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# Latino Educational Enrollment and Attainment Levels in New York City

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# *LATINO DATA PROJECT*

## LATINO EDUCATIONAL ENROLLMENT AND ATTAINMENT LEVELS IN NEW YORK CITY

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Prepared by the  
Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies



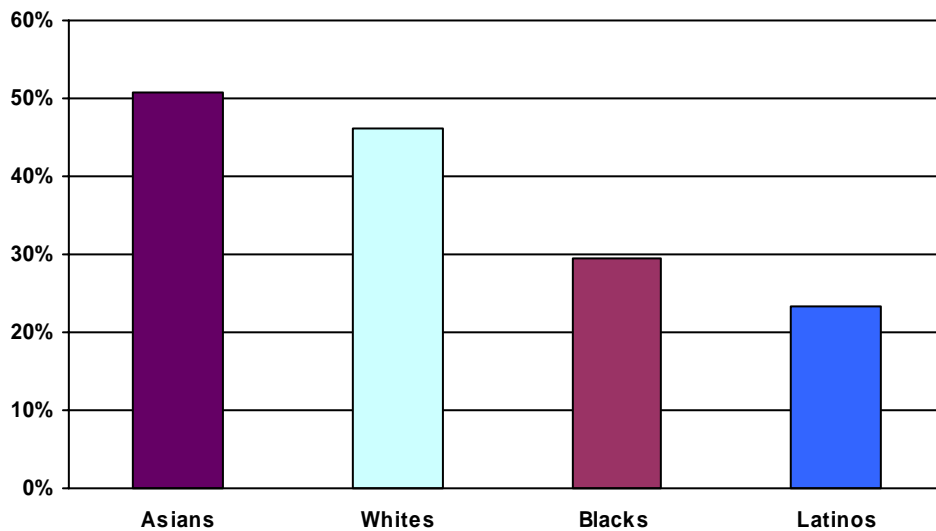
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# Latino Educational Enrollment and Attainment Levels in New York City

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According to the U.S. Census 2000 data, enrollment levels in undergraduate and graduate level programs in the five boroughs of New York City show a marked difference between the four primary ethnic/racial groups; Whites, Blacks, Asians, and Latinos/Hispanics.<sup>1</sup> Statistics show that close to 50% of the Asian and White populations between 18 and 24 years of age are enrolled in undergraduate programs. Enrollment for Blacks and Latinos in respective populations of the same age group, however, is below 30%. Of the four primary groups, Latinos are enrolled at the lowest percentage at 23.4% of 18 to 24 year-old age group. See Table 1 and Figure 1 below.

Figure 1. Percentage of Total Population between 18 and 24 Years of Age by Ethnicity, Enrollment in Undergraduate Programs



\*These calculations were arrived at by dividing enrolled population by total population in that age group of same ethnic group.

<sup>1</sup> Throughout this report I will be using the ethnic/racial categories as follows: Whites – those reporting no other race/s, non-Hispanic origin; Blacks – those reporting no other race/s, non-Hispanic origin; Asians – those reporting no other race/s, non-Hispanic origin, Latinos/Hispanics- those reporting Latino nationality, race non-specified.

**Data Sources – All figures and tables are derived from** Census Data 2000 – Summary Files 4 – Enrollment by Sex by Nationality, Enrollment by Sex by Nationality by Type of School, Educational Attainment Levels by Sex by Nationality

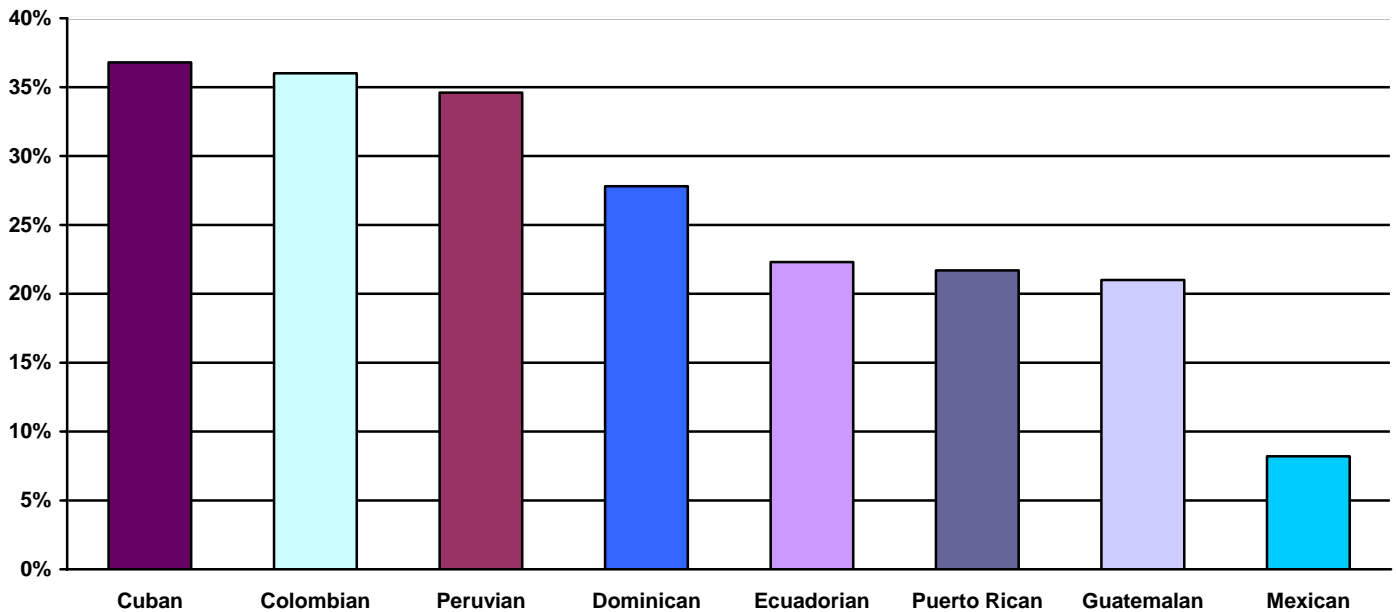
Table 1. Enrollment of Total Population between 18 and 24 Years of Age by Ethnicity and Latino Nationality, Enrollment in Undergraduate Programs

