jackson Heights/Corona
Ages 16-60, 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
Employed	74.0%	65.4%	83.3%	85.3%
Not Employed	5.0%	3.7%	1.1%	1.7%
Not in the Labor Force	21.0%	30.9%	15.6%	13.0%

Table 11
Percentage of "Employed" Non-Hispanic Blacks in Jackson Heights/Corona
Ages 16-60, 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
Employed	72.7%	59.4%	68.1%	66.4%
Not Employed	6.0%	9.5%	11.3%	3.2%
Not in the Labor Force	21.3%	31.1%	20.6%	30.4%

Table 12
Percentage of "Employed" Latinos in Jackson Heights/Corona
Ages 16-60, 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
Employed	68.2%	56.5%	69.0%	71.6%
Not Employed	8.2%	7.3%	7.5%	4.4%
Not in the Labor Force	23.6%	36.2%	23.4%	24.0%

Table 13
Percentage of "Employed" Asians in Jackson Heights/Corona
Ages 16-60, 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
Employed	71.6%	58.5%	56.9%	70.9%
Not Employed	5.3%	4.4%	12.6%	4.2%
Not in the Labor Force	23.1%	37.1%	30.5%	24.9%

Among the Latino subgroups, Mexicans had the highest rate of unemployment in 2016 at 7.3 percent, followed in descending order by Puerto Ricans at 4.7 percent, Ecuadorians at 3.2 percent, Dominicans at 2.5 percent, and Colombians at 1.6 percent. Mexicans were the only Latino subgroup to see an increase in unemployment between 1990 and 2016. (See table 14).

Again, these relatively low unemployment rates should not be misinterpreted as indicators of economic health. When taken in concert with decreasing median household income and rising poverty rates the low unemployment rate likely reflects the trend of low-paying, part-time jobs.

Table 14
Percentage "Not Employed" Among the Five Largest Latino Groups in
Jackson Heights/Corona, Ages 16 - 60 , 1990 - 2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
Mexican	5.2%	7.0%	7.2%	7.3%
Puerto Rican	8.3%	8.4%	12.1%	4.7%
Colombian	8.1%	6.5%	8.3%	1.6%
Ecuadorian	5.4%	6.2%	6.3%	3.2%
Dominican	12.3%	10.0%	3.5%	2.5%
Other	5.1%	6.0%	12.2%	5.5%

Educational Attainment

As with employment, the educational attainment rates of Jackson Heights/Corona residents have also increased among all race/ethnic groups. The percentage of persons over the age of 25 with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher rose between 1990 and 2016, while the rate of high school non-completion fell.

The highest educational attainment levels were found among non-Hispanic whites, 58 percent of whom had earned a BA or higher in 2016. This rate increased from 26 percent in 1990. Asians had the second highest rate of college graduates in 2016 at 37 percent, and a high school non-completion rate of 24 percent. Twenty-five percent of non-Hispanic blacks had a Bachelor's degree or higher in 2016, and 24 percent had not finished high school. Latinos consistently had the lowest rates of educational attainment among the Jackson Heights/Corona population between 1990 and 2016. 35 percent of Latinos had not completed high school in 2016, while 9 percent had earned a bachelor's or higher. (See table 15).

Regardless of ranking in educational attainment, each race/ethnic group is making meaningful strides with regard to educational performance even as New York City's public education curriculum standards continue to increase. In short, the Jackson Heights/Corona population is more educated than it has ever been.

Table 15
Educational Attainment Rates of Jackson Heights/Corona
(Population Ages 25+) by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
Non-Hispanic White				
Did Not Graduate High School	22.3%	20.1%	8.6%	5.3%
High School Graduate	31.2%	28.7%	23.8%	19.8%
Some College No Degree	15.6%	17.1%	18.0%	6.7%
Associates Degree	4.3%	5.2%	10.2%	10.5%
BA or Higher	26.6%	28.9%	39.4%	57.8%
Non-Hispanic Black				
Did Not Graduate High School	29.1%	26.2%	22.1%	23.8%
High School Graduate	27.4%	25.8%	32.6%	31.6%
Some College No Degree	18.1%	22.2%	10.5%	10.7%
Associates Degree	9.2%	9.1%	7.5%	8.8%
BA or Higher	16.3%	16.8%	27.3%	25.1%
Latino				
Did Not Graduate High School	49.3%	45.4%	38.8%	35.4%
High School Graduate	24.5%	26.0%	31.8%	41.7%
Some College No Degree	13.5%	15.0%	12.1%	8.4%
Associates Degree	4.6%	4.4%	5.5%	5.8%
BA or Higher	8.1%	9.2%	11.7%	8.7%
Asian				
Did Not Graduate High School	26.9%	24.5%	28.9%	24.1%
High School Graduate	23.2%	20.5%	23.8%	23.9%
Some College No Degree	12.6%	13.9%	8.2%	7.3%
Associates Degree	4.3%	5.0%	13.5%	8.0%
BA or Higher	33.0%	36.2%	25.7%	36.6%

With regard to the different Latino national subgroups ages 25 and over, Mexicans had the highest high school non-completion rate at 49.6 percent *and* the lowest college graduation rate at 3.6 percent in

2016. The drop in the attainment of college degrees was notable, down from 9.5 percent in 1990. Dominicans had the second highest rate of high school non-completion and the second lowest rate of bachelor's degrees in 2016, at 40.9 percent and 5 percent, respectively. 33 percent of Ecuadorians did not graduate high school in 2016 and 4.5 percent earned a bachelor's or higher. Puerto Ricans had a college graduation rate of 10.4 percent and a high school non-completion rate of 29.9 percent.

