



Center for Latin American,
Caribbean, and Latino Studies

GRADUATE CENTER

City University of New York (CUNY)

CUNY Academic Works

Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and
Latino Studies

Centers & Institutes

2019

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

Lawrence Cappello

Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies

[How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!](#)

More information about this work at: https://academicworks.cuny.edu/clacsls_pubs/77

Discover additional works at: <https://academicworks.cuny.edu>

This work is made publicly available by the City University of New York (CUNY).

Contact: AcademicWorks@cuny.edu



CLACLS

Center for Latin American, Caribbean & Latino Studies

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

Lawrence Cappello, PhD

Center for Latin American,
Caribbean & Latino Studies

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

212-817-8438

<mailto:clacsl@gc.cuny.edu>

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

Latino Data Project – Report 79 – February 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 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>

For additional information you may contact the Center at 212-817-8438 or by e-mail at <mailto:clacls@gc.cuny.edu>.

Staff:

Laird W. Bergad, Distinguished Professor, Latin American and Puerto Rican Studies, Lehman College, Ph.D. Program in History, Executive Director, CLACLS

Victoria Stone-Cadena, Associate Director

Karen Okigbo, Administrative Director

Sebastián Villamizar-Santamaría, Director of Quantitative Research

Rafael Davis Portela, Research Associate

Andreina Torres Angarita, Events Coordinator

Copyright @ 2019
Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies
Room 5419
Graduate Center
City University of New York
365 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10016
212-817-8438
<mailto:clacls@gc.cuny.edu>
<http://clacls.gc.cuny.edu/>

Table of Contents

Guide to Tables 4

Guide to Figures 6

Executive Summary..... 7

General Demography 9

Household Income..... 16

Employment 20

Educational Attainment 26

Age..... 33

Conclusion 37

Guide to Tables

Table 1: Total Population of New York City by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016	9
Table 2: Total Population of Nassau County by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016	11
Table 3: Total Population of Suffolk by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016	13
Table 4: Total Population of New York City by Sex, 1990-2016	15
Table 5: Total Population of Nassau County by Sex, 1990-2016	15
Table 6: Total Population of Suffolk County by Sex, 1990-2016.....	16
Table 7: Median Household Income of New York City Population by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016	17
Table 8: Median Household Income of Nassau County Population by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016	18
Table 9: Median Household Income of Suffolk County Population by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016.....	19
Table 10: Employment Status of Non-Hispanic White Population of New York City by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016	20
Table 11: Employment Status of Non-Hispanic Black Population of New York City by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016	21
Table 12: Employment Status of Latino Population of New York City by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016	21
Table 13: Employment Status of Asian Population of New York City by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016	21
Table 14: Employment Status of Non-Hispanic White Population of Nassau County by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016	22
Table 15: Employment Status of Non-Hispanic Black Population of Nassau County by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016	23
Table 16: Employment Status of Latino Population of Nassau County by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016	23
Table 17: Employment Status of Asian Population of Nassau County by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016	23

Table 18: Employment Status of Non-Hispanic White Population of Suffolk County
by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-201624

Table 19: Employment Status of Non-Hispanic Black Population of Suffolk County
by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-201625

Table 20: Employment Status of Latino Population of Suffolk County
by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-201625

Table 21: Employment Status of Asian Population of Suffolk County
by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-201625

Table 22: Educational Attainment Rates of New York City Population
by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-201627

Table 23: Educational Attainment Rates of Nassau County Population
by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-201629

Table 24: Educational Attainment Rates of Suffolk County Population
by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-201631

Table 25: Age Structure of New York City Population by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016.....33

Table 26: Age Structure of Nassau County Population by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016.....34

Table 27: Age Structure of Suffolk County Population by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016.....35

Guide to Figures

Figure 1: Total Population of New York City by Race/Ethnicity, 1990	10
Figure 2: Total Population of New York City by Race/Ethnicity, 2016	10
Figure 3: Total Population of Nassau County by Race/Ethnicity, 1990	12
Figure 4: Total Population of Nassau County by Race/Ethnicity, 2016	12
Figure 5: Total Population of Suffolk County by Race/Ethnicity, 1990	13
Figure 6: Total Population of Suffolk County by Race/Ethnicity, 2016	14
Figure 7: Median Household Income of New York City Population by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016	17
Figure 8: Median Household Income of Nassau County Population by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016	18
Figure 9: Median Household Income of Suffolk County Population by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016	19
Figure 10: Employment Status of New York City Population by Race/Ethnicity, 2016	22
Figure 11: Employment Status of Nassau County Population by Race/Ethnicity, 2016	24
Figure 12: Employment Status of Suffolk County Population by Race/Ethnicity, 2016.....	26
Figure 13: Percentage of NYC Population with a BA or Higher, 1990-2016	28
Figure 14: High School Non-Completion Rates of New York City by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016	28
Figure 15: Percentage of Nassau County Population with a BA or Higher, 1990-2016	30
Figure 16: High School Non-Completion Rates of Nassau County by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016	30
Figure 17: Percentage of Suffolk County Population with a BA or Higher, 1990-2016	32
Figure 18: High School Non-Completion Rates of Suffolk County by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016	32
Figure 19: Age Structure of New York City by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016.....	36
Figure 20: Age Structure of Nassau County by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016.....	36
Figure 21: Age Structure of Suffolk County by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2016	37

Executive Summary

America's suburbs have long been characterized by their conspicuous lack of racial and ethnic diversity. The persistence of suburban homogeneity has been discussed at length in popular literature, films, and music, and is a frequent theme taken up by twentieth-century American social and political historians. As US historian Eric Foner notes, "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 America's post-war suburban expansion, 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 facing the individuals living these geographical areas, this examination moves beyond general population demographics by looking at topics such as sex, race/ethnicity, age, 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 is in steady decline, as is their share of Long Island's total population. Latinos and Asians, on the other hand, have shown a marked increase in their percentage of Long Island's total population and in their total numbers. The non-Hispanic Black population, as well, has shown a steady increase in total numbers, though the pace is not as rapid.

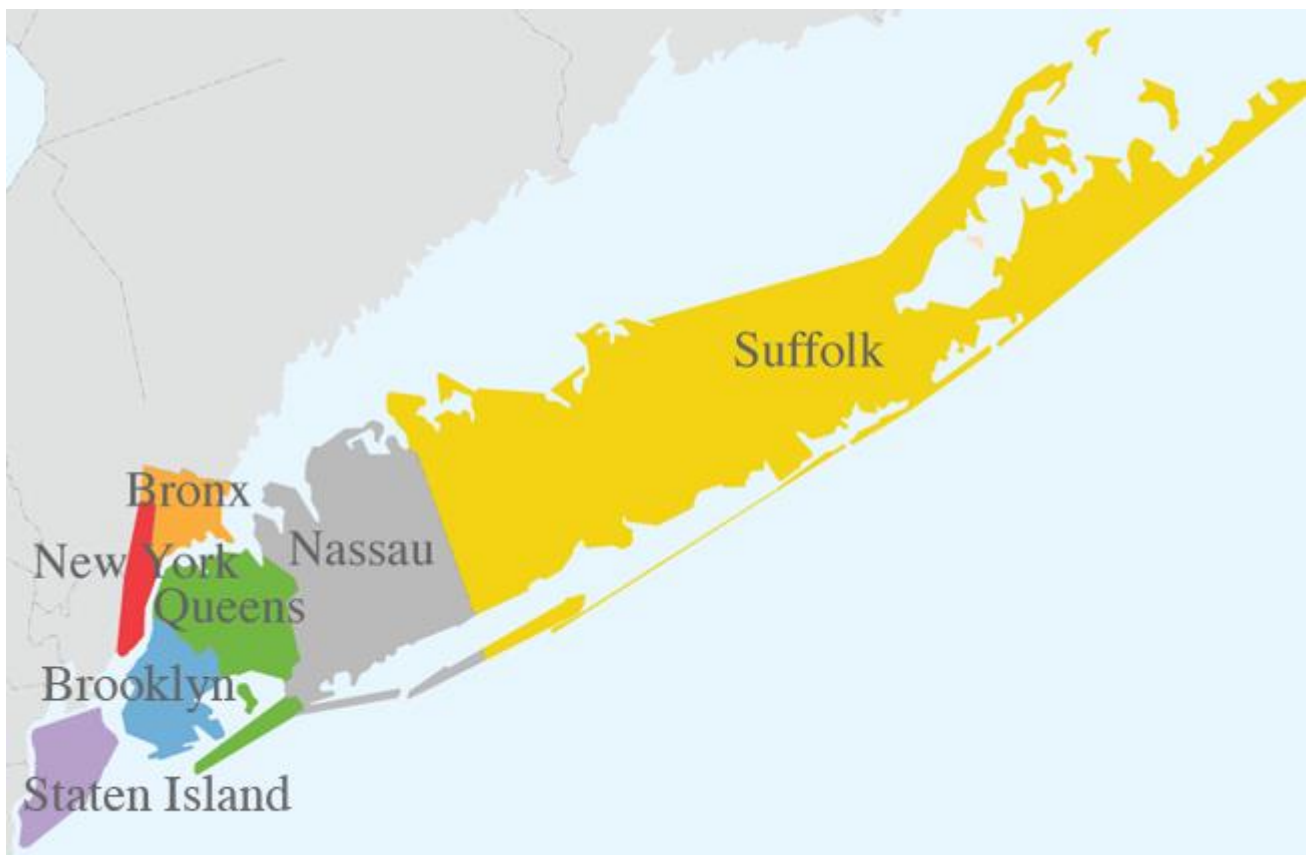
Perhaps unsurprisingly, the minority groups living in these counties earn more money than their NYC counterparts. Nevertheless, income hierarchies among the racial/ethnic groups remain the same on Long Island as they do in most of the nation. Latinos and non-Hispanic Blacks remain the lowest income earners, whereas non-Hispanic Whites and Asians boast significantly higher household incomes.

