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A New Long Island: Demographic, Economic, and Social Transformations in New York City's Historic Suburbs, 1990 - 2016 (revised)

Lawrence Cappello

Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies

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A New Long Island: Demographic, Economic, and Social Transformations in New York City's Historic Suburbs 1990-2016

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LATINO DATA PROJECT

Report 79 – June 2019

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.

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Table of Contents

Guide to Tables	3
Guide to Figures	4
Guide to Maps.....	4
Executive Summary	5
General Demography.....	6
Household Income	11
Employment.....	14
Educational Attainment	17
Age	21
Concluding Remarks	24

Guide to Tables

Table 1: Total Population of New York City by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016	7
Table 2: Total Population of Nassau County by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016	8
Table 3: Total Population of Suffolk County by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016	9
Table 4: Total Population of New York City by Sex, 1990-2016.....	10
Table 5: Total Population of Nassau County by Sex, 1990-2016.....	10
Table 6: Total Population of Suffolk County by Sex, 1990-2016	11
Table 7: Employment Status of New York City Population by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016	15
Table 8: Employment Status of Nassau County Population by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016	16
Table 9: Employment Status of Suffolk County Population by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016.....	17
Table 10: Educational Attainment Rates of New York City Population (Population Ages 25+) by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016	18

Table 11: Educational Attainment Rates of Nassau County Population (Population Ages 25+) by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016 19

Table 12: Educational Attainment Rates of Suffolk County Population (Population Ages 25+) by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016 20

Table 13: Age Structure of New York City by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016 22

Table 14: Age Structure of Nassau County by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016 23

Table 15: Age Structure of Suffolk County by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016..... 24

Guide to Figures

Figure 1: Percentage of Total Population in New York City by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016 7

Figure 2: Percentage of Total Population in Nassau County by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016 8

Figure 3: Percentage of Total Population in Suffolk County by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016 9

Figure 4: Median Household Income of New York City Population by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016 (Adjusted for Inflation to 2016 Dollars) 12

Figure 5: Median Household Income of Nassau County Population by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016 (Adjusted for Inflation to 2016 Dollars) 13

Figure 6: Median Household Income of Suffolk County Population by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016 (Adjusted for Inflation to 2016 Dollars) 14

Guide to Maps

Map 1: New York City Boroughs and Nassau and Suffolk Counties 6

Executive Summary

The United States' suburbs have long been characterized as lacking racial/ethnic diversity. The persistence of suburban homogeneity has been discussed at length in popular literature, film, and music, and is a frequent theme taken up by twentieth-century American social and political historians. As U.S. historian Eric Foner noted, “while the suburbs offered a new site for the enjoyment of American freedom, they retained at least one familiar characteristic - rigid racial boundaries.”

Times, it seems, are changing. The most recent data available indicate that the demographic composition of New York City's Long Island suburbs, historically considered the “ground zero” of the post-war suburban expansion in the country, is in the midst of a considerable transformation.

This report examines key socioeconomic and demographic trends in New York City and Long Island from 1990 to 2016. To achieve a richer understanding of the conditions in these geographic areas, this moves beyond general population demographics by examining topics such as race/ethnicity, sex ratios, age structures, employment, income, poverty rates, and educational attainment.

The Long Island suburbs have grown significantly more diverse in the early twenty-first century. The total number of non-Hispanic whites in both Nassau and Suffolk Counties has steadily declined in absolute terms and as a share of Long Island's total population. Latinos and Asians, on the other hand, have increased as percentages of Long Island's population and in their total numbers. The non-Hispanic black population has increased steadily, although the pace of growth has not been as rapid as that of Latinos and Asians.

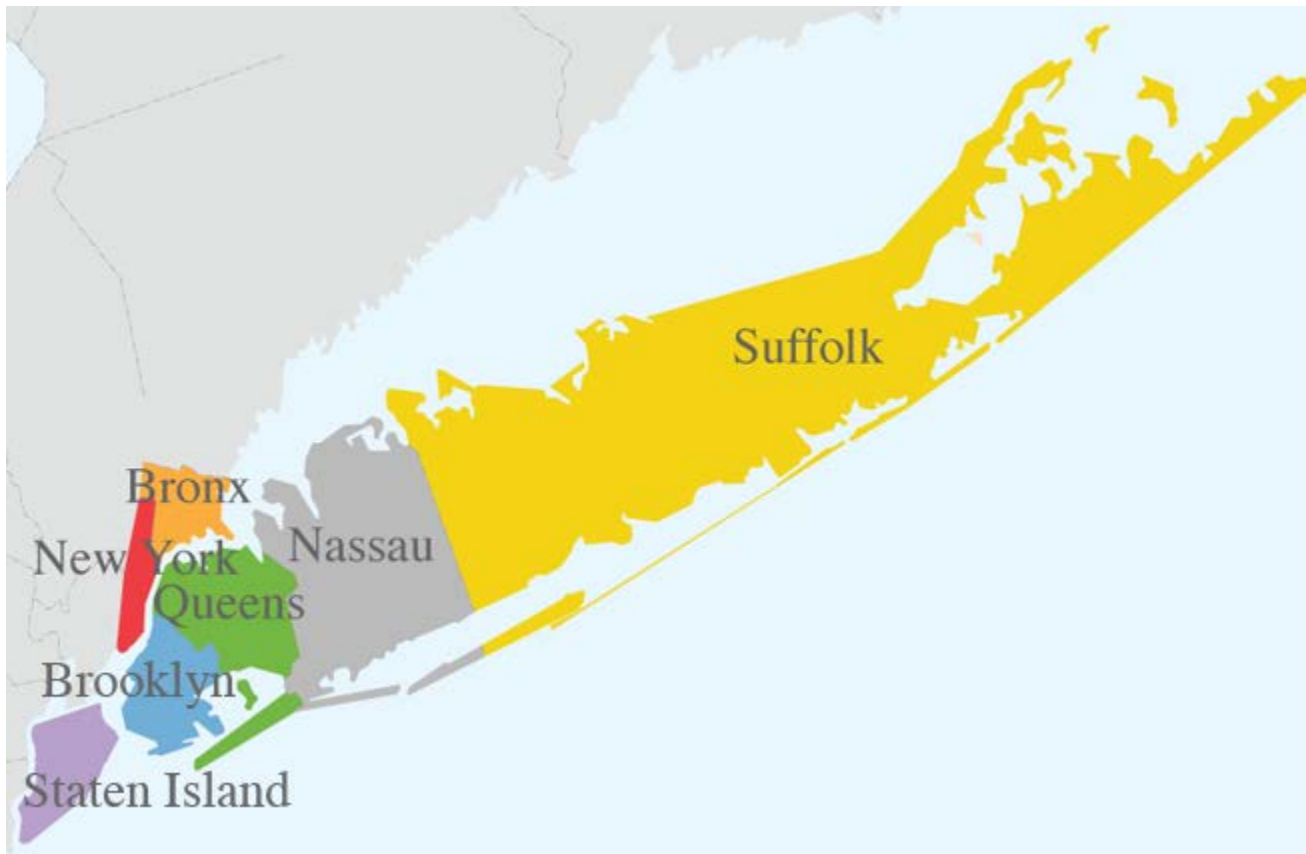
The minority groups living in these counties earn more money than their New York City counterparts. Nevertheless, income distribution hierarchies among the racial/ethnic groups are the same on Long Island as found in most of the nation. Latinos and non-Hispanic blacks have been, and remain, the lowest income earners, while non-Hispanic whites and Asians have consistently had higher median household incomes.