<b>Ethnicity/Race/ Nationality</b>	<b>Total Population 18 -24 years of age</b>	<b>Enrolled</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Asians	80,750	40,908	50.7%
Whites	228,099	105,450	46.2%
Blacks	196,700	58,143	29.6%
Total Latinos	260,981	61,039	23.4%
Cuban	2192	806	36.8%
Colombian	9308	3353	36.0%
Peruvian	2744	950	34.6%
Dominican	52,087	14,467	27.8%
Ecuadorian	14,313	3197	22.3%
Puerto Rican	84,596	18,398	21.7%
Guatemalan	2378	499	21.0%
Mexican	35,775	2929	8.2%

Data on enrollment among the Latino nationalities reveal that Cubans (36.8%), Colombians (36%), and Peruvians (34.6%), show significantly higher proportional enrollments than older, more established migrant groups, such as Puerto Ricans (21.7%) and Dominicans (27.8%).<sup>2</sup> Enrollment for Ecuadorians is 22.3% of the age-specific population and Guatemalans 21%. While Mexicans constitute the third largest Latino population between 18 and 24 years of age of these nationalities, enrollment for this group is at the lowest percentage at 8.2%. See Table 1 above and Figure 2 on the following page.

<sup>2</sup> This report analyzes data on the following eight Latino nationalities; Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, Guatemalan, Colombian, Ecuadorian, and Peruvian.

Figure 2. Percentage of Total Latino Population by Nationality between 18 and 24 Years of Age, Enrollment in Undergraduate Programs

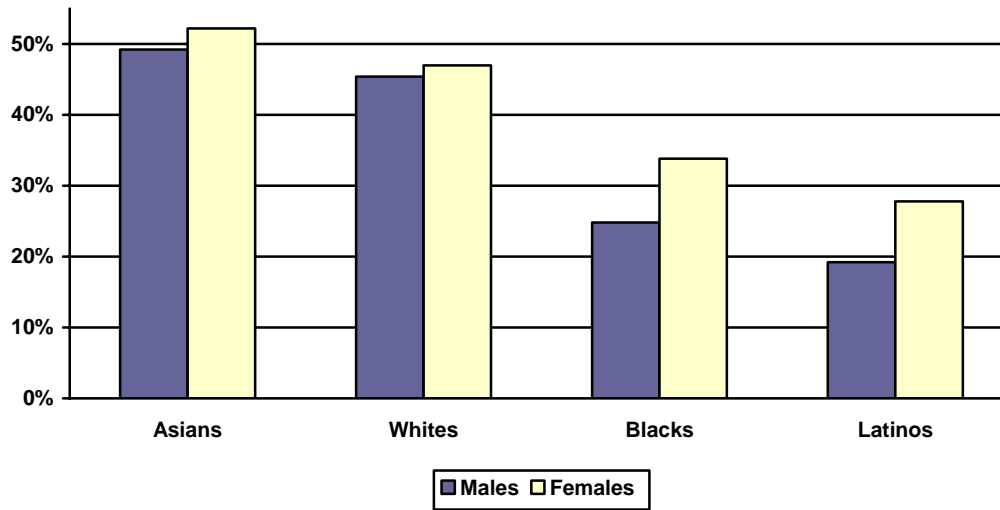


### Comparative Male and Female Enrollment Levels by Ethnicity and Latino Nationality

These data reveal interesting disparities in enrollment between males and females within the four primary ethnic groups. Among all four primary ethnic groups, males are enrolled at lower percentages than females. Enrollment of Asian males, at 49.2% of total male population between the ages of 18 and 24, is the highest percentage of all males in the four primary groups, while Latino males are least enrolled at 19.2% of the total male age-specific population. Enrollment among White males is 45.4% and 24.8% for Black males.

This pattern of enrollment is also found among females in the four primary groups. However, the disparity is much higher between males and females among Black and Latino populations. Enrollment levels of the total age-specific ethnic populations show Asian females at 52.2%, White females 47%, Black females 33.8%, and Latino females 27.8%. These data highlight that whereas the Latino and Black populations report lower enrollments overall, there is greater disparity of enrollment levels between the sexes. See Figure 3 and Table 2 on the following page for more detailed information.

