Education of Latino Students in NYC

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Introduction

Our main focus was to research different aspects of the participation of Latino students in New York City’s educational system. These components include the enrollment of Latino students in the City University of New York system, as well as their involvement in extracurricular activities. We also chose to research dropout rates regarding the Latino student population. This issue has been labeled the “Latino Educational Gap in New York City,” according to the New York Times. Lastly, our research also entails discovering or analyzing the educational attainment of the Latino population in New York City.

Latino Student Involvement in Extracurricular Activities

We observed that Latino students in John Jay College, while likely to be involved in Latino-related extracurricular activities, are not as likely to be involved in activities that are not Latino-oriented, such as student government. Although Latinos comprise 44% of students at John Jay College, only about 21.4% of the 22 people who occupy positions in student government are Latinos. Looking into this further, we found that some Latino students have said that they feel more comfortable in activities that have people of the same ethnicity. Most seem to agree that it has to do with looking upon the requirements within each activity they join, and also feeling more accepted in Latino-oriented organizations.

Latino Students in CUNY

Latinos are one of the fastest-growing ethnic groups in New York City. However, the Latino representation among undergraduate students at CUNY has grown even more rapidly. Between the years 2000-2010, the enrollment of Latino students increased from 25.6% to 29%. The greatest increase was the amount of Latinos who got associate’s degrees, which increased to 68% within a year alone (1999-2000). This is in addition to the increase of 31% of Latinos pursuing bachelor’s degrees.

Educational Attainment of Latino Students

Educational attainment refers to the highest level of education one has received. In regard to Latinos and their educational attainment, they are not the ethnic group with the highest level of education. Whites tend to take that place, but at the same time, they are low in some aspects. African-Americans seem to have the lowest educational attainment while the Asian population may as well. At the same time, they are also on a high level in contrast to other races in some aspects. Latinos were once thought of as the race with one of the lowest educational attainments, but they are rising. More and more Latinos are getting farther in their education and may soon be seen as equal to some of the other races with higher attainments.

Latino Student Completion Rates

Throughout the years in New York City, the Latino/Hispanic population has held the largest dropout rates. Below is a chart that shows the percentages by different Hispanic nationalities. The highest Hispanic population with dropout rates are Mexicans. But according to a New York Times article of May 2013, the Latino dropout rate has decreased by 7 percent contrasting the 13 percent in blacks and 5 percent in whites. Therefore, the rate has dropped by more than half in the past dozen years.

Conclusion

Based on our research, the gap between high school and college is the cause for a smaller percentage of Latino enrollment in colleges or universities.

References


U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2013. 3-year American Community Survey