This trend remains constant when it comes to employment. All racial/ethnic groups living in the Long Island suburbs present much healthier rates of employment than their NYC counterparts, but on the county level non-Hispanic Whites and Asians generally have 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 their New York City counterparts. Latinos and non-Hispanic Blacks still have consistently lower rankings than do non-Hispanic Whites and Asians, but the trends overall are very impressive - especially in Nassau County, where the quality of public education is among the highest in the United States thanks largely to the county's extremely high rate of taxation for schools.

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

It is important to keep in mind that while the data here are valuable indicators when approaching trends concerning the modern suburban experience, they do not answer certain fundamental questions. Readers interested in the causative factors behind these trends may benefit from the concluding section of this report, which offers possible avenues of future inquiry.



General Demography

Both New York City and Long Island have grown more racially/ethnically diverse in recent decades - in large part because the non-Hispanic White populations in both region have been steadily declining.

While the total population of New York City has been expanding since 1990, the number of non-Hispanic Whites has dropped significantly in both total numbers *and* in their percentage of the total population.

Meanwhile, the city's Latino and Asian populations have been growing rapidly. Non-Hispanic Black residents saw little change in their total numbers, but comprised a lower percentage of the city's total population as of 2016. (See table 1).

Regardless, overall population tiers have remained relatively unchanged since 1990. Non-Hispanic Whites accounted for 31.8 percent of New York City residents in 2016, down from 43.5 percent in 1990. Latinos have been the city's second largest race/ethnic group since 2000, accounting for 29.1 percent of the population in 2016, up from 24.1 percent in 1990. Non-Hispanic Blacks are the third largest group at 22.1 percent in 2016, down from 25.6 percent in 1990. The Asian population is the smallest race/ethnic group in the city, but steadily growing at 14 percent in 2016, up from 6.8 percent in 1990. (See figures 1 & 2).

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

	1990		2000		2010		2016	
	Population	% of Total	Population	% of Total	Population	% of Total	Population	% of Total
Non-Hispanic White	3,165,172	43.5%	2,810,842	35.1%	2,717,796	33.0%	2,712,560	31.8%
Non-Hispanic Black	1,863,380	25.6%	1,951,027	24.4%	1,875,108	22.8%	1,886,735	22.1%
Latino	1,753,456	24.1%	2,226,907	27.8%	2,396,374	29.1%	2,482,946	29.1%
Asian	493,713	6.8%	781,176	9.8%	1,038,369	12.6%	1,198,815	14.0%
Other	4,385	0.1%	234,807	2.9%	207,158	2.5%	257,007	3.0%
Total	7,280,106	100%	8,004,759	100%	8,234,805	100%	8,538,063	100%

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

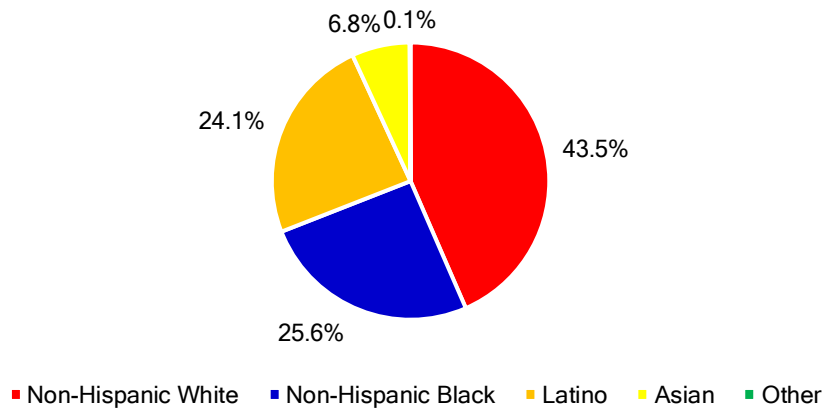
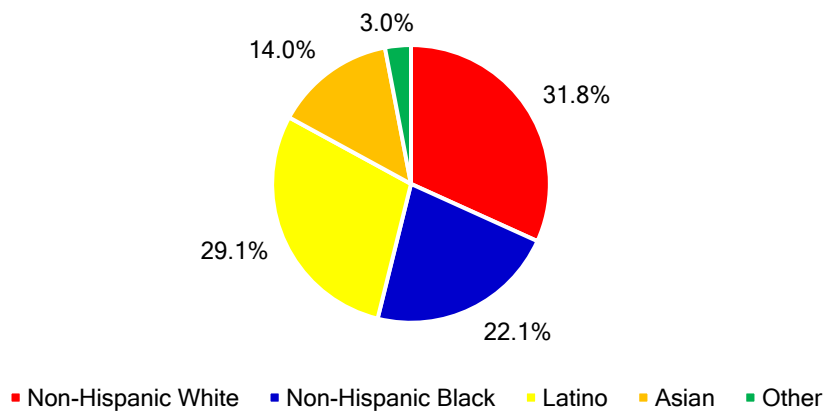


Figure 2
Total Population of New York City by Race/Ethnicity
2016



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

In Nassau County, as in the city, the non-Hispanic White population experienced a steady decline in total numbers and percentage of total resident between 1990 and 2016.

Meanwhile, the marked explosion of Nassau County's Latino population has been un-ignorable. Total numbers among Latinos grew more than three-fold in recent decades and eclipsed non-Hispanic blacks as second largest population segment in the process. The total number of non-Hispanic blacks also increased rather significantly by approximately 150 percent since 1990. The county's Asian population saw significant growth as well, but total numbers are still quite low when compared to other race/ethnic groups. (See table 2).

Non-Hispanic Whites comprised 82.5 percent of the Nassau County population in 1990. By 2016 their population share dropped to 60.4 percent. Latinos are the second largest race/ethnic group, accounting for 16.6% of the population in 2016, up from 5.9% in 1990. Non-Hispanic Blacks made up 11.4 percent of the population in 2016, up from 8.2 percent in 1990. Asians are the smallest population group, comprising 9.4 percent of the population in 2016, up from 3.1 percent in 1990. (See figures 3 & 4).

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

	1990		2000		2010		2016	
	Population	% of Total	Population	% of Total	Population	% of Total	Population	% of Total
Non-Hispanic White	1,066,012	82.5%	977,734	73.5%	874,561	65.2%	821,279	60.4%
Non-Hispanic Black	106,320	8.2%	130,203	9.8%	139,921	10.4%	155,106	11.4%
Latino	76,717	5.9%	139,398	10.5%	201,666	15.0%	225,267	16.6%
Asian	39,431	3.1%	60,575	4.6%	107,826	8.0%	128,368	9.4%
Other	3,373	0.3%	21,852	1.6%	17,161	1.3%	30,442	2.2%
Total	1,291,853	100%	1,329,762	100%	1,341,135	100%	1,360,462	100%

Figure 3
Total Population of Nassau County by Race/Ethnicity
1990

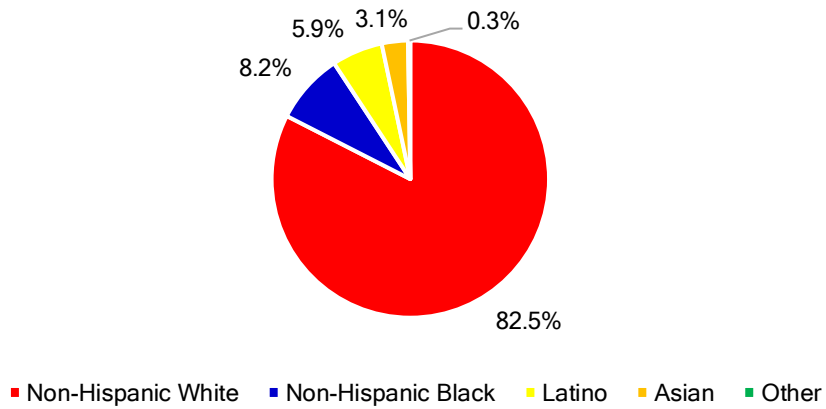
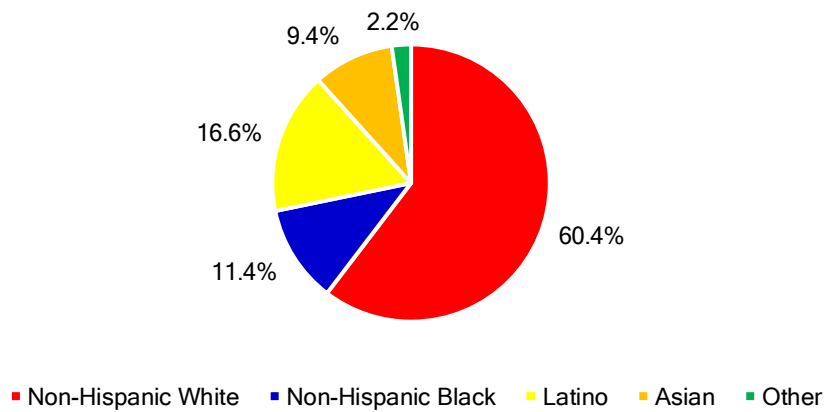


Figure 4
Total Population of Nassau County by Race/Ethnicity
2016



The same trends found in Nassau County are just as prevalent in Suffolk County, the eastern most section of Long Island. (See table 3).

Non-Hispanic Whites comprised 85.9 percent of the Suffolk County population in 1990. By 2016 their population share dropped to 67.9 percent. Latinos are 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 percent of the population in 2016, up from 6.0 percent in 1990. Asians are the smallest population group, comprising 3.9 percent of the population in 2016, up from 1.7 percent in 1990. (See figures 5 & 6).

