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## Latinos in Brooklyn: Demographic and Socioeconomic Transformations in Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace and Bushwick, 1990-2017

Sejung Sage Yim

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

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# CLACLS

Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies

## Latinos in Brooklyn: Demographic and Socioeconomic Transformations in Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace and Bushwick, 1990-2017

Sejung Sage Yim

Sociology PhD Student

Research Fellow

Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies

Graduate Center

City University of New York

Center for Latin American,  
Caribbean, and Latino Studies

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

212-817-8438

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

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



## LATINO DATA PROJECT



Latino Data Project – Report 93 – May 2021

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

Staff:

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

Victoria Stone-Cadena, Ph.D., Associate Director

Karen Okigbo, Administrative Director

Sebastián Villamizar-Santamaría, Director of Quantitative Research

Andreina Torres Angarita, Events Coordinator

Cathy Cabrera-Figueroa, Research Fellow

Lidia Hernández Tapia, Digital Fellow

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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  
[clacls@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:clacls@gc.cuny.edu)  
<http://clacls.gc.cuny.edu/>

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## Executive Summary

This report examines the key demographic and socioeconomic trends in Brooklyn, New York between 1990 and 2017. The report focuses on the two community districts that have the first- and second-largest Latino populations in the borough: Bushwick (community district 4) and Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace (community district 7). (See map 1). The changing patterns and characteristics of individuals residing in these areas are investigated in detail by their sex, race/ethnicity, nativity status, employment status, income level, educational attainment, and citizenship status.<sup>1</sup>

Over the past thirty years, the Brooklyn neighborhoods of Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace and Bushwick have experienced marked racial and ethnic changes. While the racial and ethnic composition of these areas has gone through considerable transformations, the Latino population remained the dominant group between 1990 and 2017. However, the share of the Latino population declined over this period, with a concurrent growth in the Asian population in Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace (from 13.1% in 1990 to 32.1% in 2017) and the non-Hispanic white population in Bushwick (from 5.1% in 1990 to 21.5% in 2017).

Between 1990 and 2017, there were slight increases in the proportion of males and decreases in the proportion of females in both Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace and Bushwick.

Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, and Ecuadorians were among the four largest Latino national subgroups in both areas. Among these national subgroups, the number of Mexicans grew steadily, while the Puerto Rican population declined between 1990 and 2017.

While the median income for non-Hispanic white and non-Hispanic black households gradually increased, the income level of Latino and Asian households remained stable or declined in both neighborhoods over the same period. The most noticeable change was the steep increase in the level of household income among the non-Hispanic white population. The median household income for non-Hispanic whites was \$106,600 in Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace and \$123,000 in Bushwick in 2017, which was a significant increase from \$62,631 and \$32,857 in 1990, respectively. Among the Latino subgroups, Puerto Ricans were the most well-off (\$76,800) in Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace, while Ecuadorians earned the most (\$62,600) in Bushwick in 2017.

The overall economy in both areas became healthier with some variations among race/ethnic groups between 1990 and 2017. Employment rates among Latinos climbed from 57.9% to 65.9% in Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace, and from 45.5% to 64.4% in Bushwick. At the same time, their unemployment rates dropped from 6.1% to 3.6% and 9.4% to 3.1%, respectively.

---

<sup>1</sup> The findings are based on the American Community Survey data collected by the Census Bureau IPUMS (Integrated Public Use Microdata Series), available at <http://www.usa.ipums.org> for the corresponding years. This report analyzes data from PUMAS 05307 (1990) and 04012 (2000/2010/2017) for Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace and PUMAS 05304 (1990) and 04002 (2000/2010/2017) for Bushwick in Brooklyn, New York.

In respect to educational attainment, high school non-completion rates dropped steadily and the rates of those who held a BA or higher increased among Latinos in both areas between 1990 and 2017. However, both areas had important trends. In Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace, the increasing population of Asians (most of whom are foreign-born) have relatively low educational backgrounds; 61.8% of Asians were without a high school degree in 2017 (up from 43.8% in 1990). In Bushwick, there was a significant increase in the proportion of non-Hispanic whites in the neighborhood who hold a Bachelor's degree or higher (from 7.6% in 1990 to 70.9% in 2017), thus suggesting a dramatic change in the population.

Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace and Bushwick both experienced an increase in their share of the foreign-born population. When broken down by race/ethnic groups, Asians remained the largest foreign-born group followed by Latinos over the period analyzed in this report. In 2017, 71.7% of Asians and 42.0% of Latinos in Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace were foreign-born, while 65.1% of Asians and 41.6% of Latinos in Bushwick were foreign-born.

Among Latinos in both areas, the proportion of citizens by birth declined between 1990 and 2017. On the other hand, there was an increase in the share of naturalized citizens in 2017 compared to 1990.

Map 1  
Brooklyn Community Districts



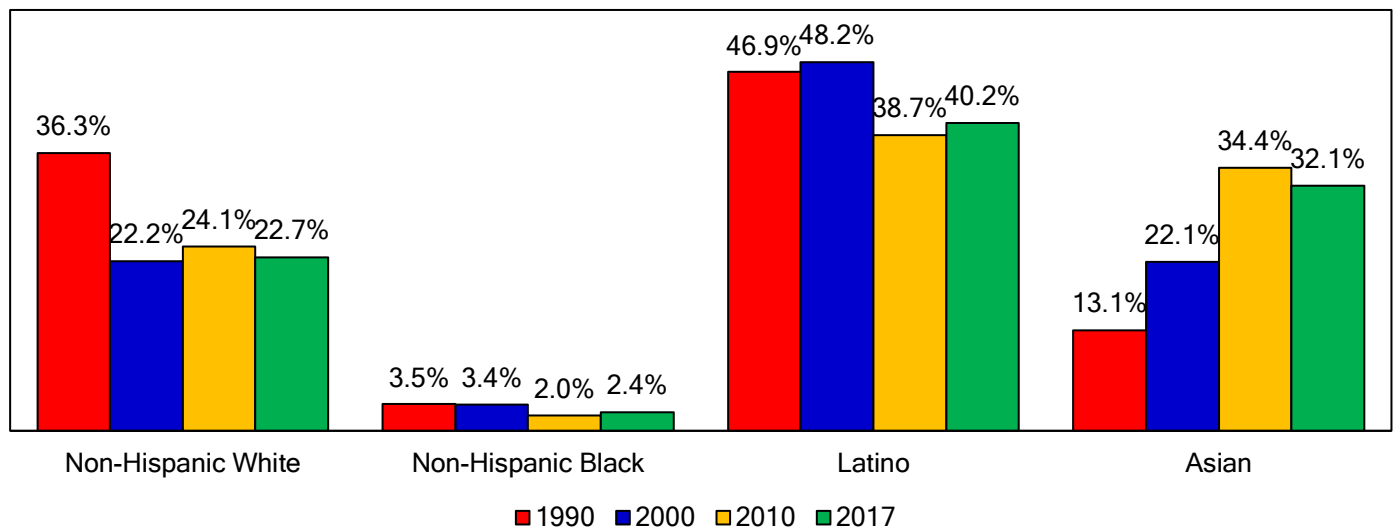
## General Demography

Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace experienced an approximately 20% increase in population between 1990 and 2000. This period also marked a noticeable shift in the racial composition of the neighborhood—a trend that continued until 2017.

