

## DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 468 848

UD 035 271

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TITLE Latinos in Higher Education: Many Enroll, Too Few Graduate.  
INSTITUTION Pew Hispanic Center, Washington, DC.  
SPONS AGENCY Pew Charitable Trusts, Philadelphia, PA.  
PUB DATE 2002-09-05  
NOTE 42p.; Pew Hispanic Center is a project of the University of Southern California, Annenberg School for Communication.  
AVAILABLE FROM Pew Hispanic Center, 1919 M Street, NW, Suite 460, Washington, DC 20036. Tel: 202-292-3300; Fax: 202-785-8282; e-mail: info@pewhispanic.org; Web site: http://www.pewhispanic.org.  
PUB TYPE Numerical/Quantitative Data (110) -- Reports - Descriptive (141)  
EDRS PRICE EDRS Price MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.  
DESCRIPTORS Access to Education; \*Enrollment Trends; Graduate Study; Graduation; Higher Education; \*Hispanic American Students; Nontraditional Students; Part Time Students; School Holding Power; Two Year College Students  
IDENTIFIERS \*Latinos

## ABSTRACT

This report suggests that the first step toward achieving educational excellence for Hispanic Americans is to increase retention and graduation rates for Hispanic Americans already enrolled in college. It examines the extent and nature of Hispanic college enrollment in comparison to that of adults of other racial/ethnic identities. Breakdowns of college enrollment by racial/ethnic origin and generational status were developed by combining Current Population Survey (CPS) data on college enrollment from the late 1990s. Results indicate that large numbers of Hispanics are enrolled in postsecondary education. By some measures, a greater share of Hispanics attend college classes than non-Hispanic whites, though most pursue paths associated with lower chances of attaining a bachelor's degree. Many are enrolled in community colleges, attend school part-time, and delay or prolong their college education. About 10 percent of all Hispanic high school graduates enroll in some form of college. Only Asians enroll at a higher rate. Hispanics lag behind in the pursuit of graduate and professional degrees. Native-born Hispanic high school graduates enroll in college at a higher rate than their foreign-born counterparts. Enrollment in two-year colleges varies considerably by national origin. (Contains 12 tables and 23 references.) (SM)

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# Latinos in Higher Education:

*Many Enroll, Too Few Graduate*

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# LATINOS IN HIGHER EDUCATION: MANY ENROLL, TOO FEW GRADUATE

by

Richard Fry

September 5, 2002

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The author thanks numerous individuals for their contributions to this report. Dulce Benavides adeptly generated the basic college enrollment tabulations. Roberto Suro and Lindsay Lowell edited early drafts of the report. Mary Foreman assisted in the formatting of the report. Their efforts substantially enhanced the quality of the report. Sarita Brown of the Hispanic Scholarship Fund Institute provided encouragement and feedback through all stages of the project.

The Pew Hispanic Center is supported by The Pew Charitable Trusts of Philadelphia. It is a project of the University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication. Founded in 2001, the Center is a non-partisan research organization. Its mission is to improve understanding of the diverse Hispanic population in the United States and to chronicle Latinos' growing impact on the nation.

The opinions expressed in this report are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Pew Charitable Trusts.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*"The question I like to ask every child I visit in the classroom is, 'Are you going to college?' In this great country, we expect every child, regardless of how he or she is raised, to go to college."*—President George W. Bush, remarks at the Griegos Elementary School, Albuquerque, New Mexico, August 15, 2001

A postsecondary degree is widely accepted as a basic goal in education, and the U.S. labor market reinforces that expectation with substantial financial rewards. Latinos lag every other population group in attaining college degrees, especially bachelor's degrees. To better understand that problem and help identify policy responses, the Pew Hispanic Center conducted a new analysis of the educational performance of Latino high school graduates. This analysis is based on Current Population Survey data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau from 1997 to 2000. The data was combined and averaged to create a solid statistical basis for assessing different forms of college attendance for Latinos as compared to other groups and for making important distinctions among sub-groups of the Latino population.

The PHC report shows that large numbers of Latinos are enrolled in postsecondary education. In fact, by some measures a greater share of Latinos are attending college classes than non-Hispanic whites. However, most are pursuing paths associated with lower chances of attaining a bachelor's degree. Many are enrolled in community colleges, many also only attend school part-time, and others delay or prolong their college education into their mid-20s and beyond. These findings clearly show that large numbers of Latinos finish their secondary schooling and try to extend their education but fail to earn a degree. Heretofore, policy-makers and researchers concerned with Hispanic educational achievement have focused most intently on issues related to primary and secondary education, especially high school dropout rates. Those issues are undoubtedly important. This report, however, demonstrates that significant gains can be made with policy initiatives targeted at Latinos who graduated from high school, who applied for and were granted admission to a two- or four-year college and who enrolled. In other words, a great deal can be accomplished by assisting young Hispanics who are trying to secure the credentials that can immensely improve their prospects but who are failing in large numbers.

Some of the study's key findings include:

- About 10 percent of all Latino high school graduates are enrolled in some form of college compared to 7 percent of the total population of high school graduates. Only Asians are enrolled at a higher rate.
- There is a substantial enrollment gap between Latinos and all other groups among 18- to 24-year-olds—the traditional age group for college attendance and the cohort that reaps the greatest economic benefit from a college degree. Only 35 percent of Latino high school graduates in that age group are enrolled in college compared to 46 percent of whites.

- Latinos are far more likely to be enrolled in two-year colleges than any other group. About 40 percent of Latino 18- to 24-year-old college students attend two-year institutions compared to about 25 percent of white and black students in that age group.
- Latinos are more likely to be part-time students. Nearly 85 percent of white 18- to 24-year-old college students are enrolled full-time compared to 75 percent of Latino students in that age group.
- A somewhat greater proportion of Latino high school graduates over the age of 24 years old, some 7 percent, are enrolled in college courses than whites, 5 percent. While ongoing college education can bring important rewards to adults, students who attain a degree at the traditional age see greater economic gains.
- Latinos very clearly lag behind in the pursuit of graduate and professional degrees. Among 25- to 34-year-old high school graduates, nearly 3.8 percent of whites are enrolled in graduate school. Only 1.9 percent of similarly aged Latino high school graduates are pursuing post-baccalaureate studies.

The PHC report also explores the differences in college enrollment among Latinos by generation and country of origin. Some of the key findings in this regard include:

- Native-born Latino high school graduates are enrolling in college at a higher rate than their foreign-born counterparts, and that is especially true of the second generation, the U.S.-born children of immigrants. About 42 percent of second-generation Latinos in the 18-to-24 age range are attending college, which is almost the same as the rate for whites, 46 percent. The figure is lower both for the first generation, 26 percent, and for all those with U.S.-born parents—the third generation and higher—36 percent.
- There is no substantial difference across generations in the share of Latino high school graduates ages 18 to 24 who go to community college. The rate is about the same for the foreign born, 46 percent, as it is for the second generation, 42 percent.
- Enrollment in two-year colleges varies considerably by national origin. Some 46 percent of Mexican college students in the 18- to 24-year-old group attend two-year institutions compared to about 31 percent of Puerto Ricans and Cubans.
- Cubans have by far the highest rate of college attendance of any Latino national origin group with nearly 45 percent of 18- to 24-year-old high school graduates enrolled. For Mexicans, the comparable figure is 33 percent and for Puerto Ricans, 30 percent.

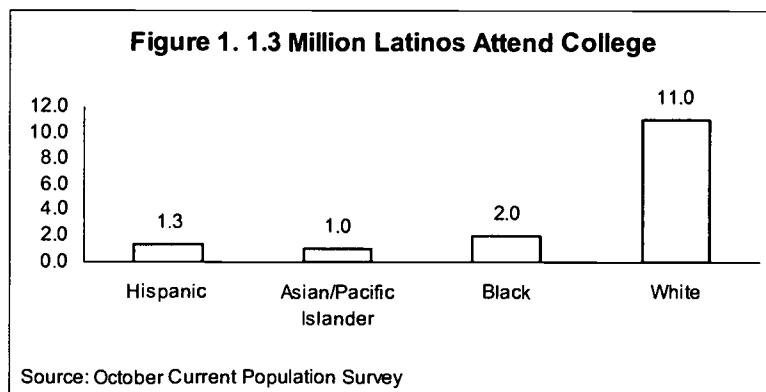
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## INTRODUCTION

Indisputably, improvements in the extent and quality of education will raise the economic prospects, well-being, and civic engagement of the Hispanic population. Latinos are now the most poorly educated major population group in the United States. White males average 13.3 years of schooling and black males average 12.2. Latino males lag behind with 10.6 years of schooling. Some of this achievement gap reflects low levels of education among many Latino immigrants but that is by no means the entire problem. U.S.-born Hispanic males average 12.0 years of schooling (Smith, 2001).

Seventy-two percent of all high school seniors go on to some form of postsecondary training within two years of high school graduation. Fifty-nine percent of all U.S. workers have at least some college education. A high school diploma no longer serves as the basic credential for successful employment in the U.S. economy. Only individuals with a college degree can expect to enter the mid-ranges of the labor force, let alone the top. Thus, the road to economic advancement for Latinos must run through college. However, Latinos' success at entering and graduating from college affects not only their own well-



being but also the nation's well-being. Between 2000 and 2025 the white working age population will decline by five million as baby boomers retire from the labor force. Working age Latinos are projected to increase by 18 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1999). Thus, the vitality of the U.S. work force increasingly depends on

Hispanic educational progress.

