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## The Demographic and Socioeconomic Patterns of New Latino Immigrants in New York City in the 2010s

Qiyao Pan

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

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# CLACLS

Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies

## The Demographic and Socioeconomic Patterns of New Latino Immigrants in New York City in the 2010s

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The Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies is a research institute that works for the advancement of the study of Latin America, the Caribbean, and Latinos in the United States in the doctoral programs at the CUNY Graduate Center. One of its major priorities is to provide funding and research opportunities to Latino students at the Ph.D. level.

The Center established and helps administer an interdisciplinary specialization in Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies in the Masters of Arts in Liberal Studies program.

The Latino Data Project was developed with the goal of making information available on the dynamically growing Latino population of the United States and especially New York City through the analysis of extant data available from a variety of sources such as the U.S. Census Bureau, the National Institute for Health, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and state and local-level data sources.

All Latino Data Project reports are available at <http://clacls.gc.cuny.edu>

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## Executive Summary

This report examines the demographic and socioeconomic patterns of new immigrants that arrived between 2010 and 2019 in the New York City. It focuses on the characteristics and shifting dynamics of these newcomers in three time periods: 2010-2012, 2013-2015, and 2016-2019. Among Latinos, the immigration trend has witnessed a significant decline when Donald Trump came in office in late 2016. The demographic and socioeconomic patterns of race/ethnic groups and five largest Latino groups are investigated by sex, working-age status, educational attainment, English-speaking ability, poverty status, income level, and public health insurance coverage.<sup>1</sup>

Between 2010 and 2019, Latinos were the largest race and ethnic group among new immigrants in New York City. The number of Latino new immigrants has been increasing smoothly during the first half of the decade until the abrupt decline in 2017. After then, Asians outnumbered Latinos in terms of the share of new immigrants. Meanwhile, the share of new immigrants grew among non-Hispanic whites from 15% to around 22%, while it decreased among non-Hispanic blacks from about 18% to 13% over time. Among the five largest Latino nationalities in the city, Dominicans accounted for nearly half of new Latino immigrants but this proportion started decreasing in later years down to 42.6%. Ecuadorians and Colombians witnessed a slight increase (from 10.2% to 11.2% and 3.1% to 4.0% respectively), and Puerto Ricans almost doubled their share in the late 2010s (from 4.5% to 7.9%).

Latinas were a higher proportion of new immigrants than Latinos, with a particularly high female immigration among Puerto Ricans, Dominicans and Colombians. In contrast, among Mexicans and Ecuadorians, the immigration trend was driven by the male population.

The overall declining trend in the working-age population among new immigrants made no exception among Latinos. In addition, Latinos had the largest share of underage people among all race and ethnic groups. The declining proportion of working-age new immigrants was particularly remarkable among Puerto Ricans and Ecuadorians. Colombians were the only subgroup that witnessed an increasing share of working-age immigrant—the largest among the five nationalities between 2016 and 2019.

Regarding educational attainment, new Latino immigrants had the highest proportion of high school graduates and the lowest share of population with at least a bachelor's degree. That said, there were large educational disparities across the five Latino nationalities. Colombians had the largest share of new immigrants with college degrees or higher—more than half of Colombians who arrived between 2016 and 2019 were at least college graduates. Dominicans and Mexicans had an average of less than one fifth of college graduates among new immigrants in the 2010s.

The English-speaking ability of Latinos was substantially declining among new arrivals, and this trend was particularly notable among Dominicans and Puerto Ricans. Ecuadorians had a high proportion of non-English speakers with an increasing trend of newcomers who do not speak English well. Mexicans had a high proportion of non-English speakers between 2013 and 2015. Only Colombian newcomers had very few non-English speakers across all time periods.

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<sup>1</sup> This report uses the American Community Survey PUMS (Public Use Microdata Series) data released by the Census Bureau and reorganized by the Minnesota Population Center, available at <https://www.usa.ipums.org/> Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2019. The New York City area of interest (city code 4610) includes five boroughs: Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island.

Nearly one fifth of Latino new immigrants were living in poverty status, which was the highest share among all race/ethnic groups. Puerto Ricans had an extremely high poverty rate, especially among those arriving after 2013. Colombians also experienced a growing share of people in poverty between 2016 and 2019. Ecuadorians had the lowest poverty rate in the 2010s.

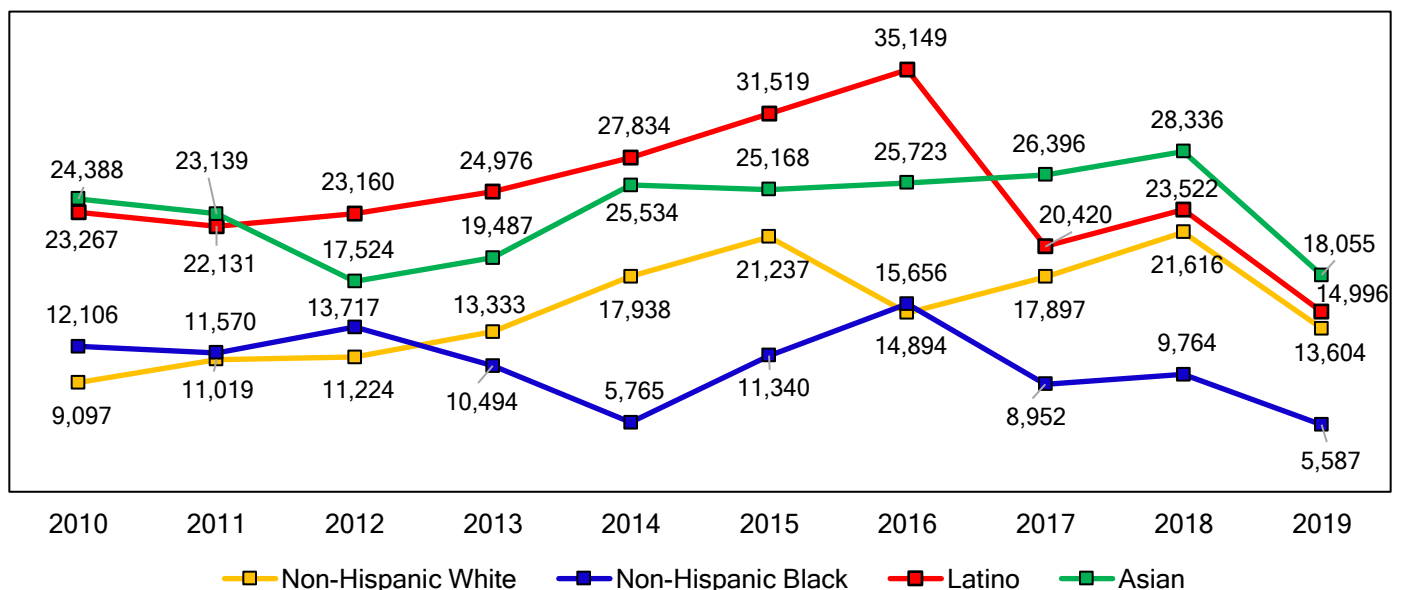
The income disparity was striking among Latino nationalities—Puerto Ricans had the lowest income level and Ecuadorians were the wealthiest subgroup. The median household income among Colombians and Dominicans was slightly below the overall Latino income level, but the income gap was moderate.

Latino newcomers had the largest share of the population with public health insurance coverage. Dominicans and Puerto Ricans were the groups with highest population share covered by public health insurance, while Mexicans and Colombians had the least. Moreover, there was a growing trend in the proportion of new immigrants with public health insurance coverage among Mexicans and Ecuadorians.

**General Demography**

New York City has been known for its racial and ethnic diversity and is home to the largest body of immigrants among all cities in the United States. However, the immigration trend in New York City began to slow down in the 2010s, with the year 2016 being a turning point of a noticeable declining shift. (See figure 1). The number of new immigrants who arrived each year fluctuated among all four major race and ethnic groups between 2010 and 2019, and they all experienced a significant drop between 2018 and 2019. The decreasing share of new Latino immigrants between 2016 and 2017 is particularly striking after a steady growing trend, which is very likely attributable to the election of Trump government in late 2016.