The Latino population comprised the most populous race/ethnic group since 1990, with a population size of over 50,000, despite a slight decline in its share. (See figure 1). Close to half of the residents in Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace were Latino in 1990 (46.9%) and 2000 (48.2%), while only about four-out-of-ten were Latinos in 2010 (38.7%) and 2017 (40.2%).

A more considerable change in Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace was the increase in the Asian population. Asians comprised 13.1% of the neighborhood's total population in 1990, but the share more than doubled to 32.1% in 2017—from about 15,000 people in 1990 to 46,000 in 2017. In contrast, the proportion of non-Hispanic whites in the neighborhood declined quite steeply between 1990 (36.3%) and 2000 (22.2%), and it has maintained a similar level at around 20% since then. Non-Hispanic blacks have remained the smallest population group in the area, comprising 2.4% of the population in 2017—a slight decline from 3.5% in 1990.

Figure 1  
Percentage of Total Population by Race/Ethnicity  
Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace, 1990-2017



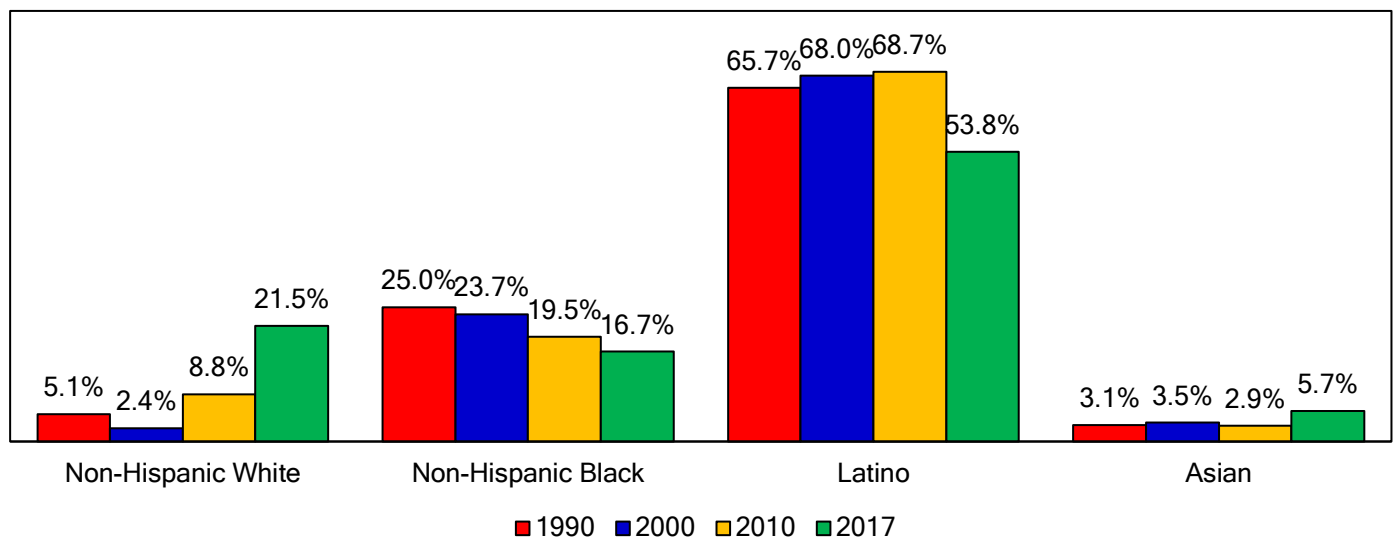
Between 2000 and 2010, Bushwick experienced an increase in the number of non-Hispanic whites and Latinos, from approximately 9,500 to a little over 17,000. In 2017, the size of the total population remained similar to that of 2010, but fluctuations in the population by race/ethnicity showed that the neighborhood had become more diverse. (See figure 2).



When looking at the share of the major race/ethnic groups in the neighborhood more closely, about two-thirds of the population were Latinos between 1990 and 2010, but the proportion dropped quite substantially in 2017 (from 65.7% in 1990 to 53.8% in 2017). While this happened, the proportion of non-Hispanic whites showed a significant increase. In 1990, non-Hispanic whites comprised only 5.1% of the population in Bushwick; but by 2017, they amounted to 21.5% of the population—thus comprising the second largest race/ethnic group in the neighborhood.

From 1990 until 2010, non-Hispanic blacks were the second-largest race/ethnic group in Bushwick, comprising 25% of the population. However, they gradually declined to 16.7% in 2017. Asians were the least populous group in Bushwick and their share of the population was 5.7% in 2017, up from 3.1% in 1990.

Figure 2  
Percentage of Total Population by Race/Ethnicity  
Bushwick, 1990-2017



In Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace, the proportion of males increased while females showed a slight decrease over the period studied in this report. The sex composition of the total population was 48.0% male to 52.0% female in 1990, but in 2017, it approached parity with 50.3% male and 49.7% female. (See figure 3).

Bushwick also experienced an increase in the share of males compared to females during this same time period; in 1990, the area was 46.6% male and 53.4% female, However, by 2017, Bushwick was 48.1% male and 51.9% female. (See figure 4).