In 1996 the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, the nation's largest scholarship granting organization for Latinos, adopted a new mission to double the rate of Hispanics earning a college degree. The goal is to reach 18 percent by 2010. That objective became a matter of federal policy in 2000 following the release of a White House report by the Council of Economic Advisors documenting the Hispanic education achievement gap and its potential cost to the economy. On October 12, 2001, President Bush created the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans to advise his administration on how to close the academic achievement gap, including the low rate of college completion.

This report suggests that the first step towards achieving that goal should be to increase the retention and graduation rates for Latinos already enrolled in college. While a



great deal of attention has focused on the high school dropout rate for Hispanics and others, the college dropout rate may be just as significant.

This report provides a detailed examination of the extent and nature of Hispanic college enrollment in comparison to that of adults of other racial/ethnic identities. Enrollment is an important summary measure of Latinos' success in the pursuit of higher education. Being enrolled simply means an individual is taking one or more college courses. Enrollment does not reveal whether the student completed the course(s), the extent of knowledge gained, or whether the student obtained a degree. So, enrollment reflects the ability and opportunity to improve one's education on our nation's college campuses and not whether an improvement was actually achieved. Nonetheless, measuring the extent to which Latinos have the opportunity and desire to improve their skills is important in its own right.

**While a great deal of attention has focused on the high school dropout rate for Hispanics and others, the college dropout rate may be just as significant.**

Given the disparity between enrollment and subsequent degree completion for Latinos, it is essential to identify and measure different forms of college-going. This report examines the shares of Latinos enrolled in college who are studying part-time versus full-time, who are in two-year versus four-year institutions and who are of traditional college-going ages compared with older students. An important innovation of this report is an additional focus on differences among the major Latino origin groups and generations of Latinos. About two-thirds of Hispanic youth have a foreign-born parent. So, it is important to gauge whether Latinos whose families have been in the United States for generations are having any more success in pursuing collegiate studies than recent arrivals. Similarly, about half of Latino youth with a foreign-born parent are themselves foreign born.<sup>1</sup> Many of them did not attend U.S. elementary and secondary schools which may have limited their ability or their desire to attend a U.S. college.

Detailed breakdowns of college enrollment by racial/ethnic origin and generational status were developed for this report by combining several years of Current Population Survey (CPS) data on college enrollment from the late 1990s.<sup>2</sup> The CPS is a monthly survey of about 50,000 households conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. It is most familiar as the source of monthly unemployment data, but supplemental questions include a variety of other topics including school enrollment and educational attainment. The figures are presented here on an annual basis for ease of

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<sup>1</sup> The percentage of Latinos with a foreign-born parent that are themselves foreign-born depends on the age group and population one is assessing. Older age groups will have greater percentages foreign-born. Among Latino high school graduates between the ages of 18 to 24, about half of those with a foreign-born parent are themselves foreign-born.

<sup>2</sup> Pooling data for the purposes of studying the school enrollment of minorities is quite common. See Mare 1995.

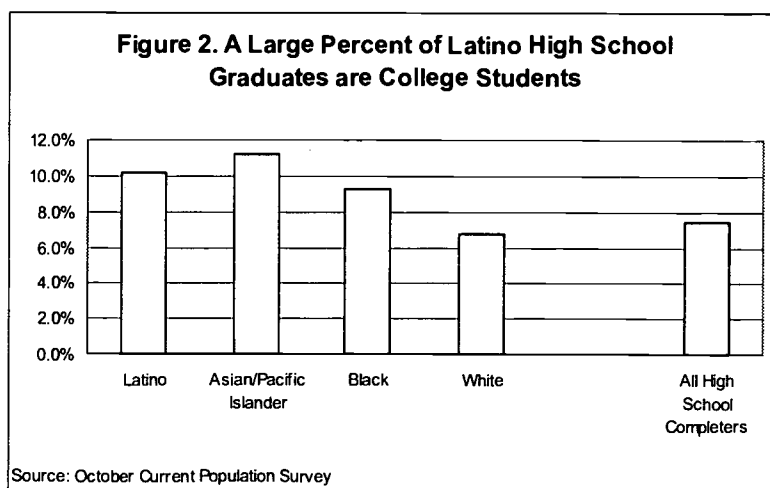
discussion, but they are effectively an annual average over the years 1997 to 2000 (see the Appendix for further details on the data). Total college enrollment was quite stable over these years.<sup>3</sup> Enrollment data for 2001 is not yet publicly available.

This report is divided into two parts. The first focuses on the unique characteristics of Latino college enrollment in comparison to other adults, and it details Latino college students' disproportionate pursuit of education in ways associated with low levels of degree completion. The second portion of the report examines the differences in college enrollment patterns among Latinos of different generations and national origin groups.

## I. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF LATINO COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

### How Many Latinos Attend College?

In the late 1990s about 15.4 million persons attended the nation's colleges and



universities. That number includes undergraduate students at two-year and four-year colleges as well as students pursuing graduate and professional degrees. In order to put this statistic in perspective, consider that at any given moment, about 6 out of every 100 adults is pursuing higher education. A substantially greater number was enrolled in the 1990s than

in the late 1980s, and the college ranks are likely to increase again in this decade. As the "baby boom echo" matures into the traditional college-going ages of 18 to 24 years old, enrollment is projected to increase 20 percent from 1999 to 2011 (National Center for Education Statistics, 2001). The bulk of the additional college students will be minorities, including a sizable and growing number of Hispanic students.

In the late 1990s 1.3 million Latinos went to college, the third largest group of students. About 11 million whites were enrolled in college along with 2 million African Americans (Figure 1)<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> Over the four years analyzed in this report, college enrollment remained steady. It reached a low of 15.2 million students in 1999 and a high of 15.5 million students in 1998. The difference is not statistically significant.

Latino adults are major stakeholders in the nation's colleges and universities and are extensively pursuing two- and four-year college studies. Of the nation's major racial/ethnic groups, only Asian high school graduates surpass Latino high school graduates in their pursuit of undergraduate education (Figure 2). Of the nation's 166 million high school graduates, about 7 percent or 12.3 million are enrolled in undergraduate studies. The nation's 11.7 million Latino high school graduates attend college at a higher rate. More than 10 percent—nearly 1.2 million Latino high school graduates—pursue undergraduate education at community colleges and four-year colleges. Their enrollment rate clearly demonstrates the value Latinos place on higher education. However, high enrollment is not translating into high graduation rates. Much of the Latino achievement gap is the result of what happens after Hispanic students begin their postsecondary studies. And to understand what keeps these students from reaching graduation day, one has to start by examining the characteristics of Latino college attendance.

| Table 1: Percentage Distribution of 1995-96 Beginning Postsecondary Students by Persistence Outcome Three Years after Initial Enrollment |                          |           |                                  |           |                                |           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Outcome                                                                                                                                  | Aspired to a Certificate |           | Aspired to an Associate's Degree |           | Aspired to a Bachelor's Degree |           |
|                                                                                                                                          | Attendance status        |           | Attendance status                |           | Attendance status              |           |
|                                                                                                                                          | Full-time                | Part-time | Full-time                        | Part-time | Full-time                      | Part-time |
| Highest Degree Attained                                                                                                                  |                          |           |                                  |           |                                |           |
| Attained Certificate                                                                                                                     | 56.5                     | 43.6      | 7.1                              | 4.8       | 1.0                            | 4.1       |
| Attained Associate's Degree                                                                                                              | 2.8                      | 0.6       | 20.8                             | 4.4       | 2.7                            | 2.7       |
| Attained Bachelor's Degree                                                                                                               | 0.0                      | 0.0       | 0.0                              | 0.2       | 0.8                            | 0.4       |
| No Degree                                                                                                                                |                          |           |                                  |           |                                |           |
| Still enrolled in a Less-than-4-year-college                                                                                             | 7.3                      | 10.1      | 31.9                             | 30.9      | 10.1                           | 26.3      |
| Still enrolled in a 4-year-college                                                                                                       | 1.8                      | 1.4       | 7.5                              | 5.1       | 67.6                           | 38.5      |
| Not enrolled                                                                                                                             | 31.6                     | 44.3      | 32.7                             | 54.7      | 17.7                           | 28.2      |
|                                                                                                                                          | 100.0                    | 100.0     | 100.0                            | 100.0     | 100.0                          | 100.0     |

Source: National Center for Education Statistics (2000)

### Part-time and Precarious

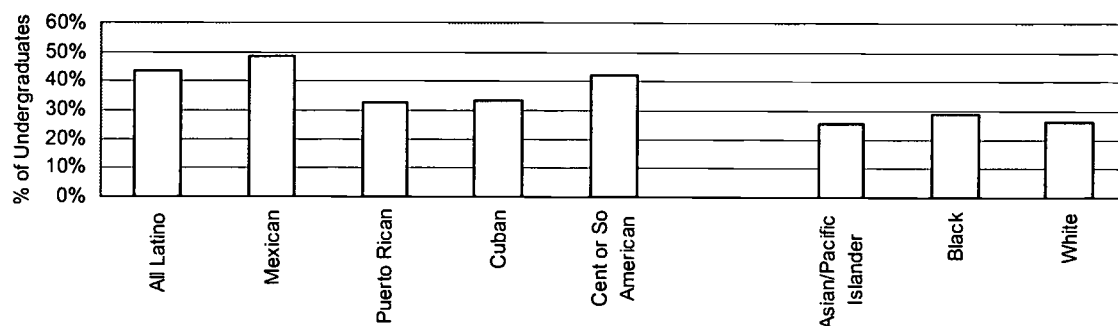
With the exception of students over the age of 34 years old, Latino college students are the least likely to be pursuing full-time college studies. Nearly 85 percent of white students 18 to 24 years old—the traditional ages for college attendance—are enrolled full-time. An identical percentage of black college students pursue their studies full-time. Yet, only 75 percent of Latino traditional college-age students go full-time. Latinos of Cuban origin are the one notable exception. Nearly 90 percent of them go full-time, more than any other racial/ethnic group.