Figure 1  
Total New Immigrants by Race/Ethnicity  
New York City, 2010 - 2019





Among new arrivals, Asian immigrants outnumbered Latino immigrants in the early and late years of the 2010s. Latinos were the largest race and ethnic group among new immigrants in New York City between 2012 and 2016, with a total number of 246,974 that comprised of 32.5% of the total new immigrant population in the decade. Asians are the second largest race and ethnic group with 233,750 people accounting for 30.8% of the new immigrant population in the 2010s, followed by the non-Hispanic whites (20.0%) and non-Hispanic blacks (13.8%). The number of Latinos had been increasing smoothly during the first half of the decade until a significant drop of 41.9% between 2016 and 2017. The trend of Asian immigrants was steady throughout the decade, despite a moderate decline in 2012 and the sharp decrease experienced by all groups in 2019. Among non-Hispanic black immigrants, their arrival each year significantly decreased by 53.8% between 2010 and 2019, making them the least populous race and ethnic group among new immigrants in the decade. On the other hand, while non-Hispanic white immigrants comprised the lowest share of new immigrant population at the beginning of the decade, their number of yearly new arrivals more than doubled between 2010 and 2015 from 9,097 to 21,237 and continued to grow until 2018.

Figure 2 shows the share of new immigrants by race/ethnic groups in three periods: 2010-2012, 2013-2015, 2016-2019. Latinos comprised the largest share of new immigrant population between 2010 and 2012 (32.7%) and between 2013 and 2015 (34.9%). However, their proportion among new immigrants decreased to 30.6% between 2016 and 2019. Asians exceeded Latinos' numbers during that period with 32.0% and became the largest race and ethnic group of new immigrants. The share of new non-Hispanic white immigrants increased from 15.0% to 22.1%, while non-Hispanic blacks' proportion decreased from 17.9% to 13.0%.

Figure 2  
Percentage of New Immigrants by Race/Ethnicity  
New York City, 2010 - 2019

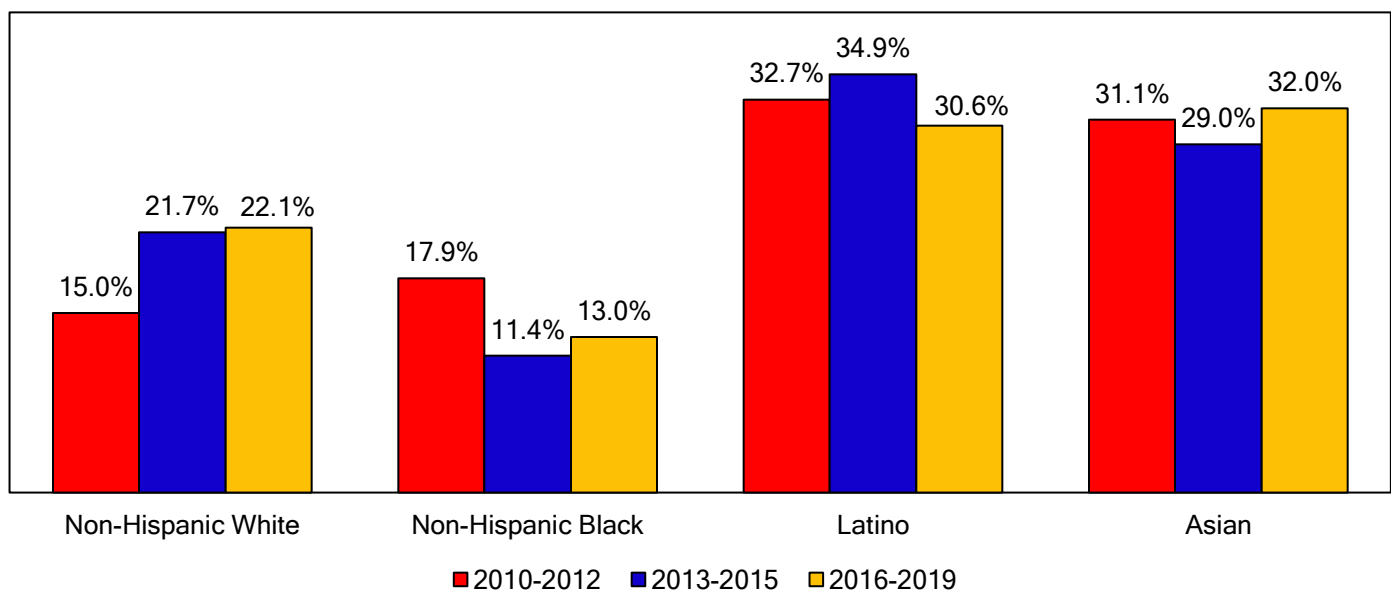


Figure 3 presents the share of the five largest Latino nationalities among new immigrants that arrived in New York City in the 2010s. Dominicans comprised more than half of the new Latino immigrants in early 2010s, but their proportion declined from 52.6% to 42.6% by the 2016-2019 period. Mexicans also experienced a declining trend, going from 14.6% to 10.9%. Puerto Ricans, in contrast, have increased their share among new Latino immigrants from 4.5% to 7.9%. Ecuadorians and Colombians also witnessed a slight increase of around 1% between early 2010s and late 2010s.

Figure 3  
Percentage of Five Largest Latino Subgroups among New Latino Immigrants  
New York City, 2010 - 2019

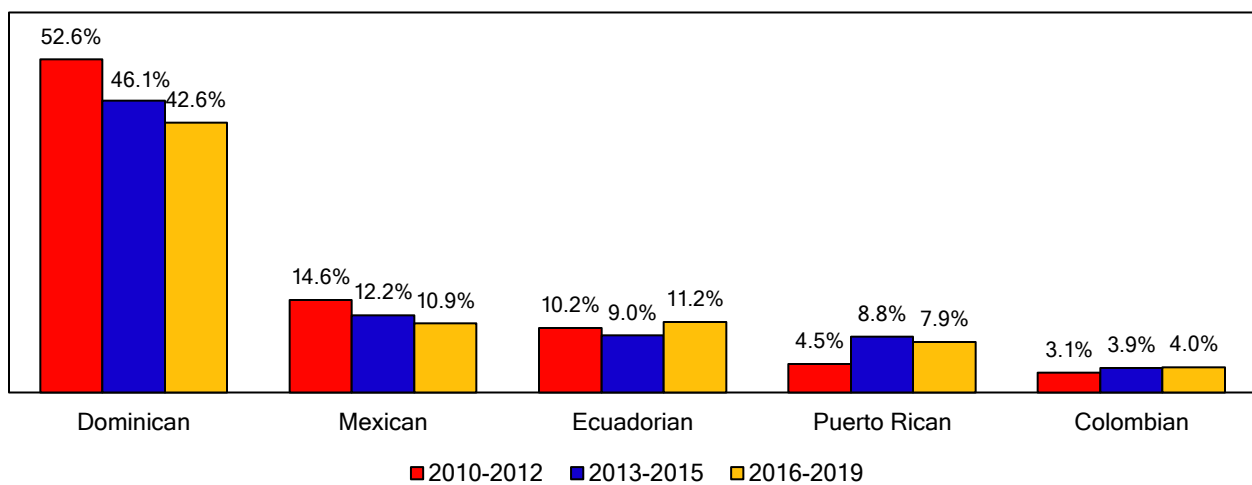
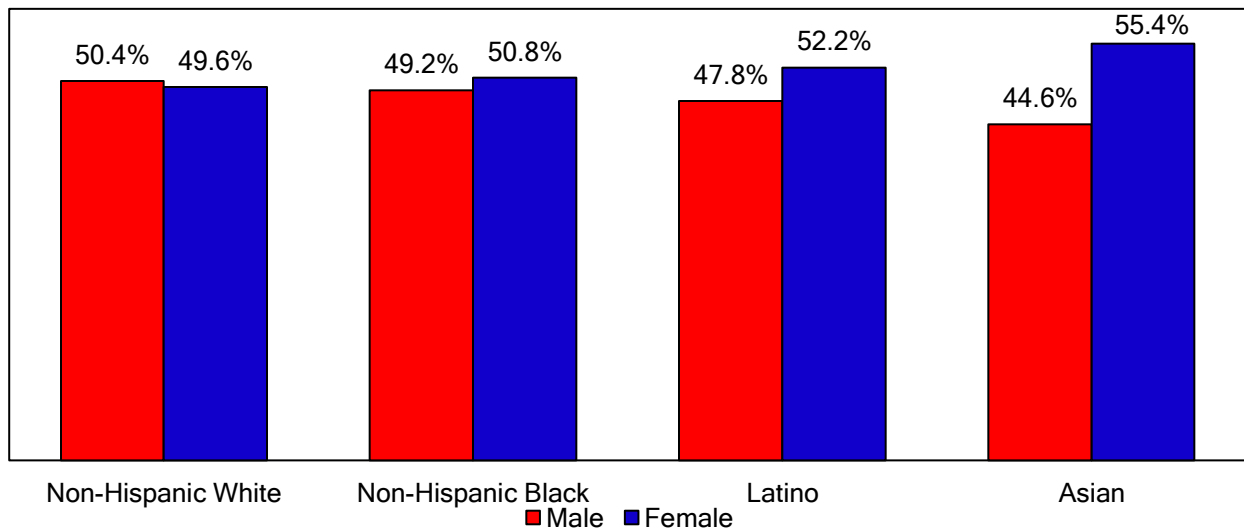


