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Estimating the Latino Population in New York City, 2020

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Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies

Estimating the Latino Population of New York City, 2020

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LATINO DATA PROJECT

Latino Data Project

Report 98

July 2022

**CU
NY**

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

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

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

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

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Executive Summary

This study examines the various iterations of the 2020 census produced by the U.S. Census Bureau. It arrives at an estimate of the Latino population of New York City employing a CLACLS-developed methodology which uses birthplace, ancestry, and nationality data to arrive at population estimates for each Latino nationality and the total Latino population of New York City in 2020. These estimates are different from those provided by any other source, including the Census Bureau and government agencies in New York City.

Data on Hispanics—a category used by the U.S. Census Bureau—only began to be collected systematically in the 1980 decennial census. The Census Bureau elected to classify people as Hispanic if their heritage in the United States was from Spanish-speaking countries which included Spain but excluded Brazilians since they are of “Portuguese” heritage. Every decennial census conducted in the U.S. after 1980 and the samples in the American Community Surveys, which began on a yearly basis in 2005, adhered to these criteria.

Using the birthplace, ancestry, and nationality data found in the raw data files provided by the Census Bureau and made available by the University of Minnesota’s IPUMS (Integrated Public Use Microdata Series) web site, the CLACLS has created a “Latinos” variable which excludes Spaniards and includes Brazilians.¹ The rationale for this is simple. CLACLS considers Latinos to be peoples with Spanish and Portuguese-speaking Latin American origins, whether born in the U.S. or in Latin America, including Brazil, or in the Spanish-speaking Caribbean.

There were four separate data releases for the 2020 Census. The first was the 2020 Redistricting Data which was mandated by the Federal government for reallocation of Congressional Districts in each state.² According to this data set, the Census Bureau estimated a Hispanic population—including Spaniards and excluding Brazilians—of 2,490,350 for New York City. This is the ‘official’ data used by almost every New York City governmental agency when the number of Hispanics in the City in 2020 is cited.³ It is impossible to subtract Spaniards and add Brazilians to this total because these national-origin data were not made available in the redistricting data release. CLACLS considers this estimate to be erroneous.

The second Census Bureau release was the American Community Survey (ACS) 1-Year Experimental Estimates. These data are considered unreliable because of the difficulty of collecting information due to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴ The Census Bureau and IPUMS urges caution in using these data for comparative purposes to previous year estimates. However, the raw data files are available from the IPUMS web site and CLACLS has analyzed these. According to this one-year sample, the City’s Hispanic population was estimated to be 2,422,605. When Spaniards are subtracted, this total falls to 2,397,592.

¹ See IPUMS USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org.

² See <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/about/rdo.html>

³ See the New York City Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs report at <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/immigrants/downloads/pdf/Hispanic-Immigrant-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

⁴ See “2020 ACS 1-Year Estimates What You Need to Know” <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/library/flyers/flow-chart.html>

Since this ACS one-year raw data file contains birthplace, ancestry, and nationality data, CLACLS has created a Latino variable which excludes Spaniards and includes Brazilians. Upon analysis this data set indicates 2,303,028 Latinos in New York City in 2020. Nevertheless, this figure should not be used because of flaws pandemic-related data collection indicated previously.

The third data source is the ACS 5-Year Samples 2016-2020 which are considered more reliable because of significantly larger sample sizes.⁵ The Census Bureau released its own conclusions on this data set which included margins of error.⁶ These data indicated 2,423,869 “Hispanics” in New York City. If Spaniards are subtracted, the total was 2,387,517. Brazilians may not be added to this total because no data are available on the Census Bureau web site.

However, CLACLS made new estimates using the raw data files for this five-year sample released by IPUMS, which constitutes the fourth source. The result indicated 2,423,499 Census-Bureau defined Hispanics in New York City in 2020. When Spaniards were deducted, this fell to 2,396,411.

Using birthplace, ancestry, and nationality data, CLALCS created a Latino variable that excluded Spaniards and included Brazilians. The resulting estimate of the total Latino population of New York City was 2,369,742 in 2020, with an unknown margin of error. This is considerably lower (-4.8%) than the official Census Bureau estimate of 2,490,350 ‘Hispanics’ indicated in the redistricting files.

Why do these numbers matter? One reason is that is well known that there was a population exodus from New York City because of the COVID pandemic.⁷ An estimated -3.8% of the City’s population left between April 2020 and July 2021. The CLACLS data on Latinos, and presented in this report, estimates that the Latino population of New York City peaked in 2015 and declined by -4.6% between 2015 and 2020. It is likely that this decline continued through 2021, although precise data are not yet available.

More complete data on the 2020 census, including on Latino nationalities and the Borough distribution of Latinos, are available in the narrative which follows.

⁵ See <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2021/acs-5-year.html> and https://usa.ipums.org/usa-action/revisions#revision_02_12_2020

⁶ See <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=United%20States&t=Hispanic%20or%20Latino&g=0500000US36005,36047,36061,36081,36085&tid=ACSDT5Y2020.B03001>

⁷ See the detailed report “POPULATION ESTIMATES FOR NEW YORK CITY AND BOROUGHES AS OF JULY 1, 2021” March 2022 available at <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/planning/download/pdf/planning-level/nyc-population/new-population/current-population-estimates-2021.pdf> issued by the NYC Planning, Population Division.