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

	1990		2000		2010		2016	
	Population	% of Total	Population	% of Total	Population	% of Total	Population	% of Total
Non-Hispanic White	1,134,064	85.9%	1,108,392	77.9%	1,063,094	71.1%	1,014,130	67.9%
Non-Hispanic Black	78,835	6.0%	93,345	6.6%	103,886	7.0%	106,028	7.1%
Latino	82,159	6.2%	162,823	11.4%	255,035	17.1%	280,890	18.8%
Asian	22,206	1.7%	33,401	2.3%	50,538	3.4%	58,213	3.9%
Other	3,532	0.3%	24,318	1.7%	21,841	1.5%	33,253	2.2%
Total	1,320,796	100%	1,422,279	100%	1,494,394	100%	1,492,514	100%

Figure 5
Total Population of Suffolk County by Race/Ethnicity 1990

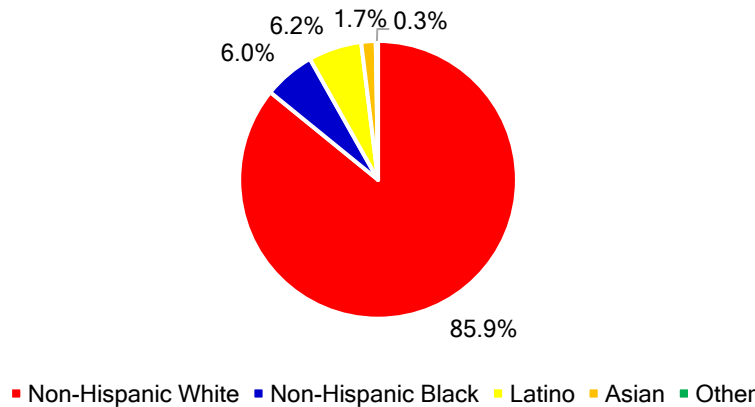
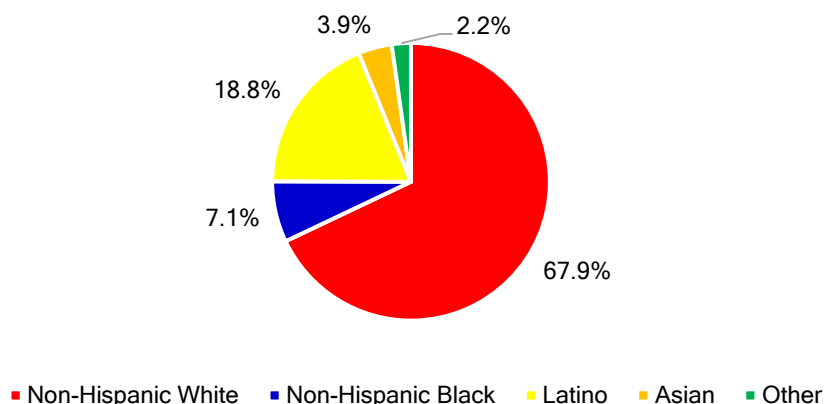


Figure 6
Total Population of Suffolk County by Race/Ethnicity
2016



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

In New York City, the sex ratio of the total population was 46.8 percent male to 53.2 percent female in 1990, with relatively little change in 2016 at 47.7 percent male to 52.3 percent female. (See table 4).

In Nassau County, the sex ratio of the total population was 48.4 percent male to 51.6 percent female in 1990, with relatively little change in 2016 at 48.9 percent male to 51.1 percent female. Among Latinos, however, there were approximately 7,500 more females than males in 2016. (See table 5).

In Suffolk County, the sex ratio of the total population was 46.8 percent male to 53.2 percent female in 1990, with relatively little change in 2016 at 47.7 percent male to 52.3 percent female. Among Latinos, however, there were approximately 8,000 more females than males in 2016. (See table 6).

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
Total Sex Ratio	46.8%	53.2%	47.7%	52.3%

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
Total Sex Ratio	48.4%	51.6%	48.9%	51.1%

Table 6
Total Population of Suffolk County by Sex

	1990		2016	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Non-Hispanic White	554035	580029	494383	519747
Non-Hispanic Black	36051	42784	50957	55071
Latino	41518	40641	144809	136081
Asian	10632	11574	27361	30852
Total Sex Ratio	48.8%	51.2%	49.2%	50.8%

Household Income

Every race/ethnic minority group living on Long Island enjoyed a significantly higher median household income than their New York City counterparts between 1990 and 2016.

It important to note, however, that these increased income levels did not translate into a new reconfiguration of wealth-based tiers along race/ethnic lines. While there has been significant demographic change in these communities in recent decades, well entrenched trends in the distribution of household income among the different races/ethnicities still persist.

As in New York City, non-Hispanic Whites and Asians in both Nassau and Suffolk Counties remain in the the top earning tiers (Asians tend to out earn non-Hispanic Whites by a few thousand dollars a year) followed non-Hispanic Blacks and Latinos.

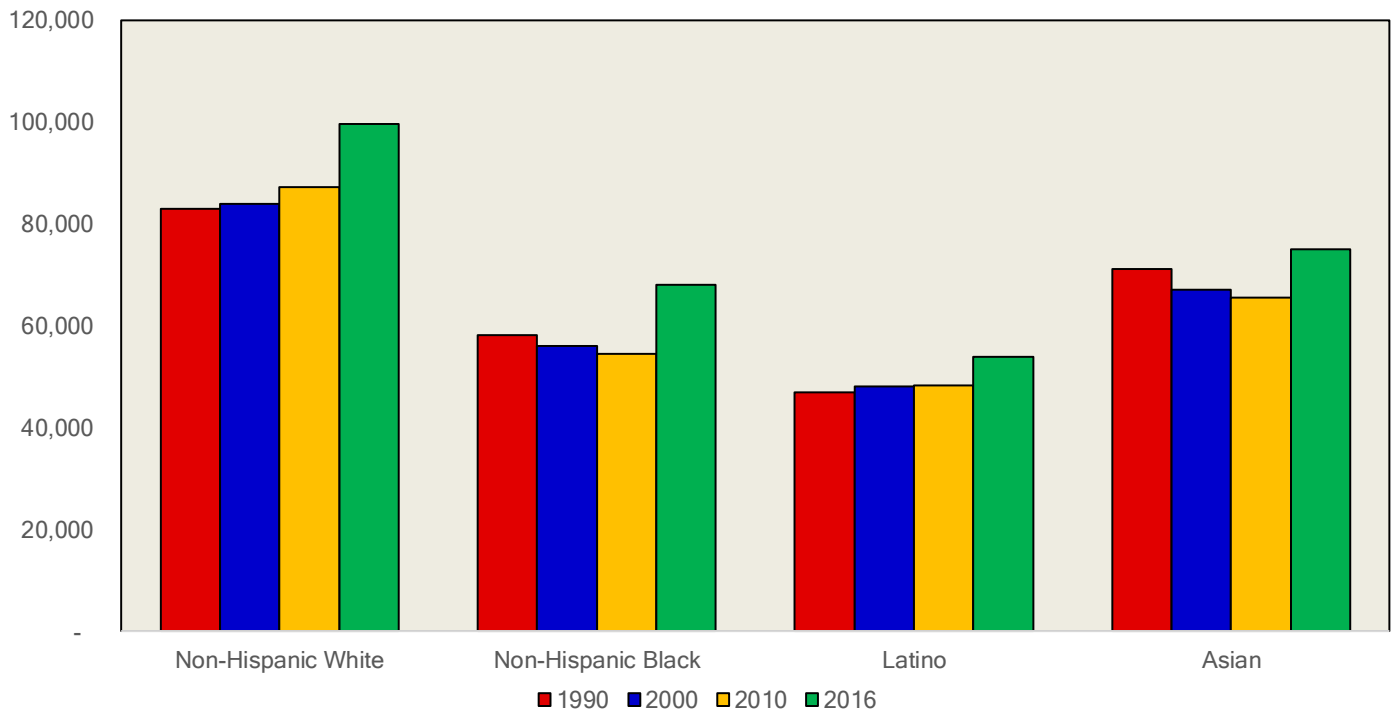
In every instance, both in New York City and on Long Island, Latinos had the lowest median household income levels.

In New York City, median household among non-Hispanic Whites was \$99,600 in 2016, up from \$82,956 in 1990 (all figures are adjusted for inflation to 2016 dollars). Asians had the second highest median household income 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, up from \$58,218 in 1990. Latinos had the lowest median household income in 2016 at \$54,000, up from \$46,946 in 1990. (See table 7 and figure 7).

Table 7
Median Household Income of New York City Population by Race/Ethnicity 1990-2016
 (Adjusted for Inflation to 2016 Dollars)

	1990	2000	2010	2016
Non-Hispanic White	82,956	84,000	87,200	99,600
Non-Hispanic Black	58,218	56,000	54,500	68,000
Latino	46,946	48,034	48,233	54,000
Asian	71,245	67,060	65,618	75,000

Figure 7
Median Household Income of New York City Population by Race/Ethnicity 1990-2016
 (Adjusted for Inflation to 2016 Dollars)