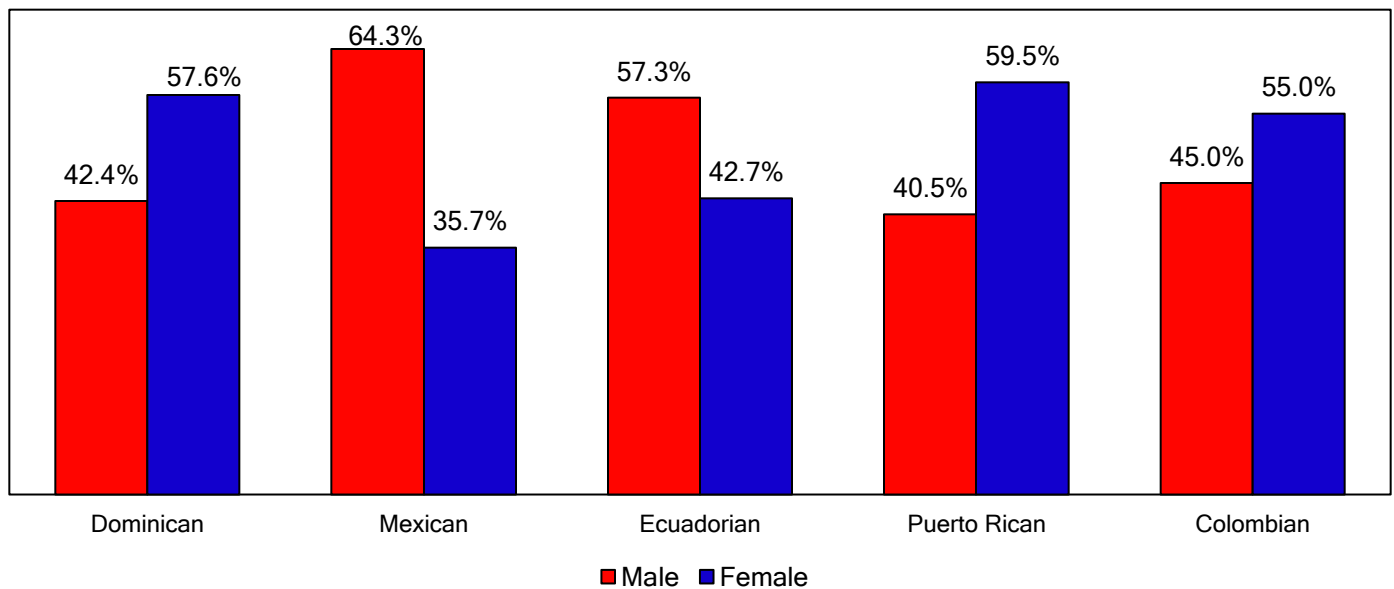
Figure 4  
Percentage of New Immigrants by Race/Ethnicity and Sex  
New York City, 2010-2019



When looking at the sex composition of new immigrants by race and ethnicity, all except non-Hispanic whites have more female immigrants than male immigrants. (See figure 4). Asians have the highest proportion of female new immigrants with 55.4%, followed by Latinos with 52.2%. The sex ratio of non-Hispanic black and non-Hispanic white new immigrants was close to parity, with 50.8% females among the former, and 49.6% females among the latter.

However, the overall high proportion of females among new Latino immigrants did not reflect on the five Latino nationalities, which showed disparity of sex composition across them. (See figure 5). The new Mexican and Ecuadorian immigrants were predominantly males, with a share of 64.3% and 57.3% respectively. Among new Dominican, Puerto Rican and Colombian immigrants, the share of females was higher than males, with 57.6%, 59.5% and 55% female respectively.

Figure 5  
Percentage of New Immigrants by Five Largest Latino Subgroups and Sex  
New York City, 2010 - 2019



The age distribution of new immigrants in the 2010s by race and ethnicity is shown in Table 1. The share of people 18-34 years of age was the highest among non-Hispanic white females with 45.5%, followed by Latinas with 42.8% and Latinos with 42.2%. Non-Hispanic white males had the highest percentage of population aged 35-49 (32.7%), followed by non-Hispanic black males (29.3%). Meanwhile, Latino new immigrants had the highest share of underage people among all race and ethnic groups with 24.8% among males and 22.3% among females, while Asians had the highest share of seniors (population of age 65 and older) with 6.8% among males and 7.6% among females. The overall trend of new immigrants by age group indicates different immigration patterns and challenges across race and ethnic groups. Given the higher share of children among Latinos, childcare and education may be important issues, while the higher share of elders among Asians suggests a greater need for public health insurance and care.

Table 1  
Percentage of New Immigrants by Race/Ethnicity, Age and Sex  
New York City, 2010 - 2019

Age	Non-Hispanic White		Non-Hispanic Black		Latino		Asian	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0-17	17.6%	15.9%	21.9%	20.0%	24.8%	22.3%	18.7%	11.7%
18-34	40.3%	45.5%	34.6%	32.1%	42.2%	42.8%	36.7%	45.5%
35-49	32.7%	26.9%	29.3%	26.4%	22.2%	22.2%	25.3%	22.0%
50-64	6.6%	8.7%	11.1%	15.9%	8.9%	10.0%	12.9%	13.8%
65+	2.8%	3.0%	3.0%	5.6%	1.8%	2.7%	6.4%	7.0%

Table 2  
Percentage of New Immigrants by Five Largest Latino Subgroups, Age and Sex  
New York City, 2010 - 2019

Age	Dominican		Mexican		Ecuadorian		Puerto Rican		Colombian	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0-17	32.5%	23.5%	7.2%	16.1%	25.0%	16.5%	40.1%	35.2%	19.2%	12.8%
18-34	36.5%	39.8%	57.0%	48.8%	37.4%	33.6%	24.2%	34.8%	36.5%	51.8%
35-49	16.2%	22.1%	32.0%	30.6%	28.4%	27.4%	14.7%	11.9%	29.6%	23.3%
50-64	12.0%	13.2%	3.6%	4.5%	6.2%	18.0%	20.3%	7.7%	14.8%	8.7%
65+	2.8%	1.5%	0.2%	0.0%	3.1%	4.4%	0.6%	10.3%	0.0%	3.5%

Table 2 presents the age distribution among the five largest Latino nationalities. Mexican males and Colombian females had over half of the new immigrants 18-34 years of age, with 57.0% and 51.8% respectively, while Puerto Rican males had the least share of the same age group, with only 24.2%. The largest share of underage newcomers was among Puerto Ricans, with 40.1% for males and 35.2% for females. Moreover, Puerto Rican females also had an unusually high percentage of elderly population of over 65 years old that took up around 10% of their new immigrant population. Over one fifth of Puerto Rican males were aged 50-64, which was the largest share in this age group. In contrast, Mexicans barely had aging population among newcomers, as most of their newcomers were concentrated at 18-49 years of age.