Figure 3  
Percentage of Total Population by Sex in Sunset  
Park/Windsor Terrace, 1990-2017

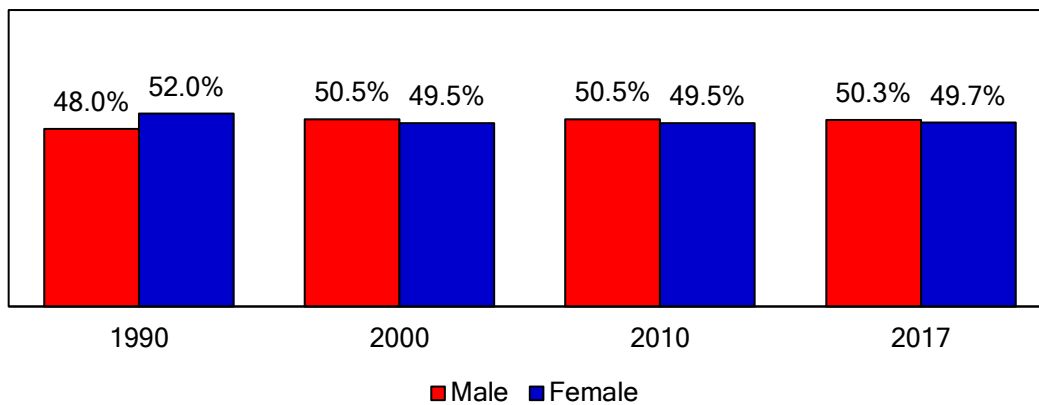
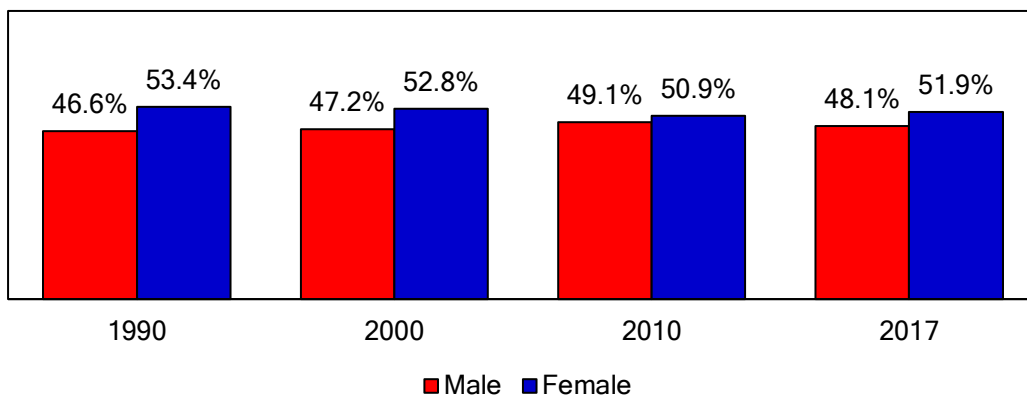
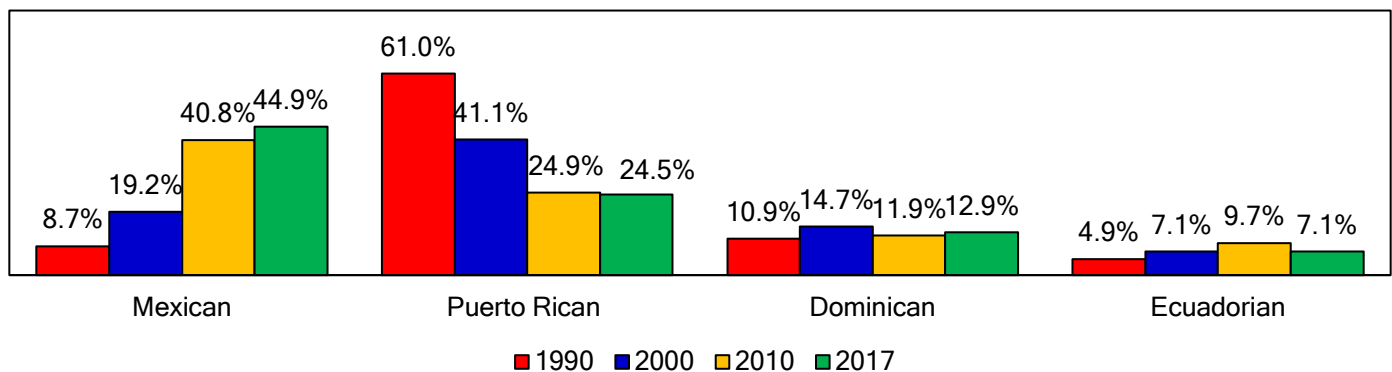


Figure 4  
Percentage of Total Population by Sex in Bushwick  
1990-2017



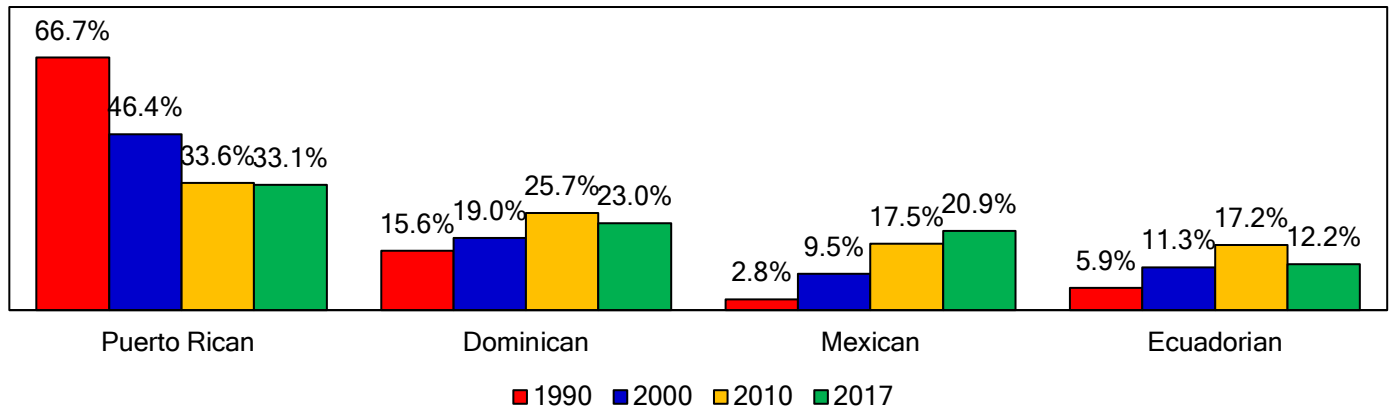
In both Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace and Bushwick, Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, and Ecuadorians were among the four largest Latino national subgroups. As shown in Figure 5, the proportion of Mexicans living in Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace steadily rose from 8.7% in 1990 to 40.8% in 2010. In 2017, they were the largest Latino subgroup, comprising 44.9% of the population. Puerto Ricans were the second largest Latino subgroup in 2017, with a population share of 24.5%. This group used to predominate the neighborhood in 1990, when 6-out-of-10 Latinos were Puerto Ricans. Dominicans and Ecuadorians did not experience drastic changes during this period. In 2017, Dominicans were the third largest Latino subgroup, comprising 12.9% of the population, followed by Ecuadorians at 7.1%.