<sup>4</sup> Throughout the report Hispanic status is mutually exclusive of racial categories. That is, "white" always refers to non-Hispanic white, and similarly for Blacks and Asian and Pacific Islanders. The terms "Latino" and "Hispanic" are used interchangeably.

While demonstrating laudable aspirations, Latinos' high levels of part-time enrollment have adverse effects on their levels of degree completion. The U.S. Department of Education considers part-time college enrollment to be a "risk factor" for dropping out of postsecondary education before completion of a degree. The Department's most recent study of college persistence follows a cohort of college students for three years after initial enrollment in postsecondary education. After three years one quarter of the students who initially attended full-time had no degree and were no longer enrolled. Among students who initially attended part-time, nearly half had no degree after three years and had dropped out. No matter what postsecondary course of study a college student is pursuing, and regardless of whether it is at a two-year or a four-year institution, part-time college enrollment is associated with a greater risk of racking up college credits with no degree to show for the effort (Table 1).

In a previous study, the Center documented extraordinarily high labor force participation rates for Latino young adults, including a large number of school-age youths who work even as they are enrolled in school.<sup>5</sup> This is particularly true in immigrant households and would appear to be a simple function of economic need. Among low-skilled Latino immigrants, household incomes are often built to acceptable levels by combining the earnings of several workers who each might be taking home poverty-level wages. Thus, there is intense pressure on young people, especially males, to contribute to the family welfare as soon as they are old enough to work. The results of this economic necessity are vividly evident in the high proportion of immigrant youth who end their education before high school graduation and work full-time instead. The pattern is notably different among U.S.-born Latino youth regardless of whether their parents are immigrants or natives. U.S.-born Latinos 16 to 19 years old are four times more likely to be in school and not working at all than their immigrant peers who came to the United States as adolescents. The strong commitment to work and family does not stop Latinos from enrolling, even part-time, but it may help explain why so few enroll full-time.

**Figure 3. Latino Undergraduates Study at Community Colleges**



Source: October Current Population Survey

## Concentration in two-year institutions

Attachment to family and community as well as economic need appear to be factors in Latinos' exceptionally high rate of enrollment in two-year colleges. Among 18- to 24-year-olds, 44 percent of Hispanic undergraduates attend a two-year school, as opposed to about 30 percent of both white and black undergraduates.<sup>6</sup> The heavy reliance on two-year schools is not just characteristic of Latino students when they are of traditional college age. Latino college students over the age of 24 years old are more likely than their peers of any other racial/ethnic group to be enrolled at two-year institutions. As Latinos get older, an ever greater share attend two-year schools. More than 55 percent of Latino undergraduates over the age of 35 years old attend two-year colleges.

Latinos of Mexican origin have the highest proportion of traditional college-age undergraduates attending community colleges.

Almost half of Mexican undergraduates attend a two-year school—the highest proportion of any Latino national-origin group.<sup>7</sup> Slightly less than a third of Puerto Rican undergraduates attend two-year schools which is the lowest share (Figure 3). Foreign-born

**The strong commitment to work and family does not stop Latinos from enrolling, even part-time, but it may help explain why so few enroll full-time.**

Latino undergraduates are not more likely than native-

born Latinos to attend community colleges. For example, among 18- to 24-year-old Latino undergraduates, 46 percent of the foreign-born attend two-year schools. Among comparable second-generation Latinos, 42 percent attend two-year schools.

Community colleges and other two-year institutions typically feature a number of characteristics that help explain their appeal to Latino students. As a rule, tuition is lower compared to four-year colleges. Degree programs are often designed to accommodate part-time students, and classes are scheduled in the evenings to accommodate students with full-time jobs. Also, many two-year institutions offer courses that aim more at improving job skills rather than at advancing a student towards a degree. These factors would logically attract low-income students. However, economic necessity alone does not explain the higher rates of enrollment by Latinos because African Americans, who are also

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<sup>5</sup> "Work or Study: Different Fortunes of Latino Generations," Richard Fry and B. Lindsay Lowell, Pew Hispanic Center, May 2002

<sup>6</sup> National Center for Education Statistics tallies indicate that more than half of Hispanic college enrollment is in two-year schools. College enrollment figures based on the Current Population Survey indicate that less than half of Hispanic enrollment is in two-year schools. See the Appendix for further discussion.

<sup>7</sup> Some of the heavy reliance of Mexican-origin Hispanics on two-year colleges is a "California effect." Over 40 percent of Mexican-origin Hispanics reside in California. California has a very well-developed, extensive community college system. But even outside of California, Mexican college students are overrepresented in community colleges. Outside of California, 23 percent of all traditional college-age students attend two-year colleges. Outside of California, over 33 percent of Mexican-origin traditional college-age students enroll in two-year colleges.

at the lower end of the income scale on average, attend two-year institutions at a much lower rate, indeed a rate similar to that of whites.

Community colleges are usually located near residential areas and rarely feature dormitories. An emphasis on close family ties is one characteristic shared by most Latinos regardless of national origin or income, and among Latino immigrants this often translates into an expectation that children will live with their parents until they marry.<sup>8</sup> Moreover, many community colleges welcome students with low levels of academic achievement or aptitude, and many also offer classes in English as a second language. Finally, many community colleges have transfer agreements with baccalaureate institutions so that credits earned at a two-year institution can be applied towards a four-year degree, thus providing a cheaper and more accessible way to make a start towards a bachelor's diploma.

Despite these benefits, however, their predilection for two-year schools may adversely affect Latinos' chances of sticking with their studies and finishing with a degree. Recent U.S. Department of Education tabulations of student persistence rates suggest that Latino students are more likely to drop out if they begin their college studies at two-year colleges (National Center on Education Statistics, 2000). Degree completion also lags for students who begin at two-year colleges. More than half of those students that initially enroll at two-year colleges never complete a postsecondary degree, whereas almost six in 10 four-year college entrants complete at least a bachelor's degree (Kane and Rouse, 1999). A recent longitudinal study followed college students for three years after their initial enrollment. Among Hispanics, 39 percent of those who began at other than four-year schools had no degree and were no longer enrolled after three years. By contrast, only 18 percent of those who began at four-year-schools had no degree and were no longer enrolled (National Center on Education Statistics, 2000).

**More than half of those students that initially enroll at two-year colleges never complete a postsecondary degree, whereas almost six in 10 four-year college entrants complete at least a bachelor's degree**

The size of the so-called "diploma effect" on an individual's earnings is a matter of contention, but nearly all analysts concur that getting a degree has a positive impact. For example, a well-known analysis finds that all postsecondary degrees yield a "diploma effect" and that the amount of the wage gain varies depending on the type of degree. White men with associate's degrees earn 8 to 19 percent more than un-credentialed men with similar years of completed schooling. Those with a bachelor's degree earn 25 percent more than identically educated white men lacking the credential (Jaeger and Page, 1996).

### Low enrollment in graduate and professional schools

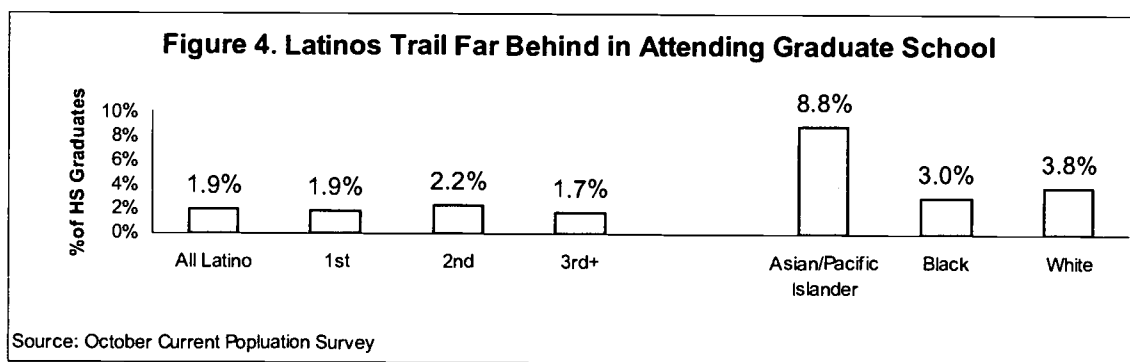
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<sup>8</sup> National Survey on Latinos in America, The Washington Post/ Kaiser Family Foundation/ Harvard University Survey Project, 1999



Though many Latino high school graduates may be extensively furthering their education and skills on our nation's two-year and four-year campuses, very few are gaining a bachelor's degree and then moving on to the highest echelons of the American education system. U.S. higher education might be conceived of as a pyramid with graduate and professional schools at the top. Whether it is a MBA or a PhD or a degree from a medical or law school, advanced education opens doors to the nation's best-paid and most influential careers. Indeed, such credentials are nearly essential to practice many professions from teaching to dentistry, from engineering to economics. In the realms of commerce, finance and manufacturing, an advanced degree is a key qualification for even mid-range managerial jobs. Simply put, in American society today attainment of an advanced degree markedly enhances the likelihood of entry into positions of leadership and status.