**Working-Age Population**

The share of the working-age population (between 18 to 64 years of age<sup>2</sup>), has decreased among new immigrants of all four race and ethnic groups between 2010 and 2019, especially in the later period. (See figure 6). New non-Hispanic black immigrants had a remarkable drop in their working-age population from 82.5% in 2010-2012 to 61.5% in 2016-2019. Asians witnessed a significant decline of working-age immigrants from 83.5% between 2010 and 2012 to 72.5% between 2016 and 2019. Among Latinos, the share of the working-age population also had a gradual decline from 78.0% to 71.0% in the same period. The decreasing share of working-age trend took place earlier among non-Hispanic whites, from 86% in 2010- 2012, to 78.6% in 2013- 2015, and remained stable in the late 2010s.

Figure 6  
Percentage of Working-Age New Immigrants by Race/Ethnicity  
New York City, 2010 - 2019

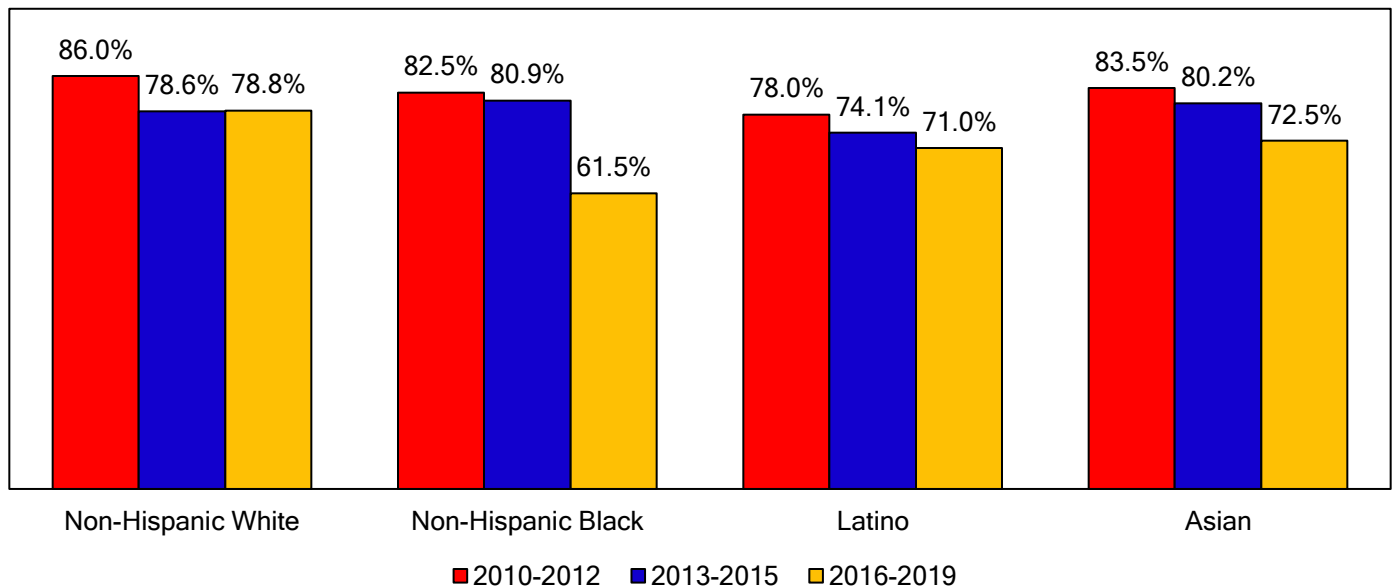
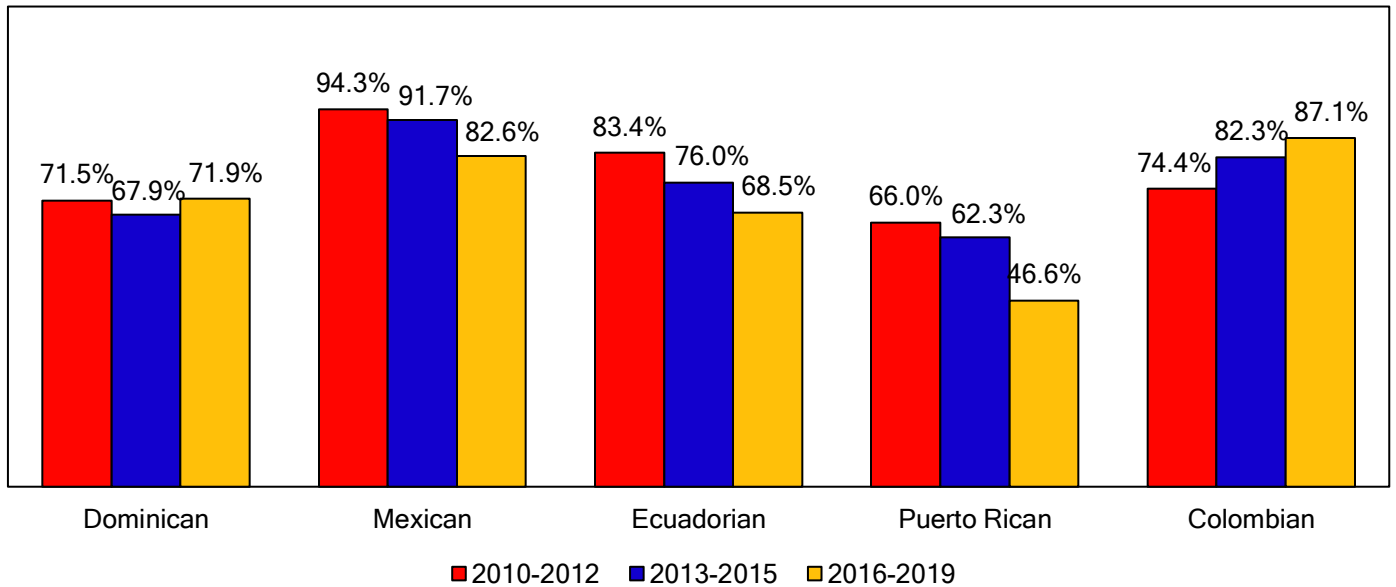


Figure 7 shows the percentage of the working-age population among new immigrants in the five largest Latino nationalities. In them, the declining trend of working-age new immigrants was most striking among Puerto Ricans, going from 66% between 2010 and 2012 to 46.6% in 2016- 2019. Ecuadorians also had a shrinking share of working-age population from 83.4% in 2010-2012, to 68.5% in 2016-2019. Mexican new immigrants had the highest percentage of a working-age population at the beginning of the decade, with 94.3% in 2010-2012, but it decreased to 82.6% in 2016-2019. On the other hand, there was a steady increase among the working-age population share of Colombians, rising from 74.4% in 2010- 2012, to 87.1% in 2016-2019, during which time

<sup>2</sup> Some researchers define working-age population as ages 25 to 64 to exclude young adults that enroll in training program or higher education (see Pew Research Center’s report: <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/03/08/immigration-projected-to-drive-growth-in-u-s-working-age-population-through-at-least-2035/>); however, many immigrants do not have college degrees and start working at early age. The patterns are also similar with a narrower age range.

they became the subgroup with the largest share of working-age population. Dominicans achieved a somewhat stable working-age population share, with 71.9% in 2016-2019.