Figure 5  
Percentage of Four Largest Latino National Subgroups  
Sunset Park/Winsor Terrace, 1990-2017



In Bushwick, Puerto Ricans remained the largest Latino subgroup since 1990. However, their population share halved, from 66.7% in 1990 to 33.1% in 2017. Dominicans were the second largest group, comprising 23% of the population, and did not experience a significant population change between 1990 and 2017. On the other hand, Mexicans were quickly nearing the proportion of Dominicans in the neighborhood. The proportion of Mexicans grew more than six times between 1990 and 2017, increasing from 2.8% in 1990 to 20.9% in 2017. Although the number of Ecuadorians also gradually increased in the area, starting at 5.9% in 1990 and reaching up to 17.2% in 2010, their share decreased to 12.2% in 2017, comprising the smallest share among the four largest Latino subgroups. (See figure 6).

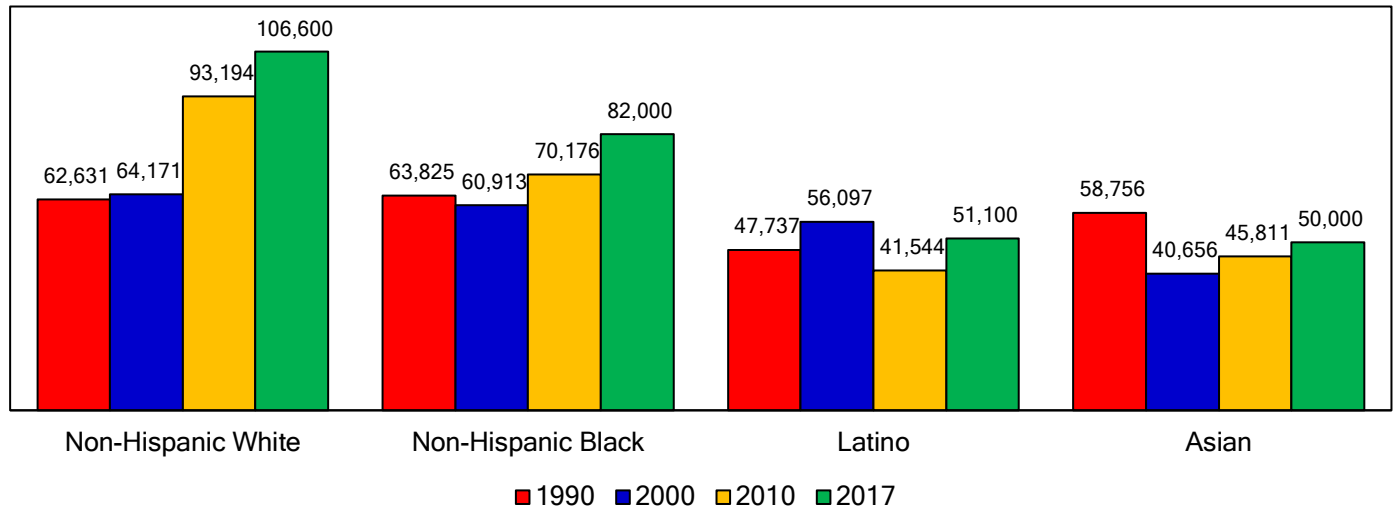
Figure 6  
 Percentage of Four Largest Latino National Subgroups  
 Bushwick, 1990-2017



**Household Income**

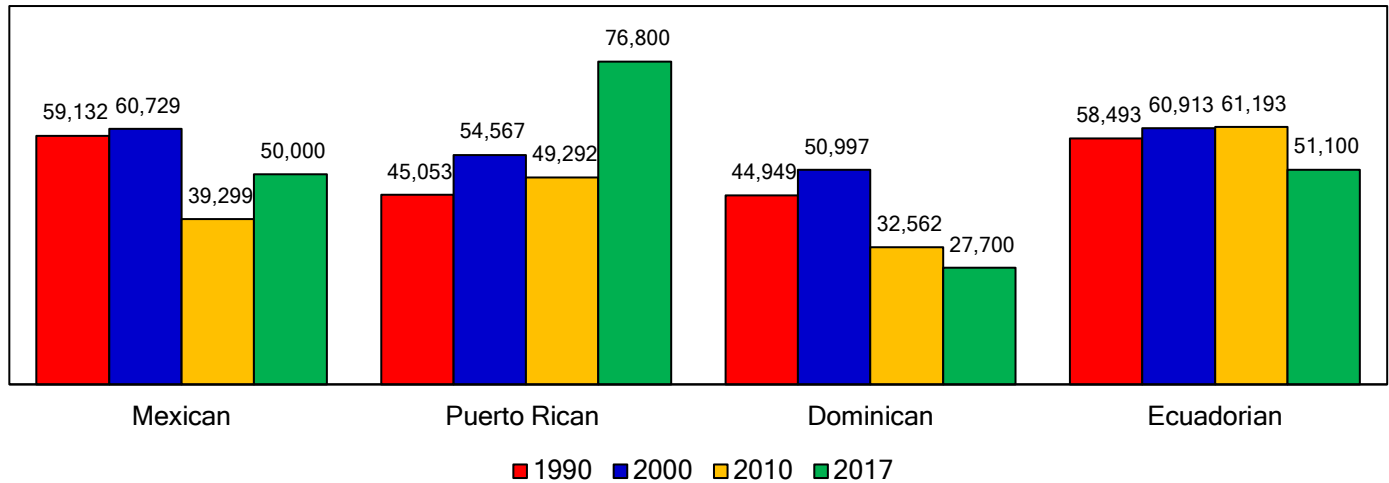
In Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace, as of 2017, non-Hispanic whites were the richest race/ethnic group in the neighborhood, with a median household income of \$106,600, followed by non-Hispanic blacks (\$82,000), Latinos (\$51,100), and Asians (\$50,000). Excluding 1990, the median household income of non-Hispanic whites has been the highest among the four race/ethnic groups. However, there has been a notable change in the past two decades, given the steep increase in the income gap between non-Hispanic whites and the other race/ethnic groups. In 2017, the gap in median household income between the wealthiest group (non-Hispanic white) and the least wealthy (Asian) reached over \$56,600. (See figure 7).