Recently published tabulations suggest that the typical holder of a bachelor's degree earns \$2.1 million over 40 years (U.S. Census Bureau, 2002). Those with master's degrees earn \$2.5 million, doctorates \$3.4 million, and professional degree \$4.4 million. Persons who obtain advanced degrees have demonstrated greater diligence and tenacity in their education than those who quit earlier, and they would probably earn more due to these characteristics even if they did not complete an advanced degree. Nonetheless, careful statistical studies that control for the characteristics of the workers indicate that those with advanced degrees earn at least 10 percent more than otherwise similar workers with bachelor's degrees (Grogger and Trejo, 2002, Jaeger and Page, 1996).



Young Latinos are unambiguously trailing in the pursuit of graduate and professional education. For example, in the 25- to 34-year-old age bracket (the typical age for graduate school attendance), 3.8 percent of white and 3.0 percent of African American high school graduates are enrolled in graduate school. However, only 1.9 percent of similarly aged Latino high school graduates are pursuing graduate studies. Latinos have the lowest rates of graduate school enrollment of any major racial/ethnic group (Figure 4) and this is true regardless of whether they come from an immigrant family or not. Among the native-born children of immigrants (the second generation), 2.2 percent of Latino high

school graduates are attending graduate school, and the comparable statistics are 1.9 and 1.7 percent for first- and third-generation Hispanics respectively. The low rates of graduate school enrollment reflect a number of factors. Chief among them, of course, is the relatively low number of Latino students gaining a bachelor's degree, which is the necessary prerequisite for graduate studies. So, in relative terms, young Hispanics clearly are not pursuing the higher echelons of American higher education. Lacking advanced degrees, Latinos will be underrepresented in the nation's most prestigious job opportunities. Improving the rates at which young Latinos complete bachelor's degrees is a prerequisite for increasing graduate school opportunities for Latinos.

### **Latinos are older students**

While college attendance at any age can be beneficial, it is most advantageous for college students who are 18 to 24 years old, the traditional age for college attendance. More than 7 out of 10 of all undergraduates are in this age group. While Hispanic enrollment in college seems extensive, it is low at the propitious college-going age. Among high school graduates 18 to 24 years old, 35 percent of Hispanics are enrolled in college compared to 46 percent of whites and 40 percent of blacks.

A strong case can be made for the advantages of completing college by the age of 24 years old. College students in the traditional age range are more persistent in their post-secondary studies. They are more likely to earn a bachelor's degree and go on to attain valuable advanced degrees (National Center for Education Statistics, 2001). Compared to those in their late twenties, younger students are less likely to be married and have children, and so it is perhaps easier for them to remain focused on their education. From an economic standpoint, the wage gains from completing a college education diminish as the student ages. Individuals who get their bachelor's degree at a younger age get a bigger boost to their earnings than older graduates (Monks, 1997). The earnings are not only bigger but one has more time to reap those benefits by completing postsecondary training earlier in life. Finally, college enrollment at a later age is more costly. Older adults tend to earn more and thus they are deferring more income than a younger student if they choose to study rather than work. Though Latino high school graduates are extensively participating in the nation's two-year and four-year colleges, significant numbers are attending at ages that do not provide the maximum benefits.

## **II. THE BACKGROUNDS OF LATINO COLLEGE STUDENTS**

### **National Origins and Generations**

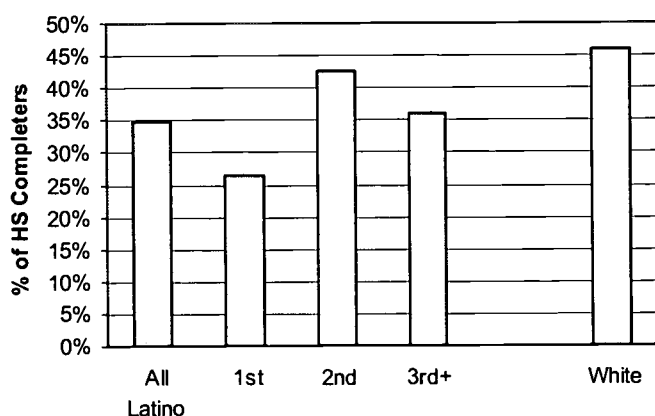
There is substantial diversity among Latino origin groups in college enrollment. Among 18 to 24 year olds, Cubans have the highest rate of college enrollment with 45



percent of Cuban high school graduates enrolled in undergraduate, graduate or professional schools, which is close to the white rate. At the other end of the spectrum, 30 percent of Puerto Rican high school graduates and about 33 percent of Latinos of Mexican origin are enrolled.

Cubans and Central and South Americans also fare relatively well in pursuing graduate studies. For Central and South Americans and Cubans, graduate school attendance rates are 3.5 percent and 3.4 percent among 25- to 34-year-old high school graduates. That is close to the white rate of 3.8 percent.

**Figure 5. The Second Generation has a High 18-to-24 College Enrollment Rate**



Source: October Current Population Survey

Latino foreign-born youth are less likely to enroll in college than their U.S.-born Latino peers (Vernez and Abrahamse, 1996). In the traditional age group, 25 percent of foreign-born Latinos who graduated from high school are enrolled in an undergraduate institution. For the Latino second generation—the U.S.-born children of immigrants—40 percent of high school graduates are enrolled. This immigrant disadvantage in college-going does not apply to Asians, and thus in the United States today it is unique to Latinos among the major ethnic groups.<sup>9</sup> The undergraduate enrollment rate for

Asian high school graduates of the traditional age group is 58 percent for both the first and second generations.

A significant number of Latino foreign-born youth come to the United States after finishing their studies in home-country elementary or secondary schools. Most immigrant Latino youth are less proficient in English than their native-born counterparts. Along with language difficulties, their reduced exposure to U.S. schools and culture may dampen their pursuit of a college education. Also, unlike other immigrant youth, foreign-born Latino youth may have come to the United States primarily to work rather than to pursue a university education.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>9</sup> For individuals of any race/ethnicity, Betts and Lofstrom (2000) find that immigrants have higher college enrollment rates than their native counterparts of the same age and that it is the immigrants who are most highly educated upon arrival in the United States that are the most likely to further their education.

<sup>10</sup> Of the roughly 600,000 F-1 student visas admitted during fiscal year 1999, over half went to students from Asian countries. Students from Mexico, Central and South America, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic obtained about 82,000 F-1 visas or 15 percent of the F-1 student visas.

Native-born Latino high school graduates, especially the second generation, are more successful in pursuing college studies than their immigrant peers. About 42.4 percent of second generation 18- to 24-year-old Latino high school graduates are attending college, which is near the white rate of 45.8 percent (Figure 5).<sup>11</sup> The enrollment rate is lower, 35.9 percent, for Latino high school graduates of the third and higher generation—the U.S.-born children of U.S.-born parents.<sup>12</sup>

The relatively strong performance of the Latino second generation in attending college is fairly widespread across all origin groups. Among 18- to 24-year-old high school graduates, nearly 55 percent of second generation Central and South American youth attends college, well above the white rate. About half of Cuban and 42.7 percent of Mexican second generation high school graduates attend college.<sup>13</sup>

### Income and Gender

The patterns in college enrollment among Latino populations match up fairly closely with their socioeconomic profile. Cubans as well as Central and South Americans tend to be among the better-off Latino households with average household incomes above \$40,000. Mexican origin and Puerto Rican households tend to be less well-off, with average household incomes below \$37,000, which is below the average household income level of African Americans (Bean et al., 2001). Similarly, native-born Latino households tend to be substantially richer than foreign-born households. Mexican-origin Latinos have the lowest average household income among the native born at \$42,000, but this is well above the African American average household income. Thus, among Hispanics, as with the U.S. population overall, the children from higher income families are more successful in obtaining a college education.

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<sup>11</sup> Note that the subpar college attendance of Latino immigrants is not confined to immigrants of Mexican origin. Among each Latino origin group examined, the rate of college attendance among 18- to 24-year-old high school graduates is lower for the foreign born than the U.S. born. This contrasts with Vernez and Abrahamse's (1996) tabulations from the 1990 Census.

<sup>12</sup> Rates of immediate entry into postsecondary education follow a similar pattern. About two-thirds of second-generation Hispanics in the 1992 high school graduating class went to postsecondary education within two years of graduation, compared to 62 percent of third-generation and higher Latino graduates (NCES, 1998).

<sup>13</sup> Given the different states of residence of the various Latino origin groups, it is perhaps surprising that Latino college students are fairly uniform in their characteristics. Two-thirds of Latinos of Mexican origin reside in either California or Texas. Puerto Ricans concentrate in the northeastern states of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Two-thirds of Cubans live in Florida (U.S. Census Bureau, 2001). Since each state has its own system of higher education in terms of governance, community colleges vs. four-year colleges, reliance on public vs. private institutions, and levels of state aid, one might expect that residency patterns would generate greater differences among Latino college students by origin group (National Center on Education Statistics, 1999).