Figure 7  
 Percentage of Working-Age New Immigrants by Five Largest Latino Subgroups  
 New York City, 2010-2019



**Educational Attainment**

The education level of new immigrants by race and ethnicity is presented in table 3. Non-Hispanic whites stood out as the group with a notable and increasingly large share of people with at least a bachelor’s degree compared to other groups, from 67.2% among those arrived between 2010 and 2012 to 74.9% among those between 2016 and 2019. Asians had the second largest share with an increase from 42.4% among those arrived in 2010-2012, to 47.8% in 2016-2019. The share of holders of a college degree or higher was also slightly increasing from 22.0% to 26.1% among non-Hispanic blacks in the same period, though the change was not significant. Latino immigrants had the lowest proportion of people with a bachelor’s degree or higher at about 23%, and those who arrived between 2013 and 2015 had the lowest percentage, with only 21.1%. New non-Hispanic black immigrants had the second lowest bachelor’s degree rate with 21.7% among people who arrived in 2010-2012. In addition, the share of people with high school degrees or less was highest among Latinos, followed by non-Hispanic blacks, as more than half of the population of both groups was in this educational category over the period analyzed in this report.

Table 3  
Educational Attainment of New Immigrants by Race/Ethnicity  
New York City, 2010 - 2019

	2010-2012	2013-2015	2016-2019
<b>Non-Hispanic White</b>			
Did Not Graduate High School	9.1%	5.2%	5.0%
High School Graduate	12.2%	12.6%	9.0%
Some College No Degree	6.2%	10.0%	7.3%
Associates Degree	5.3%	3.9%	3.8%
BA or Higher	67.2%	68.3%	74.9%
<b>Non-Hispanic Black</b>			
Did Not Graduate High School	17.5%	16.7%	17.3%
High School Graduate	40.3%	39.9%	35.7%
Some College No Degree	14.5%	11.4%	11.6%
Associates Degree	4.8%	6.0%	9.3%
BA or Higher	21.7%	25.9%	26.1%
<b>Latino</b>			
Did Not Graduate High School	26.4%	33.4%	30.0%
High School Graduate	33.9%	27.2%	30.3%
Some College No Degree	11.5%	13.4%	12.5%
Associates Degree	4.6%	4.8%	3.8%
BA or Higher	23.5%	21.1%	23.4%
<b>Asian</b>			
Did Not Graduate High School	24.6%	26.2%	22.2%
High School Graduate	21.6%	22.0%	19.6%
Some College No Degree	4.9%	5.3%	4.8%
Associates Degree	6.5%	7.3%	5.6%
BA or Higher	42.4%	39.2%	47.8%

Table 4  
Educational Attainment of New Immigrants by Five Largest Latino Subgroups  
New York City, 2010 - 2019

	2010-2012	2013-2015	2016-2019
<b>Dominican</b>			
Did Not Graduate High School	25.1%	40.0%	29.8%
High School Graduate	31.2%	24.4%	37.7%
Some College No Degree	17.4%	16.5%	14.6%
Associates Degree	6.0%	6.6%	2.1%
BA or Higher	20.3%	12.4%	15.8%
<b>Mexican</b>			
Did Not Graduate High School	28.5%	36.7%	19.9%
High School Graduate	46.6%	37.6%	38.1%
Some College No Degree	5.1%	5.1%	7.0%
Associates Degree	1.0%	0.0%	18.4%
BA or Higher	18.8%	20.5%	16.6%
<b>Ecuadorian</b>			
Did Not Graduate High School	31.5%	22.3%	63.8%
High School Graduate	51.6%	36.1%	16.1%
Some College No Degree	6.9%	15.1%	8.7%
Associates Degree	0.0%	3.5%	0.0%
BA or Higher	10.0%	23.1%	11.3%
<b>Puerto Rican</b>			
Did Not Graduate High School	30.6%	43.6%	29.8%
High School Graduate	8.9%	12.8%	37.9%
Some College No Degree	0.0%	21.8%	16.0%
Associates Degree	21.1%	3.2%	6.4%
BA or Higher	38.1%	18.7%	9.9%
<b>Colombian</b>			
Did Not Graduate High School	19.1%	16.5%	15.9%
High School Graduate	20.8%	23.7%	8.2%
Some College No Degree	5.5%	19.1%	24.5%
Associates Degree	5.8%	3.3%	0.0%
BA or Higher	48.7%	37.4%	51.4%



Among the five largest Latino nationalities (see table 4), Colombians had the highest share of college graduates between 2010 and 2019, and a bit more than half of Colombians (51.4%) who arrived between 2016 and 2019 had at least a bachelor's degree. In contrast, the share of college graduates had decreased significantly among Puerto Rican immigrants after 2013. Their proportion was halved in each period, from 38.1% in 2010-2012, to 18.7% in 2013-2015, and further to 9.9% in 2016-2019, indicating a shifting dynamic among Puerto Rican immigrants. Ecuadorians had an unsteady increase of college graduates to 23.1% for those arrived between 2013 and 2015, while the increase did not sustain to the following years as the share of college graduates returned to 11.3% between 2016 and 2019. Dominicans and Mexicans had similar proportions of college graduates across three periods in the 2010s, with an average of less than one fifth.

### English-Speaking Ability

The trend in the English-speaking ability of Latinos diverged from other race and ethnic groups among those who arrived between 2010 and 2019, as it has been decreasing among new immigrants. (See table 5). Non-Hispanic black immigrants had the highest English-speaking ability with almost two-thirds (65.7%) of the population speaking only English at home in 2010-2012, although this figure decreased to less than half (46.7%) by 2016-2019. More than one-fifth of non-Hispanic whites (28.9% by 2016-2019) were the group of new immigrants with the second-highest English-speaking ability.

However, the situation weighed very differently among Latino and Asian newcomers, as both groups had a low percentage of English-only speakers and a higher proportion of non-English speakers. Latinos witnessed an increasingly growing share of new arrivals who did not speak English, from 15.7% in 2010-2012 to 23.9% in 2016-2019, while the proportion of English-only speakers remained at around 5% throughout the 2010s. The proportion of non-English speakers was also high among Asian newcomers, with over 13% for each period between 2010 and 2019.

Table 6 presents the English-speaking ability by Latino nationalities. Among them, Puerto Ricans had the highest English-speaking ability, as at least half of the population spoke English well. However, the latest wave of Puerto Rican immigrants between 2016 and 2019 had an unusual large share of non-English speakers at 20.7%, compared to 4.8% between 2010 and 2012, and 6.0% between 2013 and 2015. There was also a surge of non-English speakers at 33.6% among Dominicans that arrived between 2016 and 2019, and among the Mexican newcomers at 32.1% between 2013 and 2015. Meanwhile, Colombians had a stable trend in English-speaking ability among newcomers with very few non-English speakers overall, and Ecuadorians in contrast had a high proportion of non-English speakers with an increasing trend of newcomers that do not speak English well since 2013.

Table 5  
English-Speaking Ability of New Immigrants by Race/Ethnicity  
New York City, 2010 - 2019

	2010-2012	2013-2015	2016-2019
<b>Non-Hispanic White</b>			
Speak only English	22.5%	24.4%	28.9%
Very Well	40.2%	38.4%	38.3%
Well	17.0%	19.6%	14.8%
Not Well	15.1%	13.0%	7.9%
Does not Speak English	5.2%	3.4%	3.1%
<b>Non-Hispanic Black</b>			
Speak only English	65.7%	54.4%	46.7%
Very Well	21.5%	25.4%	21.6%
Well	10.2%	13.2%	11.7%
Not Well	2.6%	4.6%	6.4%
Does not Speak English	0.0%	1.1%	2.4%
<b>Latino</b>			
Speak only English	5.1%	4.4%	5.1%
Very Well	37.1%	28.3%	20.7%
Well	37.1%	23.3%	15.3%
Not Well	25.1%	25.7%	28.7%
Does not Speak English	15.7%	17.3%	23.9%
<b>Asian</b>			
Speak only English	8.2%	10.5%	11.5%
Very Well	32.6%	27.1%	23.2%
Well	23.0%	24.0%	27.3%
Not Well	23.3%	23.2%	18.3%
Does not Speak English	13.0%	14.7%	13.5%