Colombians had the highest levels of educational attainment with 17.2 percent earning a bachelor's degree or higher in 2016, and 22.8 percent not completing high school. This is worth noting considering they had the lowest median household income (\$40,540 in 2016) of all Latino national subgroups (See table 16).

Table 16
Educational Attainment Rates of Jackson Heights/Corona
by Five Largest Latino Groups (Population Ages 25+), 1990-2016

Did Not Graduate High School	1990	2000	2010	2016
Mexican	58.0%	62.0%	56.1%	49.6%
Puerto Rican	37.8%	30.4%	44.5%	29.9%
Colombian	49.9%	35.6%	23.7%	22.8%
Ecuadorian	43.0%	50.0%	46.6%	33.4%
Dominican	64.9%	55.0%	36.0%	40.9%
Other	38.9%	35.6%	22.7%	22.9%

BA or Higher	1990	2000	2010	2016
Mexican	9.5%	3.6%	3.7%	3.6%
Puerto Rican	10.2%	12.2%	6.5%	10.4%
Colombian	7.3%	12.6%	16.3%	17.2%
Ecuadorian	9.2%	5.7%	14.3%	4.5%
Dominican	5.4%	6.8%	11.6%	5.0%
Other	10.1%	14.5%	15.3%	23.2%

Citizenship Status

While the majority of Jackson Heights/Corona residents are foreign-born, a majority of the foreign-born were also U.S. citizens in 2016. With the exception of Asians (who comprise less than 20% of the population) every race/ethnic group has seen an increase in citizenship rates between 1990 and 2016. (See table 17).

Non-Hispanic whites and non-Hispanic blacks both had the highest rates of citizenship at 92 percent in 2016, followed by Latinos at 58 percent. In comparison, the Asian population experienced an inverse trend. In 1990, 72 percent of Asians were citizens by birth and naturalization. This percentage decreased to 43 percent in 2016. These data reflect national immigration trends that show the U.S. Asian population growing faster than any other race/ethnic group.

Table 17
Citizenship Status of Jackson Heights/Corona Population
by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
Non-Hispanic White				
Citizen by Birth	70.5%	63.1%	67.6%	75.6%
Naturalized Citizen	18.8%	22.2%	27.1%	16.8%
Not A Citizen	10.6%	14.7%	5.3%	7.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Non-Hispanic Black				
Citizen by Birth	76.2%	70.3%	65.0%	70.8%
Naturalized Citizen	11.5%	18.6%	28.4%	21.6%
Not A Citizen	12.3%	11.1%	6.7%	7.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Latino				
Citizen by Birth	32.2%	30.4%	33.9%	39.7%
Naturalized Citizen	15.3%	20.5%	19.0%	18.6%
Not A Citizen	52.5%	49.0%	47.0%	41.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Asian				
Citizen by Birth	30.1%	19.5%	18.3%	17.2%
Naturalized Citizen	41.9%	33.6%	33.6%	25.5%
Not A Citizen	28.0%	46.9%	48.2%	57.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Excluding Puerto Ricans who are already U.S. citizens by birth, in 201, the citizenship rate among Dominicans was markedly higher than all other national groups, at 72 percent. Similarly, 68 percent of Colombians were citizens by birth and naturalization in 2016, compared to 46 percent of Ecuadorians and 40 percent of Mexicans. Every Latino national subgroup saw a marked increase in citizenship rates since 1990. (See table 18).

Table 18
Citizenship Status of Jackson Heights/Corona Population
by Five Largest Latino Groups, 1990-2016