Also see New York City Department of City Planning, “Understanding New York City’s Population Trends” June 2022 available at <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/planning/download/pdf/planning-level/nyc-population/population-estimates/understanding-current-population-trends-in-nyc.pdf>

Introduction

There have been multiple data sets released by the U.S. Census Bureau for 2020 or rereleased and reorganized by IPUMS-USA and IPUMS-NHGIS.⁸ These are:

- 1) The 2020 Census Redistricting Data Files, which are provided to each state “with population counts to use in their redrawing of congressional and state legislative district boundaries—a process known as ‘redistricting.’”⁹ These data were released on August 12, 2021. They do not contain data on Latino nationalities, but only a broad designation of all Hispanics which include Spaniards but not Brazilians.
- 2) The American Community Survey (ACS) 1-Year Experimental Data Release. These data are generally deemed to be unreliable for comparative purposes because of poor sample sizes and selection of samples due to the COVID 19 pandemic.¹⁰
- 3) The ACS 5-Year (2016-2020) Estimates. This data set has the largest sample size consisting of data collected between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2020. It should be emphasized that these data are averages over the entire five-year period and while they may not be used to indicate exact data in any given year, if compared with previous 5-year samples (2015-2019, 2014-2018 for example) they can be used with confidence to measure change over time, although there are margins of error in each 5-year data set.¹¹ This data set is advantageous because it contains data on all Hispanic national subgroups as well as detailed birthplace and ancestry data.

⁸ “Re-leased” refers to the data provided by IPUMS-USA (Integrated Public Use Microdata Series) at the University of Minnesota and by the IPUMS-NHGIS (“The IPUMS National Historical Geographic Information System (NHGIS) provides free online access to summary statistics and GIS files for U.S. censuses and other nationwide surveys from 1790 through the present.”) see <https://www.nhgis.org/about-ipums-nhgis>

⁹ See <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2021/2020-census-redistricting.html>

¹⁰ “The Census Bureau did not release its standard 2020 ACS 1-year estimates because of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on data collection. Instead of providing the standard 1-year data products, the Census Bureau released a series of experimental estimates from the 1-year data.” See <https://www.census.gov/acs/www/methodology/sample-size-and-data-quality/> and <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data/experimental-data.html> for discussions about the limitations of these data. IPUMS has generated the data sets used in this report and has observed that “Users should note that due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the 2020 ACS data collection and data quality, the 2020 1-year ACS PUMS file was released with experimental weights. Users should proceed with caution when using the 2020 1-year ACS PUMS file and should not compare it to other ACS years.” See https://usa.ipums.org/usa-action/revisions#revision_01_18_2022.

For a description of IPUMS see <https://usa.ipums.org/usa/intro.shtml>

¹¹ See “American Community Survey Multiyear Accuracy of the Data (5-year 2016-2020)” at https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/tech_docs/accuracy/MultiyearACSAccuracyofData2020.pdf. Also see American Community Survey 2016-2020 5-Year Data Release available at <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2021/acs-5-year.html> and “Increased Margins of Error in the 5-Year Estimates Containing Data Collected in 2020” at <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/user-notes/2022-04.html>

IPUMS observes that “Due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the 2020 ACS data collection and data quality, the Census Bureau revised its methodology for weighting households in the 2016-2020 5-year sample by using their standard weighting methodology for the 2016-2019 portion of the data and the entropy-balance weighting methodology for the 2020 portion of the data.

- 4) The IPUMS-NHGIS 2016-2020 5-Year Summary File which provides data on micro geographic levels such as census tracts and block groups.¹² These data are accompanied by GIS (Geographic Information System) maps for a wide variety of boundaries including block groups, census tracts, counties, states, national and state legislative districts, zip codes, and more. These 'shape' files may be used with mapping software such as Arc-GIS, to map data on micro or macro geographic levels. An advantage of these data is that the exact residential location of Latinos, or any Latino nationality, in any geographic area within the United States and Puerto Rico may be depicted graphically.

New York City's Total Numbers of Hispanics/Latinos Calculated by the U.S. Census Bureau and CLACLS

Each of these data sets are based on samples of the general population and thus have a statistical margin of error (MOE) which is not available for all data sets. However, the Census Bureau has calculated MOEs for the largest data set – the 2016-2020 5-Year Summary File. Data from each sample are summarized in Table 1 which includes these error margins for the 5-Year Summary File.

It will be noted that the CLACLS estimate on the number of Latinos in New York City for the 2016-2020 summary file is lower than the number of Hispanics estimated by the Census Bureau.

Analyzing the raw data and using the HISPAND variable calculated by the Census Bureau which excludes Brazilians but includes Spaniards, there were 2,423,499 Hispanics in New York City in 2020. If Spaniards are excluded from the Census Bureau's calculations, this number falls to 2,396,411. Excluding Spaniards and including Brazilians, CLACLS has calculated 2,369,742 Latinos, a differential of -1.1%.

It should be emphasized the CLACLS estimate falls within the upper-bound and lower-bound MOEs calculated by the Census Bureau.¹³ If Spaniards are excluded, and factoring in the margin of error, the Census Bureau has calculated a maximum (upper-bound) of 2,464,849 "Hispanics" and a minimum (lower-bound) of 2,310,185

The Census Bureau encourages users to proceed with caution when comparing data products containing 2020 data with other years." See https://usa.ipums.org/usa-action/revisions#revision_05_11_2022

¹² "The 2016-2020 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Summary File has been released on NHGIS. Over 1,000 tables offer detailed cross-tabulations on age, sex, race, household structure, housing units, income, education, journey to work, and many other topics. Tables are available for 87 geographic levels, down to census tracts and block groups." See <https://www.nhgis.org/revision-history#2020-acs5>.

For a listing of all geographical GIS maps provided by IPUMS-NHGIS go to <https://data2.nhgis.org/main> and click on "ALL".

Also see <https://www.nhgis.org/overview-nhgis-datasets#dsg81> for a detailed description of these data which "is comprised of 4 datasets derived from the US Census Bureau's 2020 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Summary File, which provides estimates of average characteristics from 2016 through 2020. NHGIS divides the Summary File into 4 datasets, each providing tables for a different set of geographic levels."