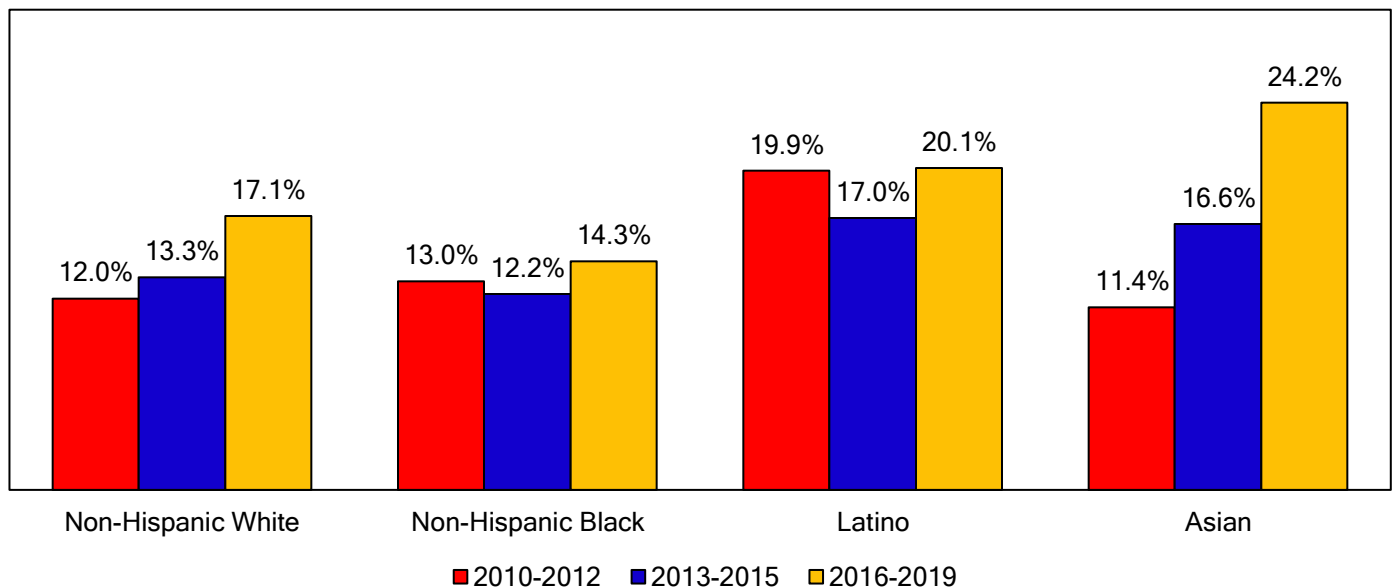
Table 6  
English-Speaking Ability of New Immigrants by Five Largest Latino Subgroups  
New York City, 2010 - 2019

	2010-2012	2013-2015	2016-2019
<b>Dominican</b>			
Speak only English	2.3%	2.9%	4.6%
Very Well	38.7%	25.8%	14.8%
Well	18.1%	22.9%	8.9%
Not Well	21.4%	23.9%	34.0%
Does not Speak English	19.5%	22.5%	33.6%
<b>Mexican</b>			
Speak only English	6.5%	2.5%	5.4%
Very Well	29.0%	17.9%	30.4%
Well	23.5%	17.9%	26.8%
Not Well	30.5%	30.8%	18.3%
Does not Speak English	10.5%	32.1%	13.4%
<b>Ecuadorian</b>			
Speak only English	0.0%	1.9%	5.0%
Very Well	40.2%	25.5%	12.6%
Well	15.8%	22.6%	13.6%
Not Well	20.1%	30.2%	44.1%
Does not Speak English	23.9%	19.8%	20.4%
<b>Puerto Rican</b>			
Speak only English	27.9%	14.8%	12.2%
Very Well	55.4%	41.7%	30.2%
Well	6.5%	24.1%	11.8%
Not Well	5.4%	13.4%	16.3%
Does not Speak English	4.8%	6.0%	20.7%
<b>Colombian</b>			
Speak only English	17.7%	5.4%	8.8%
Very Well	37.2%	35.4%	12.1%
Well	15.3%	40.1%	43.7%
Not Well	27.5%	19.2%	29.0%
Does not Speak English	2.3%	0.0%	3.0%

**Poverty Status**

Asians had an increasing proportion of people in poverty among new immigrants, as it doubled from 11.4% in 2010-2012 to 24.2% in 2016-2019—the largest of all years and groups. (See figure 8). Meanwhile, Latino immigrants had the largest rates of poverty status between 2010 and 2015, which remained stable at around one fifth of population. Asians had the highest poverty rates, though, at 24.2%. Among non-Hispanic whites and non-Hispanic blacks, the share of the population in poverty was similar among those arrived between 2010 and 2015 (12.0% and 13.0% respectively), while non-Hispanic whites had a slightly higher proportion in poverty for newcomers between 2016 and 2019 (17.1% compared to 14.3% respectively).

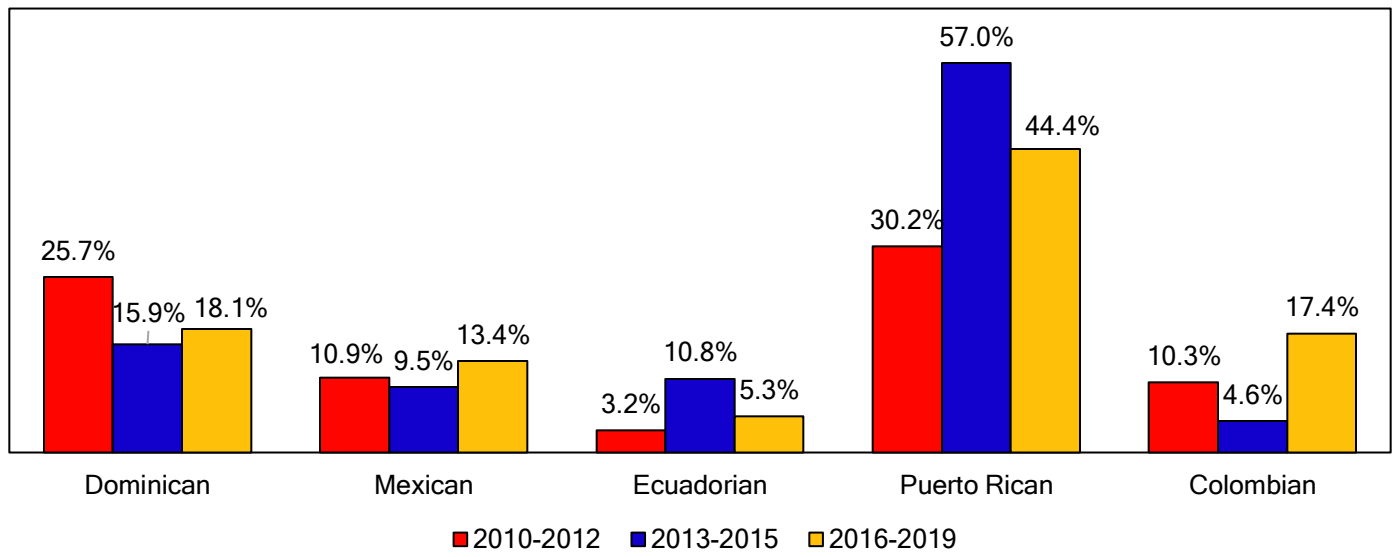
Figure 8  
Percentage of New Immigrants in Poverty Status by Race/Ethnicity  
New York City, 2010 - 2019



The experience of living in poverty varied greatly among the five Latino nationalities. (See figure 9). Puerto Ricans stood out as the subgroup with the highest poverty rate across all three time periods: Fifty-seven percent of the Puerto Rican immigrants who arrived between 2013 and 2015 were in poverty, and from 2016-2019, 44% of Puerto Rican immigrants were in poverty as well. Colombians also witnessed an unusually high poverty rate at 17.4% among newcomers between 2016 and 2019, compared to 10.3% among those who arrived between 2010 and 2012, and 4.6% among those who arrived between 2013 and 2015. In contrast, the poverty status of Dominicans showed a slight improvement over time, with share of newcomers in poverty decreasing from 25.7% between 2010 and 2012, to 18.1% between 2016 and 2019. Mexicans had a steady poverty rate at around 10% among newcomers in every period in the 2010s. Ecuadorian immigrants had the lowest poverty rate, with a

slightly high increase among those who arrived between 2013 and 2015 at 10.8%, but the poverty rate dropped for the latest immigrants between 2016 and 2019.