Figure 3. Percentage of Total Male and Female Population between 18 and 24 Years of Age by Ethnicity, Enrollment in Undergraduate Programs



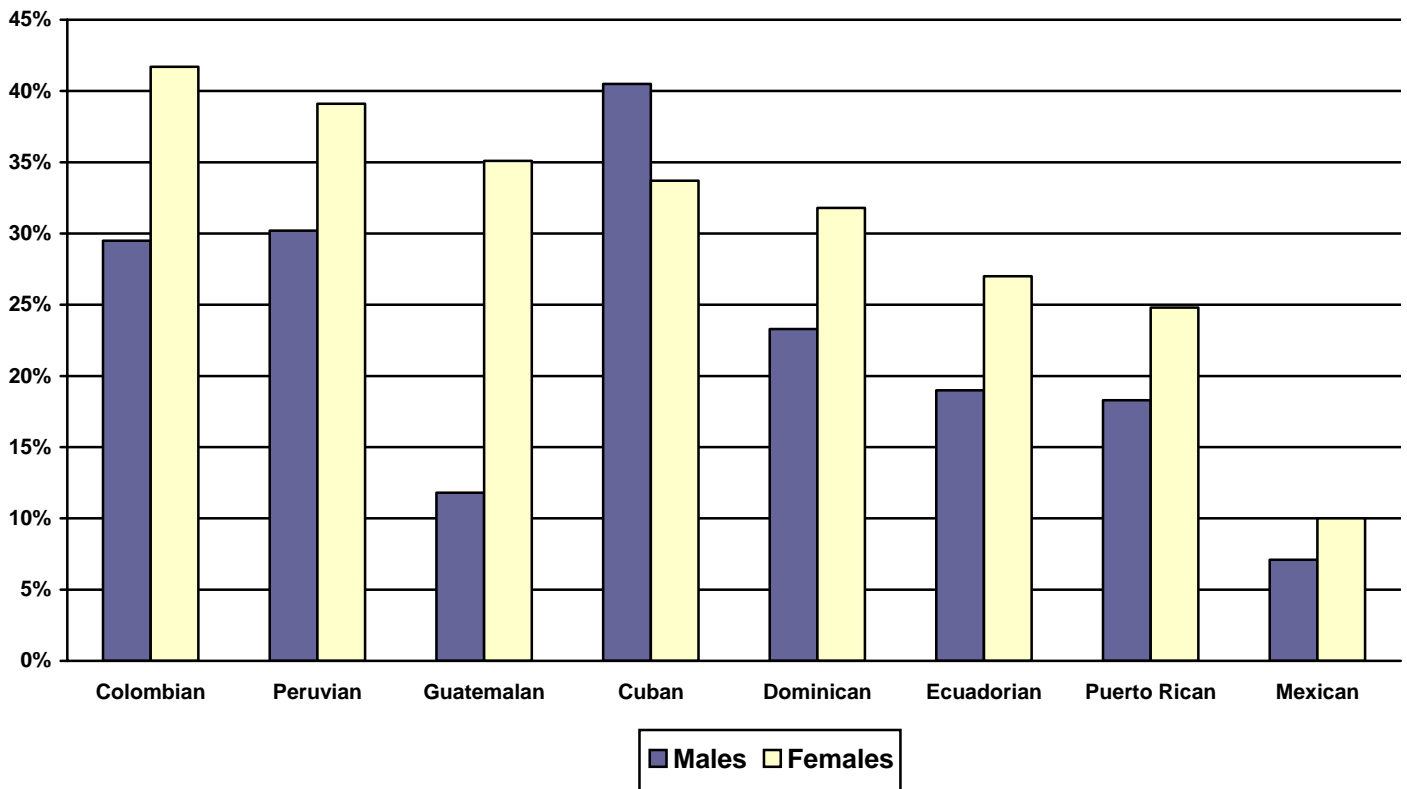
\* These calculations were derived by totaling the enrollment by females for each ethnic group and dividing this sum by the total population of same ethnic and sex group; this formula was repeated for the male population in each ethnic group.

Table 2. Percentage of Total Male and Female Population between 18 and 24 Years of Age by Ethnicity and Latino Nationality, Enrollment in Undergraduate Programs

<b>Ethnicity/Race/ Nationality</b>	<b>% of Females</b>	<b>% of Males</b>
Asians	52.2%	49.2%
Whites	47.0%	45.4%
Blacks	33.8%	24.8%
Total Latinos	27.8%	19.1%
Colombian	41.7%	29.5%
Peruvian	39.1%	30.2%
Guatemalan	35.2%	11.8%
Cuban	33.7%	40.5%
Dominican	31.8%	23.3%
Ecuadorian	27.1%	19.0%
Puerto Rican	24.8%	18.3%
Mexican	10.0%	7.1%

Of the eight Latino nationalities, all report higher enrollment among females with the exception of the Cuban population, with 40.5% of the total male age-specific population enrolled in undergraduate programs and 33.7% of the total female age-specific population enrolled. Colombian females are enrolled at the highest percentage at 41.7 % and males at 29.5%; enrollment among the Mexican national group is at the lowest end for both sexes, with females at 10% of the total female age-specific population and males at 7.1%. Peruvian females have the second highest percentage of enrollment at 39.1% and Peruvian males also show the second highest percentage of enrollment at 30.2%. Overall Dominicans have a higher percentage of enrollment for both males (23.3%) and females (31.8%) than Puerto Rican males (18.3%) and Puerto Rican females (24.8). The most dramatic comparative differentiation can be found among the Guatemalan population with females accounting for 35.1% of enrollment in undergraduate programs and males at 11.8%. See Figure 4 below.