¹³ The upper-bound estimate is the actual number calculated by the Census Bureau PLUS the margin of error (MOE) which was 77,332. The lower-bound estimate is the actual number calculated by the Census Bureau MINUS 77,332. These MOEs were calculated using the nationality data provided by the Census Bureau. Each Latino nationality was indicated along with their respective MOE estimates. That meant that an upper-bound and lower-bound estimate could be calculated for each nationality in New York City. The MOE of 77,332 was calculated by adding the upper-bound estimates and lower-bound estimates AFTER Spaniards were eliminated. See table 2.

“Hispanics.” The CLALCS estimate of 2,369,742 Latinos which includes Brazilians, falls between this range tending toward the lower-bound estimate. There is an immeasurable MOE in this CLALCS estimate. However, that it falls within the MOEs established by the Census Bureau suggests that the CLALCS estimate is about as accurate as possible.

Table 1
Estimates of Hispanic/Latino Populations of New York City, 2020 from Various Sources

2020 Redistricting Data	ACS 2020 1-Year Experimental	CLALCS Estimates of Latino Population from ACS 1-Year Experimental Raw Data File	ACS 2016-2020 Five-Year Estimates from Census Bureau	ACS 2016-2020 Five-Year Estimates from IPUMS Raw Data File	CLALCS Estimates of Latino Population from ACS 2016-2020 Five-Year Estimates from IPUMS Raw Data File	ACS 2016-2020 Five-Year Estimates from Census Bureau Including Margins of Error (MOE)	
						Upper Bound Lower Bound Hispanics Hispanics	
Bronx	806,463	765,010	737,693	799,765	799,125	786,975	No MOE Data for Boroughs
Brooklyn	516,426	479,027	449,890	486,272	486,543	472,667	
Manhattan	402,640	471,073	445,566	418,442	418,515	406,572	
Queens	667,861	621,756	592,024	631,657	631,449	618,612	
Staten Island	96,960	85,739	78,055	87,733	87,867	84,916	
New York City	2,490,350	2,422,605	2,303,228	2,423,869	2,423,499	2,369,742	2,505,356 2,342,382
NYC Without Spaniards		2,397,592	2,303,228	2,387,517	2,396,411	2,369,742	2,464,849 2,310,185

Note: "Hispanics" as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau includes Spaniards and excludes Brazilians. There are no data on Latino nationalities in the redistricting data. Using ancestry and birthplace data CLALCS has eliminated Spaniards and included Brazilians to arrive at its estimates of Latinos. There are no nationality data in the 2020 Redistricting Data.

New York City’s Hispanic/Latino Nationalities Calculated by the U.S. Census Bureau and CLALCS

Although the CLALCS estimate on the total Latino population of the City is slightly lower than that of the Census Bureau, when each nationality was examined using ancestry and birthplace data, the CLALCS estimate for every Latino national sub-group was higher than the Census Bureau estimates. These data are summarized in table 2.¹⁴

¹⁴ It will be noted that the ONLY category in which the number of Latinos was lower than the Census Bureau’s estimates was “All other Hispanic or Latino.” This is because the CLALCS use of ancestry and birthplace data eliminated almost all Latinos whose nationality was unknown in the original HISPAND variable released by the Census Bureau.

Table 2
Estimates of Hispanic/Latino Nationalities of New York City, 2020 from Various Sources