This relative situation in income distribution is also similar to employment patterns. All racial/ethnic groups living in the Long Island suburbs had much better rates of employment than their New York City counterparts by 2016. However, non-Hispanic whites and Asians generally have had higher levels of employment and lower levels of unemployment than Latinos and non-Hispanic blacks.

Finally, in terms of educational attainment, the data indicate that minority groups living on Long Island are much more likely to earn college degrees and have considerably lower rates of high-school non-completion than in New York City. Yet, Latinos and non-Hispanic blacks still have had consistently lower educational attainment levels than non-Hispanic whites and Asians.

Complete and detailed data for non-Hispanic whites, non-Hispanic blacks, Asians, and Latinos are presented throughout this report. Special attention has been given to the statistical patterns by sex among each of these groups. These data may be used as basic reference materials for researchers, journalists, students, and information seekers.

Map 1
New York City Boroughs and Nassau and Suffolk Counties



General Demography

Both New York City and Long Island have grown more racially and ethnically diverse since 1990. This is in large part because of the steady decline of non-Hispanic white populations in both areas.

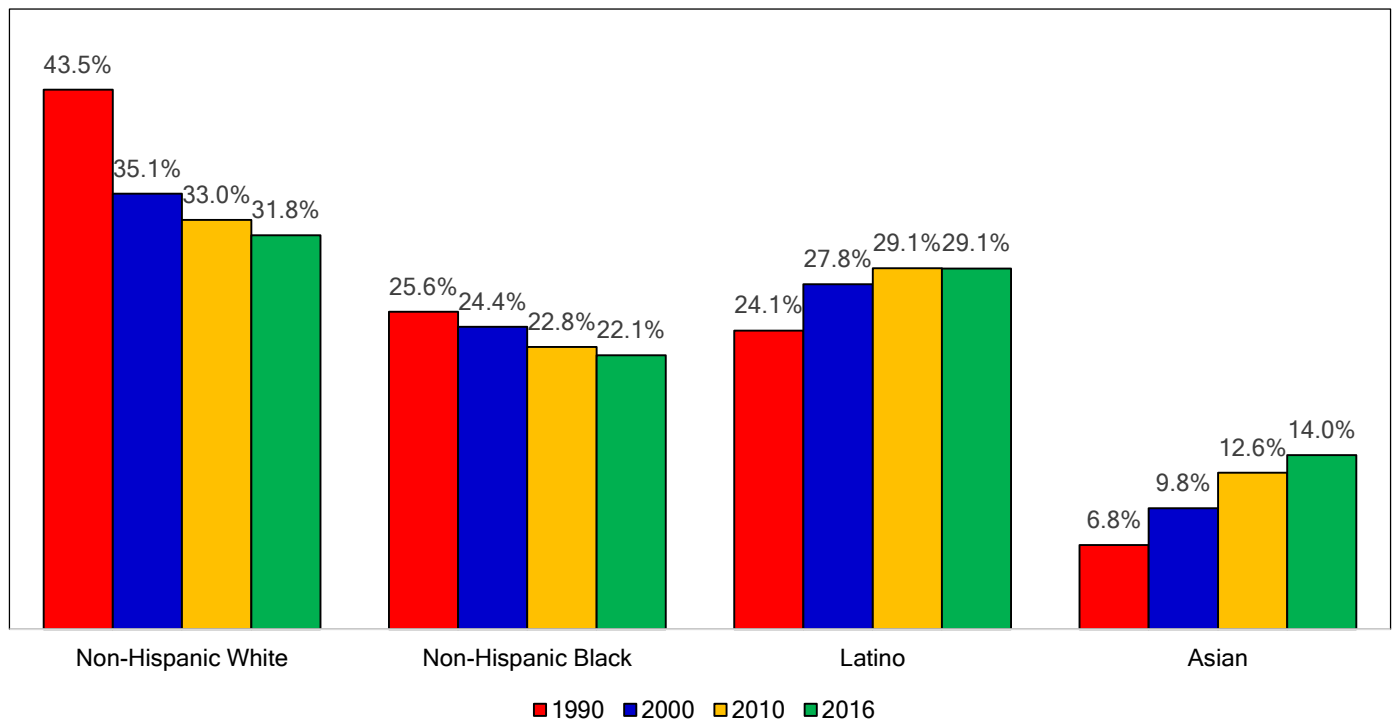
While the total population of New York City has been increasing since 1990, the number of non-Hispanic whites has dropped significantly in their total numbers *and* in their percentage of the total population. Non-Hispanic whites accounted for 31.8% of New York City residents in 2016 a substantial decrease from the 44% found in 1990. The City's Latino and Asian populations have grown rapidly. Latinos have been the city's second largest race/ethnic group since 2000, accounting for 29.1% of the population in 2016, compared with 24.1% in 1990. The Asian population is the smallest race/ethnic group in the City, but increased to 14.0% in 2016 from 6.8% in 1990. Non-Hispanic black residents experienced little change in their total numbers, but comprised a lower proportion of the city's total population in 2016 (22.1%) a decline from 25.6% in 1990. (See table 1 and figure 1).

New York’s Long Island suburbs have also experienced considerable change since 1990 particularly in terms of racial/ethnic diversity.