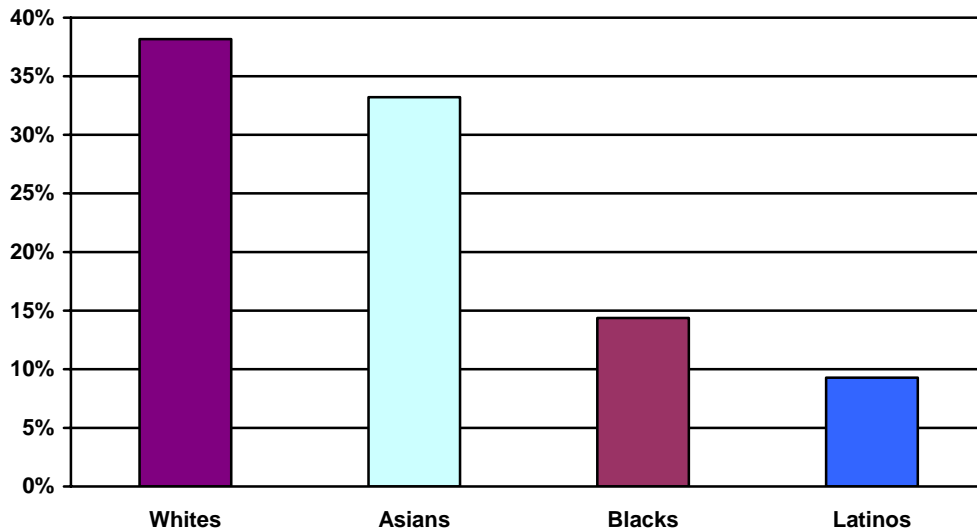
Figure 4. Percentage of Total Male and Female Latino Population by Nationality between 18 and 24 Years of Age, Enrollment in Undergraduate Programs



## Comparative Attainment Levels by Ethnicity and Latino Nationality

Data on the attainment levels of the total population between 25 to 34 years of age depicts a more elaborate portrait. Data show that 38.2% of Whites between 25 to 34 years of age hold a Bachelor's degree, 33.2% of Asians, 14.4% of Blacks and just 9.3% of Latinos. See Figure 5 below.

Figure 5. Percentage of Total Population between 25 to 34 Years of Age by Ethnicity, Attainment of Bachelor's Degree