**Table 2: Percent of High School Completers Enrolled in College, by Generation, 1997 to 2000**

|            | Non-Hispanic        |      |      |                  |     |      |                  |      |      |                  |      |      |
|------------|---------------------|------|------|------------------|-----|------|------------------|------|------|------------------|------|------|
|            | Hispanic generation |      |      | White generation |     |      | Black generation |      |      | Asian generation |      |      |
|            | Foreign-born        | 2nd  | 3rd+ | Foreign-born     | 2nd | 3rd+ | Foreign-born     | 2nd  | 3rd+ | Foreign-born     | 2nd  | 3rd+ |
| Male       | 7.1                 | 14.7 | 11.2 | 9.4              | 6.8 | 8.0  | 13.4             | 19.2 | 9.0  | 14.3             | 27.8 | 12.0 |
| Female     | 9.2                 | 19.5 | 13.4 | 8.2              | 6.9 | 9.2  | 14.4             | 23.3 | 11.6 | 13.8             | 24.5 | 13.0 |
| Both sexes | 8.1                 | 17.1 | 12.4 | 8.8              | 6.9 | 8.6  | 13.9             | 21.4 | 10.4 | 14.0             | 26.3 | 12.5 |

Source: October Current Population Survey

And, like college students in the overall U.S. population, female Hispanics outnumbered males in college classrooms by a fair margin. Fifty-seven percent of the 1.3 million Latino college students are female. Table 2 reports the aggregate college enrollment rates by gender for high school graduates. The rates for minority groups tend to be above the white rate because minority populations are younger. College going tends to be a youthful activity.

## CONCLUSIONS

College enrollment data reveal that Hispanic students value university education. Given that among high school graduates Hispanics are second only to Asians in attendance at colleges and universities, there can be no doubt that Latino families are willing to invest in their children's education. Yet, the numbers of students who reach graduation are reduced by part-time enrollment, a concentration in two-year institutions and a predilection to prolong undergraduate education beyond the traditional age. These traits are not deserving of criticism, nor is it the intent to criticize them here. Rather, these means of college attendance are the results of tradeoffs between the desire to gain an education and powerful forces of family, community and affordability. Many young Latinos are making a generational leap when they go beyond high school. As the first in their families to pursue higher education, they lack the invaluable support systems at home that most American college students take for granted. Finally, many Latinos are products of under-funded, under-staffed and under-performing high schools, and as such have not had an adequate preparation for college work.

The results are striking among second-generation Latinos, a young, fast-growing population that is destined to have a tremendous impact on Latino communities and the nation as a whole. When they graduate from high school, they enroll in college at the same rate as their white peers, but they are clearly not attaining bachelor's degrees on anywhere near the scale of whites (Table 3). Some 37 percent of white high school graduates between the ages of 25 to 29 years old have received a bachelor's degree, and that holds for 21 percent of African American high school graduates. But, among

comparable second generation Latinos, more than 10 percent have an associate's degree but only 16 percent have a bachelor's degree.

**Table 3: Collegiate Attainment among 25-to-29 Year-old High School Completers, 2001 (in %)**

|                           | Hispanic generation |        |                |       | Non-Hispanic |       |
|---------------------------|---------------------|--------|----------------|-------|--------------|-------|
|                           | Foreign-born        | Second | Third & Higher | Total | White        | Black |
| Associate's degree        | 7.2                 | 14.6   | 11.0           | 10.3  | 10.5         | 10.0  |
| Bachelor's degree or more | 15.2                | 16.1   | 18.6           | 16.4  | 36.5         | 20.6  |

Source: Current Population Survey

Note: The CPS reveals the highest degree attained. Persons attaining both a bachelor's and associate's degree report attaining a bachelor's degree.

There is no doubt about the importance of raising those graduation rates, and indeed, as noted at the beginning of this report, that is a widely accepted goal. Later this month, on September 30, the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans is due to give the White House its first accounting of which current programs are effective in closing the Hispanic achievement gap and what Federal programs can increase high school and college graduation rates. The data presented here shows that key improvements can be realized by furthering the aspirations of the many Hispanic students already enrolled in college. They have applied and been admitted. They have enrolled and are taking classes. And, they have shown they are motivated.

New policy initiatives should go hand-in-hand with new research efforts because there is still much to be learned about the factors behind the achievement gap in post-secondary education (Garcia, 2001). Among the areas that need further attention are:

- The work obligations and work patterns of Latino undergraduates and the role of student financial aid in improving college persistence. Do Latino undergraduates work more than their peers; is that detrimental to degree completion; and can changes in student financial aid packages influence student persistence?
- Latinos attend different colleges than other groups of students. How much of the baccalaureate shortfall can be explained by the college choices of Latinos, and what factors influence those college choices? In particular, do Latinos attend college where they do because of affordability concerns? How much can financial aid policy influence the college choices of Latinos? What are the difficulties Latino community college students face in transferring to four-year colleges and would improved articulation between two-year and four-year schools benefit Latino college students aspiring to four-year degrees?

- Solid academic preparation is clearly a prerequisite to finishing a four-year degree. How much are academic deficiencies contributing to the low graduation rates for Latinos? To what extent can remedial courses at the college level make up for such deficiencies while keeping students on track for degree completion?
- College is not simply an educational experience; it is also a social experience. To what extent are Latinos encountering difficulties integrating themselves socially on college campuses?

These are complex questions, and our college and university system is highly decentralized. So, a one-size-fits-all approach is not in the offing. We have made progress in making college accessible to Latino high school graduates. The next step is to assist Latino undergraduates in finishing college.

**Table 4: Annual College Enrollment, by Race/Ethnicity, 1997 to 2000**

|                          | Hispanic |              |        |                     | Total     | Non-Hispanic |           |                        |            |
|--------------------------|----------|--------------|--------|---------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|------------------------|------------|
|                          | Mexican  | Puerto Rican | Cuban  | Cent or So American |           | White        | Black     | Asian/Pacific Islander | All        |
| Total College Enrollment |          |              |        |                     |           |              |           |                        |            |
| 18 to 24 years           | 503,459  | 64,415       | 36,225 | 142,446             | 816,094   | 6,732,273    | 1,113,328 | 604,773                | 9,309,250  |
| 25 to 34 years           | 169,130  | 36,008       | 12,331 | 62,099              | 308,282   | 2,153,601    | 488,111   | 270,645                | 3,246,227  |
| 35 years and over        | 98,820   | 14,902       | 12,464 | 44,622              | 192,129   | 1,982,008    | 349,332   | 118,007                | 2,670,505  |
| All ages                 | 784,687  | 117,924      | 61,892 | 253,395             | 1,338,904 | 10,952,142   | 1,977,409 | 1,006,850              | 15,374,730 |
| Type of college          |          |              |        |                     |           |              |           |                        |            |
| 2-year college           |          |              |        |                     |           |              |           |                        |            |
| 18 to 24 years           | 232,067  | 20,344       | 11,245 | 56,433              | 339,790   | 1,623,217    | 302,659   | 137,691                | 2,417,650  |
| 25 to 34 years           | 68,727   | 10,203       | 2,384  | 13,070              | 109,324   | 466,123      | 136,216   | 35,154                 | 750,414    |
| 35 years and over        | 45,597   | 3,623        | 3,625  | 16,280              | 75,641    | 541,155      | 111,658   | 27,153                 | 767,713    |
| All ages                 | 355,028  | 34,846       | 18,126 | 89,008              | 538,853   | 2,662,399    | 562,573   | 202,769                | 3,996,706  |
| 4-year college           |          |              |        |                     |           |              |           |                        |            |
| 18 to 24 years           | 248,605  | 42,347       | 22,469 | 77,029              | 437,445   | 4,603,365    | 743,953   | 399,879                | 6,210,244  |
| 25 to 34 years           | 72,725   | 17,178       | 4,844  | 28,389              | 134,297   | 782,556      | 219,128   | 85,846                 | 1,235,502  |
| 35 years and over        | 33,673   | 2,842        | 2,533  | 12,088              | 61,163    | 589,699      | 128,728   | 22,698                 | 813,547    |
| All ages                 | 359,242  | 64,290       | 29,846 | 118,509             | 640,804   | 6,026,639    | 1,106,407 | 519,077                | 8,344,630  |
| Graduate                 |          |              |        |                     |           |              |           |                        |            |
| 18 to 24 years           | 22,787   | 1,725        | 2,511  | 8,984               | 38,860    | 505,691      | 66,716    | 67,203                 | 681,357    |
| 25 to 34 years           | 27,678   | 8,627        | 5,103  | 20,640              | 64,661    | 904,922      | 132,767   | 149,645                | 1,260,311  |
| 35 years and over        | 19,551   | 8,436        | 6,306  | 16,255              | 55,325    | 851,154      | 108,947   | 68,156                 | 1,089,245  |
| All ages                 | 70,418   | 18,788       | 13,920 | 45,879              | 159,248   | 2,263,104    | 308,430   | 285,004                | 3,033,395  |
| Control of college       |          |              |        |                     |           |              |           |                        |            |
| Public college           | 684,242  | 86,420       | 50,559 | 211,583             | 1,131,977 | 8,370,561    | 1,576,536 | 770,723                | 11,935,409 |
| Private college          | 100,444  | 31,504       | 11,334 | 41,812              | 206,927   | 2,581,581    | 400,873   | 236,127                | 3,439,320  |
| Attendance status        |          |              |        |                     |           |              |           |                        |            |
| Full-time enrollment     |          |              |        |                     |           |              |           |                        |            |
| 18 to 24 years           | 361,282  | 52,950       | 32,224 | 109,303             | 605,632   | 5,708,828    | 944,312   | 534,272                | 7,829,417  |
| 25 to 34 years           | 64,995   | 14,504       | 7,125  | 27,951              | 125,637   | 954,713      | 224,224   | 178,308                | 1,500,301  |
| 35 years and over        | 35,786   | 2,031        | 4,033  | 8,268               | 59,209    | 483,932      | 102,139   | 51,705                 | 710,282    |
| All ages                 | 472,385  | 72,084       | 44,254 | 149,108             | 809,279   | 7,223,913    | 1,295,837 | 775,708                | 10,173,736 |
| Part-time enrollment     |          |              |        |                     |           |              |           |                        |            |
| 18 to 24 years           | 142,177  | 11,466       | 4,001  | 33,143              | 210,463   | 1,023,445    | 169,016   | 70,501                 | 1,479,834  |
| 25 to 34 years           | 104,135  | 21,504       | 5,206  | 34,148              | 182,645   | 1,198,888    | 263,887   | 92,337                 | 1,745,926  |
| 35 years and over        | 63,034   | 12,870       | 8,432  | 36,354              | 132,920   | 1,498,076    | 247,193   | 66,303                 | 1,960,224  |
| All ages                 | 312,302  | 45,840       | 17,639 | 104,287             | 529,626   | 3,728,229    | 681,572   | 231,142                | 5,200,995  |