Figure 7  
 Median Household Income by Race/Ethnicity  
 Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace, 1990-2017  
 (Adjusted for Inflation to 2017 Dollars)



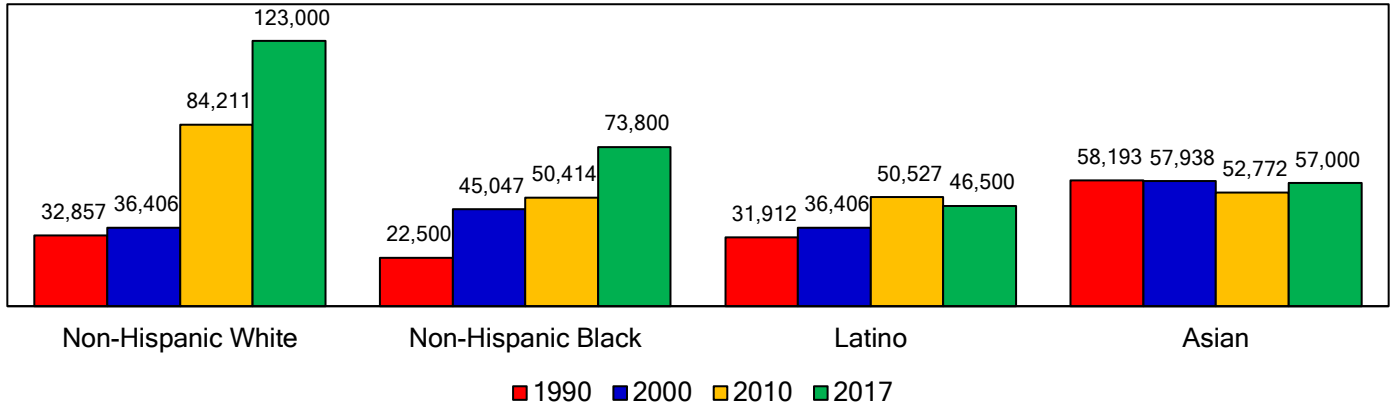
Among the four largest Latino subgroups in Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace, Puerto Ricans were the wealthiest group with a median household income of \$76,800, followed by Ecuadorians (\$51,100), Mexicans (\$50,000), and Dominicans (\$27,700) in 2017. (See figure 8). Puerto Ricans were the only group that showed a sizeable increase in median household income over time, whereas all the other groups experienced general declines in median household income between 1990 and 2017.

Figure 8  
 Median Household Income by Four Largest Latino National Subgroups  
 Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace, 1990-2017  
 (Adjusted for Inflation to 2017 Dollars)



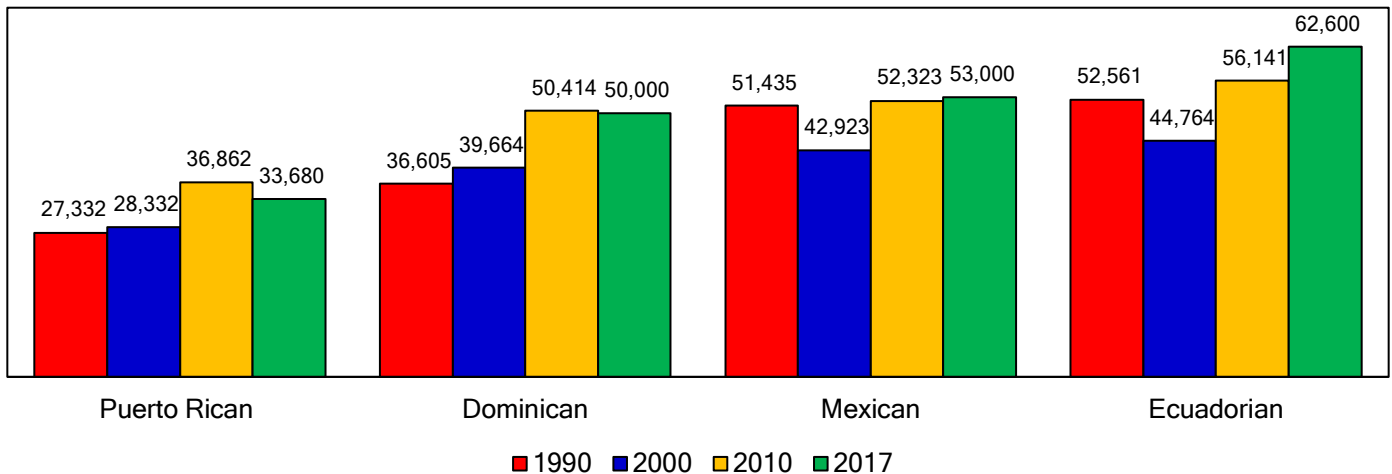
In Bushwick, non-Hispanic whites were also the wealthiest race/ethnic group in the neighborhood with a median household income of \$123,000, followed by non-Hispanic blacks (\$73,800), Asians (\$57,000), and Latinos (\$46,500) as of 2017. Like Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace, non-Hispanic whites experienced a steep increase in median household income between 1990 and 2017. In fact, the median income level of non-Hispanic white households, which was \$32,857 in 1990, increased by approximately 275% to \$123,000 in 2017. (See figure 9). Non-Hispanic black households also noted a sizeable increase in median household income from \$22,500 in 1990 to \$73,800 in 2017. The income level of Latino households also increased, yet the degree was not substantial; median household income among Latinos rose from \$31,912 in 1990 to \$46,500 in 2017. Unlike other groups, the income level of Asian households remained relatively stable and slightly higher than that of Latinos between 1990 and 2017.

Figure 9  
 Median Household Income by Race/Ethnicity  
 Bushwick, 1990-2017  
 (Adjusted for Inflation to 2017 Dollars)



When focusing on the differences among the Latino subgroups, all groups experienced an increase in median household income between 1990 and 2017. As of 2017, Ecuadorians had the highest median household income (\$62,600), followed by Mexicans (\$53,000), Dominicans (\$50,000), and Puerto Ricans (\$33,680). (See figure 10).

Figure 10  
 Median Household Income by Four Largest Latino National Subgroups  
 Bushwick, 1990-2017  
 (Adjusted for Inflation to 2017 Dollars)



## Employment Status

Table 1  
Employment Status of Population by Race/Ethnicity in Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace  
(Aged 16-60), 1990-2017

	1990	2000	2010	2017
<b>Non-Hispanic White</b>				
Employed	68.5%	66.6	77.1%	75.3%
Unemployed	5.3%	5.1	7.7%	4.7%
Not in the Labor Force	26.2%	28.3	15.2%	20.0%
<b>Non-Hispanic Black</b>				
Employed	73.2%	57.2%	38.1%	45.4%
Unemployed	4.0%	7.3%	15.1%	7.2%
Not in the Labor Force	22.9%	35.6%	46.8%	47.4%
<b>Latino</b>				
Employed	57.9%	52.8%	61.5%	65.9%
Unemployed	6.1%	6.8%	8.5%	3.6%
Not in the Labor Force	36.1%	40.4%	30.0%	30.5%
<b>Asian</b>				
Employed	66.2%	60.5%	61.4%	68.5%
Unemployed	3.8%	3.3%	11.9%	4.6%
Not in the Labor Force	30.0%	36.2%	26.7%	26.8%

Overall, the economy in the neighborhoods studied in this report became healthier over time with increasing employment rates (except among non-Hispanic blacks in Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace). Employment rates among Latinos grew steadily, with a simultaneous decrease in the proportion of those not in the labor force.

In Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace, non-Hispanic whites had the highest employment rate of 75.3% in 2017, up from 68.5% in 1990. In 2017, Asians (68.5%) and Latinos (65.9%) had the second and third highest employment rates, respectively. Both rose from their 1990 levels. In contrast, the employment rates of non-Hispanic blacks declined, resulting in the lowest rate of employment in 2017 at 45.4%. This trend was mainly due to the continued increase in the proportion of non-Hispanic blacks who were not in the labor force, more so than the slight increase in their unemployment rates over time. (See table 1). Excluding non-Hispanic blacks, the unemployment rates among all other race/ethnic groups remained steady or declined between 1990 and 2017.



In Bushwick, non-Hispanic whites had the highest employment rates at 84.7%, followed by Asians (78.9%), Latinos (64.4%), and non-Hispanic blacks (63.0%) in 2017. (See table 2). Employment rates among all race/ethnic groups rose between 1990 and 2017, with slight variations among the groups. For example, Asians had the lowest employment rate at 39.3% in 2010, when over 56% of their working age population were not in the labor force. Among the race/ethnic groups in Bushwick, Latinos had the lowest unemployment rate at 3.1% in 2017. This was a notable drop compared to the rates in previous years (9.4% in 1990, 9.8% in 2000, and 7.1% in 2017).

Table 2  
Employment Status of Population by Race/Ethnicity in Bushwick  
(Aged 16-60), 1990-2017

	1990	2000	2010	2017
<b>Non-Hispanic White</b>				
Employed	53.2%	56.1%	87.0%	84.7%
Unemployed	1.9%	8.2%	2.2%	5.5%
Not in the Labor Force	44.9%	35.7%	10.8%	9.8%
<b>Non-Hispanic Black</b>				
Employed	52.2%	45.3%	60.4%	63.0%
Unemployed	10.2%	11.0%	11.5%	4.3%
Not in the Labor Force	37.6%	43.7%	28.1%	32.7%
<b>Latino</b>				
Employed	45.5%	47.1%	56.8%	64.4%
Unemployed	9.4%	9.8%	7.1%	3.1%
Not in the Labor Force	45.2%	43.1%	36.1%	32.5%
<b>Asian</b>				
Employed	72.6%	70.8%	39.3%	78.9%
Unemployed	4.4%	1.6%	4.5%	4.8%
Not in the Labor Force	23.0%	27.6%	56.2%	16.3%

## Educational Attainment

The education level of the population aged 25 or over in Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace and Bushwick increased noticeably between 1990 and 2017. High school non-completion rates dropped continuously and the rates of those who held a Bachelor's or higher also increased during this period, among most of the race/ethnic groups in both neighborhoods.

In Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace, there was a decline in the proportion of those who did not graduate from high school among all race/ethnic groups except Asians. As seen in table 3, the percentages of non-Hispanic whites without a high school degree decreased by almost a third (from 32.7% in 1990 to 9.0% in 2017); among non-Hispanic blacks, these rates dropped from 15.3% in 1990 to 6.7% in 2017. Latinos had higher rates of high school non-completion than non-Hispanic whites and non-Hispanic blacks throughout the whole period. But their high school non-completion rates decreased from 57.7% in 1990 to 39.1% in 2017. The proportion of Asians who did not graduate from high school was relatively high at 61.8% in 2017, a marked increase from 43.8% in 1990, thus making them the only group who experienced an opposite trend in educational attainment. This proportion of low-educated Asians in Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace is a notable finding since Asians in New York City have high educational levels overall.

Excluding Asians, the other three major race/ethnic groups had gradual increases in the proportion of those who had at least a Bachelor's degree. In 2017, Latinos had the lowest proportion of the population with a Bachelor's or higher (14.5%). This percentage increased from 7.0% in 1990, a 107% increase.

Table 3  
Educational Level of Population by Race/Ethnicity in Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace  
(Aged 25+), 1990-2017

	1990	2000	2010	2017
<b>Non-Hispanic White</b>				
Did Not Graduate High School	32.7%	24.7%	7.9%	9.0%
High School Graduate	29.6%	24.1%	21.8%	15.8%
Some College No Degree	12.3%	15.1%	13.5%	9.2%
Associate Degree	3.6%	4.4%	4.2%	4.1%
BA or Higher	21.9%	31.7%	52.5%	61.9%
<b>Non-Hispanic Black</b>				
Did Not Graduate High School	15.3%	23.5%	20.7%	6.7%
High School Graduate	29.5%	22.1%	21.5%	31.6%
Some College No Degree	26.0%	20.2%	10.5%	24.5%
Associate Degree	14.3%	6.2%	21.3%	8.7%
BA or Higher	14.9%	28.0%	25.9%	28.4%
<b>Latino</b>				
Did Not Graduate High School	57.7%	53.4%	52.3%	39.1%
High School Graduate	20.3%	23.2%	19.9%	28.8%
Some College No Degree	12.0%	12.0%	11.4%	13.1%
Associate Degree	3.0%	4.7%	3.8%	4.4%
BA or Higher	7.0%	6.7%	12.6%	14.5%
<b>Asian</b>				
Did Not Graduate High School	43.8%	60.5%	53.8%	61.8%
High School Graduate	23.2%	18.0%	20.2%	15.5%
Some College No Degree	9.5%	6.9%	5.3%	4.5%
Associate Degree	2.2%	3.2%	3.8%	2.1%
BA or Higher	21.2%	11.4%	16.9%	16.0%

In Bushwick, all race/ethnic groups in the neighborhood showed an increase in education attainment between 1990 and 2017. The proportion of those who did not graduate from high school decreased and those who held a Bachelor's degree or higher increased over time. Overall, there was a significant increase in the proportion of Bachelor's or higher degree holders among non-Hispanic whites in the neighborhood. In 2017, 70.9% of non-Hispanic whites held a Bachelor's or higher, whereas the rate was 7.6% in 1990. Between 1990 and 2017, the percentage of highly educated non-Hispanic whites increased by 832% (from 7.6% to 70.9%). (See table 4). This suggests that the fastest growing proportion of non-Hispanic white population in Bushwick over the past decades was not only wealthy, but also highly educated.

Latinos had the highest rate of high school non-completion (40.9%) in 2017, compared to non-Hispanic blacks (15.6%) and Asians (14.6%); this rate decreased from 64.2% in 1990. Similarly, Latinos had the lowest rate of degree holders with a Bachelor's or higher; the rate was 11.6% in 2017, an increase from 4.2% in 1990 (4.2%).