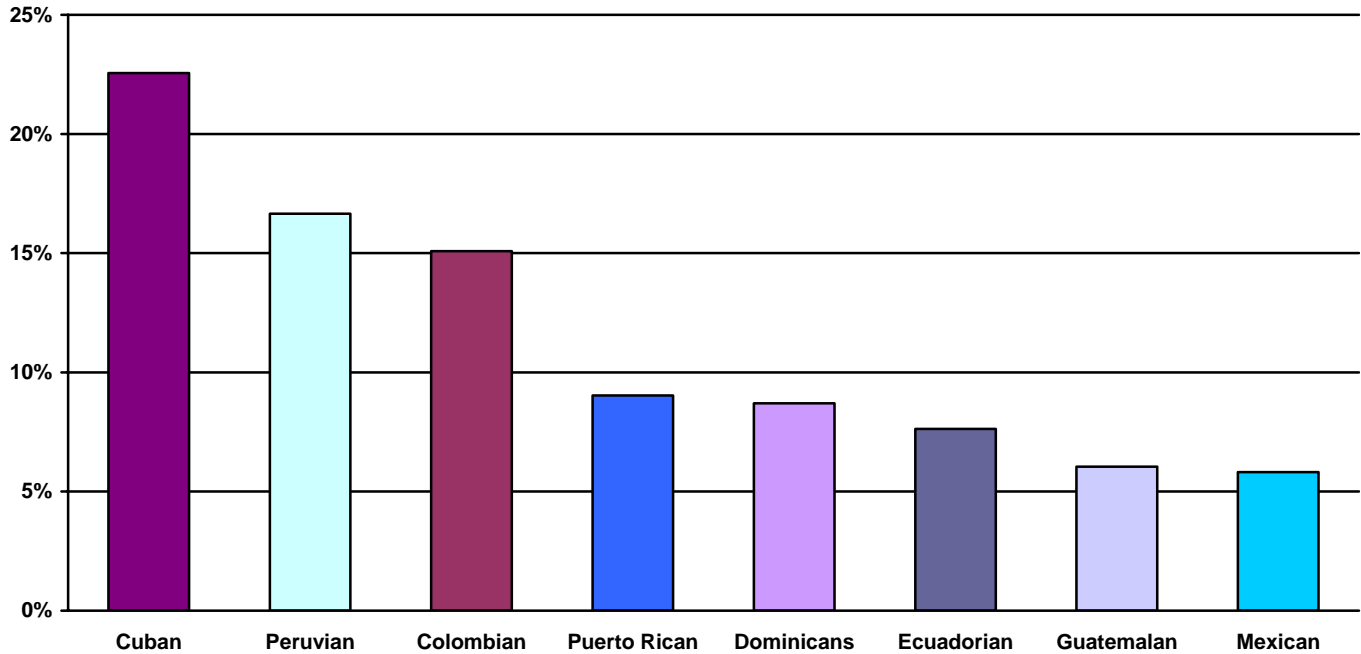


\* These calculations were derived by analyzing the total population reporting bachelors degree divided by the total ethnic population in that age group.

Of Latino nationalities in the same age group, less than 10% of these following groups hold a Bachelor's degree; Puerto Ricans 9.0%, Dominicans 8.7%, Ecuadorians 7.6% and Guatemalans 6.0%. Cubans have the highest percentage of Bachelor degree attainment at 22.6% of the population while Mexicans have the lowest at 5.8% of the population. Lastly, 15.1% of Colombians and 16.7% of Peruvians in the same age bracket attained their Bachelor's degree. Significantly, Colombians, Cubans and Peruvians are all above the average Latino attainment percentages and would seem to situate themselves somewhere between the attainment levels of Asians and Blacks of the four primary ethnic groups. See figure 6 on the following page.



Figure 6. Percentage of Total Latino Population by Nationality between 25 to 34 Years of Age, Attainment of Bachelor's Degree



\* These calculations were derived by analyzing population reporting bachelor's degree by the total population in that age group.

### Comparative Differences of Degree Completion by Ethnicity and Latino Nationality

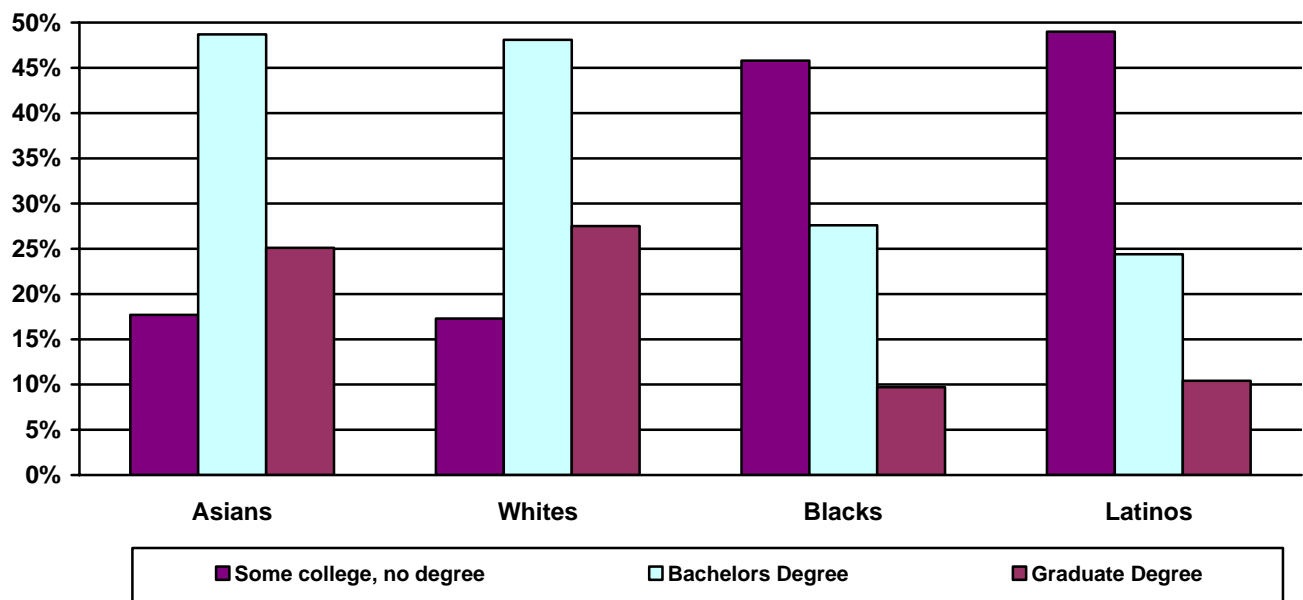
Of the total population reporting college attendance, White and Asian populations show a higher percentage of Bachelor degree attainment than Blacks and Latinos.<sup>3</sup> For the Asian population, 48.7% of those with college experience hold a Bachelor's degree, while only 17.7% reported 'some college, but no degree'. For the White population, 48.1% of those with college experience hold a Bachelor's degree while 17.3% have 'some college but no degree'. Conversely, of Latinos between 25 and 34 years old who attended college, 49.0 % of those have 'some college but no degree', with only 24.4 % holding a Bachelor's degree. Similarly, data on Blacks show 45.8% of the age-specific population having 'some college but no degree' compared with the 27.6% who hold a Bachelor's degree. For both of these populations, for

<sup>3</sup> Census data presents the attainment levels as follows; 'some college, but no degree,' 'associates degree', 'bachelor's degree' and 'graduate degree.'

which similar degree attainment patterns occur, fewer of each population show graduate degree level attainment than any other level, for Blacks 9.7% and Latinos 10.4%.