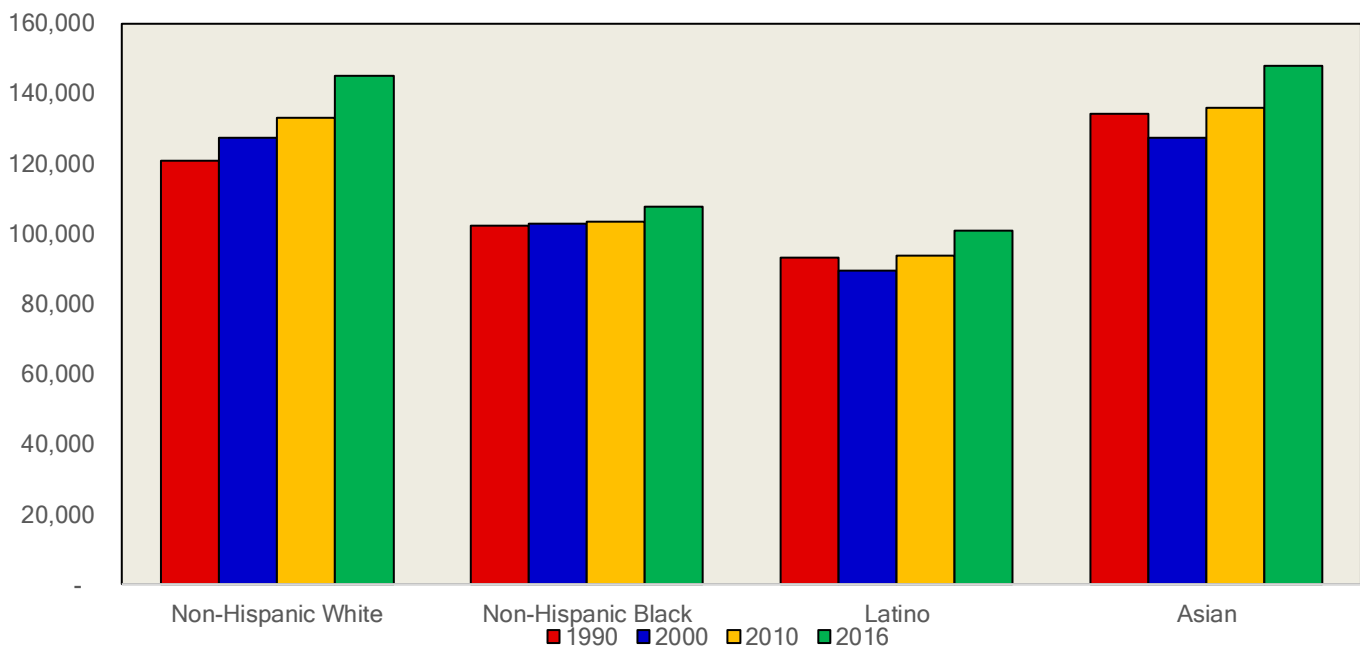


In Nassau County, all race/ethnic groups boast median household incomes in the six figure range as of 2016. Median household among non-Hispanic Whites was \$145,000 in 2016, up from \$120,900 in 1990 (all figures are adjusted for inflation to 2016 dollars). Asians had the highest median household income in 2016 at \$148,000, up from \$134,292 in 1990. Non-Hispanic Blacks had the third highest median household income in 2016 at \$107,800 in 2016, up from \$107,800 in 1990. Latinos had the lowest median household income in 2016 at \$101,000, up from \$93,186 in 1990. (See table 8 and figure 8).

Table 8
 Median Household Income of Nassau County Population by Race/Ethnicity 1990-2016
 (Adjusted for Inflation to 2016 Dollars)

	1990	2000	2010	2016
Non-Hispanic White	120,900	127,260	132,980	145,000
Non-Hispanic Black	102,300	102,900	103,550	107,800
Latino	93,186	89,600	93,740	101,000
Asian	134,292	127,400	135,923	148,000

Figure 8
 Median Household Income of Nassau County Population by Race/Ethnicity 1990-2016
 (Adjusted for Inflation to 2016 Dollars)

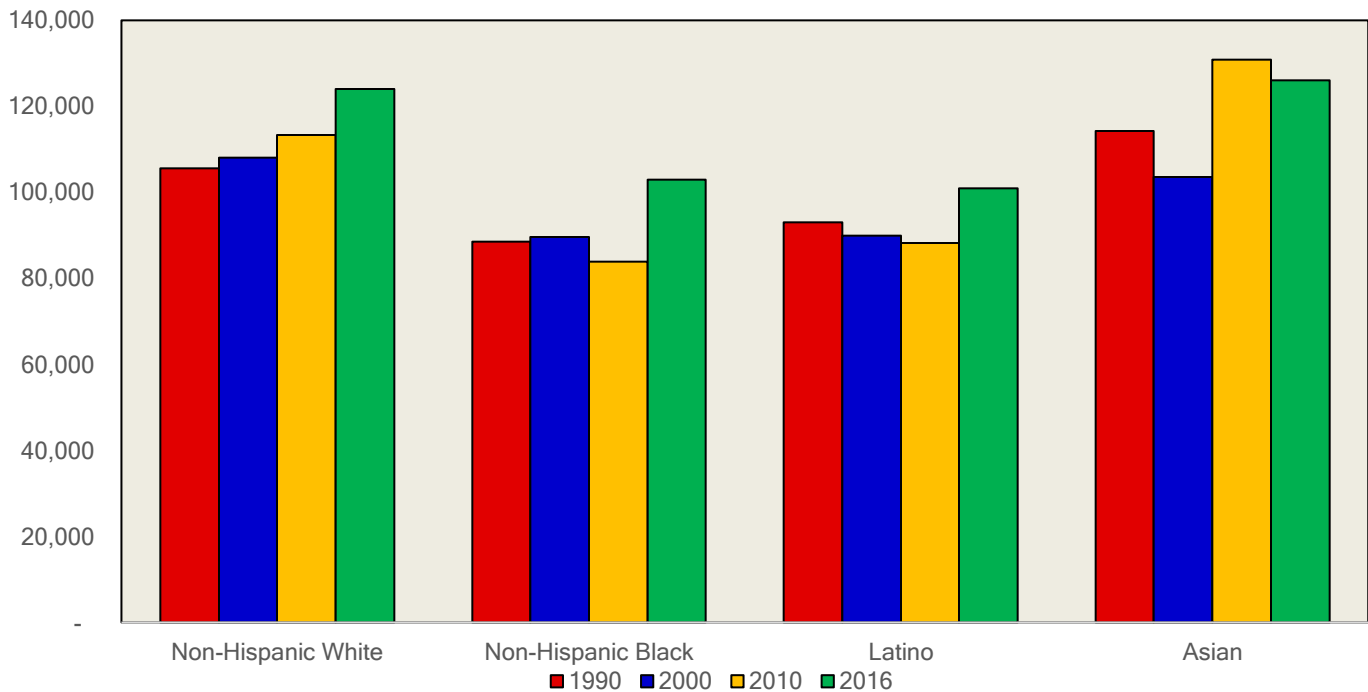


In Suffolk County as well, all race/ethnic groups boast median household incomes in the six figure range as of 2016. Median household among non-Hispanic Whites was \$124,000 in 2016, up from \$105,648 in 1990 (all figures are adjusted for inflation to 2016 dollars). Asians had the highest median household income in 2016 at \$126,000, up 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, up from \$93,000 in 1990. (See table 9 and figure 9).

Table 9
 Median Household Income of Suffolk County Population by Race/Ethnicity 1990-2016
 (Adjusted for Inflation to 2016 Dollars)

	1990	2000	2010	2016
Non-Hispanic White	105,648	108,080	113,360	124,000
Non-Hispanic Black	88,536	89,600	83,930	103,000
Latino	93,000	89,880	88,290	101,000
Asian	114,204	103,600	130,800	126,000

Figure 9
 Median Household Income of Suffolk County Population by Race/Ethnicity 1990-2016
 (Adjusted for Inflation to 2016 Dollars)



It is important to note that while the income level of Long Island’s Asians is impressive, the group is still a considerably small portion of the region’s overall population. This suggests that those Asian households that do reside on Long Island are comprised a relatively small group of financial elite.

Employment

The same racial/ethnic trends found in household income distribution are 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 present much healthier rates of employment than their New York City counterparts, but on the county level non-Hispanic Whites and Asians generally have higher levels of employment and lower levels of unemployment than Latinos and non-Hispanic Blacks.

Working age Latinos trend among the highest unemployment levels in New York City and in both Long Island counties. Interestingly, among non-Hispanic Whites employment in New York City is actually higher than in Long Island.

A thorough examination of these trends finds that that unemployment rates among suburban minorities have shown steady decline between 1990 and 2016. Asians are the only exception, but still boast considerably low unemployment rates overall.

In New York City, working age non-Hispanic Whites “not employed” comprised 3.3 percent of the non-Hispanic White population in 2016, down from 4.3 percent in 1990. Non-Hispanic Blacks had a 7.4 percent unemployment rate in 2016, down from 9.3 percent in 1990. 3.7 percent of New York City’s Asians were unemployed in 2016, down from 4.4 percent in 1990. And finally, 6.2 percent of Latinos in New York City were unemployed in 2016, down from 8.5 percent in 1990. (See tables 10-13 and figure 10).

Table 10
Employment Status of Non-Hispanic White Population of New York City
(Aged 16-60) 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
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%

Table 11
Employment Status of Non-Hispanic Black Population of New York City
(Aged 16-60) 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
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%

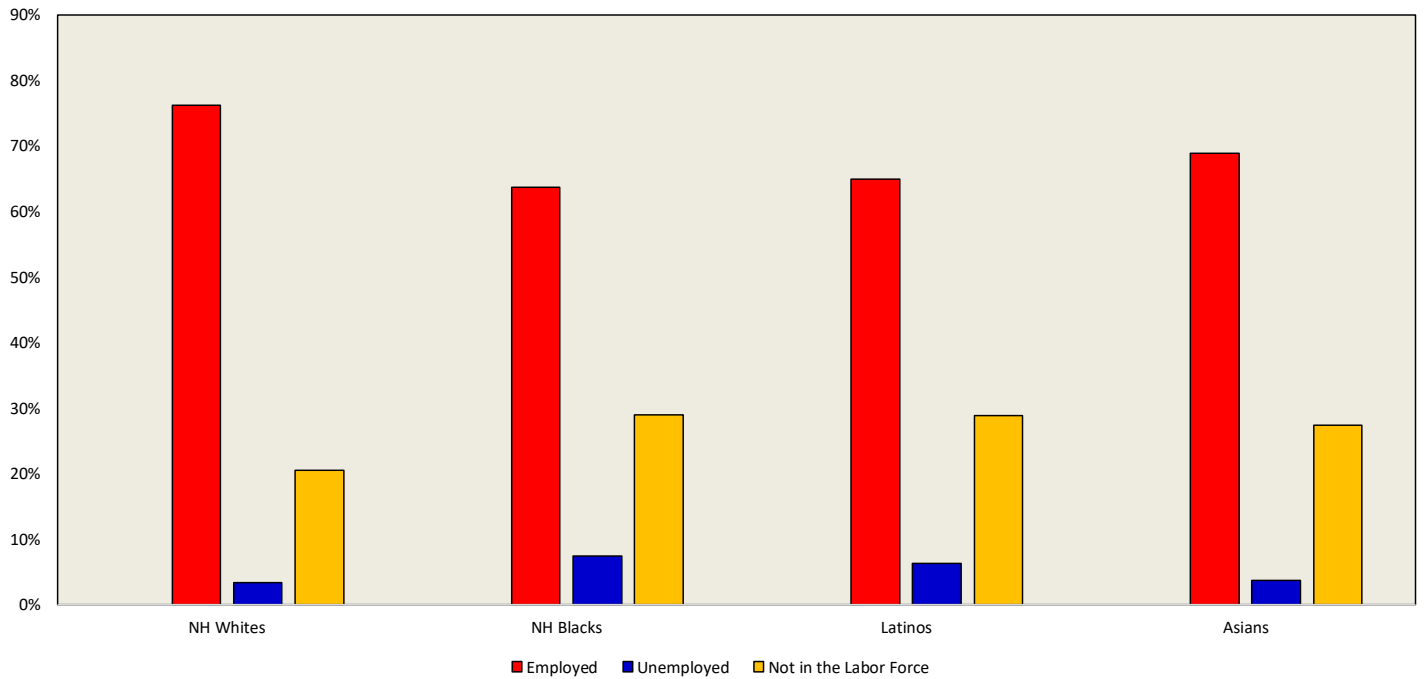
Table 12
Employment Status of Latino Population of New York City
(Aged 16-60) 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
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%