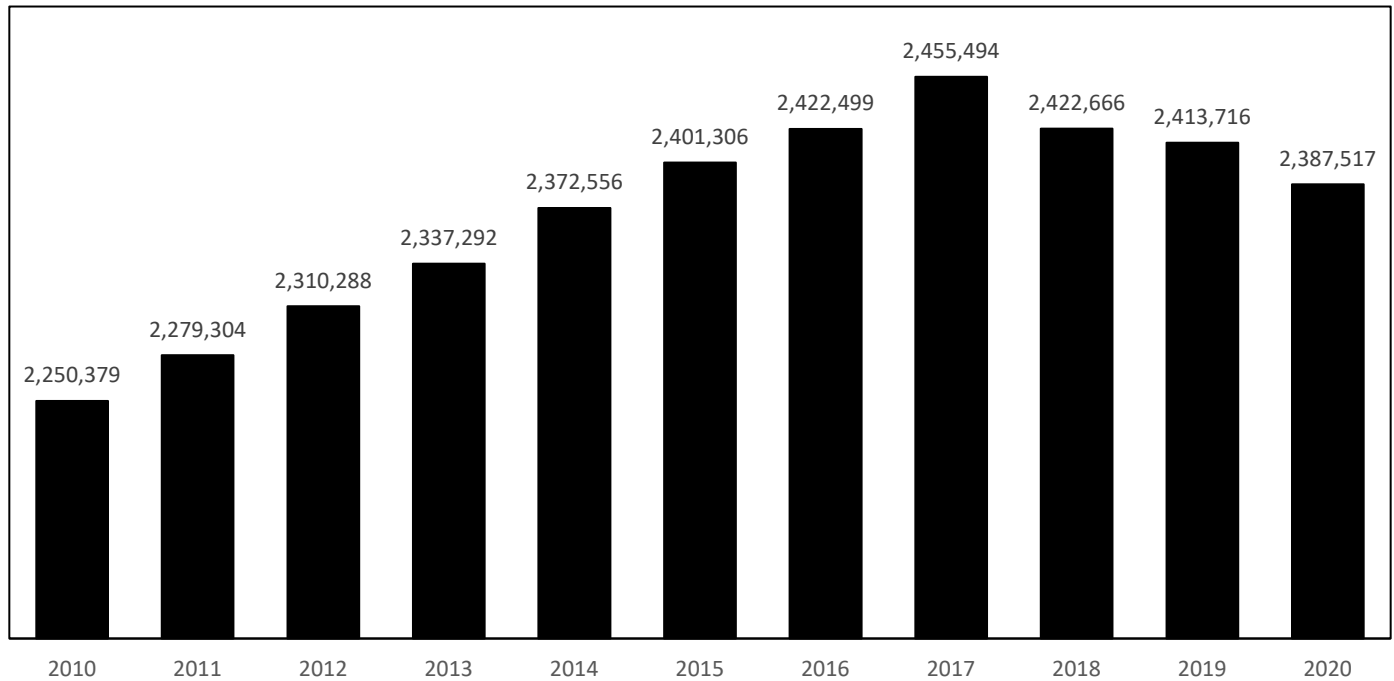
	ACS 2016-2020 Five-Year Estimates from Census Bureau	Margin of Error (MOE) +/-	ACS 2016-2020 Five-Year Estimates Upper Bound based on MOE	ACS 2016-2020 Five-Year Estimates Lower Bound Based on MOE	ACS 2016-2020 Five-Year Estimates from Analysis of IPUMS Data File	CLACLS Latinos Estimates based on analysis of ACS 2016-2020 Five-Year IPUMS Data File	CLACLS Difference between Hispanics and Latinos ACS 2016-2020 Five Year Estimates from IPUMS
	Hispanics	Hispanics	Hispanics	Hispanics	Hispanics	Latinos	Latinos minus Hispanics
Mexican	321,025	11,122	332,147	309,903	314,269	317,061	2,792
Puerto Rican	669,493	10,572	680,065	658,921	666,330	670,361	4,031
Cuban	39,423	2,475	41,898	36,948	38,376	38,677	301
Dominican	699,154	12,208	711,362	686,946	706,979	725,348	18,369
Costa Rican	6,534	898	7,432	5,636	7,214	7,402	188
Guatemalan	38,017	3,013	41,030	35,004	39,272	40,758	1,486
Honduran	48,577	3,466	52,043	45,111	50,121	52,288	2,167
Nicaraguan	12,533	1,770	14,303	10,763	13,263	13,614	351
Panamanian	20,511	1,698	22,209	18,813	20,579	21,603	1,024
Salvadoran	49,004	3,530	52,534	45,474	52,948	54,126	1,178
Other Central American	1,335	499	1,834	836	1,489		
Argentinean	18,609	2,122	20,731	16,487	17,280	18,053	773
Bolivian	3,934	796	4,730	3,138	3,401	3,486	85
Chilean	8,143	1,091	9,234	7,052	8,151	8,544	393
Colombian	104,816	4,253	109,069	100,563	104,231	108,139	3,908
Ecuadorian	191,335	7,553	198,888	183,782	189,481	194,787	5,306
Paraguayan	3,724	946	4,670	2,778	3,599	3,624	25
Peruvian	39,193	2,398	41,591	36,795	37,566	38,739	1,173
Uruguayan	2,417	577	2,994	1,840	3,028	3,088	60
Venezuelan	13,519	1,422	14,941	12,097	13,723	14,298	575
Other South American	2,158	472	2,630	1,686	2,583		
Spaniard	26,508	2,718	29,226	23,790	27,088		
Spanish	9,844	1,437	11,281	8,407			
Spanish American	704	273	977	431			
All other Hispanic or Latino	93,359	4,178	97,537	89,181	102,528	15,722	-86,806
Brazilians						20,024	20,024
Totals	2,423,869		2,505,356	2,342,382	2,423,499	2,369,742	
Total Hispanics or Latinos Minus Spaniards	2,387,517		2,464,849	2,310,185	2,396,411	2,369,742	-26,669

What is fairly clear from the available data is that the Latino population of the City has declined after 2017 and it is likely that the COVID pandemic accelerated this process of exodus.

Each of the data sets examined indicate this decline, although because they are all derived from samples, the timing is slightly different depending on the data set analyzed. The Census Bureau’s estimates based on the five-

year files for each year between 2010 and 2020 indicate a peak Latino population in 2017 and decline thereafter. (See Figure 1).¹⁵

Figure 1
The Hispanic Population of New York City by Year Derived from the U.S. Census Bureau Five-Year Files for Each Year Excluding Spaniards



The IPUMS raw Five-Year ACS data files yield a slightly different timing of the decline. These data indicate a peak of the Latino population as defined by CLACLS in 2015 but a clear decline after 2018. (See Figure 2).

The Census Bureau’s ACS One-Year data follow the same trajectory as the Five-Year files as indicated in Figure 3.

¹⁵ These data were derived from the U.S. Census Bureau’s online portal at https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=United%20States&t=Hispanic%20or%20Latino&g=0500000US36005,36047,36061,36081,36085_1600000US3651000&tid=ACSDT5Y2010.B03001&moe=false (which is for 2010 but the year may be changed as well as the geographies. The Table ID for each year is B03001 and these are the ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables.

Figure 2
The Latino Population of New York City by Year Derived from the IPUMS Raw Data Five-Year Files for Each Year Excluding Spaniards and Including Brazilians