Table 1
Total Population of New York City by Race/Ethnicity 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
Non-Hispanic White	3,165,172	2,810,842	2,717,796	2,712,560
Non-Hispanic Black	1,863,380	1,951,027	1,875,108	1,886,735
Latino	1,753,456	2,226,907	2,396,374	2,482,946
Asian	493,713	781,176	1,038,369	1,198,815
Other	4,385	234,807	207,158	257,007
Total	7,280,106	8,004,759	8,234,805	8,538,063

Figure 1
Percentage of Total Population of New York City by Race/Ethnicity 1990 - 2016



In Nassau County, as in the City, the non-Hispanic white population experienced a steady decline in total numbers and as a percentage of total population between 1990 and 2016. Non-Hispanic whites comprised 82.5% of this county’s population in 1990. By 2016, their population share dropped to 60.4%. The Latino population grew more than three-fold over the same period and eclipsed non-Hispanic blacks as the second largest population segment (from 5.9% in 1990 to 16.6% in 2016). The total number of non-Hispanic blacks also increased by approximately 50,000 people since 1990, and made up 11.4% of the county’s population in 2016, up from 8.2% in 1990. The county’s Asian population increased as well but were significantly smaller than the other major race/ethnic groups at 9.4% of total population in 2016 compared to 3.1% in 1990). (See table 2 and figure 2).

Table 2
Total Population of Nassau County by Race/Ethnicity 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
Non-Hispanic White	1,066,012	977,734	874,561	821,279
Non-Hispanic Black	106,320	130,203	139,921	155,106
Latino	76,717	139,398	201,666	225,267
Asian	39,431	60,575	107,826	128,368
Other	3,373	21,852	17,161	30,442
Total	1,291,853	1,329,762	1,341,135	1,360,462

Figure 2
Percentage of Total Population of Nassau County by Race/Ethnicity 1990-2016

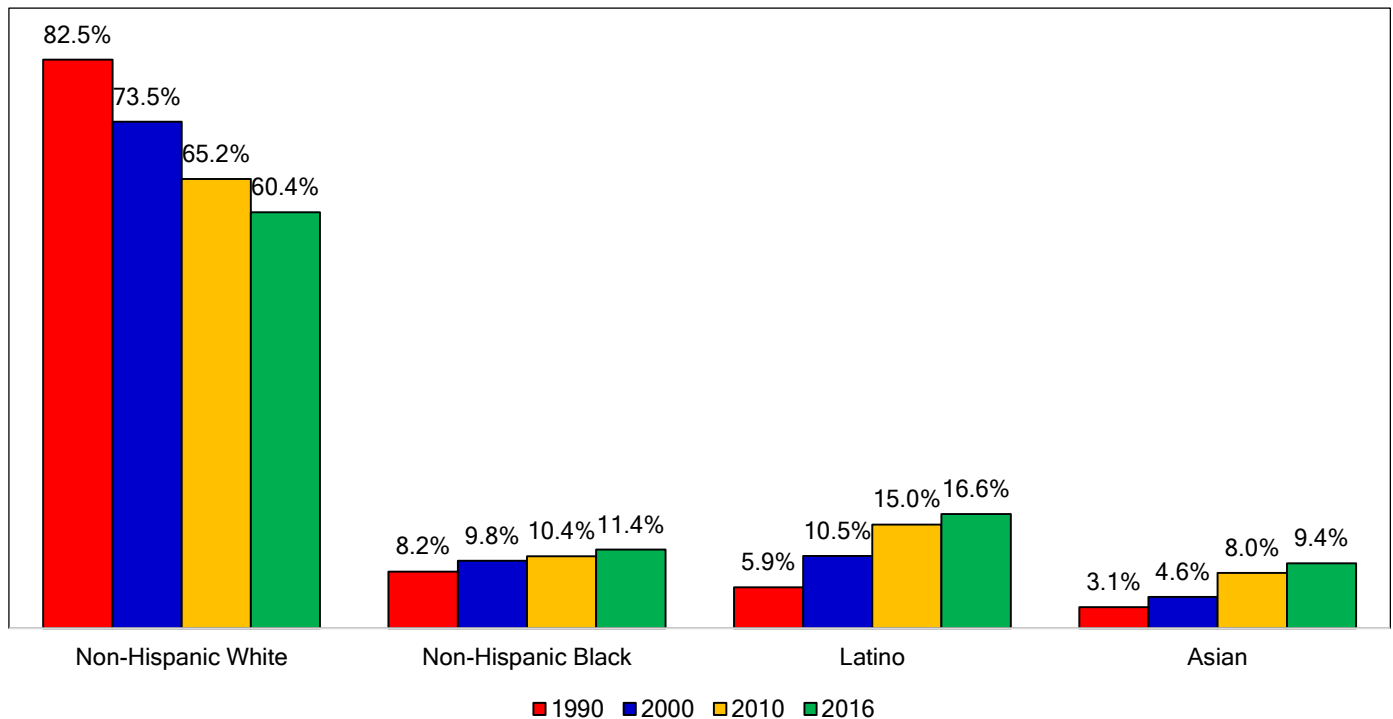
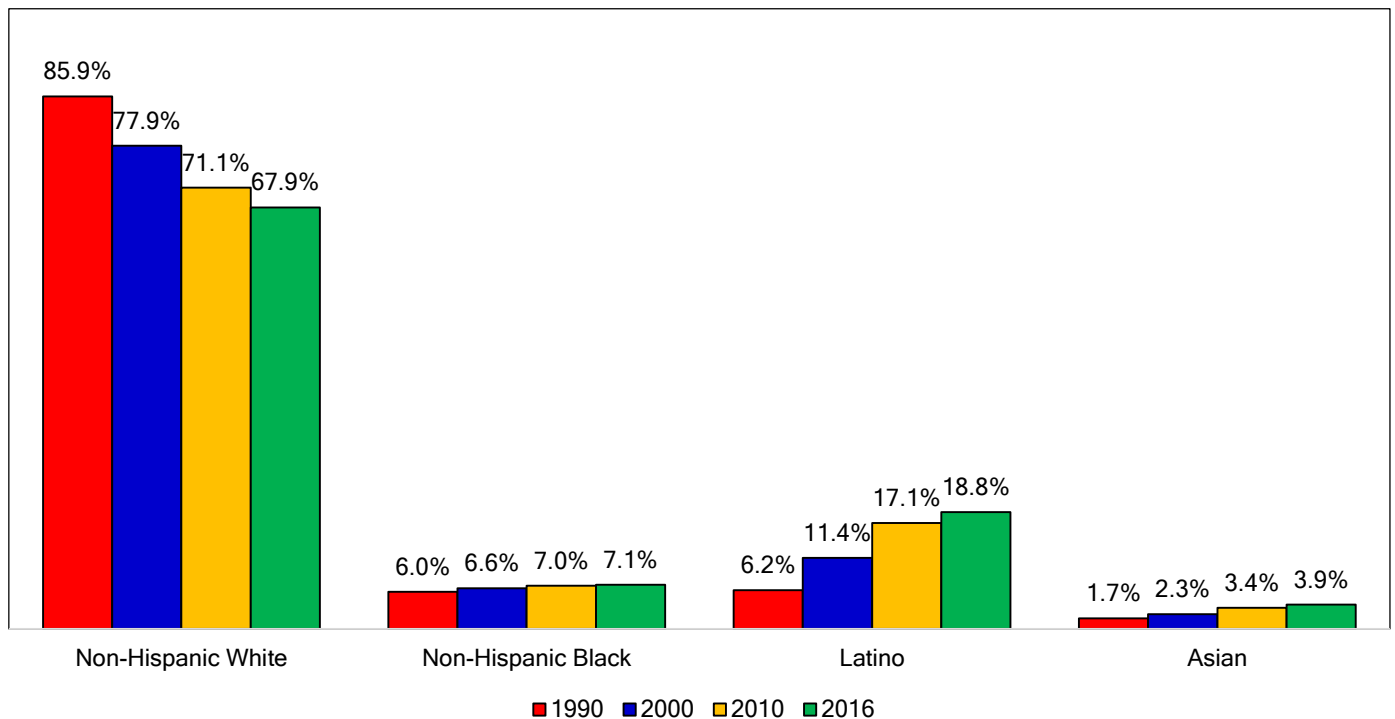