Figure 9  
 Percentage of New Immigrants in Poverty Status  
 by Five Largest Latino Subgroups  
 New York City, 2010-2019



**Median Household Income**

Figure 10 presents median household income (all amounts are adjusted to 2019 dollars) among working-age immigrants (18-64 years old) who arrived between 2010 and 2019. Overall, non-Hispanic whites were the wealthiest groups among all race and ethnic groups. Their newcomers arrived with increasingly high levels of median household income, from \$88,966 among those who arrived between 2010 and 2012, to \$98,410 in 2013-2015, and to \$108,597 in 2016-2019. There was a growing income trend among non-Hispanic black newcomers, with a median household income of \$75,241 among those arriving between 2010 and 2012 to \$83,100 among those arriving between 2016 and 2019. The median household income among Latino newcomers was highest between 2013 and 2015 (\$79,523), but in other years Latinos maintained a household income of around \$70,000, making them the least wealthy among all four race and ethnic group. There was no notable change of household income level among Asians over time, except a slight increase for newcomers between 2013 and 2015.

Figure 10  
 Median Household Income of Working-Age New Immigrants by Race/Ethnicity  
 New York City, 2010-2019  
 (Adjusted for Inflation to 2019 Dollars)

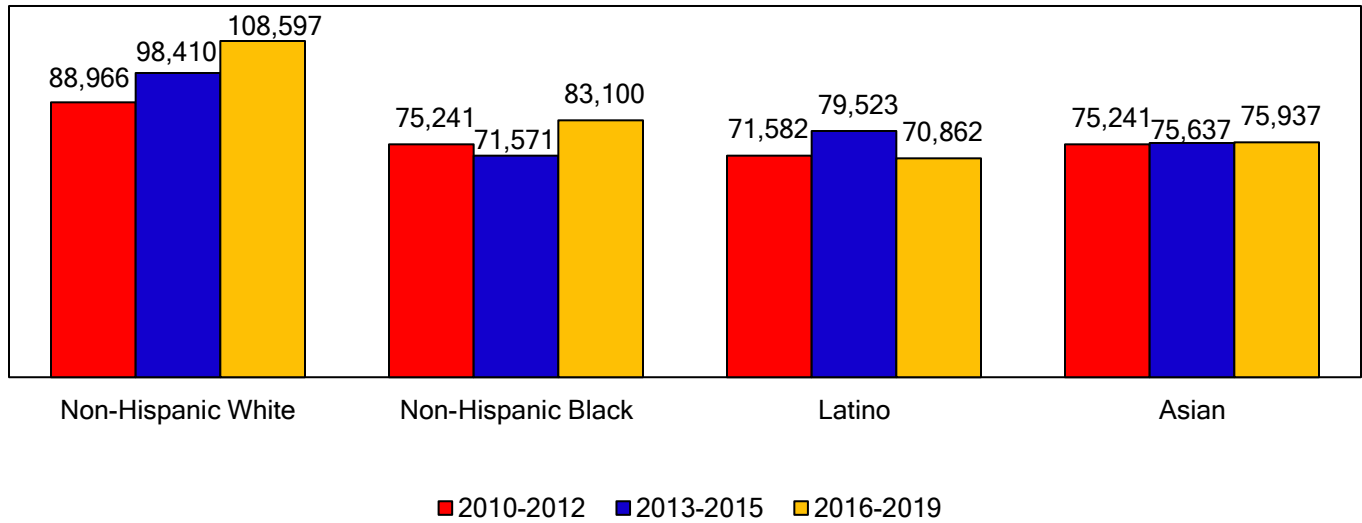
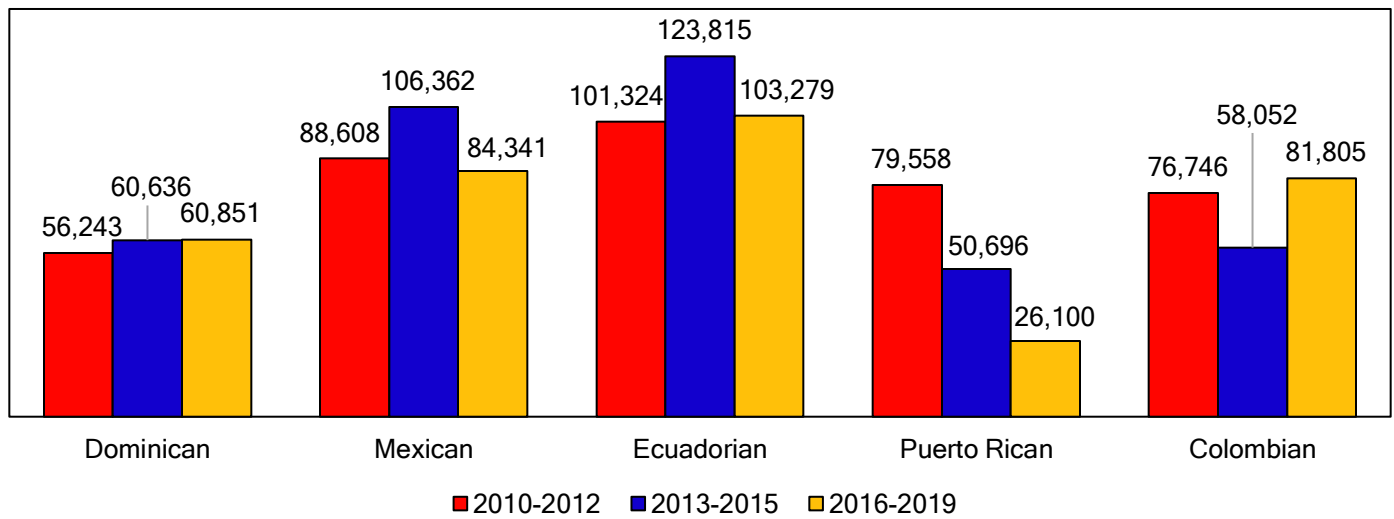


Figure 11  
 Median Household Income of Working-Age New Immigrants  
 by Five Largest Latino Subgroups  
 New York City, 2010-2019  
 (Adjusted for Inflation to 2019 Dollars)