The greatest differential in attainment levels for Blacks and Latinos exists between those who have ‘some college but no degree’ and those who hold a Bachelors degree showing that a higher percentage of students who enroll drop out before attaining any degree. Conversely, Whites and Asians both show higher percentages of students who attain a Bachelors degree rather than those with ‘some college but no degree’. It is also significant that both have higher percentages of the population showing graduate degree attainment, for Whites 27.5% and Asians 25.4% than those who drop out of school before attaining any degree. See Figure 7 below.

Figure 7. Percentage of Degree Completion for Those Who Reported College Attendance between 25 to 34 Years of Age by Ethnicity

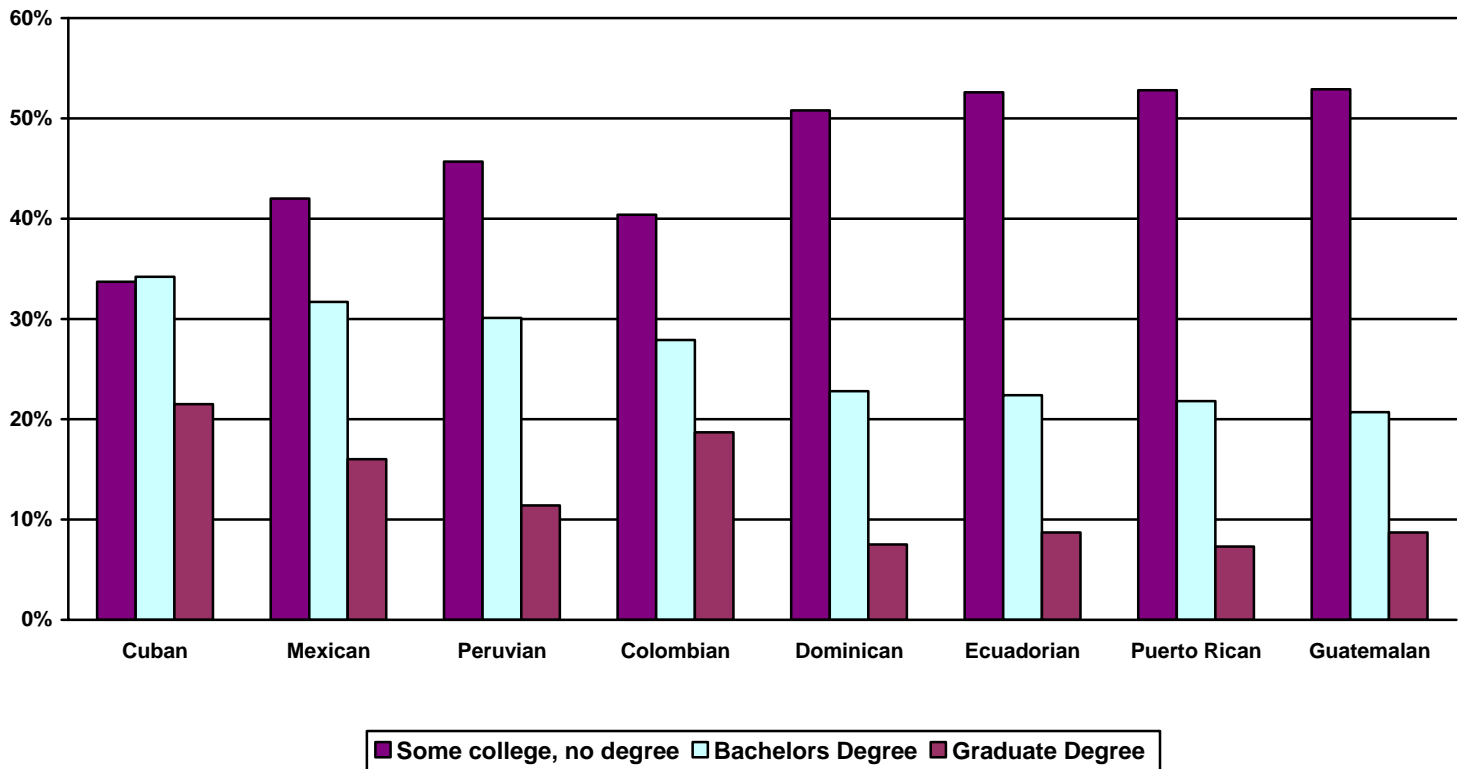


\*These data were derived by totaling the population reporting college experience and using this as a division base for each attainment level; this was repeated for each ethnic group.