Table 3
Total Population of Suffolk County by Race/Ethnicity 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
Non-Hispanic White	1,134,064	1,108,392	1,063,094	1,014,130
Non-Hispanic Black	78,835	93,345	103,886	106,028
Latino	82,159	162,823	255,035	280,890
Asian	22,206	33,401	50,538	58,213
Other	3,532	24,318	21,841	33,253
Total	1,320,796	1,422,279	1,494,394	1,492,514

The same trends found in Nassau County were evident in Suffolk County, the eastern most section of Long Island. Non-Hispanic whites comprised 85.9% of the Suffolk County population in 1990. By 2016 their population share dropped to 67.9%. Latinos were the second largest race/ethnic group, accounting for 18.8% of the population in 2016, up from 6.2% in 1990. Non-Hispanic blacks made up 7.1% of the population in 2016 having increased from 6.0% in 1990. Asians are the smallest population group, comprising 3.9% of the population in 2016 compared with 1.7% in 1990. (See table 3 and figure 3).

Figure 3
Percentage of Total Population of Suffolk County by Race/Ethnicity 1990-2016



The sex ratios of New York City and its Long Island suburbs tended to skew slightly toward females. The only exception to this was among Long Island's Latino population.¹

In New York City, the sex ratio of the total population was 88 in 1990, with relatively little change in 2016 at 91. (See table 4).

Table 4
Total Population of New York City by Sex

	1990		2016	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Non-Hispanic White	1,483,265	1,668,492	1,323,547	1,389,013
Non-Hispanic Black	825,539	1,021,287	855,048	1,031,687
Latino	834,667	918,789	1,200,890	1,282,056
Asian	247,793	246,143	571,569	627,246
Sex Ratio	88		91	

In Nassau County, the sex ratio of the total population was 94 in 1990, with relatively little change in 2016 at 95. Among Latinos, however, the sex ratio was 107, or more males than females. (See table 5).

Table 5
Total Population of Nassau County by Sex

	1990		2016	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Non-Hispanic White	516,950	549,062	399,858	421,421
Non-Hispanic Black	49,619	56,701	71,446	83,660
Latino	37,395	39,322	116,393	108,874
Asian	19,234	20,197	61,488	66,880
Sex Ratio	94		95	

¹ The sex ratio is expressed as the number of males per 100 females. For example, in Table 4 the sex ratio for New York City in 1990 was 88 which means 88 males per 100 females; or 100 females for 88 males.

In Suffolk County, the sex ratio of the total population was 95 in 1990, with relatively little change in 2016 at 97. Among Latinos, however, the sex ratio was 106 in 2016. (See table 6).

Table 6
Total Population of Suffolk County by Sex

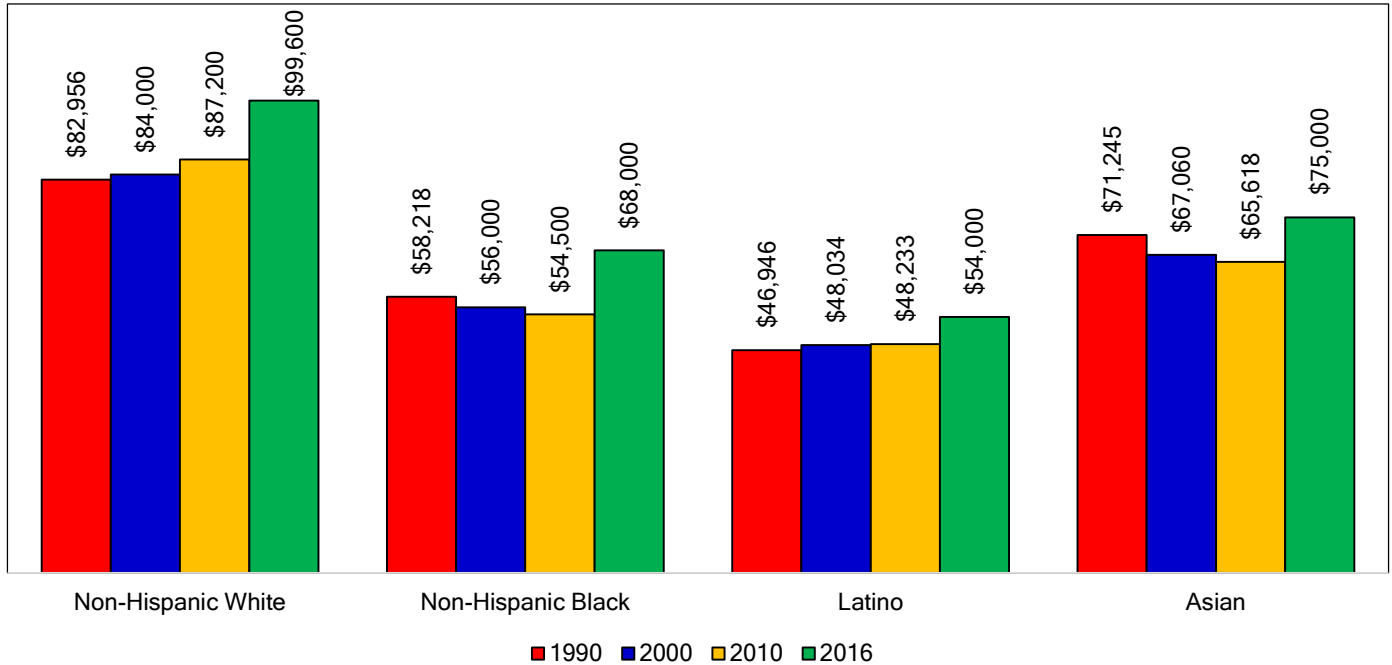
	1990		2016	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Non-Hispanic White	554,035	580,029	494,383	519,747
Non-Hispanic Black	36,051	42,784	50,957	55,071
Latino	41,518	40,641	144,809	136,081
Asian	10,632	11,574	27,361	30,852
Sex Ratio	95		97	