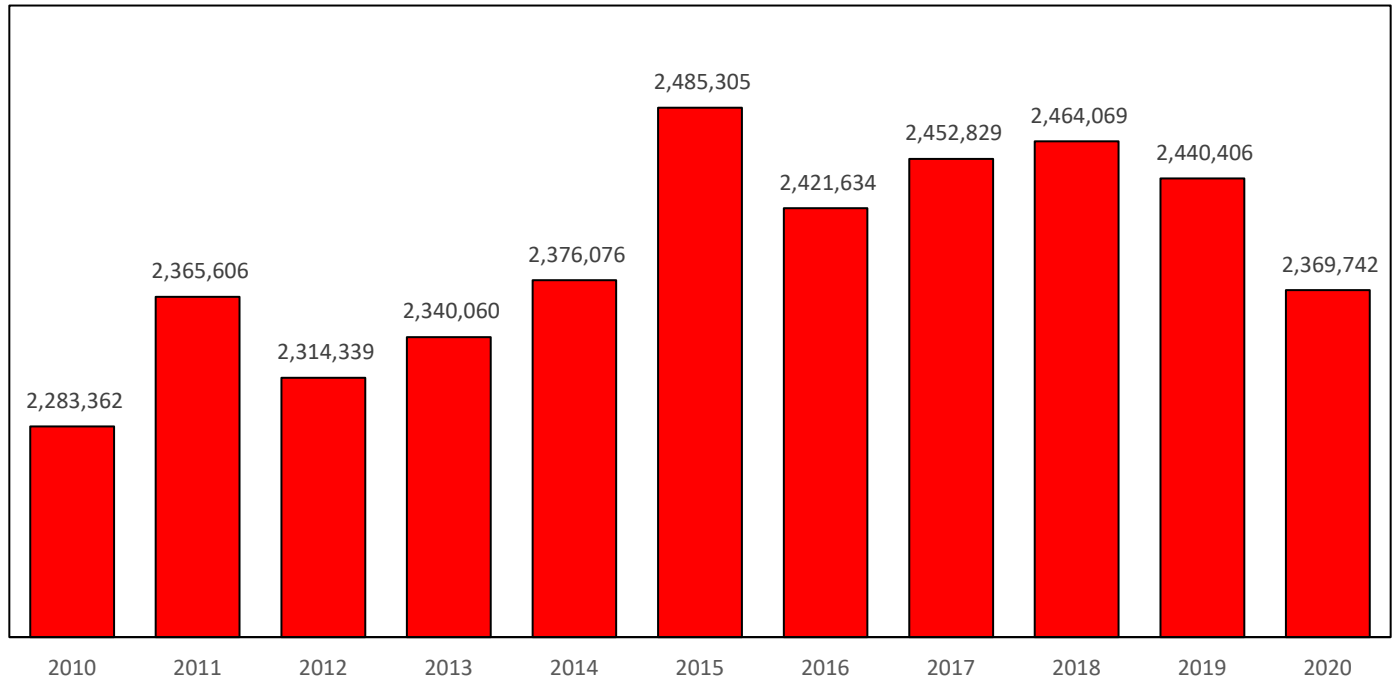
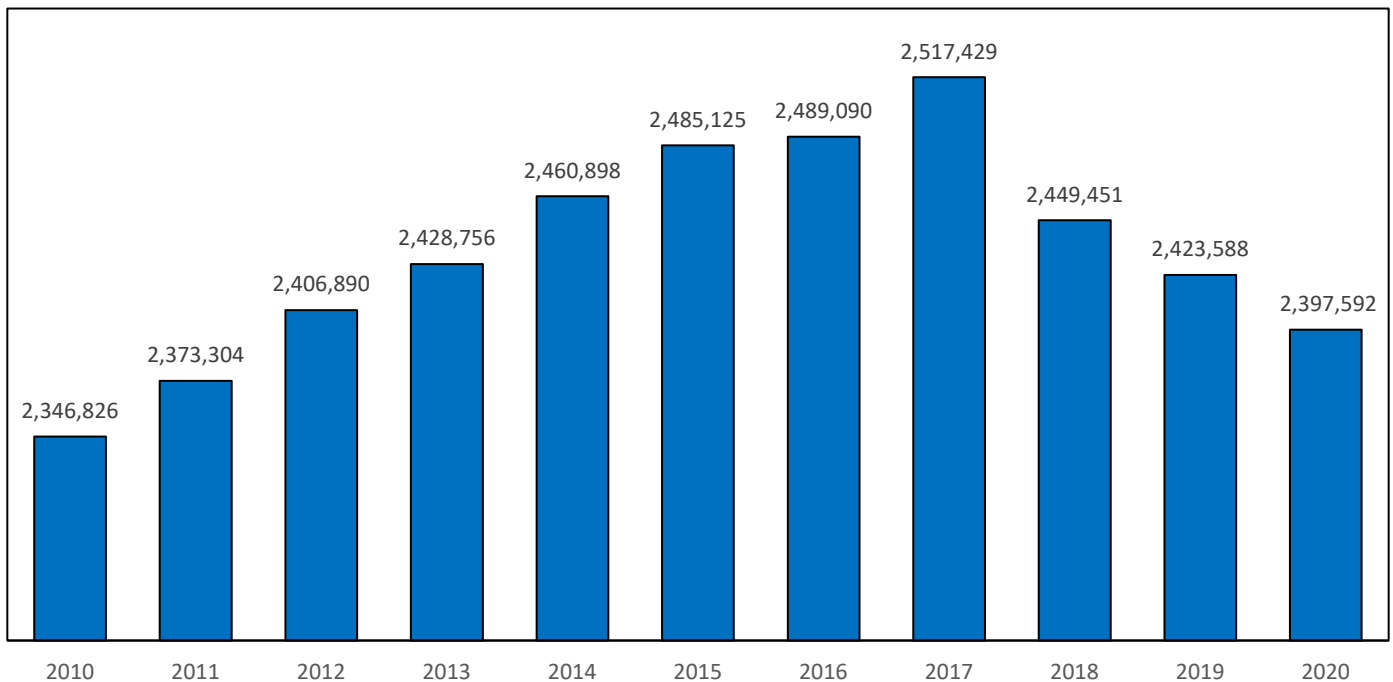
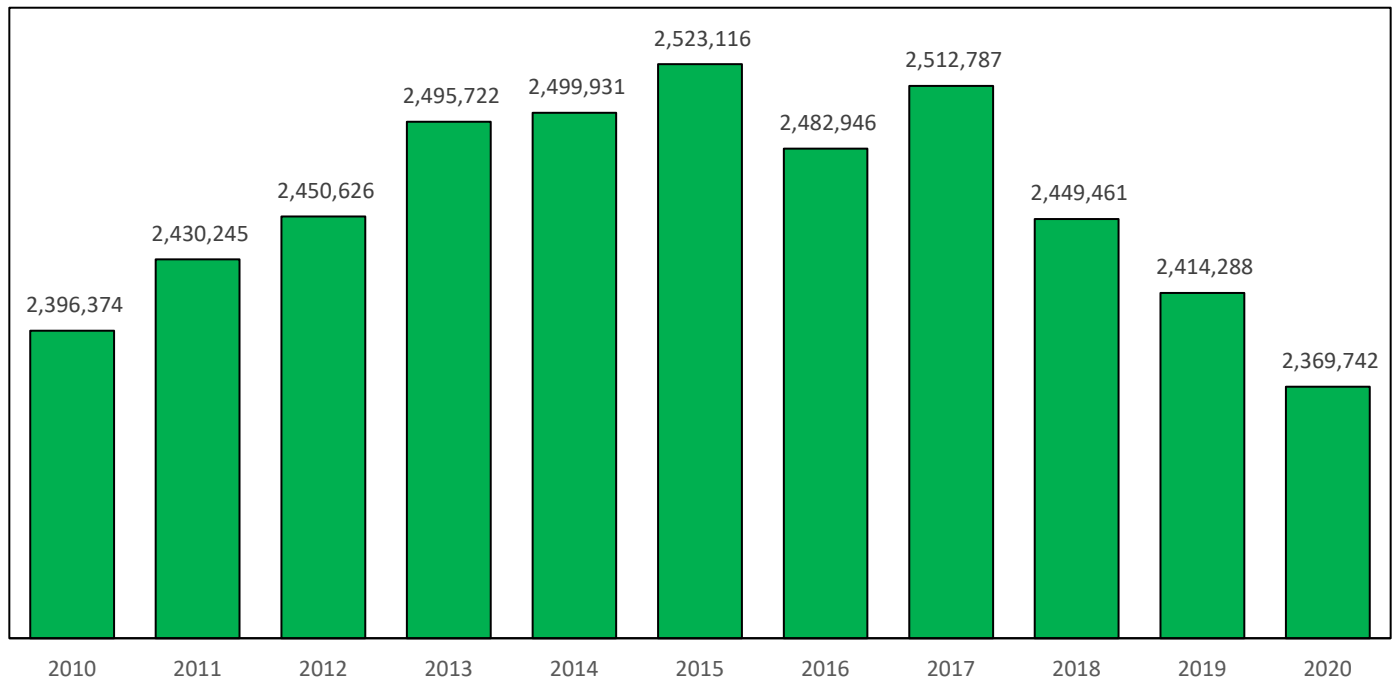