Source: October Current Population Surveys

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Table 5: Annual College Enrollment, by Generation, 1997 to 2000

|                                 | Hispanic generation |         |                | White generation |         |                | Non-Hispanic Black generation |        |                | Asian/Pacific Islander generation |         |                |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------|----------------|------------------|---------|----------------|-------------------------------|--------|----------------|-----------------------------------|---------|----------------|
|                                 | Foreign-born        | Second  | Third & Higher | Foreign-born     | Second  | Third & Higher | Foreign-born                  | Second | Third & Higher | Foreign-born                      | Second  | Third & Higher |
| <b>Total College Enrollment</b> |                     |         |                |                  |         |                |                               |        |                |                                   |         |                |
| 18 to 24 years                  | 224,339             | 340,760 | 250,993        | 215,588          | 436,673 | 6,080,013      | 88,753                        | 67,153 | 957,422        | 348,179                           | 202,573 | 54,021         |
| 25 to 34 years                  | 136,875             | 77,882  | 93,524         | 129,330          | 154,115 | 1,870,156      | 59,965                        | 23,337 | 404,809        | 217,780                           | 33,163  | 19,702         |
| 35 years and over               | 83,831              | 40,399  | 67,900         | 108,547          | 120,265 | 1,753,196      | 42,747                        | 6,115  | 300,471        | 102,145                           | 9,231   | 6,631          |
| All ages                        | 449,519             | 471,384 | 417,999        | 458,383          | 718,657 | 9,775,103      | 194,266                       | 99,734 | 1,683,411      | 674,557                           | 250,876 | 81,417         |
| <b>Type of college</b>          |                     |         |                |                  |         |                |                               |        |                |                                   |         |                |
| 2-year college                  |                     |         |                |                  |         |                |                               |        |                |                                   |         |                |
| 18 to 24 years                  | 99,203              | 136,300 | 104,287        | 50,915           | 103,447 | 1,468,855      | 28,034                        | 12,460 | 262,164        | 78,062                            | 44,982  | 14,647         |
| 25 to 34 years                  | 45,472              | 27,141  | 36,711         | 17,676           | 22,047  | 426,399        | 14,568                        | 5,820  | 115,828        | 24,088                            | 7,162   | 3,904          |
| 35 years and over               | 31,709              | 10,971  | 32,962         | 21,919           | 30,982  | 488,254        | 11,007                        | 2,783  | 97,868         | 23,237                            | 2,469   | 1,447          |
| All ages                        | 178,330             | 183,987 | 176,536        | 91,177           | 159,979 | 2,411,242      | 53,609                        | 22,042 | 486,921        | 126,878                           | 55,252  | 20,638         |
| 4-year college                  |                     |         |                |                  |         |                |                               |        |                |                                   |         |                |
| 18 to 24 years                  | 115,676             | 185,720 | 136,047        | 132,640          | 292,353 | 4,178,372      | 54,952                        | 49,505 | 639,496        | 225,625                           | 138,083 | 36,171         |
| 25 to 34 years                  | 59,893              | 32,880  | 41,521         | 43,078           | 50,404  | 689,074        | 30,568                        | 11,198 | 177,362        | 63,916                            | 15,639  | 6,290          |
| 35 years and over               | 28,068              | 13,829  | 19,266         | 29,497           | 36,458  | 523,744        | 14,167                        | 2,208  | 112,353        | 18,966                            | 2,810   | 922            |
| All ages                        | 206,165             | 234,794 | 199,840        | 209,465          | 382,931 | 5,434,243      | 102,488                       | 65,061 | 938,859        | 313,468                           | 161,802 | 43,806         |
| <b>Graduate</b>                 |                     |         |                |                  |         |                |                               |        |                |                                   |         |                |
| 18 to 24 years                  | 9,462               | 18,740  | 10,659         | 32,033           | 40,873  | 432,786        | 5,766                         | 5,188  | 55,761         | 44,492                            | 19,509  | 3,202          |
| 25 to 34 years                  | 31,509              | 17,860  | 15,290         | 68,577           | 81,663  | 754,682        | 14,829                        | 6,319  | 111,619        | 129,776                           | 10,362  | 9,507          |
| 35 years and over               | 24,054              | 15,597  | 15,672         | 57,130           | 52,825  | 741,199        | 17,574                        | 1,124  | 90,249         | 59,942                            | 3,952   | 4,262          |
| All ages                        | 65,025              | 52,599  | 41,621         | 157,740          | 175,746 | 1,929,619      | 38,169                        | 12,631 | 257,629        | 234,210                           | 33,823  | 16,971         |
| <b>Control of college</b>       |                     |         |                |                  |         |                |                               |        |                |                                   |         |                |
| Public college                  | 382,638             | 387,706 | 361,634        | 332,839          | 489,954 | 7,547,768      | 151,749                       | 66,498 | 1,358,290      | 512,820                           | 194,723 | 63,178         |
| Private college                 | 66,883              | 83,678  | 56,365         | 125,543          | 228,703 | 2,227,335      | 42,518                        | 33,236 | 325,120        | 161,736                           | 56,153  | 18,238         |
| <b>Attendance status</b>        |                     |         |                |                  |         |                |                               |        |                |                                   |         |                |
| Full-time enrollment            |                     |         |                |                  |         |                |                               |        |                |                                   |         |                |
| 18 to 24 years                  | 159,813             | 246,186 | 199,631        | 184,101          | 366,445 | 5,158,282      | 73,038                        | 60,389 | 810,884        | 307,254                           | 183,608 | 43,410         |
| 25 to 34 years                  | 54,122              | 32,627  | 38,889         | 76,794           | 66,576  | 811,342        | 30,281                        | 9,246  | 184,698        | 147,685                           | 20,042  | 10,582         |
| 35 years and over               | 20,306              | 12,329  | 26,574         | 31,911           | 28,066  | 423,956        | 15,454                        | 3,066  | 83,619         | 44,741                            | 4,507   | 2,457          |
| All ages                        | 237,474             | 301,665 | 270,139        | 297,724          | 468,691 | 6,457,498      | 121,574                       | 75,830 | 1,098,434      | 504,771                           | 214,066 | 56,872         |
| Part-time enrollment            |                     |         |                |                  |         |                |                               |        |                |                                   |         |                |
| 18 to 24 years                  | 64,526              | 94,574  | 51,360         | 31,486           | 70,228  | 921,731        | 15,715                        | 6,764  | 146,537        | 40,925                            | 18,965  | 10,611         |
| 25 to 34 years                  | 82,753              | 45,254  | 54,635         | 52,536           | 87,538  | 1,058,813      | 29,684                        | 14,091 | 220,111        | 70,096                            | 13,121  | 9,120          |
| 35 years and over               | 63,524              | 28,071  | 41,325         | 76,636           | 92,199  | 1,329,241      | 27,293                        | 3,049  | 216,852        | 57,404                            | 4,724   | 4,174          |
| All ages                        | 212,044             | 169,718 | 147,857        | 160,658          | 249,965 | 3,317,605      | 72,692                        | 23,904 | 584,976        | 169,786                           | 36,810  | 24,545         |