Household Income

Every race/ethnic minority group living on Long Island enjoyed a significantly higher median household income than their New York City counterparts in both 1990 and 2016. It important to note, however, that although there has been significant demographic change in these communities over the period studied, trends in the way income is distributed within each race/ethnic group, or the structure of income, has not changed significantly and has remained highly concentrated.

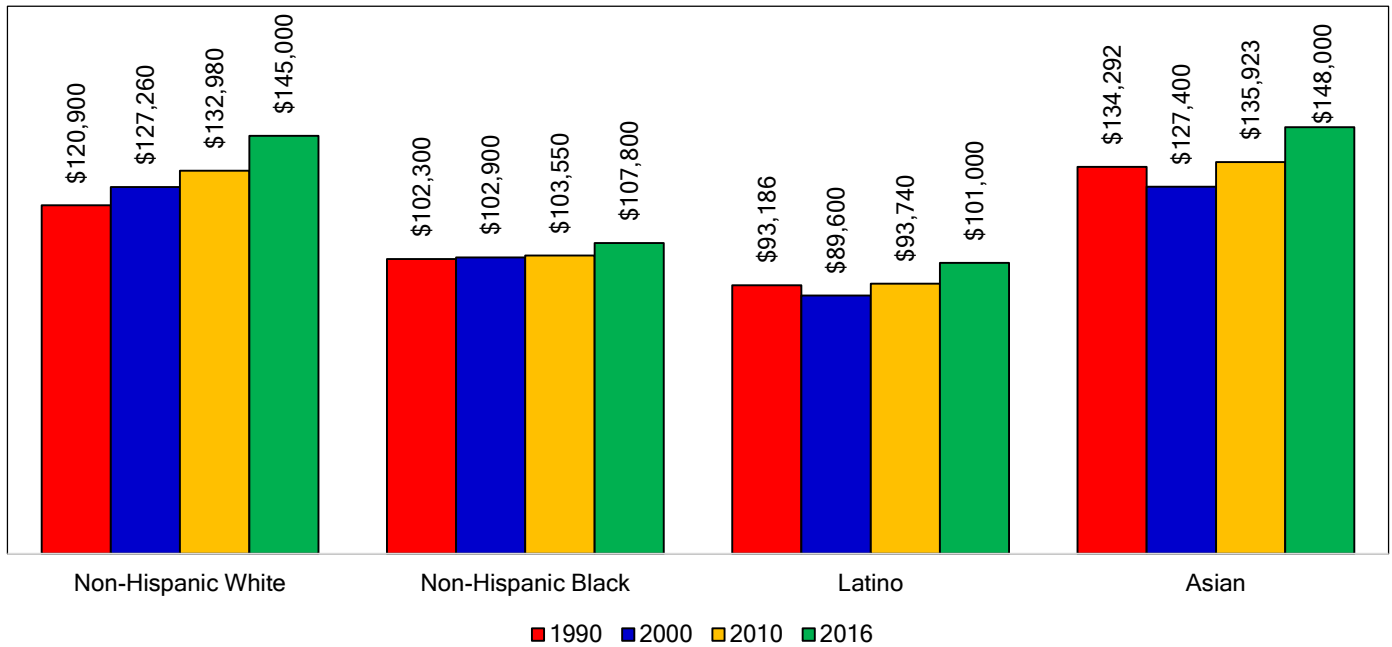
In New York City, the median household income among non-Hispanic whites was \$99,600 in 2016, an increase from \$82,956 in 1990 (all figures are adjusted for inflation to 2016 dollars). Asians had the second highest median household incomes in 2016 at \$75,000, up from \$71,245 in 1990. They were followed by non-Hispanic blacks, whose median household income was \$68,000 in 2016, a rise from \$58,218 in 1990. Latinos had the lowest median household income levels: \$46,946 in 1990 and \$54,000 in 2016. (See figure 4).

Figure 4
 Median Household Income of New York City Population by Race/Ethnicity 1990-2016
 (Adjusted for Inflation to 2016 Dollars)



In Nassau County, all race/ethnic groups had median household incomes in the six-figure range as of 2016. Median household among non-Hispanic whites was \$145,000 in 2016, an increase from \$120,900 in 1990 (all figures are adjusted for inflation to 2016 dollars). Asians had the highest median household income in 2016 at \$148,000, an increase from \$134,292 in 1990. Non-Hispanic blacks had the third highest median household income in 2016 at \$107,800 in 2016, from \$102,300 in 1990. Latinos had the lowest median household income in 2016 at \$101,000, although this was greater than the \$93,186 in 1990. (See figure 5).