Table 4  
Educational Level of Population by Race/Ethnicity in Bushwick  
(Aged 25+), 1990-2017

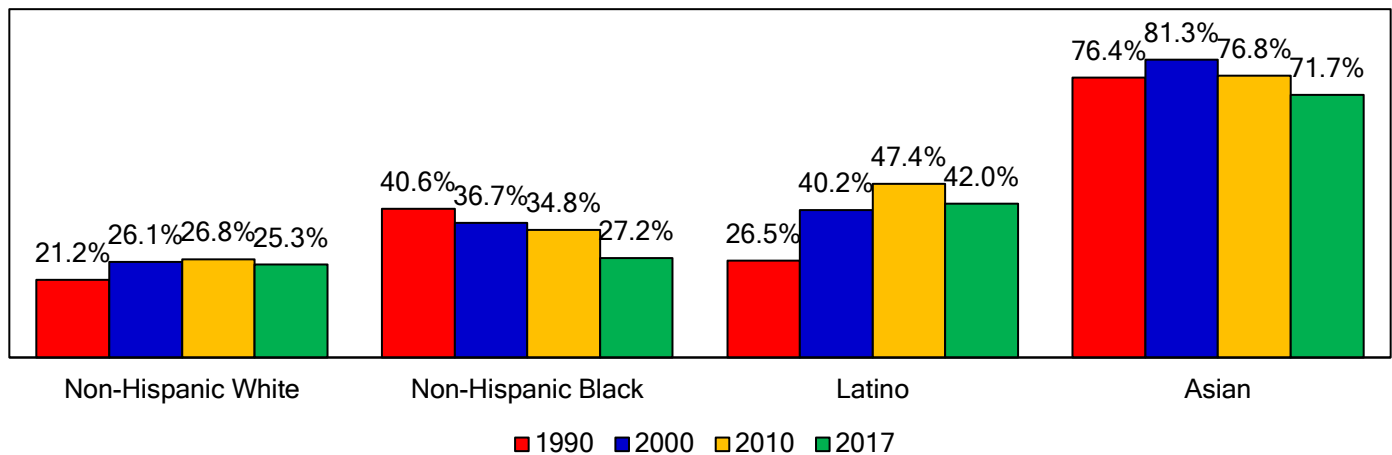
	1990	2000	2010	2017
<b>Non-Hispanic White</b>				
Did Not Graduate High School	54.7%	34.8%	7.3%	3.8%
High School Graduate	24.9%	23.3%	20.0%	5.8%
Some College No Degree	12.8%	10.1%	11.2%	13.3%
Associate Degree	–	1.6%	3.9%	6.2%
BA or Higher	7.6%	30.2%	57.6%	70.9%
<b>Non-Hispanic Black</b>				
Did Not Graduate High School	46.2%	37.3%	21.1%	15.6%
High School Graduate	34.4%	36.2%	41.0%	32.0%
Some College No Degree	11.7%	16.9%	19.5%	22.5%
Associate Degree	2.2%	3.2%	5.2%	9.6%
BA or Higher	5.5%	6.3%	13.3%	20.2%
<b>Latino</b>				
Did Not Graduate High School	64.2%	59.4%	50.7%	40.9%
High School Graduate	18.6%	20.5%	23.5%	33.6%
Some College No Degree	10.2%	11.0%	12.9%	10.2%
Associate Degree	2.8%	3.4%	4.4%	3.6%
BA or Higher	4.2%	5.8%	8.4%	11.6%
<b>Asian</b>				
Did Not Graduate High School	42.5%	42.6%	26.4%	14.6%
High School Graduate	21.5%	14.4%	28.9%	17.7%
Some College No Degree	5.7%	11.0%	15.0%	2.3%
Associate Degree	4.0%	2.7%	–	–
BA or Higher	26.4%	29.3%	29.7%	65.5%

## Citizenship Status

In Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace, 31.6% of the population were foreign-born in 1990 and increased to 47.4% in 2017. Among all race/ethnic groups, Asians comprised the largest proportion of the foreign-born population between 1990 and 2017. In 2017, 71.1% of the Asian population was born outside of the United States. In the same year, 42.0% of Latinos in the area were foreign-born. Approximately a quarter of non-Hispanic blacks (27.2%) and non-Hispanic whites (25.3%) were foreign-born in 2017. (See figure 11).

The increasing proportion of the foreign-born population in Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace was likely the result of an influx of new Latino and Asian immigrants in the neighborhood. If the Asian population continues to grow as it has, they might become the largest group in these neighborhoods, replacing Latinos.

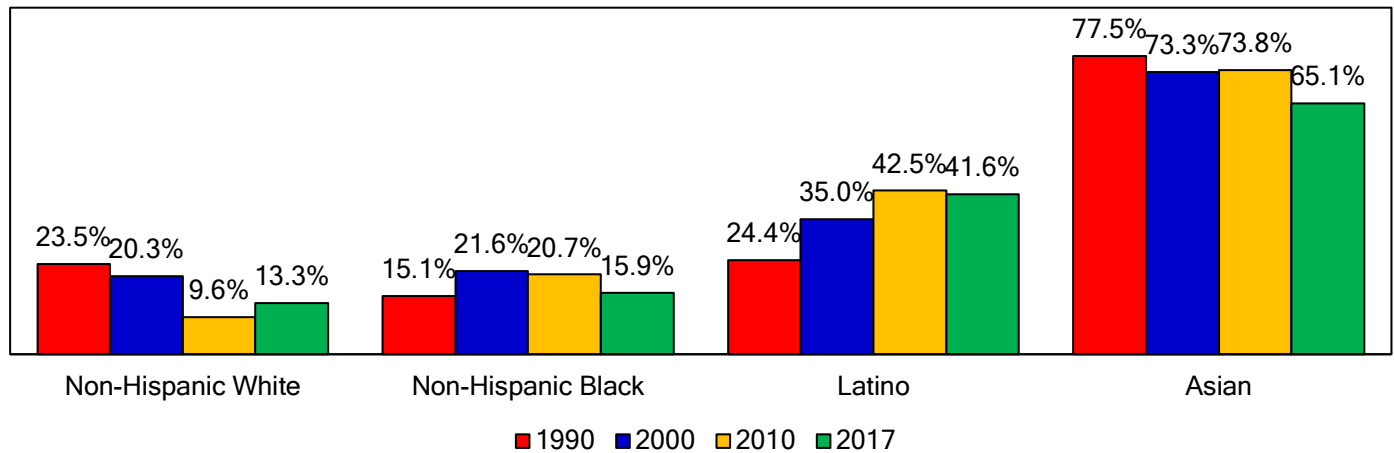
Figure 11  
Percentage of Foreign-Born Population by Race/Ethnicity  
Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace, 1990-2017



While the foreign-born population was slightly smaller in Bushwick compared to Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace, there was also an increase in the proportion of foreign-born residents in Bushwick, up from 23.5% in 1990 to 32.6% in 2017. Similar to trends seen in Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace, Asians comprised the highest proportion of the foreign-born population in 2017 at 65.1%, followed by Latinos at 41.6%, non-Hispanic blacks at 15.8%, and non-Hispanic whites at 13.3%. (See figure 12).