Source: October Current Population Surveys



**Table 6: Annual College Enrollment, by Latino Generation, 1997 to 2000**

|                                 | Mexican generation |         |                |              | Puerto Rican generation |                |              |        | Cuban generation |              |        |                | Cent or So American generation |        |                |              |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------|----------------|--------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------|------------------|--------------|--------|----------------|--------------------------------|--------|----------------|--------------|
|                                 | Foreign-born       | Second  | Third & Higher | Foreign-born | Second                  | Third & Higher | Foreign-born | Second | Third & Higher   | Foreign-born | Second | Third & Higher | Foreign-born                   | Second | Third & Higher | Foreign-born |
| <b>Total College Enrollment</b> |                    |         |                |              |                         |                |              |        |                  |              |        |                |                                |        |                |              |
| 18 to 24 years                  | 103,733            | 209,649 | 190,076        | 11,138       | 27,271                  | 26,006         | 14,398       | 19,584 | 14,398           | 19,584       | 14,398 | 19,584         | 77,014                         | 62,239 | 77,014         | 62,239       |
| 25 to 34 years                  | 58,598             | 39,774  | 70,757         | 11,567       | 18,092                  | 6,349          | 7,541        | 4,138  | 7,541            | 4,138        | 7,541  | 4,138          | 48,719                         | 11,377 | 48,719         | 11,377       |
| 35 years and over               | 24,241             | 23,101  | 51,478         | 4,026        | 10,876                  | 8,447          | 8,447        | 3,399  | 8,447            | 3,399        | 8,447  | 3,399          | 39,891                         | 1,608  | 39,891         | 1,608        |
| All ages                        | 188,443            | 279,801 | 316,441        | 27,493       | 56,624                  | 33,807         | 30,386       | 27,993 | 3,514            | 166,043      | 79,033 | 8,318          | 166,043                        | 79,033 | 8,318          | 8,318        |
| <b>Type of college</b>          |                    |         |                |              |                         |                |              |        |                  |              |        |                |                                |        |                |              |
| <b>2-year college</b>           |                    |         |                |              |                         |                |              |        |                  |              |        |                |                                |        |                |              |
| 18 to 24 years                  | 52,030             | 94,325  | 85,712         | 3,576        | 7,608                   | 9,160          | 4,992        | 6,253  | 4,992            | 6,253        | 4,992  | 6,253          | 32,771                         | 23,662 | 32,771         | 23,662       |
| 25 to 34 years                  | 24,350             | 14,490  | 29,887         | 3,505        | 5,030                   | 1,668          | 1,344        | 1,041  | 1,344            | 1,041        | 1,344  | 1,041          | 9,667                          | 3,402  | 9,667          | 3,402        |
| 35 years and over               | 8,572              | 8,050   | 28,975         | 1,739        | 1,884                   | 3,625          | 3,625        | 8,166  | 3,625            | 8,166        | 3,625  | 8,166          | 14,788                         | 1,037  | 14,788         | 1,037        |
| All ages                        | 86,210             | 122,343 | 146,474        | 8,820        | 14,522                  | 11,504         | 9,961        | 8,166  | 0                | 57,226       | 31,326 | 455            | 57,226                         | 31,326 | 455            | 455          |
| <b>4-year college</b>           |                    |         |                |              |                         |                |              |        |                  |              |        |                |                                |        |                |              |
| 18 to 24 years                  | 47,925             | 104,079 | 96,601         | 7,563        | 19,087                  | 15,697         | 9,406        | 11,532 | 9,406            | 11,532       | 9,406  | 11,532         | 39,848                         | 33,988 | 39,848         | 33,988       |
| 25 to 34 years                  | 25,540             | 17,046  | 30,139         | 4,222        | 10,199                  | 2,756          | 2,936        | 1,907  | 2,936            | 1,907        | 2,936  | 1,907          | 23,351                         | 3,728  | 23,351         | 3,728        |
| 35 years and over               | 12,277             | 9,636   | 11,760         | 1,760        | 1,082                   | 648            | 648          | 1,266  | 648              | 1,266        | 648    | 1,266          | 10,922                         | 571    | 10,922         | 571          |
| All ages                        | 86,355             | 132,157 | 140,730        | 14,307       | 30,753                  | 19,229         | 12,990       | 14,705 | 2,149            | 74,540       | 38,871 | 5,097          | 74,540                         | 38,871 | 5,097          | 5,097        |
| <b>Graduate</b>                 |                    |         |                |              |                         |                |              |        |                  |              |        |                |                                |        |                |              |
| 18 to 24 years                  | 3,779              | 11,245  | 7,763          | 576          | 1,149                   | 1,149          | 3,260        | 1,799  | 3,260            | 1,799        | 3,260  | 1,799          | 4,395                          | 4,589  | 4,395          | 4,589        |
| 25 to 34 years                  | 8,708              | 8,238   | 10,731         | 3,840        | 2,862                   | 1,925          | 4,174        | 2,132  | 4,174            | 2,132        | 4,174  | 2,132          | 15,701                         | 4,247  | 15,701         | 4,247        |
| 35 years and over               | 3,392              | 5,415   | 10,743         | 527          | 7,909                   | 3,074          | 7,434        | 5,121  | 3,074            | 5,121        | 3,074  | 5,121          | 14,181                         | 8,836  | 14,181         | 8,836        |
| All ages                        | 15,879             | 25,300  | 29,237         | 4,367        | 11,347                  | 3,074          | 7,434        | 5,121  | 1,365            | 34,277       | 8,836  | 2,073          | 34,277                         | 8,836  | 2,073          | 2,073        |
| <b>Control of college</b>       |                    |         |                |              |                         |                |              |        |                  |              |        |                |                                |        |                |              |
| Public college                  | 169,545            | 244,134 | 270,563        | 22,614       | 34,276                  | 29,530         | 25,930       | 21,768 | 2,862            | 138,826      | 65,214 | 7,543          | 138,826                        | 65,214 | 7,543          | 7,543        |
| Private college                 | 18,899             | 35,667  | 45,878         | 4,878        | 22,348                  | 4,277          | 4,456        | 6,226  | 652              | 27,218       | 13,819 | 775            | 27,218                         | 13,819 | 775            | 775          |
| <b>Attendance status</b>        |                    |         |                |              |                         |                |              |        |                  |              |        |                |                                |        |                |              |
| <b>Full-time enrollment</b>     |                    |         |                |              |                         |                |              |        |                  |              |        |                |                                |        |                |              |
| 18 to 24 years                  | 65,573             | 144,218 | 151,490        | 11,138       | 20,860                  | 20,951         | 12,304       | 18,390 | 12,304           | 18,390       | 12,304 | 18,390         | 58,101                         | 48,010 | 58,101         | 48,010       |
| 25 to 34 years                  | 18,455             | 17,470  | 29,070         | 5,345        | 6,970                   | 2,189          | 4,242        | 2,231  | 4,242            | 2,231        | 4,242  | 2,231          | 20,907                         | 5,696  | 20,907         | 5,696        |
| 35 years and over               | 9,012              | 6,803   | 19,971         | 2,031        | 2,031                   | 2,031          | 1,953        | 2,080  | 1,953            | 2,080        | 1,953  | 2,080          | 7,829                          | 439    | 7,829          | 439          |
| All ages                        | 93,670             | 174,590 | 204,124        | 17,245       | 30,246                  | 24,592         | 18,499       | 23,573 | 2,182            | 87,256       | 56,873 | 4,979          | 87,256                         | 56,873 | 4,979          | 4,979        |
| <b>Part-time enrollment</b>     |                    |         |                |              |                         |                |              |        |                  |              |        |                |                                |        |                |              |
| 18 to 24 years                  | 38,160             | 65,431  | 38,585         | 6,411        | 6,411                   | 5,054          | 2,094        | 1,194  | 2,094            | 1,194        | 2,094  | 1,194          | 18,913                         | 14,229 | 18,913         | 14,229       |
| 25 to 34 years                  | 40,144             | 22,303  | 41,688         | 6,222        | 11,122                  | 4,160          | 3,298        | 1,907  | 3,298            | 1,907        | 3,298  | 1,907          | 27,812                         | 5,681  | 27,812         | 5,681        |
| 35 years and over               | 15,229             | 16,299  | 31,506         | 4,026        | 8,845                   | 6,494          | 6,494        | 1,319  | 6,494            | 1,319        | 6,494  | 1,319          | 32,062                         | 1,608  | 32,062         | 1,608        |
| All ages                        | 94,774             | 105,210 | 112,316        | 10,248       | 26,378                  | 9,214          | 11,886       | 4,420  | 1,332            | 78,787       | 22,160 | 3,338          | 78,787                         | 22,160 | 3,338          | 3,338        |

Source: October Current Population Surveys

Table 7: College Enrollment Rates, by Race/Ethnicity, 1997 to 2000

|                                  | Hispanic     |      |       |      | Non-Hispanic        |      |                        |       |
|----------------------------------|--------------|------|-------|------|---------------------|------|------------------------|-------|
|                                  | Puerto Rican |      | Cuban |      | Cent or so American |      | Total                  |       |
|                                  | Mexican      |      |       |      |                     |      | White                  | Black |
|                                  |              |      |       |      |                     |      | Asian/Pacific Islander | All   |
| Percent of Population            |              |      |       |      |                     |      |                        |       |
| Undergraduate Enrollment         |              |      |       |      |                     |      |                        |       |
| 18 to 24 years                   | 17.6         | 19.3 | 32.9  | 23.6 | 19.8                | 36.8 | 28.3                   | 50.4  |
| 25 to 34 years                   | 3.9          | 5.6  | 4.3   | 4.8  | 4.4                 | 4.9  | 7.1                    | 6.6   |
| 35 years and over                | 1.2          | 0.6  | 0.8   | 1.5  | 1.2                 | 1.1  | 1.7                    | 1.1   |
| All ages                         | 3.5          | 3.3  | 3.7   | 4.5  | 3.7                 | 4.5  | 4.9                    | 6.9   |
| Graduate Enrollment              |              |      |       |      |                     |      |                        |       |
| 18 to 24 years                   | 0.8          | 0.5  | 2.5   | 1.6  | 1.0                 | 3.0  | 1.8                    | 6.3   |
| 25 to 34 years                   | 0.8          | 1.8  | 3.1   | 2.4  | 1.2                 | 3.5  | 2.6                    | 8.1   |
| 35 years and over                | 0.3          | 0.7  | 0.8   | 0.9  | 0.5                 | 0.8  | 0.8                    | 1.5   |
| All ages                         | 0.3          | 0.6  | 1.1   | 1.0  | 0.5                 | 1.2  | 0.9                    | 2.7   |
| Percent of High School Graduates |              |      |       |      |                     |      |                        |       |
| Undergraduate Enrollment         |              |      |       |      |                     |      |                        |       |
| 18 to 24 years                   | 31.1         | 28.8 | 41.7  | 37.2 | 33.0                | 42.4 | 37.2                   | 56.9  |
| 25 to 34 years                   | 7.3          | 7.3  | 4.8   | 7.1  | 7.3                 | 5.2  | 8.0                    | 7.1   |
| 35 years and over                | 2.7          | 1.0  | 1.1   | 2.4  | 2.3                 | 1.3  | 2.3                    | 1.3   |
| All ages                         | 11.0         | 7.9  | 6.2   | 9.8  | 10.1                | 6.7  | 9.3                    | 11.3  |
| Graduate Enrollment              |              |      |       |      |                     |      |                        |       |
| 18 to 24 years                   | 1.5          | 0.8  | 3.1   | 2.5  | 1.7                 | 3.4  | 2.4                    | 7.1   |
| 25 to 34 years                   | 1.4          | 2.3  | 3.4   | 3.5  | 1.9                 | 3.8  | 3.0                    | 8.8   |
| 35 years and over                | 0.7          | 1.3  | 1.2   | 1.4  | 0.9                 | 0.9  | 1.0                    | 1.8   |
| All ages                         | 1.1          | 1.5  | 1.8   | 2.2  | 1.4                 | 1.8  | 1.7                    | 4.4   |