Figure 3
The Hispanic Population of New York City by Year Derived from the U.S. Census Bureau One-Year Files for Each Year Excluding Spaniards



The IPUMS raw One-Year ACS data files yield a slightly different timing of the decline. These data indicate a peak of the Latino population in 2015 but a clear decline after 2017 which is confirmed by each of the data sets examined here. It should be noted that the 2020 One-Year ACS data has been considered unreliable, and the Five-Year results are included for 2020 in figure 4.

Figure 4
The Latino Population of New York City by Year Derived from the IPUMS Raw Data One-Year Files for Each Year Excluding Spaniards and Including Brazilians



The Largest Latino Nationalities

When the largest Latino national sub-groups are examined between 2015 and 2020 – Dominicans, Puerto Ricans, and Mexicans – the five-year data files, from both IPUMS and those released by the Census Bureau indicate that Puerto Ricans continued their systematic decline and Mexicans were leaving the City. The Dominican population was the only nationality which continued to grow.¹⁶

¹⁶ The Five-Year files are deemed to be the most accurate of the Census Bureau and IPUMS data releases. This is because they have the largest sample sizes and while representing averages over the entire five-years, they are the most reliable data to measure change over time. See “American Community Survey Multiyear Accuracy of the Data (5-year 2016-2020)” at https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/tech_docs/accuracy/MultiyearACSAccuracyofData2020.pdf and <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/estimates.html>

The Puerto Rican population of the city fell by -9.8% between 2015 and 2020 according to the Five-Year IPUMS data and -8.2% according to the Census Bureau Five-Year summary files. (See figure 5 and 6).

The Mexican population decreased by -11.6% between 2015 and 2020 according to the Five-Year IPUMS files and -4.0% if the Census Bureau files are analyzed.

The Dominican population increased by 8.1% between 2015 and 2020 in the IPUMS data sets and 3.5% according to the Census Bureau Five-Year Summary files. However, the Dominican population declined slightly after 2017, by -0.8% according to the IPUMS data and -1.2% if the Census Bureau summary files are analyzed.

Figure 5
The Dominican, Puerto Rican, and Mexican Populations of New York City by Year 2010 - 2020 Derived from the IPUMS Raw Data Five-Year Files for Each Year Excluding Spaniards and Including Brazilians

