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Laird W. Bergad

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

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# CLACLS

Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies

## Research Note:

### Did the COVID Pandemic Result in an Exodus of the Latino Population of New York City and the New York Metropolitan Region?

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LATINO DATA PROJECT

CU  
NY

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 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](mailto:clacls@gc.cuny.edu).

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Data released by the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey 2021 One-Year samples indicate that despite the catastrophic health impact of COVID on the Latino population of the region, there was not a mass exodus of Latinos from the City or the metro area.<sup>1</sup>

The 2021 ACS One-Year samples, when compared with previous ACS One-Year samples, indicate that the City's overall population increased by 0.5% between 2018 and 2021 and 1.3% between 2019 and 2021. The 'Hispanic' population, excluding Spaniards, rose by 0.2% between 2018 and 2021 and 1.4% between 2019 and 2021 according to these data.

When the five largest Latino nationalities are examined the 2021 data for New York City reveal that the Puerto Rican population increased by 4.1% between 2019 and 2021; the Dominican population by 0.8%; Mexicans by 5.3%; Colombians by 0.3%; and Ecuadorians by 12.9%.

When the New York Metro Area is examined, the overall population rose by 3.8% between 2018 and 2021 and 4.2% between 2019 and 2021. The Hispanic population excluding Spaniards increased by 3.4% between 2018 and 2021 and 3.8% between 2019 and 2021.<sup>2</sup>

When the five largest Latino nationalities are examined the 2021 data for New York metro area reveal that Puerto Rican population declined by 5.7% between 2019 and 2021; the Dominican population increased by 9.0%; Mexicans by 2.1%; Colombians by 8.3%; and Ecuadorians by 9.5%.

Thus, most Latino nationalities did not leave the City between 2019 and 2021, the peak period of the pandemic, and only Puerto Ricans departed the metropolitan area after 2019 according to these data. (See tables 1 and 2). These new data contradict a report issued by the New York City's Planning, Population division, estimated that the City's population fell by 3.8% between April 1, 2020 and July 1, 2021.<sup>3</sup> In July 2022 CLACLS issued a report which estimated that the City's Latino population fell by -2.8% between 2017 and 2020.<sup>4</sup> These new 2021 data reveal that these conclusions may have been erroneous.

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<sup>1</sup> For the differential impact of COVID by race/ethnicity see "Differential Impacts of COVID-19 in New York State: Understanding and eliminating minority health disparities in a 21st-century pandemic" SUNY at Albany, July 2020 available at <https://www.albany.edu/communicationsmarketing/covid-19-documents/Racial%20Disparities%20in%20COVID-19%20Bonus%20Briefing%20Paper%5B2%5D.pdf> and "COVID-19 Death and Vaccination Rates for Latinos in New York City" Latino Policy and Politics Institute UCLA, May 2021 available at <https://latino.ucla.edu/research/covid-19-vaccination-latinos-nyc/>

<sup>2</sup> The New York Metro Area as defined in this report includes the City's five boroughs; Nassau, Suffolk, Rockland, Westchester, Orange, Putnam, and Dutchess counties in New York State; Fairfield County Connecticut; Passaic, Bergen, Hudson, Essex, Union, and Middlesex counties in New Jersey.

<sup>3</sup> "POPULATION ESTIMATES FOR NEW YORK CITY AND BOROUGHES AS OF JULY 1, 2021" March 2022 available at <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/planning/download/pdf/planning-level/nyc-population/new-population/current-population-estimates-2021.pdf> issued by the NYC Planning, Population Division.

<sup>4</sup> [https://academicworks.cuny.edu/clacsl\\_pubs/102/](https://academicworks.cuny.edu/clacsl_pubs/102/), Bergad, Laird W. (2022). Estimating the Latino Population in New York City, 2020. New York, NY: Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center.