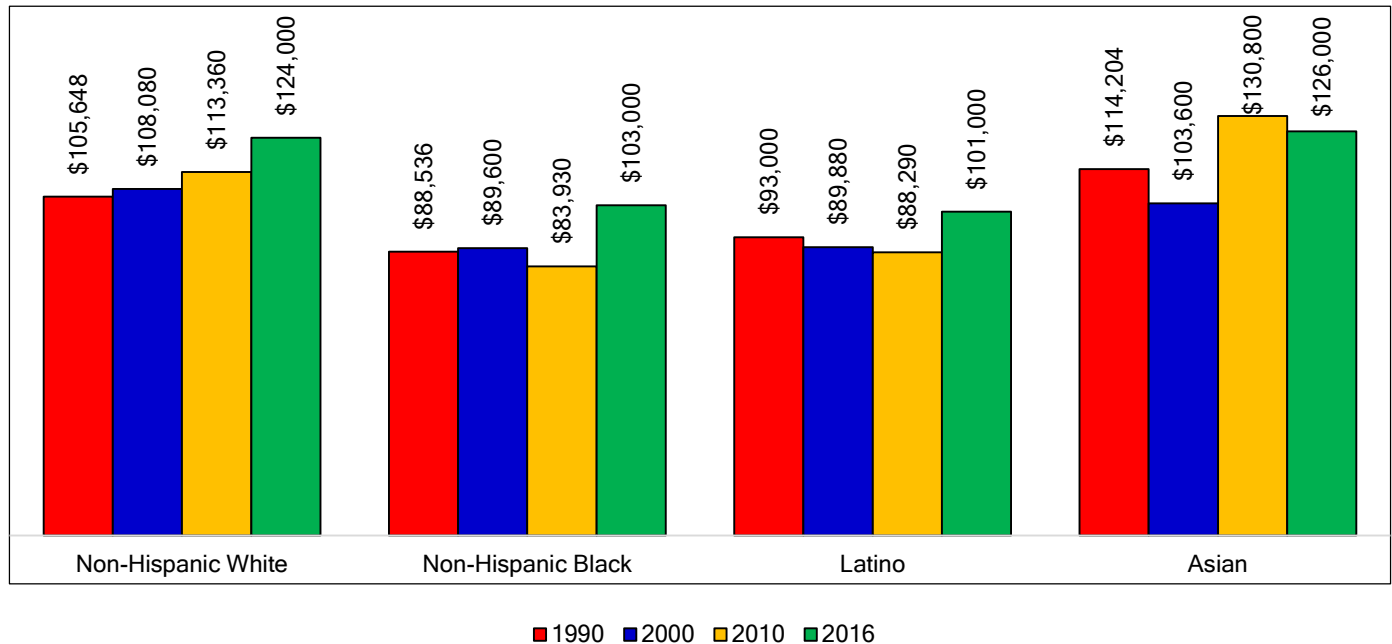
Figure 5
 Median Household Income of Nassau County Population by Race/Ethnicity
 1990-2016
 (Adjusted for Inflation to 2016 Dollars)



In Suffolk County as well, all race/ethnic groups had median household incomes over \$100,000 in 2016. Median household among non-Hispanic whites was \$124,000 in 2016, an increase from \$105,648 in 1990 (all figures are adjusted for inflation to 2016 dollars). Asians had the highest median household income in 2016 at \$126,000, rising from \$114,204 in 1990. Non-Hispanic blacks had the third highest median household income at \$103,000 in 2016, up from \$88,536 in 1990. Latinos had the lowest median household income in 2016 at \$101,000, greater than the \$93,000 found in 1990. (See figure 6).

In every instance, both in New York City and on Long Island, Latinos had the lowest median household income levels. In contrast, while the income level of Long Island’s Asians is impressive, the group is a small portion of the region’s overall population. This suggests that Asian households residing on Long Island are comprised a relatively small group of wealthier Asians.

Figure 6
 Median Household Income of Suffolk County Population by Race/Ethnicity
 1990-2016
 (Adjusted for Inflation to 2016 Dollars)



Employment

The same trends in household income distribution by race/ethnic groups were also found in Long Island's employment rates. Among the working age population (ages 16-60) all minority groups living in the Long Island suburbs presented much higher rates of employment than their New York City counterparts.

In New York City, working age non-Hispanic whites who were unemployed comprised 3.3% of the non-Hispanic white population in 2016, down from 4.3% in 1990. Non-Hispanic blacks had a 7.4% unemployment rate in 2016, down from 9.3% in 1990. 3.7% of New York City's Asians were unemployed in 2016, down from 4.4% in 1990. And finally, 6.2% of Latinos in New York City were unemployed in 2016, down from 8.5% in 1990. (See table 7).

Table 7
Employment Status of New York City Population by Race/Ethnicity
(Aged 16-60) 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
Non-Hispanic Whites				
Employed	73.1%	70.8%	71.2%	76.3%
Unemployed	4.3%	3.9%	6.0%	3.3%
Not in the Labor Force	22.6%	25.3%	22.8%	20.4%
Non-Hispanic Blacks				
Employed	61.0%	56.0%	58.8%	63.7%
Unemployed	9.3%	9.4%	10.9%	7.4%
Not in the Labor Force	29.7%	34.5%	30.4%	28.9%
Latinos				
Employed	55.8%	51.0%	60.1%	65.0%
Unemployed	8.5%	8.3%	9.0%	6.2%
Not in the Labor Force	35.7%	40.7%	30.9%	28.8%
Asians				
Employed	70.0%	63.0%	63.8%	68.9%
Unemployed	4.4%	4.3%	7.6%	3.7%
Not in the Labor Force	25.6%	32.8%	28.6%	27.4%

In Nassau County, working age non-Hispanic whites who were unemployed comprised 3.5% of the non-Hispanic white population in 2016, *up* from 2.9% in 1990. Non-Hispanic blacks had a 3.2% unemployment rate in 2016, down from 5.9% in 1990. 3% of Nassau County's Asians were unemployed in 2016, *up* from 1.8% in 1990. And finally, 3.4% of Latinos in Nassau County were unemployed in 2016, a decrease from 5.8% in 1990. (See table 8).

Table 8
Employment Status of Nassau County Population by Race/Ethnicity
(Aged 16-60) 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
Non-Hispanic Whites				
Employed	75.3%	74.4%	71.5%	73.6%
Unemployed	2.9%	2.6%	5.3%	3.5%
Not in the Labor Force	21.8%	23.0%	23.2%	22.9%
Non-Hispanic Blacks				
Employed	73.4%	68.7%	64.9%	71.8%
Unemployed	5.9%	4.5%	10.6%	3.2%
Not in the Labor Force	20.7%	26.8%	24.5%	25.0%
Latinos				
Employed	74.2%	67.9%	69.6%	73.1%
Unemployed	5.1%	3.0%	7.8%	3.4%
Not in the Labor Force	20.7%	29.1%	22.6%	23.5%
Asians				
Employed	70.5%	66.3%	64.6%	72.0%
Unemployed	1.8%	2.6%	5.2%	3.0%
Not in the Labor Force	27.7%	31.0%	30.2%	24.9%

In Suffolk County, working age non-Hispanic whites who were unemployed comprised 4.1% of the non-Hispanic white population in 2016, *up* from 3.3% in 1990. Non-Hispanic blacks had a 4.5% unemployment rate in 2016, down from 6.3% in 1990. The unemployment rate for Suffolk County's Asians was the same in 1990 as it was in 2016 at 2.8%. And finally, 5.3% of Latinos in Suffolk County were unemployed in 2016, a slight decrease from 5.8% in 1990. (See table 9).