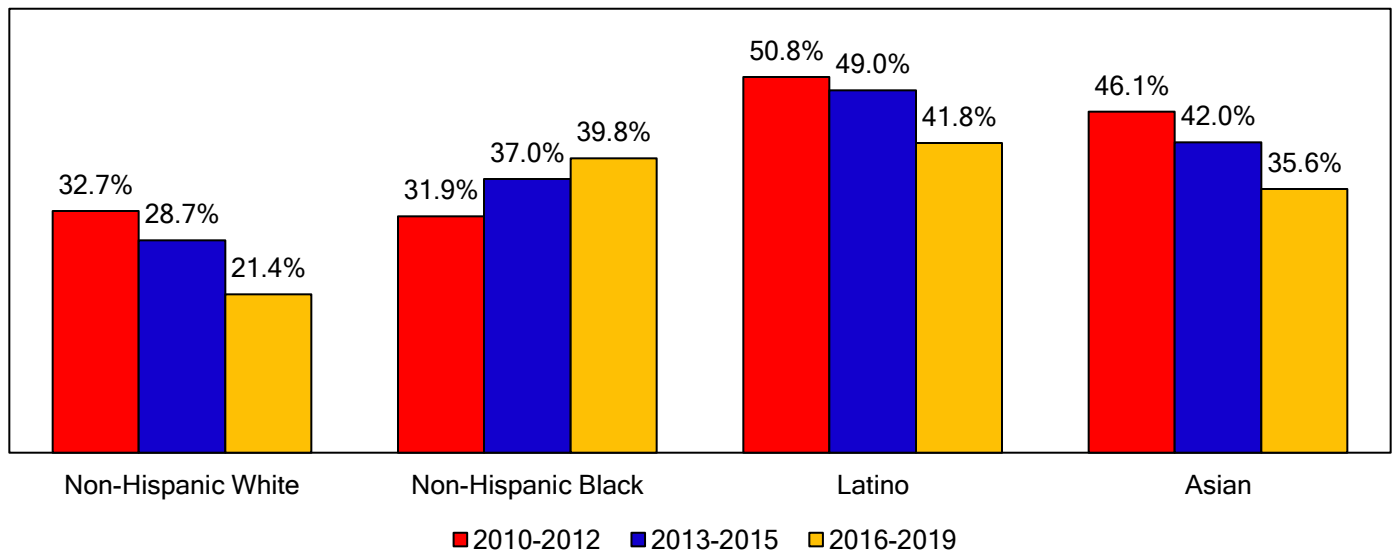
Income inequality was substantially large across the five largest Latino nationalities. (See figure 11). Ecuadorians remained the wealthiest Latino newcomers with a median household income of over \$100,000 in all periods between 2010 and 2019. Mexicans arriving between 2013 and 2015 also surpassed the \$100,000 income threshold, and for other years their household incomes were over \$80,000—which made them the second wealthiest Latino immigrants. The household income of Colombians who arrived between 2013 and 2015 (\$58,052) was lower than among those in later years (\$81,805 by 2016-2019). Puerto Rican newcomers witnessed the largest drop of median household income over time, from \$79,558 for those arrived between 2010 and 2012, to \$26,100 among those who arrived between 2016 and 2019. The income discrepancy within their own subgroup is strikingly high and deserves further attention to their group dynamics.

The income gap among Puerto Ricans is partly explained by their educational gap. The household income trend among Puerto Ricans corresponded to the significant decrease of degree population with college degrees or higher (see previous table 4). However, Ecuadorians did not have a high proportion of college-educated population, but they retained an overall high-income status.

**Public Health Insurance Coverage**

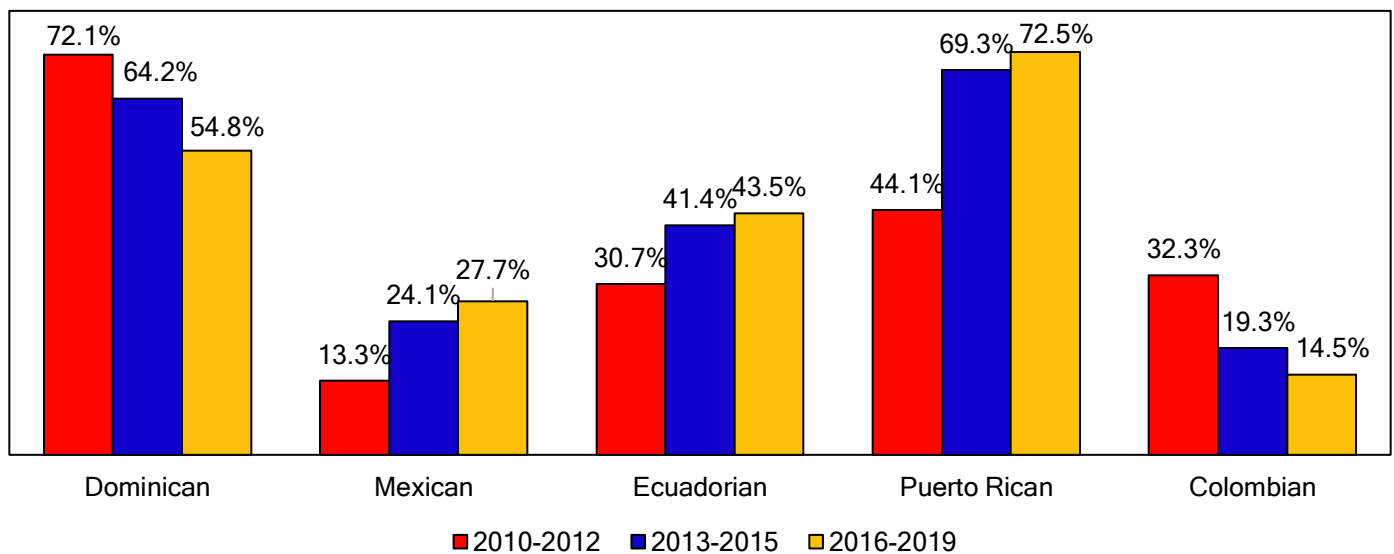
Public health insurance indicates the social welfare status of a group, and long-time residents are more likely to receive benefits than newcomers. There was an overall decreasing pattern over time that applied to all race and ethnic groups except non-Hispanic blacks. (See figure 12). Latinos had the largest share of immigrants with public health insurance, and non-Hispanic whites received the least.

Figure 12  
 Percentage of New Immigrants with Public Health Insurance Coverage  
 by Race/Ethnicity  
 New York City, 2010 - 2019



Between 2010 and 2012, 50.8% of Latino newcomers were covered by public health insurance, followed by 46.1% among Asian new immigrants. Although the non-Hispanic blacks who arrived in this period had the lowest proportion of coverage, it increased from 31.9% in 2010-2012 to 39.8% in 2016-2019. Among those arrived between 2016 and 2019, only 21.4% non-Hispanic whites were covered by public health insurance, while at least 35% of the new immigrants among other race and ethnic groups received public health insurance. As public health insurance is related to income level, disability and age, the lower share of public health insurance among non-Hispanic whites can be explained by the higher income level of this group.

Figure 13  
 Percentage of New Immigrants with Public Health Insurance Coverage  
 by Five Largest Latino Subgroups  
 New York City, 2010 - 2019



Among the five largest Latino nationalities, only Dominicans and Colombians had a decreasing rate of public health coverage. Figure 13 shows that Puerto Ricans who arrived between 2016 and 2019 had the highest share of population covered by public health insurance with 72.5%, closely followed by Dominicans between 2010 and 2012 with 72.1%. Mexicans between 2010 and 2012 had the lowest rates of public health insurance, but they doubled between 2016 and 2019. Among Puerto Ricans, the surging percentage of population covered by public health insurance is likely correlated with the significant decline of income level among immigrants that arrived after 2013. Fewer Colombian newcomers received public health insurance coverage by time, dropping from 32.3% among those who arrived between 2010 and 2012 to 14.5% among those who arrived between 2016 and 2019. Ecuadorian newcomers with public health coverage increased from 30.7% to 43.5% over the same period.



## Conclusion

Overall, this report shed light on the shifting dynamics of new Latino immigrants and the rising challenges that immigrants faced in the 2010s. The age structure and educational disparities across the five Latino subgroups is worth further investigation, as these factors may tell how immigration policies produced divergent effects on new immigrants.

Latinos were the largest race/ethnic groups in terms of their overall share of new immigrants between 2010 and 2019. Before 2016, the number of Latino new immigrants has been growing steadily by year. Nevertheless, the year 2016 marked a watershed for their immigration trend. Latino new immigrant population has shrunk significantly in 2017 and were outnumbered by Asians since. This suggests that Latinos were impacted by Trump-era immigration policies the most. The overall declining trend among all race/ethnic groups in late 2010s also indicates that the restrictive regulations on immigration affected all incoming immigrants.

Dominicans were the largest Latino subgroup in New York City and accounted for half of new Latino immigrants at the beginning of the 2010s, with Mexican being the second largest. Both the share of Dominicans and Mexicans among new Latino immigrants had decreased by time, while Ecuadorians and Colombians witnessed a slight increase. Puerto Ricans also doubled their share in the late 2010s compared to the beginning of this decade.