Table 13
Employment Status of Asian Population of New York City
(Aged 16-60) 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
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%

Figure 10
 Employment Status of New York City Population by Race/Ethnicity
 (Aged 16-60) 2016



In Nassau County, working age non-Hispanic Whites “not employed” comprised 2.9 percent of the non-Hispanic White population in 2016, *up* from 3.5 percent in 1990. Non-Hispanic Blacks had a 3.2 percent unemployment rate in 2016, down from 5.9 percent in 1990. 3 percent of Nassau County’s Asians were unemployed in 2016, *up* from 1.8 percent in 1990. And finally, 3.4 percent of Latinos in Nassau County were unemployed in 2016, down from 5.8 percent in 1990. (See tables 14-17 and figure 11).

Table 14
 Employment Status of Non-Hispanic White Population of Nassau County
 (Aged 16-60) 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
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%

Table 15
 Employment Status of Non-Hispanic Black Population of Nassau County
 (Aged 16-60) 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
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%

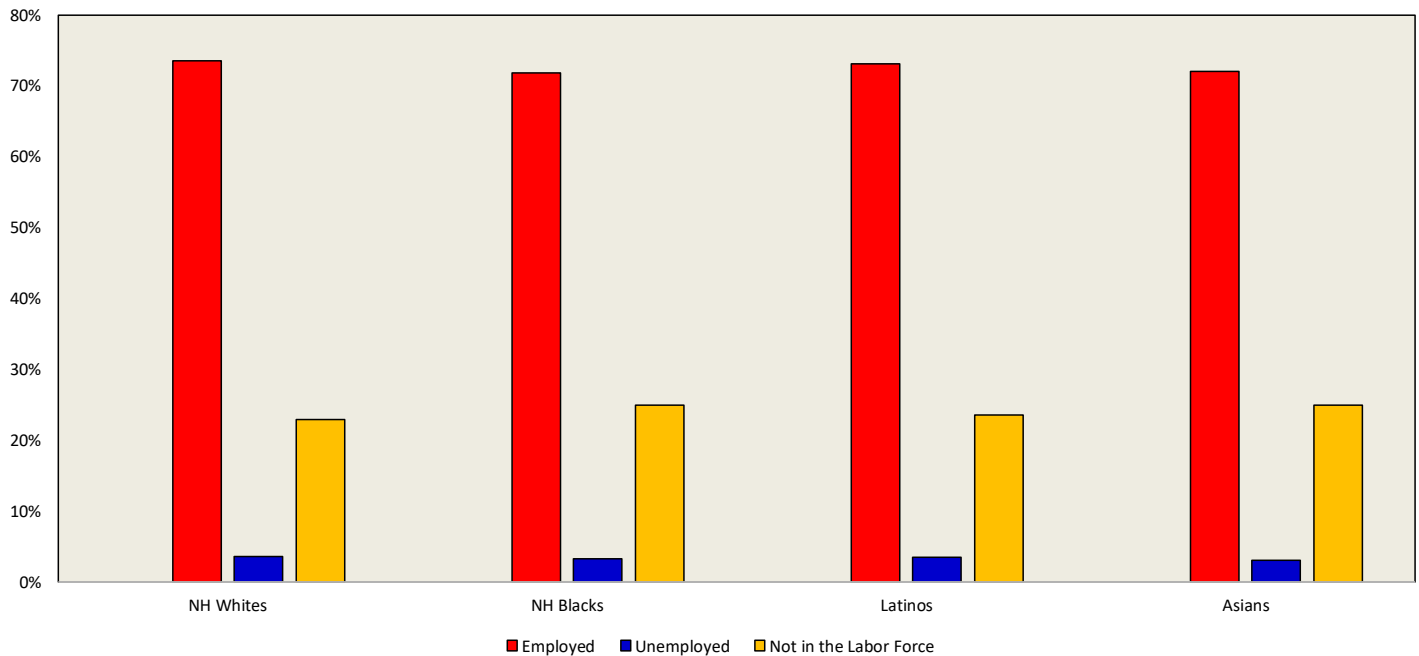
Table 16
 Employment Status of Latino Population of Nassau County
 (Aged 16-60) 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
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%

Table 17
 Employment Status of Asian Population of Nassau County
 (Aged 16-60) 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
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%

Figure 11
 Employment Status of Nassau County Population by Race/Ethnicity
 (Aged 16-60) 2016



In Suffolk County, working age non-Hispanic Whites “not employed” comprised 4.1 percent of the non-Hispanic White population in 2016, *up* from 3.3 percent in 1990. Non-Hispanic Blacks had a 4.5 percent unemployment rate in 2016, down from 6.3 percent in 1990. The unemployment rate for Suffolk County’s Asians was the same in 1990 as it was in 2016 - 2.8 percent. And finally, 5.3 percent of Latinos in Suffolk County were unemployed in 2016, down from 5.8 percent in 1990. (See tables 18-21 and figure 12).

Table 18
 Employment Status of Non-Hispanic White Population of Suffolk County
 (Aged 16-60) 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
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%

Table 19
 Employment Status of Non-Hispanic Black Population of Suffolk County
 (Aged 16-60) 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
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%

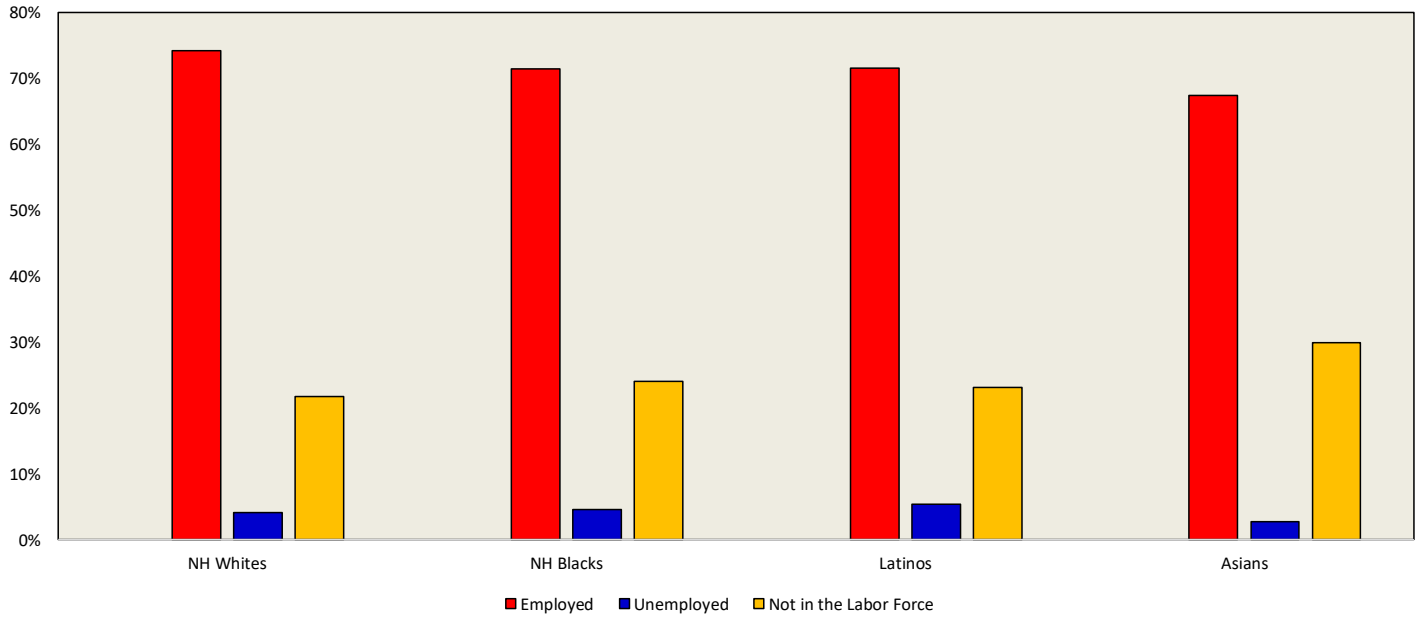
Table 20
 Employment Status of Latino Population of Suffolk County
 (Aged 16-60) 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
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%

Table 21
 Employment Status of Asian Population of Suffolk County
 (Aged 16-60) 1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
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%

Figure 12
 Employment Status of Suffolk County Population by Race/Ethnicity
 (Aged 16-60) 2016



Educational Attainment

Given the increased levels of municipal support for primary and secondary education on Long Island, it is unsurprising that minority groups living in Nassau and Suffolk Counties have higher college attendance rates *and* considerably lower rates of high-school non-completion than their New York City counterparts.

In both New York City and on Long Island, Latinos and non-Hispanic Blacks aged 25 years and older still have consistently lower educational attainment levels than do non-Hispanic Whites and Asians.