Table 1  
Latino Populations of New York City, 2018 - 2021

	2018	2019	2021	% Increase or Decrease 2018-21	% Increase or Decrease 2019-21
Total:	8,398,748	8,336,817	8,443,713	0.5%	1.3%
Not Hispanic or Latino	5,949,297	5,913,229	5,986,576	0.6%	1.2%
Hispanic or Latino including Spaniards	2,449,451	2,423,588	2,457,137	0.3%	1.4%
Hispanic or Latino minus Spaniards	2,418,317	2,388,535	2,422,666	0.2%	1.4%
Mexican	342,538	322,286	339,425	-0.9%	5.3%
Puerto Rican	666,292	669,605	696,879	4.6%	4.1%
Cuban	42,048	35,051	39,929	-5.0%	13.9%
Dominican (Dominican Republic)	708,173	695,307	701,188	-1.0%	0.8%
Central American:	169,975	191,079	179,031	5.3%	-6.3%
Costa Rican	6,275	8,473	7,377	17.6%	-12.9%
Guatemalan	37,596	51,203	37,583	0.0%	-26.6%
Honduran	45,513	51,297	50,108	10.1%	-2.3%
Nicaraguan	11,733	12,209	12,560	7.0%	2.9%
Panamanian	20,394	17,077	22,824	11.9%	33.7%
Salvadoran	46,212	49,370	46,973	1.6%	-4.9%
Other Central American	2,252	1,450	1,606	-28.7%	10.8%
South American:	394,092	380,427	392,206	-0.5%	3.1%
Argentinean	17,372	22,301	18,356	5.7%	-17.7%
Bolivian	4,053	4,983	3,802	-6.2%	-23.7%
Chilean	8,774	7,978	7,524	-14.2%	-5.7%
Colombian	106,005	102,219	102,532	-3.3%	0.3%
Ecuadorian	194,860	174,199	196,728	1.0%	12.9%
Paraguayan	4,430	4,098	3,666	-17.2%	-10.5%
Peruvian	38,838	43,094	40,211	3.5%	-6.7%
Uruguayan	1,386	2,584	3,021	118.0%	16.9%
Venezuelan	17,437	15,602	13,555	-22.3%	-13.1%
Other South American	937	3,369	2,811	200.0%	-16.6%
Other Hispanic or Latino:	126,333	129,833	108,479	-14.1%	-16.4%
Spaniard	23,905	28,597	24,966	4.4%	-12.7%
Spanish	7,229	6,456	9,505	31.5%	47.2%
Spanish American	504	246	601	19.2%	144.3%
All other Hispanic or Latino	94,695	94,534	73,407	-22.5%	-22.3%

Sources: ACS One-Year Samples, U.S. Census Bureau, 2018, 2019, 2021. The 2020 one-year data has been omitted because they have been deemed to be unreliable.

Table 2  
 Latino Populations of the New York Metropolitan Area, 2018 - 2021

	2018	2019	2021	% Increase or Decrease 2018-21	% Increase or Decrease 2019-21
Total Population	17,835,152	17,752,917	18,506,301	3.8%	4.2%
Not Hispanic or Latino	13,101,479	13,016,751	13,554,819	3.5%	4.1%
Hispanic or Latino including Spaniards	4,733,673	4,736,166	4,951,482	4.6%	4.5%
Hispanic or Latino minus Spaniards	4,665,769	4,650,817	4,826,430	3.4%	3.8%
Mexican	569,027	553,662	565,132	-0.7%	2.1%
Puerto Rican	1,176,334	1,167,335	1,100,959	-6.4%	-5.7%
Cuban	139,484	130,771	142,136	1.9%	8.7%
Dominican	1,121,249	1,105,379	1,204,618	7.4%	9.0%
Central American:	562,787	584,492	624,958	11.0%	6.9%
Costa Rican	22,757	28,174	25,980	14.2%	-7.8%
Guatemalan	122,711	148,251	138,201	12.6%	-6.8%
Honduran	127,818	118,971	132,567	3.7%	11.4%
Nicaraguan	21,618	23,203	24,015	11.1%	3.5%
Panamanian	30,873	27,680	44,191	43.1%	59.6%
Salvadoran	231,720	233,061	256,340	10.6%	10.0%
Other Central American	5,290	5,152	3,664	-30.7%	-28.9%
South American:	927,756	922,801	990,774	6.8%	7.4%
Argentinean	38,993	44,700	38,582	-1.1%	-13.7%
Bolivian	9,800	12,995	14,181	44.7%	9.1%
Chilean	20,409	20,999	26,852	31.6%	27.9%
Colombian	260,404	263,209	285,178	9.5%	8.3%
Ecuadorian	381,583	368,663	403,506	5.7%	9.5%
Paraguayan	6,289	10,180	8,748	39.1%	-14.1%
Peruvian	156,739	151,867	151,908	-3.1%	0.0%
Uruguayan	14,533	15,618	11,276	-22.4%	-27.8%
Venezuelan	35,531	28,494	41,033	15.5%	44.0%
Other South American	3,475	6,076	9,510	173.7%	56.5%
Other Hispanic or Latino:	237,036	271,726	322,905	36.2%	18.8%
Spaniard	52,416	68,953	77,188	47.3%	11.9%
Spanish	15,488	16,396	47,864	209.0%	191.9%
Spanish American	627	658	2,553	307.2%	288.0%
All other Hispanic or Latino	168,505	185,719	195,300	15.9%	5.2%

Sources: ACS One-Year Samples, U.S. Census Bureau, 2018, 2019, 2021. The 2020 one-year data has been omitted because they have been deemed to be unreliable.

Note: The New York Metro Area as defined in this report includes the City's five boroughs; Nassau, Suffolk, Rockland, Westchester, Orange, Putnam, and Dutchess counties in New York State; Fairfield County Connecticut; Passaic, Bergen, Hudson, Essex, Union, and Middlesex counties in New Jersey.