

## **NYLARNet DATA BRIEF**

# **Latino Dropout and Graduation Rates in New York State**

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The Latino population in New York State has experienced constant growth since the 1990s. The increase in Latino population has continuously altered the demographics of both the state and, more significantly, New York City. Over 49% of immigrants migrating to New York State are Latino. Naturally, over this time the population of school-aged Latinos has grown as well and has created some significant problems in school districts where Latinos maintain the highest dropout rates and the lowest graduation rates. From 1990 to 2005 the Latino population has grown from 10.7% to 16.2% of the state population. In New York City, the Latino population has grown from 24.4% to 27.4%.

The student body throughout the state has undergone some significant changes. In just 15 years between 1990 and 2005, more than 200,000 school aged Latinos came to New York State. Over 100,000 new Latino students moved to New York City alone over this time period, compared to other groups that now have thousands less students than in 1990. In light of the increase in the population of Latinos, schools are facing new challenges as students are experiencing adult problems such as poverty, holding part-time employment, as well as being unable to take classes in English. Latinos more than any other group face these problems throughout the state and New York City. The increasing presence of Latino students throughout New York State and New York City represents a significant change and challenge to the educational system and highlights the increasing need to meet their needs.

Data collection can produce different answers to the same question depending on how the data is collected. This is true about Latino dropout and graduation rates. The figures presented here represent a rather conservative and partial assessment of the educational status of Latinos. Therefore, the reader should understand that the relatively high proportion of dropouts and the relatively low proportion of graduates reported here only highlights the gravity of the Latino predicament in this regard.

- In 2005, Latinos were 16% of the state population and 27% of the population of New York City.
- In 2005, 32% of the Latino population in the state was under 19 years of age compared to 23% for whites and 31% for blacks. The percentage of the total state population that was under 19 years of age was only 23%.
- In New York City, in 2005, 31% of Latinos were under the age of 19 compared to 20% for whites, 30% for blacks and 26% for the city as a whole.
- Dropout rates in New York State in 2001 were as follows: statewide 21%; white 12%; black 23%, Latino 26%.
- Dropout rates in New York City in 2001 were: citywide 19%; white 11%; black 20%; Latino 25%.
- Graduation rates in New York City in 2000 were: citywide 70%; white 82%; black 51%; Latino 53%.

**Table 1. New York State Population 1990-2005**

| NYS Population | 1990       |            | 2000       |            | 2005       |            |
|----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
|                | Total      | % of Total | Total      | % of Total | Total      | % of Total |
| <b>NYS</b>     | 17,990,455 | 100        | 18,976,457 | 100        | 19,254,630 | 100        |
| <b>Black</b>   | 2,860,590  | 14.2       | 3,014,385  | 15.9       | 3,004,630  | 15.9       |
| <b>White</b>   | 13,398,003 | 66.5       | 12,893,689 | 67.9       | 12,817,605 | 67.6       |
| <b>Latino</b>  | 2,151,743  | 10.7       | 2,867,583  | 15.1       | 3,126,718  | 16.2       |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

**Table 2. New York City Population 1990-2005**

| NYC Population   | 1990      |            | 2000      |            | 2005      |            |
|------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
|                  | Total     | % of Total | Total     | % of Total | Total     | % of Total |
| <b>NYC Total</b> | 7,322,564 | 100        | 8,008,278 | 100        | 8,143,197 | 100        |
| <b>Black</b>     | 2,102,512 | 25.2       | 2,129,762 | 26.6       | 2,078,751 | 25.2       |
| <b>White</b>     | 3,827,088 | 46.6       | 3,576,385 | 44.7       | 3,635,149 | 44.1       |
| <b>Latino</b>    | 1,783,511 | 24.4       | 2,160,554 | 27         | 2,259,069 | 27.4       |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

**Table 3. New York State Secondary School Population 1990-2005**

|               | 1990       |               |            | 2000       |               |            | 2005       |               |            |
|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|------------|---------------|------------|------------|---------------|------------|
|               | Population | Pop. under 19 | % under 19 | Population | Pop. under 19 | % under 19 | Population | Pop. under 19 | % under 19 |
| <b>NYS</b>    | 17,990,455 | 4,259,549     | 23.7       | 18,976,457 | 4,690,107     | 24.7       | 19,254,630 | 4,466,502     | 23.2       |
| <b>Black</b>  | 2,860,590  | 936,238       | 32.7       | 3,014,385  | 943,402       | 31.3       | 3,004,630  | 915,145       | 30.5       |
| <b>White</b>  | 13,398,003 | 3,207,670     | 23.9       | 12,893,689 | 3,233,872     | 25.1       | 12,817,605 | 3,005,455     | 23.4       |
| <b>Latino</b> | 2,151,743  | 756,121       | 35.1       | 2,867,583  | 965,770       | 33.7       | 3,126,718  | 986,893       | 31.6       |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

**Table 4. New York City Secondary School Population 1990-2005**

| NYC Population under 19 | 1990      |               |            | 2000      |               |            | 2005      |               |            |
|-------------------------|-----------|---------------|------------|-----------|---------------|------------|-----------|---------------|------------|
|                         | Total     | Pop. under 19 | % Under 19 | Total     | Pop. under 19 | % under 19 | Total     | Pop. under 19 | % under 19 |
| <b>NYC Total</b>        | 7,322,564 | 1,888,075     | 25.8       | 8,008,278 | 1,940,269     | 24.2       | 8,143,197 | 2,096,657     | 25.7       |
| <b>Black</b>            | 2,102,512 | 675,526       | 32.1       | 2,129,762 | 657,568       | 30.9       | 2,078,751 | 621,324       | 29.9       |
| <b>White</b>            | 3,827,088 | 753,540       | 19.7       | 3,576,385 | 834,538       | 23.3       | 3,635,149 | 742,838       | 20.4       |
| <b>Latino</b>           | 1,783,511 | 606,652       | 34.0       | 2,160,554 | 726,673       | 33.6       | 2,259,069 | 708,700       | 31.4       |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

| Table 5. New York State Dropout Rates 2001   |       |
|--|-------|
| <b>NY State</b>  | 20.5% |
| <b>Black</b>   | 22.6% |
| <b>White</b>   | 11.9% |
| <b>Latino</b>  | 25.9% |
| Source: The Class of 2001 Four-Year Longitudinal Report and 2000-2001 Event Dropout Rates pp 13 and 34.<br>Note: The gap between dropout and graduation rates is due to different cohorts of students counted. |       |

| Table 6. New York City Dropout Rates 2001  |       |
|--|-------|
| <b>All NYC</b>   | 19.3% |
| <b>Black</b>   | 20.4% |
| <b>White</b>   | 11.3% |
| <b>Latino</b>  | 25.0% |
| Source: The Class of 2001 Four-Year Longitudinal Report and 2000-2001 Event Dropout Rates p27. Note: The gap between dropout and graduation rates is due to different cohorts of students counted. |       |

| Table 7. New York City Graduation Rates 2000                                  |     |
|---|-----|
| <b>All NYC</b>  | 70% |
| <b>Black</b>  | 51% |
| <b>White</b>  | 82% |
| <b>Latino</b>   | 53% |
| Source: NYSED, Office of Research and Information Systems, December 2008 p 8. |     |