Among all the Latino nationalities with the exception of the Cubans, there are higher percentages of the population who have ‘college experience but hold no degree’ than those who hold a Bachelor’s degree. Once again in contrast, data on Cubans show that 33.7% of those with college experience hold no degree while 34.2% have a Bachelor’s degree and 21.5% hold a graduate degree. Patterns of attainment levels for Mexicans show that while 42.0% of those that

report college attendance have ‘some college but no degree’, 31.7% hold a Bachelor’s degree. This stands in sharp contrast to the low enrollment levels and low Bachelors degree attainment levels shown for Mexicans in the previous figures, suggesting that once these students enroll they do continue to the Bachelors degree level at a higher percentage overall than other Latino national groups. Data on Puerto Ricans (52.8%, 21.8%), Ecuadorians (52.6%, 22.4%), Dominicans (50.8%, 22.8%) and Guatemalans (52.9%, 20.7%) show that twice as many of those who attend college leave with ‘some college but no degree’ compared to those that attain a Bachelor’s degree, percentages shown respectively. See Figure 8 below.

Figure 8. Percentage of Degree Completion for Those Who Reported College Attendance between 25 to 34 Years of Age, by Latino Nationality

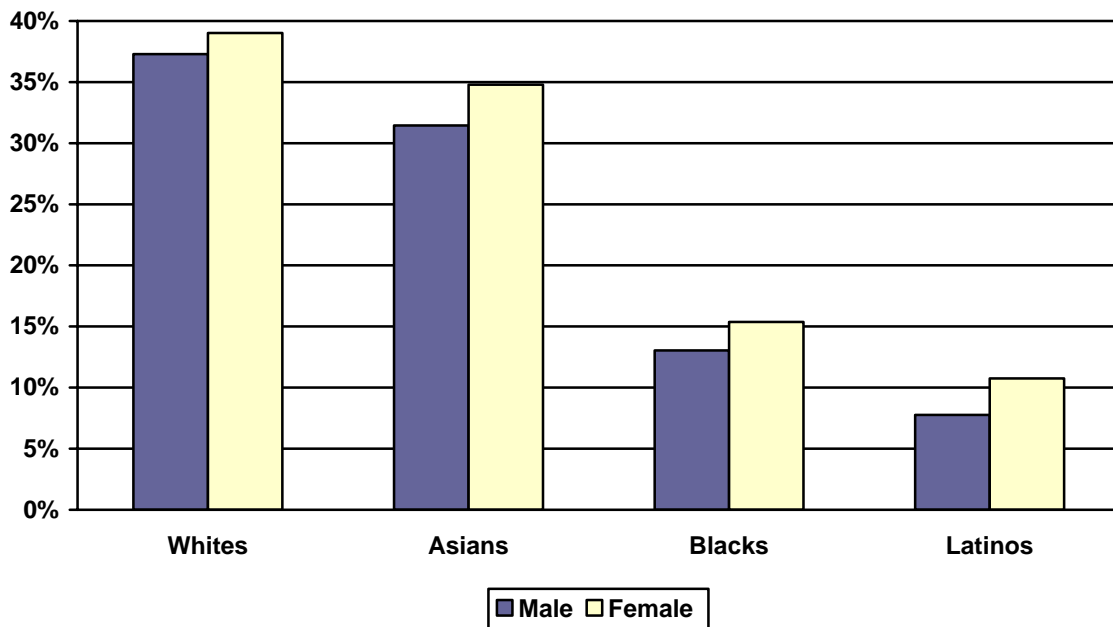


\*These data were derived by totaling the population reporting college experience and using this as a division base for each attainment level; this was repeated for each ethnic group.

## Comparative Male and Female Bachelor Degree Attainment by Ethnicity and Latino Nationality

When analyzing Bachelor degree attainment across all nationalities, data reveal an interesting pattern between males and females which is also evident among the Latino national groups. Of all of these populations, females have higher percentages holding Bachelor's degrees. White females have the highest percentage of Bachelor degree attainment at 39.0% and Latina females have the lowest percentage at 10.8% of the population. Attainment of a Bachelor's degree for Asian females is at 34.8% of the population and 15.4% for Black females. White males (37.3%) have the highest percentage of Bachelor's degree attainment; Asian males are at 31.5%, Black males at 13.0% and Latino males at 7.8%. It is of notable interest that while greater disparity exists in enrollment levels between the sexes among Blacks and Latinos, this disparity is minimized when measuring Bachelor degree attainment. See Figure 9 below and Table 3 on the following page.

Figure 9. Percentage of Total Male and Female Population between 25 to 34 Years of Age by Ethnicity, Reporting *Bachelor's Degree* Attainment