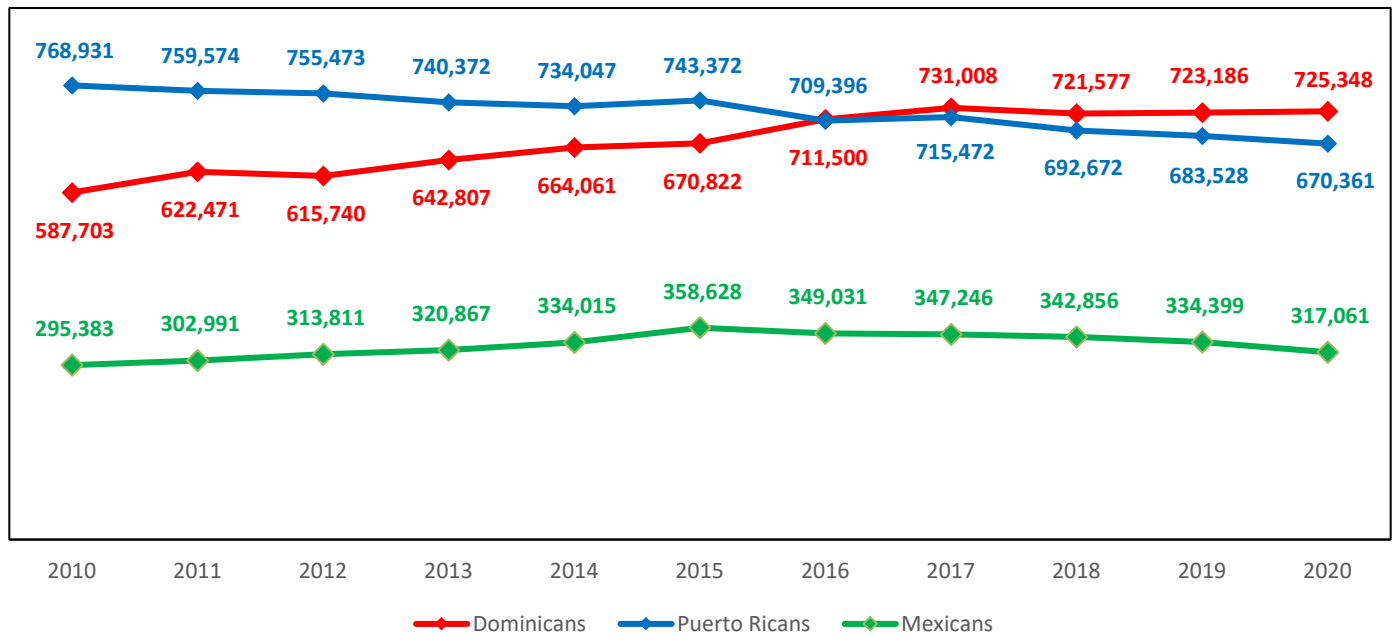
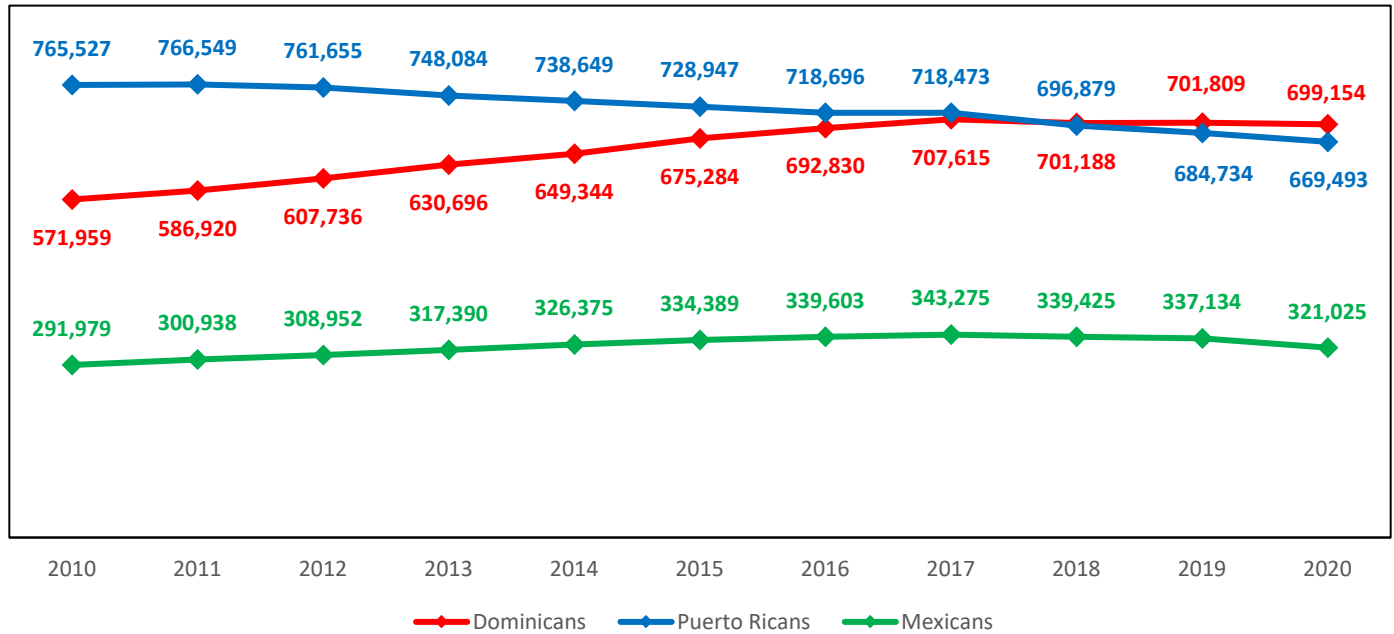


Figure 6
 The Dominican, Puerto Rican, and Mexican Populations of New York City by Year 2010-2020 Derived from the U.S. Census Bureau Five-Year Files for Each Year Excluding Spaniards and Including Brazilians



The Five Boroughs

Although Latino populations increased in each of the Boroughs between 2010 and 2020, according to the Five-Year IPUMS and Census Bureau files, after 2017 the Latino population declined in each of the Boroughs except for Staten Island, where there was a relatively small Latino population. (See tables 3 and 4 for these data).

Table 3
 Latino Populations of New York City Boroughs, 2010 - 2020
 From IPUMS Five-Year Summary Files Excluding Spaniards and Including Brazilians

	Bronx	Brooklyn	Manhattan	Queens	Staten Island	NYC
2010	717,763	486,691	408,047	597,245	73,616	2,283,362
2011	739,578	510,898	418,784	616,625	79,721	2,365,606
2012	736,165	490,075	403,512	607,810	76,777	2,314,339
2013	747,820	493,032	403,989	617,370	77,849	2,340,060
2014	761,450	498,756	409,554	626,875	79,441	2,376,076
2015	787,871	525,479	430,238	655,440	86,277	2,485,305
2016	790,487	497,043	415,381	636,999	81,724	2,421,634
2017	803,452	499,083	423,098	644,005	83,191	2,452,829
2018	805,221	501,383	424,497	645,508	87,460	2,464,069
2019	801,978	491,764	419,801	640,111	86,752	2,440,406
2020	786,975	472,667	406,572	618,612	84,916	2,369,742
	% Change 2010-2020	% Change 2010-2020	% Change 2010-2020	% Change 2010-2020	% Change 2010-2020	% Change 2010-2020
	9.6%	-2.9%	-0.4%	3.6%	15.3%	3.8%
	% Change 2017-2020	% Change 2017-2020	% Change 2017-2020	% Change 2017-2020	% Change 2017-2020	% Change 2017-2020
	-2.1%	-5.3%	-3.9%	-3.9%	2.1%	-3.4%