Latinos are the only race/ethnic group in both New York City and Long Island where the percentage of persons who did not graduate high school is consistently higher than those with bachelor’s degree.

Nevertheless, overall trends in educational attainment between 1990 and 2016 are very impressive for every race/ethnic group living on Long Island -- especially in Nassau County, where owing largely to the county’s extremely high rate of taxation for primary and secondary education the quality of public education is among the highest in the United States.

In New York City, 58 percent of non-Hispanic Whites aged 25 or older earned a BA or higher in 2016, and 7 percent did not complete high school. Among non-Hispanic Blacks, 24 percent graduated with a four-year degree and 16 percent did not complete high school. 41 percent of New York City's Asians have a bachelor's degree or higher and 25 percent did not graduate high school in 2016. Finally, 17 percent of Latinos earned a BA or higher in 2016, and 32 percent did not complete high school. (See table 22 and figures 13 & 14).

Table 22
Educational Attainment Rates of New York City Population
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%

Figure 13
 Percentage of NYC Population with a BA or Higher by Race/Ethnicity
 (Population Aged 25+) 1990-2016

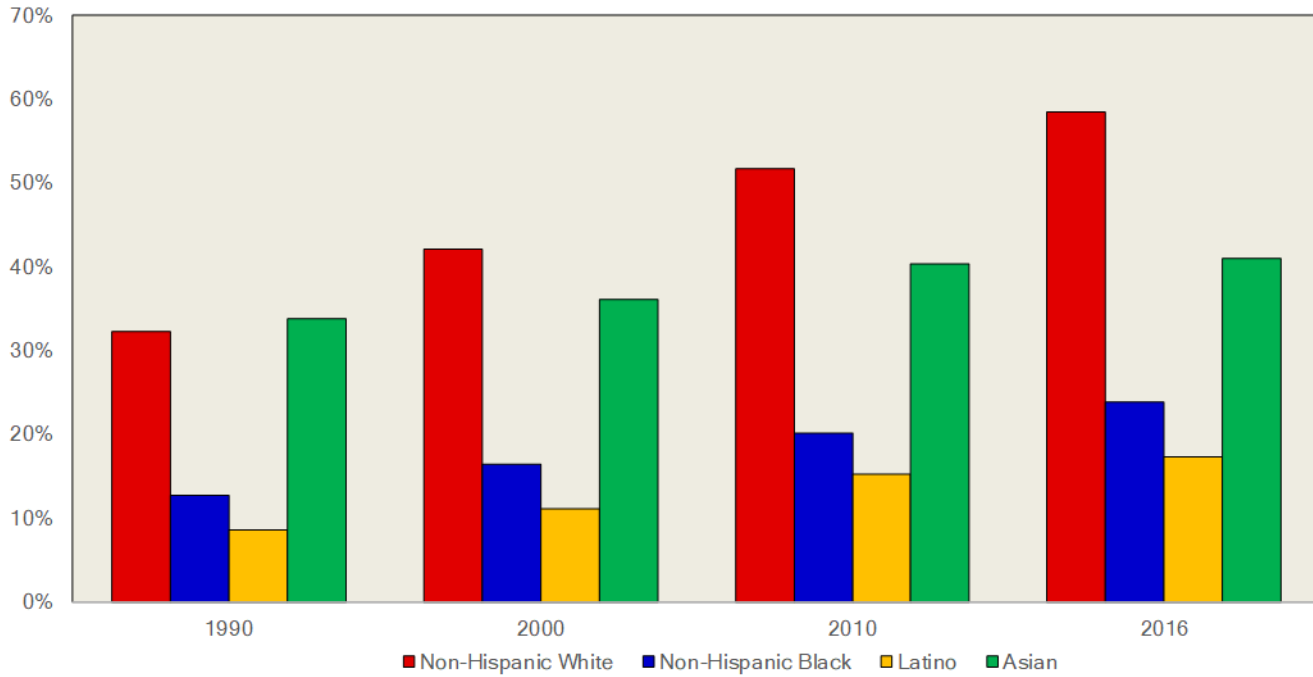
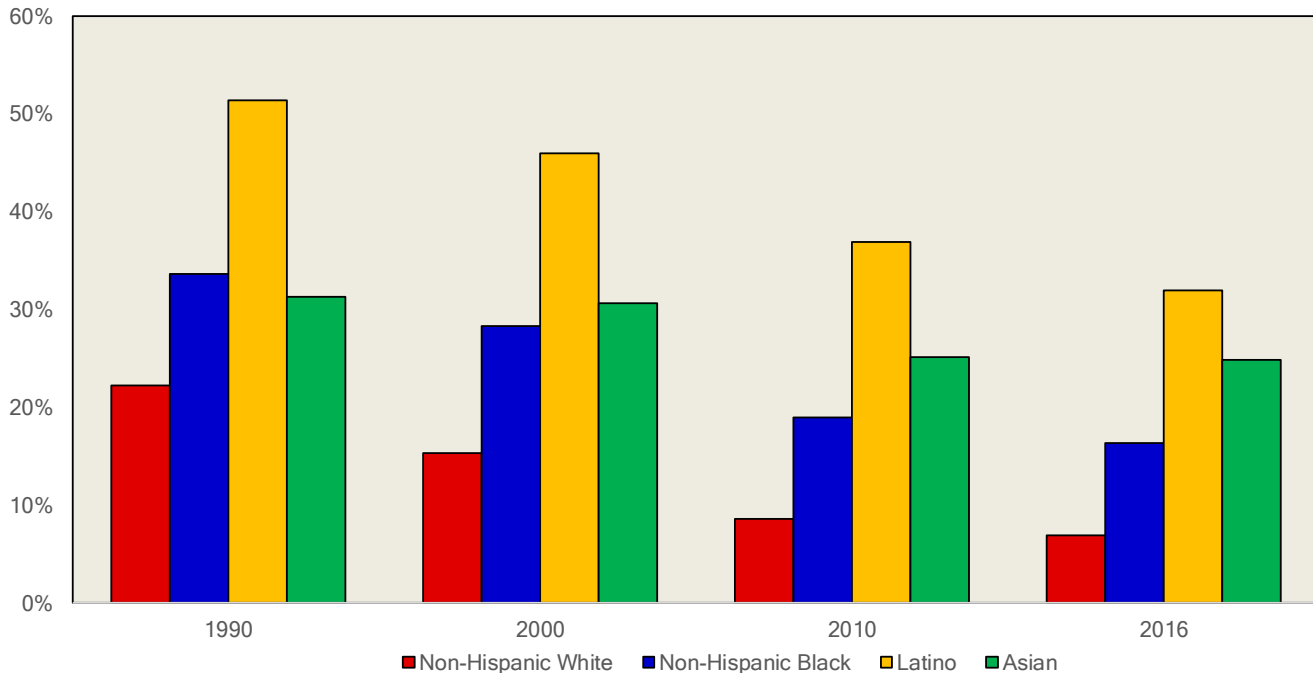


Figure 14
 High School Non-Completion Rates of NYC Population by Race/Ethnicity
 (Population Aged 25+) 1990-2016



In Nassau County, 49 percent of non-Hispanic Whites aged 25 or older earned a BA or higher in 2016, and 5 percent did not complete high school. Among non-Hispanic Blacks, 34 percent graduated with a four-year degree and 8 percent did not complete high school. 64 percent of Nassau's Asians have a bachelor's degree or higher and 8 percent did not graduate high school in 2016. Finally, 24 percent of Latinos earned a BA or higher in 2016, and 26 percent did not complete high school. (See table 23 and figures 15 & 16).

Table 23
Educational Attainment Rates of Nassau County Population
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%

Figure 15
 Percentage of Nassau County Population with a BA or Higher by Race/Ethnicity
 (Population Aged 25+) 1990-2016