However, between 1990 and 2017, the share of Latinos who were foreign-born increased from 24.4% in 1990 to 41.6% in 2017. Conversely, the proportion of Asians who were foreign-born decreased from 77.5% in 1990 to 65.1% in 2017. This trend suggests that Bushwick is likely not a neighborhood where new Asian immigrants are settling. Rather, it is becoming a destination for an increasing share of domestic-born Asians, albeit a relatively small share (5.7% as shown in figure 2).

Figure 12  
Percentage of Foreign-Born Population by Race/Ethnicity  
Bushwick, 1990-2017



In both Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace and Bushwick, over 70% of non-Hispanic whites and non-Hispanic blacks were citizens by birth in 2017. Among Asians, the proportion of those who were citizens by birth gradually increased over time in both neighborhoods, despite having the lowest rates of citizenship by birth among all race/ethnic groups. On the other hand, the proportion of citizens by birth among Latinos declined, while the proportion of naturalized citizens increased between 1990 and 2017. (See table 5).

In Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace, the proportion of Latino citizens by birth was 59.7%, down from 72.8% in 1990. The proportion of Latino naturalized citizens was 10.7% in 2017, which increased from 6.4% in 1990. A similar pattern was found in Bushwick. There was a decreasing proportion of Latino citizens by birth (from 74.5% in 1990 to 59.7% in 2017) and an increasing proportion of naturalized citizens (5.1% in 1990 and 17.0% in 2017). (See table 6).

Table 5  
 Citizenship Status of Population by Race/Ethnicity in Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace  
 1990-2017

	1990	2000	2010	2017
<b>Non-Hispanic White</b>				
Citizen by Birth	78.6%	74.9%	76.4%	76.9%
Naturalized Citizen	11.3%	12.2%	12.3%	11.5%
Not a Citizen	10.1%	12.9%	11.3%	11.6%
<b>Non-Hispanic Black</b>				
Citizen by Birth	57.7%	64.4%	65.2%	73.7%
Naturalized Citizen	20.5%	19.6%	22.6%	12.8%
Not a Citizen	21.8%	16.0%	12.2%	13.5%
<b>Latino</b>				
Citizen by Birth	72.8%	60.5%	53.1%	59.7%
Naturalized Citizen	6.4%	10.3%	12.2%	10.7%
Not a Citizen	20.8%	29.2%	34.7%	29.6%
<b>Asian</b>				
Citizen by Birth	14.4%	19.1%	23.8%	29.0%
Naturalized Citizen	29.2%	26.5%	20.9%	28.6%
Not a Citizen	56.5%	54.5%	55.3%	42.4%



Table 6  
Citizenship Status of Population by Race/Ethnicity in Bushwick, 1990-2017

	1990	2000	2010	2017
<b>Non-Hispanic White</b>				
Citizen by Birth	69.2%	79.7%	92.8%	88.4%
Naturalized Citizen	16.9%	7.2%	1.4%	5.1%
Not a Citizen	13.9%	13.1%	5.8%	6.5%
<b>Non-Hispanic Black</b>				
Citizen by Birth	84.1%	79.0%	80.8%	84.1%
Naturalized Citizen	5.5%	12.9%	10.8%	12.7%
Not a Citizen	10.4%	8.1%	8.4%	3.2%
<b>Latino</b>				
Citizen by Birth	74.5%	65.7%	59.8%	59.7%
Naturalized Citizen	5.1%	8.2%	10.8%	17.0%
Not a Citizen	20.4%	26.1%	29.4%	23.4%
<b>Asian</b>				
Citizen by Birth	21.2%	27.5%	29.1%	36.8%
Naturalized Citizen	15.8%	32.8%	30.0%	22.3%
Not a Citizen	62.9%	39.7%	40.9%	40.9%

## Conclusion

This report examined the demographic and socioeconomic trends in Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace and Bushwick, the two community districts with the largest Latino populations in Brooklyn. Some notable trends and implications are highlighted below.

In Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace, Latinos were the most populous race/ethnic group. However, the share of Asians increased between 1990 and 2017, while the proportion of Latinos, non-Hispanic whites, and non-Hispanic blacks declined over time. This trend suggests that the area may experience a continued race/ethnic transformation especially in relation to a rising Asian population. In fact, Sunset Park has one of the largest and fastest growing Chinatowns in New York City.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, it can be expected that Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace will become an area where the Latino and Asian

<sup>2</sup> Hum, Tarry (November 3, 2018) "Supercharging the Gentrification of Sunset Park," *Gotham Gazette*. Retrieved from <http://www.gothamgazette.com/opinion/8043-supercharging-the-gentrification-of-sunset-park> on May 5, 2019.

populations co-exist, and it is not unreasonable to assume that Asians might outnumber Latinos in the future.

These changes and what they mean for the Latino population in Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace are worth investigating at a community level. For example, how will the increased proportion of low-educated Asians, who are likely to be foreign-born, affect the labor market in the area? How will long-time Latino residents in the area react to the changing demographic composition, as more Asians move in? Moreover, to what extent will the increasing income gap between non-Hispanic white and other race/ethnic groups impact the economic development of the neighborhood? These are all meaningful questions that should be further investigated in future studies.

In Bushwick, the Latino population remained the most populous race/ethnic group, despite a sizeable decrease from approximately 70% in 2010 to nearly 50% in 2017. The recent decline in the proportion of Latinos was accompanied by a substantial increase in the population of non-Hispanic white residents, who comprise roughly one-fifth of the population. The proportion of Asians who were domestic-born, also increased between 1990 and 2017. Another noteworthy trend was the increasing income disparity between non-Hispanic whites and all other race/ethnic groups since 2010. This suggests that wealthier non-Hispanic white residents have been moving into the neighborhood in recent years. In addition, the incoming non-Hispanic whites are highly educated, as seven-out-of-ten held Bachelor's degrees or higher in 2017. Similarly, over two-thirds of Asians had Bachelor's degrees or higher in 2017, suggesting the likelihood of highly educated Asians relocating to the neighborhood.

The changing demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of Bushwick likely reflect the current influx of highly selective non-Hispanic white and Asian residents in recent years. Then again, additional questions arise as a result of this trend. For instance, to what extent is the Latino population in Bushwick being displaced? How will residential patterns be affected given these changes in recent years? What policies or safety net programs address vulnerable populations with lower levels of economic and cultural capital in the neighborhood? What specific things should community service organizations prioritize?

CLACLS hopes that this report will be useful to researchers interested in further investigating the areas in question, as well as other areas undergoing marked demographic and socioeconomic changes in New York City.