Table 4
Hispanic Populations of New York City Boroughs, 2010 - 2020
From Census Bureau Five-Year Summary Files Excluding Spaniards

	Bronx	Brooklyn	Manhattan	Queens	Staten Island	NYC
2010	713,841	480,462	400,185	583,457	72,434	2,250,379
2011	724,839	486,569	399,419	592,974	75,503	2,279,304
2012	737,729	491,984	399,599	603,363	77,613	2,310,288
2013	749,834	494,356	400,114	614,409	78,579	2,337,292
2014	763,869	499,868	404,487	624,958	79,374	2,372,556
2015	777,535	502,507	407,543	632,788	80,933	2,401,306
2016	793,662	499,234	410,399	637,659	81,545	2,422,499
2017	807,810	500,760	418,527	645,403	82,994	2,455,494
2018	800,687	491,816	411,866	633,923	84,374	2,422,666
2019	801,060	485,483	409,970	631,816	85,387	2,413,716
2020	794,788	477,270	408,118	621,675	85,666	2,387,517
	% Change 2010-2020	% Change 2010-2020	% Change 2010-2020	% Change 2010-2020	% Change 2010-2020	% Change 2010-2020
	11.3%	-0.7%	2.0%	6.6%	18.3%	6.1%
	% Change 2017-2020	% Change 2017-2020	% Change 2017-2020	% Change 2017-2020	% Change 2017-2020	% Change 2017-2020
	-1.6%	-4.7%	-2.5%	-3.7%	3.2%	-2.8%

While there is no reliable specific information on the size of the Latino population of the City after 2020, all indicators point to a continued loss of population. Data released by the Census Bureau in March 2022 indicate that New York City lost -3.8% of its population between April 1, 2020, and July 1, 2021.¹⁷ (See Table 5).

This population loss was related to the reaction to the COVID pandemic which resulted in the abandonment of New York City by people from all race/ethnic groups, although the process has yet to be studied in statistical detail. The U.S. Census Bureau has estimated that over 380,000 people left the City between April 2020 and July 2021. (See Table 6).

¹⁷ See the detailed report “POPULATION ESTIMATES FOR NEW YORK CITY AND BOROUGHES AS OF JULY 1, 2021” March 2022 available at <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/planning/download/pdf/planning-level/nyc-population/new-population/current-population-estimates-2021.pdf> issued by the NYC Planning, Population Division.

Also see New York City Department of City Planning, “Understanding New York City’s Population Trends” June 2022 available at <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/planning/download/pdf/planning-level/nyc-population/population-estimates/understanding-current-population-trends-in-nyc.pdf>

Additionally, international migration dropped precipitously. In a city of immigrants, where about 37% of the population was foreign-born in 2020, only about 13,000 migrants arrived in New York City between April 1, 2020 and July 1, 2021 according to estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. (See Table 6).

Table 5
Change in Population, Census Bureau Estimates
New York City and Boroughs, April 1, 2020 - July 1, 2021

	Population Estimated April 1, 2020	Population Estimated July 1, 2021	Numerical Change	Percentage Change
Bronx	1,472,654	1,424,948	-47,706	-3.2%
Brooklyn	2,736,074	2,641,052	-95,022	-3.5%
Manhattan	1,694,251	1,576,876	-117,375	-6.9%
Queens	2,405,464	2,331,143	-74,321	-3.1%
Staten Island	495,747	493,494	-2,253	-0.5%
New York City	8,804,190	8,467,513	-336,677	-3.8%

Source: "POPULATION ESTIMATES FOR NEW YORK CITY AND BOROUGHES AS OF JULY 1, 2021"

Final Comments

A fundamental question with respect to Latino New York is whether these demographic trends will continue. The statistical evidence suggests that the Latino population reached its peak in about 2015 and began to decline thereafter. This was before the COVID pandemic struck the nation and City. There is little doubt that this population decline continued after 2020 as part of a population exodus because of COVID, although statistical data will not become available until the 2021 and 2022 ACS data are released.

The Puerto Rican population has been gradually declining since 1970 and while the Dominican population soared after 1980, the evidence in this report suggests that Dominicans in the City may have reached their peak in 2017, declining thereafter. The Mexican-origin population was the fastest-growing Latino nationality in the first decade of the 21st century and expansion continued after 2010 to 2015. Thereafter the number of Mexicans in the City declined as well as immigration came to a virtual halt.

Table 6
 Estimates of Components of Population Change
 New York City and Boroughs, April 1, 2020 - July 1, 2021

	Total Population Change	Natural Increase			Net Migration		
		Total	Births	Deaths	Total	Net Domestic Migration	Net International Migration
Bronx	-47,706	7,108	22,690	15,582	-54,179	-57,953	3,774
Brooklyn	-95,022	18,675	43,990	25,315	-112,175	-115,005	2,830
Manhattan	-117,375	3,298	19,755	16,457	-118,694	-121,225	2,541
Queens	-74,321	9,024	31,973	22,949	-82,321	-86,008	3,687
Staten Island	-2,253	459	6,342	5,883	-2,794	-2,914	120
New York City	-336,677	38,564	124,750	86,186	-370,153	-383,105	12,952

Source: "POPULATION ESTIMATES FOR NEW YORK CITY AND BOROUGHES AS OF JULY 1, 2021", p. 16.