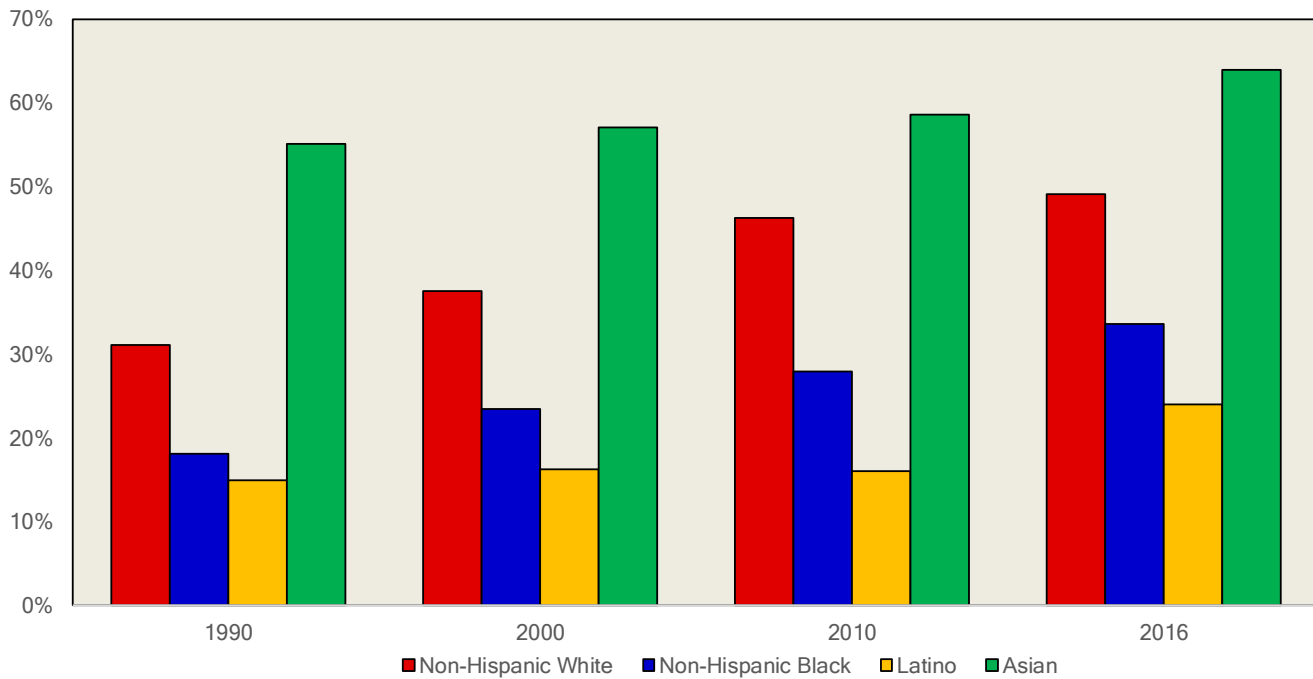
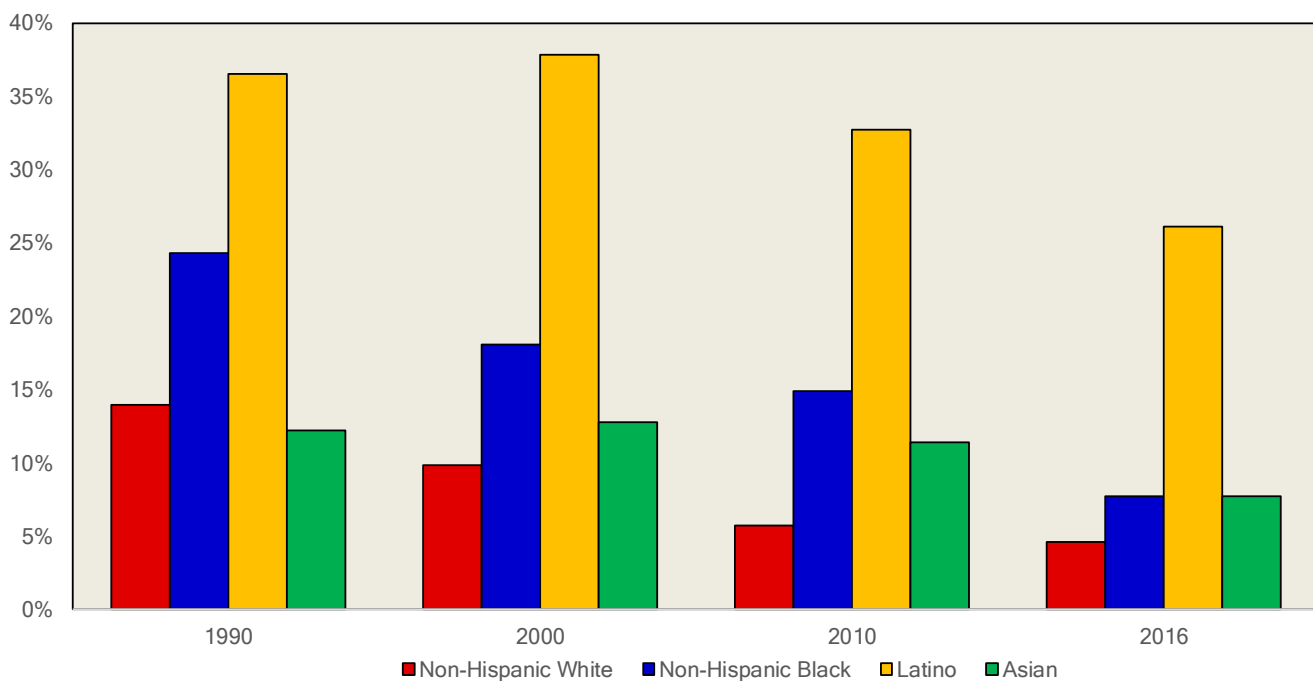


Figure 16
 High School Non-Completion Rates of Nassau County Population
 by Race/Ethnicity (Population Aged 25+) 1990-2016



In Suffolk County, 39 percent of non-Hispanic Whites aged 25 or older earned a BA or higher in 2016, and 5 percent did not complete high school. Among non-Hispanic Blacks, 23 percent graduated with a four-year degree and 9 percent did not complete high school. 61 percent of Suffolk's Asians have a bachelor's degree or higher and 8 percent did not graduate high school in 2016. Finally, 16 percent of Latinos earned a BA or higher in 2016, and 29 percent did not complete high school. (See table 24 and figures 17 & 18).

Table 24
Educational Attainment Rates of Suffolk County Population
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%

Figure 17
 Percentage of Suffolk County Population with a BA or Higher by Race/Ethnicity
 (Population Aged 25+) 1990-2016

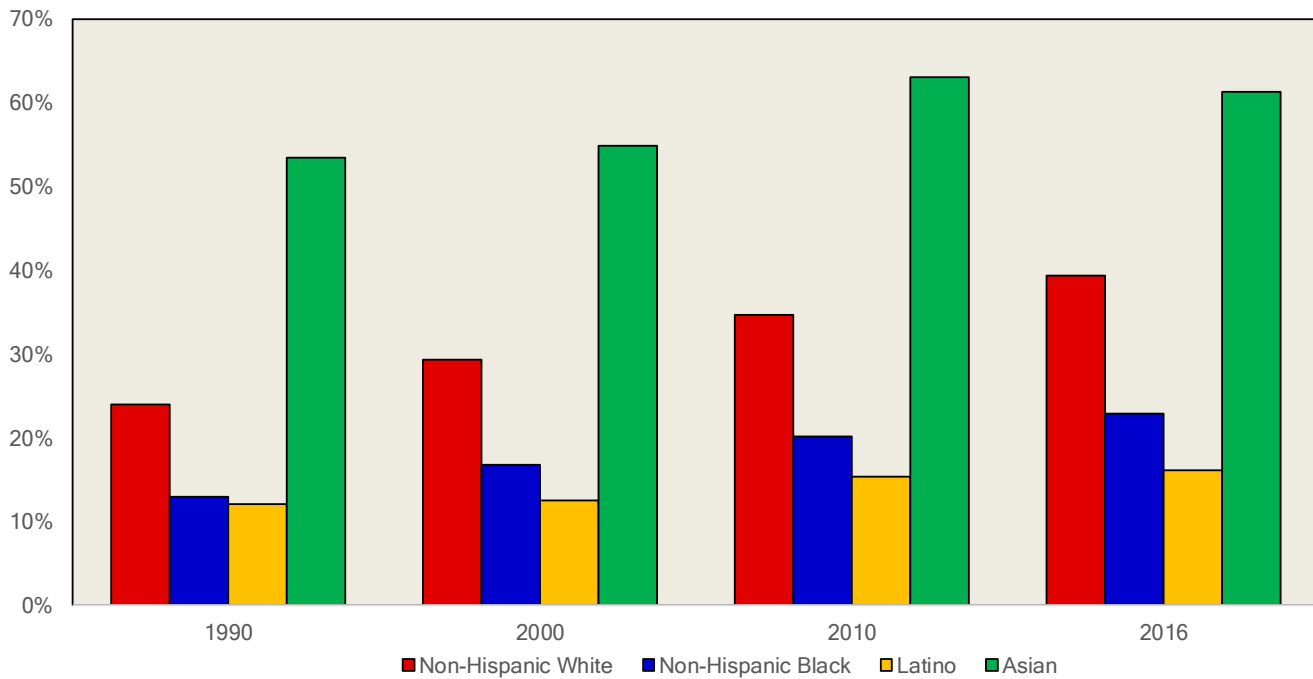
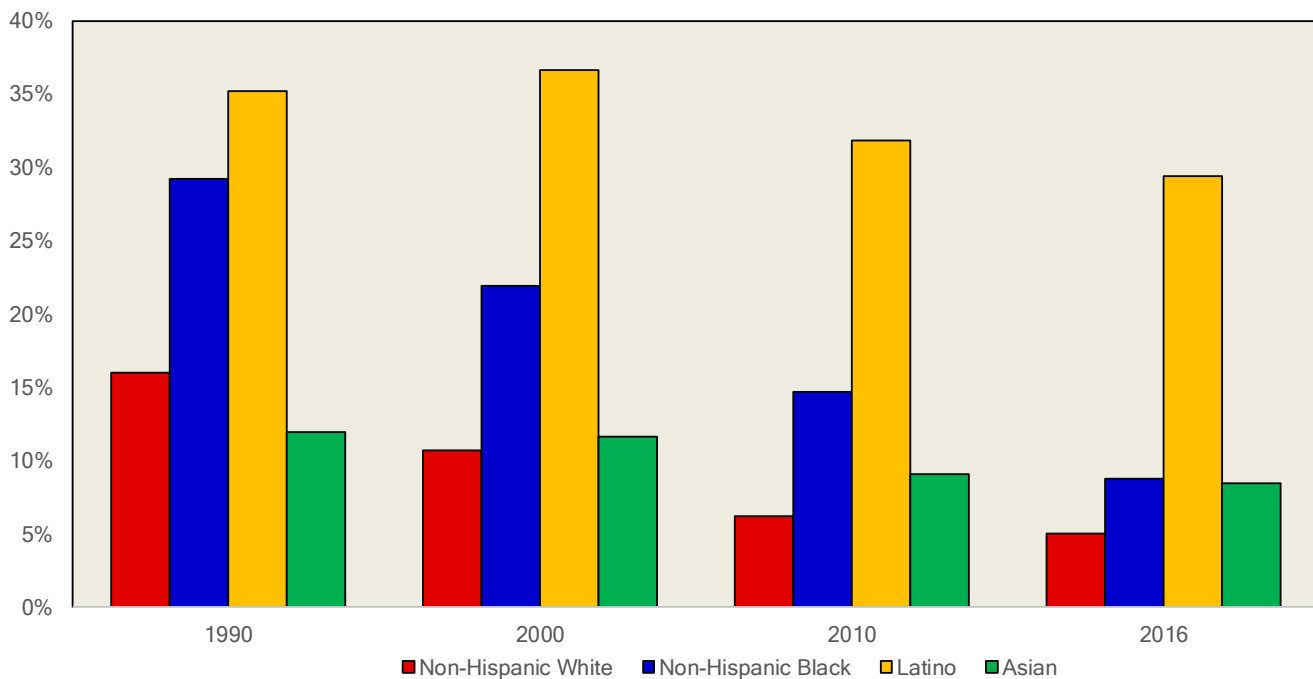


Figure 18
 High School Non-Completion Rates of Suffolk County Population
 by Race/Ethnicity (Population Aged 25+) 1990-2016



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 has decreased across the board along all races/ethnicities between 1990 and 2016. Furthermore, with the exception of New York City’s non-Hispanic White population, every race/ethnicity in New York City and on Long Island saw an increase in the percentage of persons aged 60 and older. (See tables 25-27 and figures 19-21).