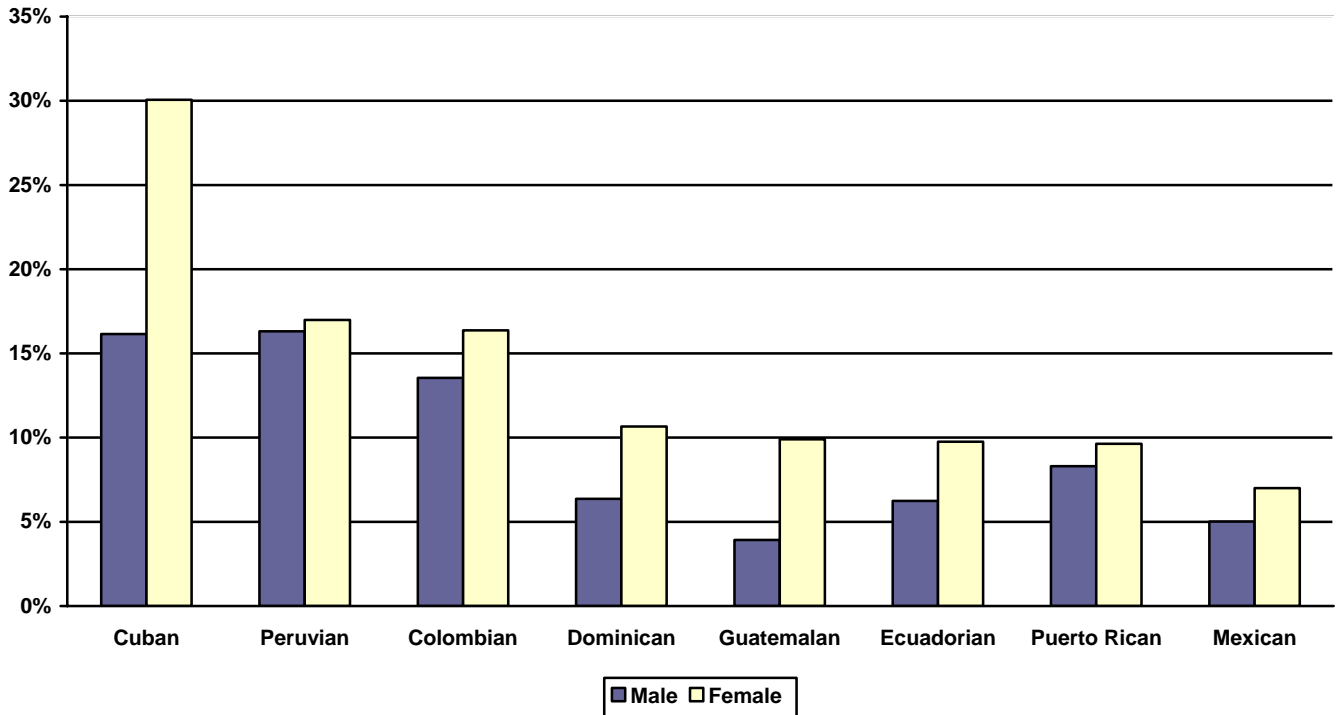
\* These calculations were derived by totaling the Bachelor degree attainment levels by females for each ethnic group and dividing this sum by the total population of same ethnic and sex group; this formula was repeated for the male population in each ethnic group.

Table 3. Percentage of Total Male and Female Population between 25 to 34 Years of Age by Ethnicity and Latino Nationality, Reporting *Bachelor's Degree* Attainment

<b>Ethnicity/Race/ Nationality</b>	<b>% of Females</b>	<b>% of Males</b>
Whites	39.0%	37.3%
Asians	34.8%	31.5%
Blacks	15.4%	13.0%
Total Latinos	10.8%	7.8%
Cuban	30.1%	16.2%
Peruvian	17.0%	16.3%
Colombian	16.4%	13.6%
Dominican	10.7%	6.4%
Guatemalan	9.9%	3.9%
Ecuadorian	9.8%	6.2%
Puerto Rican	9.6%	8.3%
Mexican	7.0%	5.0%

Of the eight Latino nationalities, all report higher Bachelor degree attainment among females with the most dramatic comparative differentiation found between Cuban females (30.1%) and Cuban males (16.2%). This is a significant contrast to the enrollment levels for Cubans which showed males (40.5%) enrolled at higher percentage than females (33.7%). Peruvian females have the second highest percentage of Bachelor degree attainment at 17.0 % and Peruvian males have the highest percentage of degree attainment for Latino males at 16.3%. While Dominican females (10.7%) show a higher percentage of degree attainment than Guatemalans (9.9%), Ecuadorians (9.6%), Puerto Ricans (9.6%) and Mexicans (7.0%), males among these groups do not have a similar attainment pattern. Bachelor's degree attainment for males is as follows, Dominican (6.4%), Guatemalans (3.9%), Ecuadorians (6.2%), Puerto Ricans (8.3%), and Mexicans (5.0%). See Figure 10 on the following page.

Figure 10. Percentage of Total Male and Female Latino Population by Nationality between 25 and 34 Years of Age, Reporting *Bachelor's Degree* Attainment



The data presented in this report reveal interesting disparities in enrollment and educational attainment levels by ethnicity and Latino nationality and lead to the following questions:

- Why are newer groups, such as Cubans, Colombians, and Peruvians, enrolled in college at higher levels than older more established groups, such as Puerto Ricans and Dominicans?
- Why are so few Mexicans in New York City enrolling in college?
- Why is there greater disparity in enrollment between males and females among Latinos and Blacks, with females enrolled at higher percentages even while these groups show lower enrollment overall?
- Why are Cuban males the only ones who enroll at higher levels than females within the same nationality and yet Cuban females reflect a much higher level of Bachelor's degree attainment?