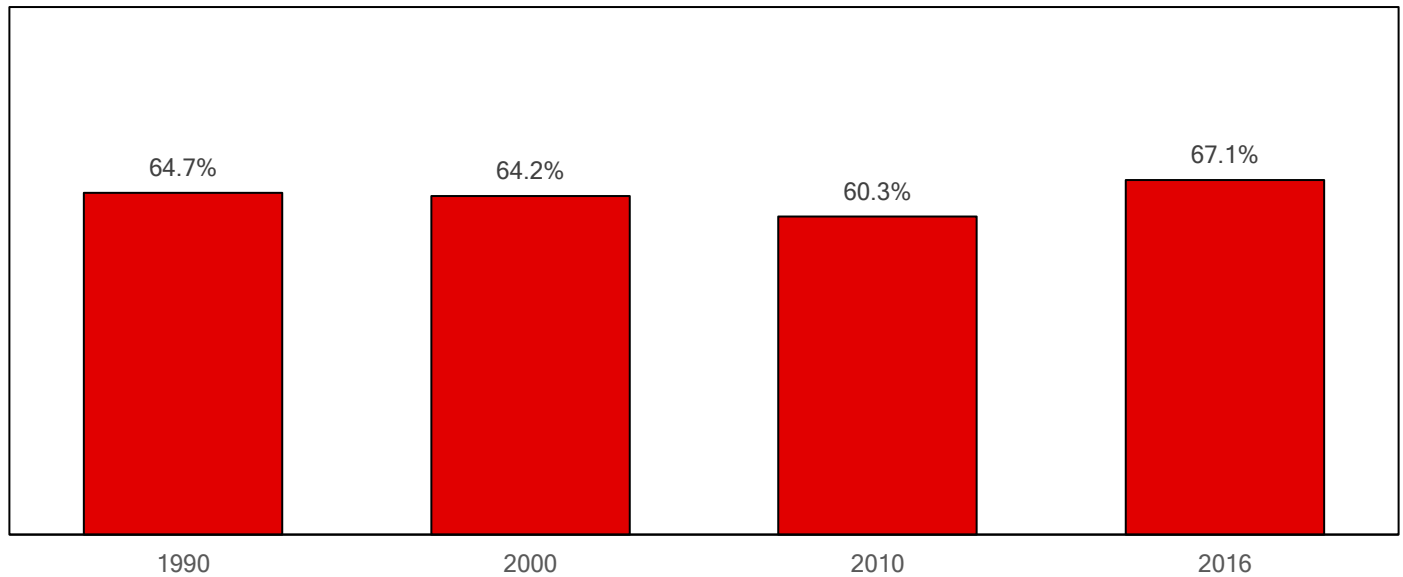
	1990	2000	2010	2016
Mexican				
Citizen by Birth	21.3%	23.5%	37.9%	36.8%
Naturalized Citizen	0.7%	7.1%	3.8%	3.3%
Not A Citizen	78.0%	69.4%	58.2%	59.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Puerto Rican				
Citizen by Birth	93.9%	96.7%	98.2%	100.0%
Naturalized Citizen	1.0%	1.5%	1.8%	0.0%
Not A Citizen	5.1%	1.9%	1.0%	0.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Colombian				
Citizen by Birth	21.0%	18.0%	26.0%	27.9%
Naturalized Citizen	17.5%	30.8%	31.2%	39.8%
Not A Citizen	61.5%	51.2%	42.9%	32.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Ecuadorian				
Citizen by Birth	21.7%	18.7%	21.9%	33.4%
Naturalized Citizen	11.5%	17.9%	13.0%	12.5%
Not A Citizen	66.8%	63.4%	65.1%	54.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Dominican				
Citizen by Birth	28.9%	33.5%	31.3%	44.9%
Naturalized Citizen	17.9%	25.7%	32.0%	27.7%
Not A Citizen	53.2%	40.9%	36.8%	27.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

English Language Proficiency

The Latino population of Jackson Heights/Corona has seen some improvement in its English language skills, although that improvement is small.

In 1990, 65 percent of Latinos spoke English “Exclusively,” “Well,” or “Very Well.” That number rose to 67 percent in 2016 after a slight dip in 2000. (See figure 7).

Figure 7
Percentage of Latinos who Speak English Exclusively, Well, or Very Well
Jackson Heights/Corona, 1990 - 2016



Concluding Remarks

A close examination of the Jackson Heights/Corona neighborhood in Queens (Community District #3) finds that it has undergone significant change in recent decades. This change is quite different from the gentrification narratives so common to other New York City neighborhoods that contain large minority populations. Since 1990, the Latino population has grown considerably and the total number of non-Hispanic whites has decreased. In addition, the community seems to have gotten poorer, not richer, despite increased rates of educational attainment and employment.

CLACLS hopes the information presented in this report will motivate others to pursue further avenues of research on this topic. To this end, we have some suggestions.

First, stakeholders and advocacy groups may wish to investigate the seemingly contradictory trends of increased employment and education rates with simultaneously rising poverty rates. Is the Latino population being paid less in 2016 than they were in 1990? Is this perhaps tied to the decline of full-time labor prospects in an increasingly part-time economy? Or is it that residents with higher incomes are choosing to leave the area?

Second, anyone with first-hand knowledge of Queens Community District #3 knows that it has traditionally been home to an unknown number (but likely a large number) of undocumented Latino immigrants. While data may be difficult to collect, social scientists with an interest in undocumented Latino communities may benefit from combining the information presented in this report with their own findings to achieve a more nuanced picture of the demographic and socioeconomic factors facing this dynamic New York City neighborhood.

And finally, the rather significant influx of Mexicans into the community over the last two decades warrants further examination. More detailed analysis along the lines of sex, heads of households, and type of employment may provide a better explanation of why the population numbers and poverty rates are swelling.