Table 25
Age Structure of New York City by Race/Ethnicity
1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
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%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
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%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
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%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
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%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 26
Age Structure of Nassau County by Race/Ethnicity
1990-2016

	1990	2000	2010	2016
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%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
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%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
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%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
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%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 27
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%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
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%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
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%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
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%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Figure 19
Age Structure of New York City by Race/Ethnicity
1990-2016

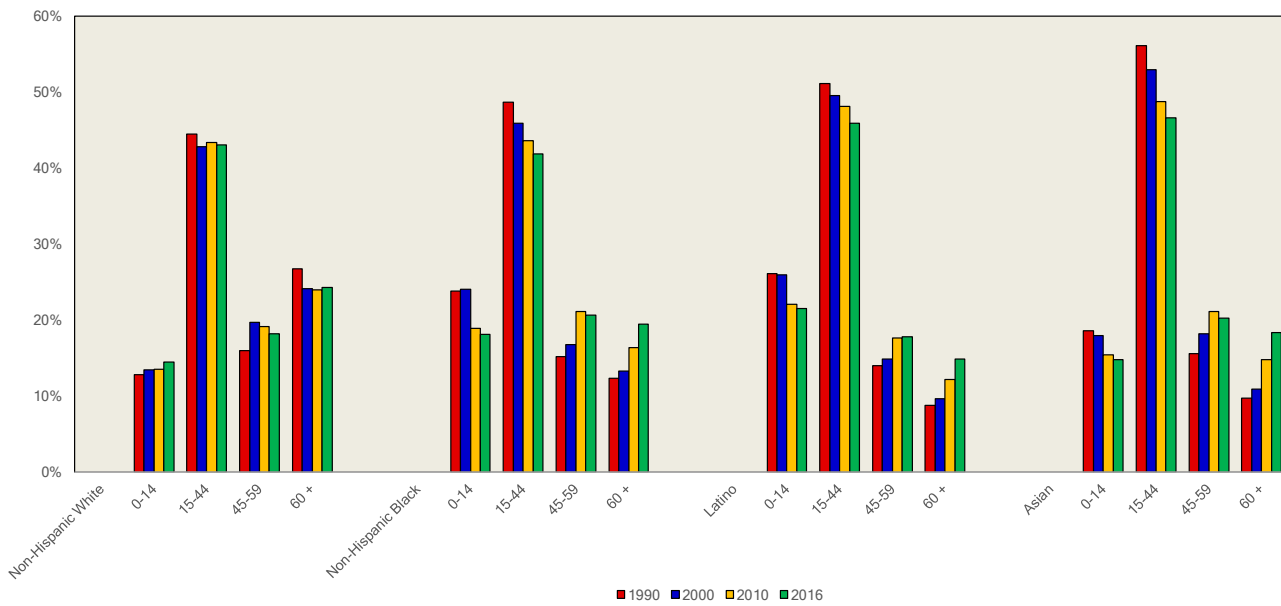


Figure 20
Age Structure of Nassau County by Race/Ethnicity
1990-2016

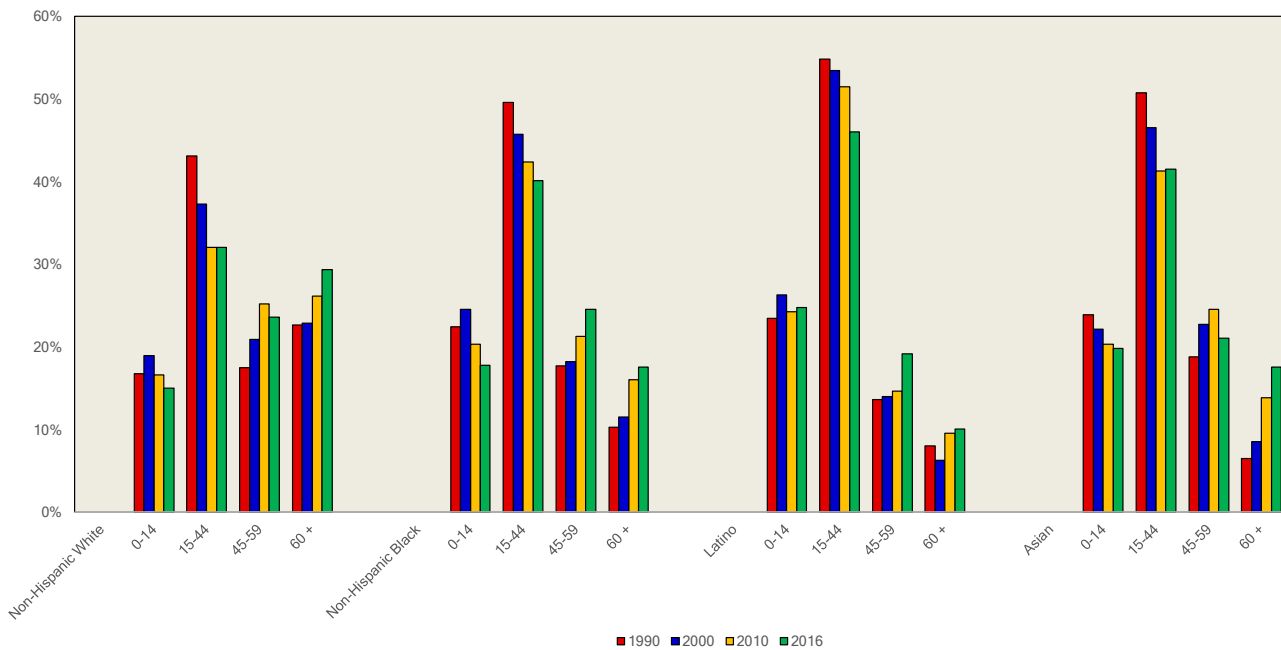
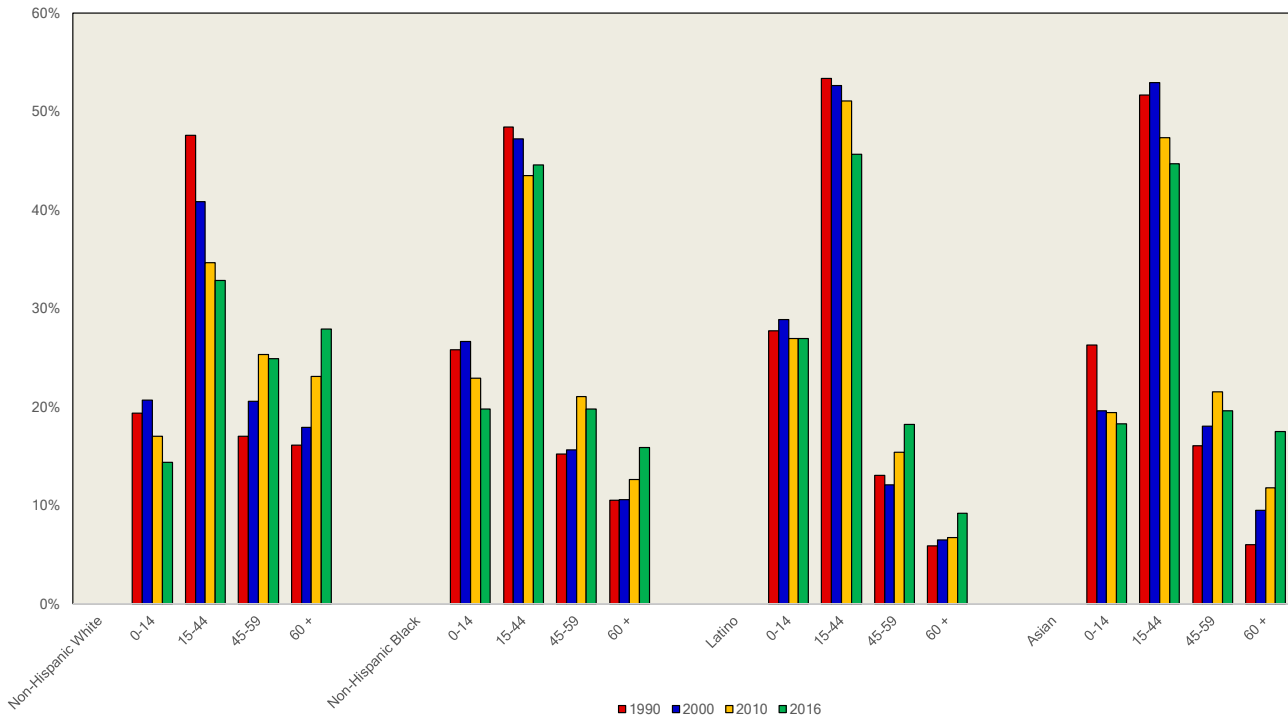


Figure 21
Age Structure of Suffolk County by Race/Ethnicity
1990-2016



Concluding Remarks

Times are changing. Once considered a bastion of racial/ethnic homogeneity, 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.

Firstly, stakeholders and advocacy groups may wish to investigate the persistence of traditional income and employment tiers on Long Island along the lines of race/ethnicity. The question of why Latinos -- despite significant 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 exactly what kinds of factors 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 groups have always wanted to pursue the comforts of suburban life and have finally, in recent decades, been able to do so.

However, we mustn't 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 as such have become, in many instances, significantly more expensive places to live. Whether one chooses to call it "gentrification" or "reverse-white-flight" -- there is certainly a push factor 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.