Table 9
Employment Status of Suffolk County Population by Race/Ethnicity
(Aged 16-60) 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
Non-Hispanic Whites				
Employed	75.2%	75.4%	73.0%	74.2%
Unemployed	3.3%	2.4%	6.1%	4.1%
Not in the Labor Force	21.4%	22.2%	20.9%	21.7%
Non-Hispanic Blacks				
Employed	66.3%	65.9%	60.2%	71.5%
Unemployed	6.3%	6.0%	10.3%	4.5%
Not in the Labor Force	27.5%	28.1%	29.5%	24.0%
Latinos				
Employed	70.3%	67.9%	70.8%	71.6%
Unemployed	5.8%	4.1%	7.4%	5.3%
Not in the Labor Force	23.9%	28.1%	21.7%	23.1%
Asians				
Employed	65.0%	66.4%	65.8%	67.4%
Unemployed	2.7%	2.8%	6.8%	2.7%
Not in the Labor Force	32.3%	30.8%	27.4%	29.9%

Working age Latinos had the highest unemployment rates in New York City and in both Long Island counties. A thorough examination of these trends finds that unemployment rates among suburban minorities have steadily declined between 1990 and 2016. Asians are the only exception, but still had considerably low unemployment rates overall.

Educational Attainment

In New York City, 58% of non-Hispanic whites aged 25 or older earned a BA or higher in 2016, and 7% did not complete high school. Among non-Hispanic blacks, 24% graduated with at least a four-year degree and 16% did not complete high school. About 41% of New York City's Asian population had a bachelor's degree or higher and 25% did not graduate high school in 2016. Finally, 17% of all Latinos

25 years of age or older earned a BA or higher in 2016, and 32% did not complete high school. (See table 10).

Table 10
Educational Attainment Rates of New York City Population
(Population Ages 25+) by Race/Ethnicity 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
Non-Hispanic White				
Did Not Graduate High School	22%	15%	9%	7%
High School Graduate	27%	24%	22%	18%
Some College No Degree	14%	14%	13%	11%
Associates Degree	4%	5%	5%	5%
BA or Higher	32%	42%	52%	58%
Non-Hispanic Black				
Did Not Graduate High School	34%	28%	19%	16%
High School Graduate	30%	28%	32%	31%
Some College No Degree	18%	20%	21%	20%
Associates Degree	6%	7%	8%	8%
BA or Higher	13%	16%	20%	24%
Latino				
Did Not Graduate High School	51%	46%	37%	32%
High School Graduate	23%	23%	27%	29%
Some College No Degree	13%	15%	15%	15%
Associates Degree	4%	5%	6%	7%
BA or Higher	9%	11%	15%	17%
Asian				
Did Not Graduate High School	31%	31%	25%	25%
High School Graduate	19%	18%	21%	19%
Some College No Degree	10%	10%	8%	8%
Associates Degree	6%	5%	6%	6%
BA or Higher	34%	36%	40%	41%

In Nassau County, 49% of non-Hispanic whites aged 25 or older earned a BA or higher in 2016, and 5% did not complete high school. Among non-Hispanic blacks, 34% graduated with a four-year degree and 8% did not complete high school. 64% of Nassau's Asian population had a bachelor's degree or

higher and 8% did not graduate high school in 2016. Finally, 24% of Latinos earned a BA or higher in 2016, and 26% did not complete high school. (See table 11).

Table 11
Educational Attainment Rates of Nassau County Population
(Population Ages 25+) by Race/Ethnicity 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
Non-Hispanic White				
Did Not Graduate High School	14%	10%	6%	5%
High School Graduate	31%	28%	25%	23%
Some College No Degree	17%	18%	16%	16%
Associates Degree	7%	7%	7%	8%
BA or Higher	31%	38%	46%	49%
Non-Hispanic Black				
Did Not Graduate High School	24%	18%	15%	8%
High School Graduate	30%	29%	28%	26%
Some College No Degree	20%	21%	20%	21%
Associates Degree	8%	8%	10%	11%
BA or Higher	18%	23%	28%	34%
Latino				
Did Not Graduate High School	37%	38%	33%	26%
High School Graduate	27%	26%	25%	27%
Some College No Degree	15%	15%	19%	16%
Associates Degree	6%	5%	7%	7%
BA or Higher	15%	16%	16%	24%
Asian				
Did Not Graduate High School	12%	13%	11%	8%
High School Graduate	13%	14%	13%	14%
Some College No Degree	12%	11%	11%	8%
Associates Degree	7%	6%	6%	6%
BA or Higher	55%	57%	59%	64%

In Suffolk County, 39% of non-Hispanic whites aged 25 or older earned a BA or higher in 2016, and 5% did not complete high school. Among non-Hispanic blacks, 23% graduated with a four-year degree and

9% did not complete high school. 61% of Suffolk's Asians have a bachelor's degree or higher and 8% did not graduate high school in 2016. Finally, 16% of Latinos earned a BA or higher in 2016, and 29% did not complete high school. (See table 12).

Table 12
Educational Attainment Rates of Suffolk County Population
(Population Ages 25+) by Race/Ethnicity 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
Non-Hispanic White				
Did Not Graduate High School	16%	11%	6%	5%
High School Graduate	33%	32%	31%	28%
Some College No Degree	19%	20%	19%	17%
Associates Degree	8%	8%	10%	10%
BA or Higher	24%	29%	35%	39%
Non-Hispanic Black				
Did Not Graduate High School	29%	22%	15%	9%
High School Graduate	32%	32%	38%	33%
Some College No Degree	21%	22%	19%	27%
Associates Degree	5%	8%	8%	8%
BA or Higher	13%	17%	20%	23%
Latino				
Did Not Graduate High School	35%	37%	32%	29%
High School Graduate	29%	28%	30%	33%
Some College No Degree	18%	18%	17%	16%
Associates Degree	6%	5%	6%	6%
BA or Higher	12%	13%	15%	16%
Asian				
Did Not Graduate High School	12%	12%	9%	8%
High School Graduate	18%	16%	13%	12%
Some College No Degree	11%	11%	7%	11%
Associates Degree	6%	6%	8%	7%
BA or Higher	53%	55%	63%	61%

In both New York City and on Long Island, Latinos and non-Hispanic blacks aged 25 years and older had consistently lower educational attainment levels than non-Hispanic whites and Asians. Latinos were the only race/ethnic group in both New York City and Long Island where the percentage of persons who did not graduate high school was consistently higher than those with a bachelor's degree.

Nevertheless, overall trends in educational attainment between 1990 and 2016 are relatively positive for every race/ethnic group living on Long Island - especially in Nassau County. These trends in educational attainment can be attributed to the county's extremely high rate of taxation for primary and secondary education, resulting in a quality public education system that is among the best in the United States.

Age

An examination of age structures in New York City and Long Island indicate that a larger percentage of each region was comprised of older individuals in 2016 than they were in 1990. With very few exceptions, the number of individuals under the age of 44 decreased across all race/ethnic groups between 1990 and 2016. Furthermore, with the exception of New York City's non-Hispanic white population, every race/ethnic group in New York City and on Long Island saw an increase in the percentage of persons aged 60 and older. (See tables 13 through 15).

Table 13
Age Structure of New York City by Race/Ethnicity
1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
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Non-Hispanic White

0-14	12.8%	13.4%	13.5%	14.5%
15-44	44.5%	42.8%	43.4%	43.1%
45-59	16.0%	19.7%	19.2%	18.2%
60 +	26.8%	24.1%	23.9%	24.3%

Non-Hispanic Black

0-14	23.8%	24.1%	18.9%	18.1%
15-44	48.7%	45.9%	43.6%	41.9%
45-59	15.2%	16.8%	21.1%	20.7%
60 +	12.3%	13.3%	16.4%	19.4%

Latino

0-14	26.1%	26.0%	22.1%	21.5%
15-44	51.1%	49.6%	48.1%	45.9%
45-59	14.0%	14.8%	17.6%	17.8%
60 +	8.8%	9.7%	12.2%	14.8%

Asian

0-14	18.6%	17.9%	15.4%	14.8%
15-44	56.2%	53.0%	48.7%	46.6%
45-59	15.6%	18.2%	21.1%	20.2%
60 +	9.7%	10.9%	14.8%	18.3%

Table 14
Age Structure of Nassau County by Race/Ethnicity
1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
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Non-Hispanic White

0-14	16.8%	18.9%	16.6%	15.0%
15-44	43.1%	37.3%	32.1%	32.1%
45-59	17.5%	20.9%	25.2%	23.6%
60 +	22.7%	22.9%	26.1%	29.4%

Non-Hispanic Black

0-14	22.4%	24.5%	20.3%	17.8%
15-44	49.6%	45.8%	42.4%	40.2%
45-59	17.7%	18.2%	21.3%	24.5%
60 +	10.2%	11.5%	16.0%	17.5%

Latino

0-14	23.5%	26.3%	24.2%	24.7%
15-44	54.9%	53.5%	51.5%	46.0%
45-59	13.6%	14.0%	14.7%	19.2%
60 +	8.0%	6.2%	9.6%	10.1%

Asian

0-14	23.9%	22.2%	20.3%	19.8%
15-44	50.8%	46.6%	41.3%	41.5%
45-59	18.8%	22.8%	24.5%	21.1%
60 +	6.5%	8.5%	13.8%	17.5%

Table 15
Age Structure of Suffolk County by Race/Ethnicity
1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
Non-Hispanic White				
0-14	19.3%	20.7%	17.0%	14.4%
15-44	47.6%	40.8%	34.7%	32.8%
45-59	17.0%	20.5%	25.3%	24.9%
60 +	16.1%	17.9%	23.1%	27.9%
Non-Hispanic Black				
0-14	25.8%	26.6%	22.9%	19.8%
15-44	48.4%	47.2%	43.5%	44.6%
45-59	15.2%	15.6%	21.0%	19.8%
60 +	10.5%	10.5%	12.6%	15.9%
Latino				
0-14	27.7%	28.8%	26.9%	26.9%
15-44	53.4%	52.6%	51.0%	45.7%
45-59	13.1%	12.0%	15.4%	18.2%
60 +	5.9%	6.5%	6.7%	9.2%
Asian				
0-14	26.3%	19.6%	19.4%	18.2%
15-44	51.7%	52.9%	47.3%	44.7%
45-59	16.0%	18.0%	21.5%	19.6%
60 +	6.0%	9.5%	11.8%	17.5%

Concluding Remarks

Times are changing. Once characterized as homogenous, New York City's Long Island suburbs have grown considerably more diverse in the twenty-first century and this trend seems to be accelerating.

CLACLS hopes the information presented here 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 persistence of traditional income and employment tiers on Long Island among different race/ethnic groups. The question of why Latinos - despite notable gains in income, employment, and educational attainment - continue to present the

lowest shares in all of those categories when compared to Long Island's other race/ethnic groups warrants further investigation.

Second, it would be useful to have a better understanding of factors that are motivating Latinos, Asians, and non-Hispanic blacks to move to Long Island at the increased rates shown in this report.

At first glance, one might view this trend as the natural byproduct of post-civil rights movement victories against educational, housing, and employment discrimination. This logic would suggest that America's minority race/ethnic groups have always wanted to pursue the comforts of suburban life and have finally, in recent decades, been able to do so.

However, we must not be so short-sighted as to ignore the fact that American cities have also adopted new cultural and socioeconomic identities over those same decades, and in many instances, have become significantly more expensive places to live. Whether one chooses to call it "gentrification" or "reverse-white-flight", there are potentially push factors entwined with the traditional pull of Long Island suburban life.

Also, these data do not include information on Long Island's undocumented immigrant population, as it is unavailable from the US Census Bureau.

Finally, as this report only covers trends in New York City and Long Island, it would be useful to see how these trends compare to other major suburban populations - particularly the nation's larger metropolitan areas such as Chicago, Miami, and Los Angeles. Are minority groups penetrating these suburbs in similar numbers? Do traditional economic tiers still persist in these instances as well?

CLACLS welcomes the opportunity to discuss these questions, and others pertaining to this topic, with interested parties.