Source: October Current Population Surveys

**Table 8: College Enrollment Rates, by Generation, 1997 to 2000**

|                                  | Hispanic generation |        |                | White generation |        |                | Non-Hispanic Black generation |        |                | Asian/Pacific Islander generation |        |                |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------|----------------|------------------|--------|----------------|-------------------------------|--------|----------------|-----------------------------------|--------|----------------|
|                                  | Foreign-born        | Second | Third & Higher | Foreign-born     | Second | Third & Higher | Foreign-born                  | Second | Third & Higher | Foreign-born                      | Second | Third & Higher |
| Percent of Population            |                     |        |                |                  |        |                |                               |        |                |                                   |        |                |
| Undergraduate Enrollment         | 11.9                | 28.1   | 24.8           | 40.3             | 44.4   | 36.3           | 34.2                          | 38.2   | 27.4           | 50.5                              | 53.3   | 41.8           |
| 18 to 24 years                   | 3.1                 | 6.1    | 6.8            | 5.8              | 5.2    | 4.8            | 10.8                          | 10.6   | 6.6            | 6.2                               | 8.8    | 6.6            |
| 25 to 34 years                   | 0.9                 | 1.4    | 2.1            | 1.1              | 0.7    | 1.1            | 2.4                           | 2.4    | 1.6            | 1.1                               | 1.2    | 0.6            |
| 35 years and over                | 2.8                 | 4.1    | 4.6            | 4.4              | 3.5    | 4.6            | 8.2                           | 6.1    | 4.6            | 6.9                               | 7.3    | 5.8            |
| All ages                         |                     |        |                |                  |        |                |                               |        |                |                                   |        |                |
| Graduate Enrollment              | 0.5                 | 1.6    | 1.1            | 7.0              | 4.6    | 2.8            | 2.4                           | 3.2    | 1.7            | 7.4                               | 5.7    | 2.6            |
| 18 to 24 years                   | 0.9                 | 1.8    | 1.3            | 6.5              | 5.9    | 3.3            | 3.5                           | 3.9    | 2.5            | 9.1                               | 4.0    | 6.1            |
| 25 to 34 years                   | 0.4                 | 0.9    | 0.6            | 1.2              | 0.5    | 0.8            | 1.7                           | 0.5    | 0.7            | 1.6                               | 0.9    | 1.0            |
| 35 years and over                | 0.5                 | 0.5    | 0.5            | 2.3              | 1.1    | 1.1            | 2.0                           | 0.9    | 0.8            | 3.7                               | 1.1    | 1.5            |
| All ages                         |                     |        |                |                  |        |                |                               |        |                |                                   |        |                |
| Percent of High School Graduates |                     |        |                |                  |        |                |                               |        |                |                                   |        |                |
| Undergraduate Enrollment         | 25.2                | 40.1   | 34.4           | 46.5             | 49.5   | 41.9           | 44.5                          | 45.9   | 36.2           | 58.4                              | 58.1   | 46.4           |
| 18 to 24 years                   | 6.4                 | 7.5    | 8.7            | 6.3              | 5.5    | 5.2            | 12.0                          | 11.2   | 7.5            | 6.8                               | 9.2    | 6.7            |
| 25 to 34 years                   | 2.0                 | 2.2    | 2.9            | 1.3              | 0.8    | 1.3            | 3.0                           | 2.9    | 2.2            | 1.4                               | 1.4    | 0.6            |
| 35 years and over                | 7.0                 | 15.2   | 11.1           | 5.8              | 5.2    | 6.9            | 11.2                          | 18.7   | 8.8            | 9.2                               | 22.7   | 9.9            |
| All ages                         |                     |        |                |                  |        |                |                               |        |                |                                   |        |                |
| Graduate Enrollment              | 1.1                 | 2.3    | 1.5            | 8.1              | 5.1    | 3.2            | 3.1                           | 3.8    | 2.2            | 8.6                               | 6.2    | 2.9            |
| 18 to 24 years                   | 1.9                 | 2.2    | 1.7            | 7.1              | 6.2    | 3.5            | 4.0                           | 4.1    | 2.9            | 10.0                              | 4.2    | 6.3            |
| 25 to 34 years                   | 0.8                 | 1.4    | 0.9            | 1.5              | 0.6    | 0.9            | 2.1                           | 0.6    | 0.9            | 2.0                               | 1.0    | 1.1            |
| 35 years and over                | 1.2                 | 1.9    | 1.2            | 3.0              | 1.7    | 1.7            | 2.7                           | 2.7    | 1.6            | 4.9                               | 3.5    | 2.6            |
| All ages                         |                     |        |                |                  |        |                |                               |        |                |                                   |        |                |

Source: October Current Population Surveys

Table 9: College Enrollment Rates, by Latino Generation, 1997 to 2000

|                                  | Mexican generation |        |                | Puerto Rican generation |        |                | Cuban generation |        |                | Cent or So American generation |        |                |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------|----------------|-------------------------|--------|----------------|------------------|--------|----------------|--------------------------------|--------|----------------|
|                                  | Foreign-born       | Second | Third & Higher | Foreign-born            | Second | Third & Higher | Foreign-born     | Second | Third & Higher | Foreign-born                   | Second | Third & Higher |
| Percent of Population            |                    |        |                |                         |        |                |                  |        |                |                                |        |                |
| Undergraduate Enrollment         |                    |        |                |                         |        |                |                  |        |                |                                |        |                |
| 18 to 24 years                   | 8.1                | 27.4   | 23.7           | 14.0                    | 15.8   | 32.5           | 32.6             | 35.8   | 18.6           | 40.3                           |        |                |
| 25 to 34 years                   | 2.3                | 6.0    | 6.7            | 4.8                     | 6.3    | 5.3            | 4.2              | 5.7    | 4.4            | 7.4                            |        |                |
| 35 years and over                | 0.6                | 1.5    | 2.1            | 0.5                     | 1.1    | 0.0            | 0.6              | 2.3    | 1.5            | 1.6                            |        | 1.4            |
| All ages                         | 2.3                | 3.7    | 4.6            | 2.0                     | 3.8    | 4.4            | 2.6              | 7.6    | 4.2            | 5.5                            |        | 2.6            |
| Graduate Enrollment              |                    |        |                |                         |        |                |                  |        |                |                                |        |                |
| 18 to 24 years                   | 0.3                | 1.6    | 1.0            | 0.0                     | 0.3    | 1.5            | 0.0              | 3.6    | 1.1            | 3.2                            |        |                |
| 25 to 34 years                   | 0.4                | 1.6    | 1.2            | 2.4                     | 1.2    | 2.3            | 3.2              | 2.3    | 2.1            | 4.4                            |        |                |
| 35 years and over                | 0.1                | 0.4    | 0.6            | 0.1                     | 2.9    | 0.0            | 0.6              | 3.9    | 0.8            | 0.0                            |        | 2.9            |
| All ages                         | 0.2                | 0.4    | 0.5            | 0.4                     | 1.0    | 0.4            | 0.8              | 1.7    | 1.1            | 0.7                            |        | 1.3            |
| Percent of High School Graduates |                    |        |                |                         |        |                |                  |        |                |                                |        |                |
| Undergraduate Enrollment         |                    |        |                |                         |        |                |                  |        |                |                                |        |                |
| 18 to 24 years                   | 19.9               | 40.4   | 33.0           | 22.7                    | 22.7   | 48.9           | 42.1             | 45.0   | 31.9           | 50.8                           |        |                |
| 25 to 34 years                   | 5.9                | 7.6    | 8.9            | 6.4                     | 7.9    | 7.2            | 4.7              | 6.0    | 6.9            | 8.0                            |        |                |
| 35 years and over                | 2.2                | 2.4    | 3.1            | 1.0                     | 1.4    | 0.0            | 0.9              | 2.6    | 2.5            | 2.0                            |        |                |
| All ages                         | 7.5                | 15.5   | 11.3           | 4.4                     | 8.6    | 15.6           | 3.8              | 16.4   | 7.6            | 24.3                           |        | 5.8            |
| Graduate Enrollment              |                    |        |                |                         |        |                |                  |        |                |                                |        |                |
| 18 to 24 years                   | 0.8                | 2.3    | 1.4            | 0.0                     | 0.5    | 2.3            | 0.0              | 4.6    | 1.9            | 4.0                            |        |                |
| 25 to 34 years                   | 1.0                | 2.0    | 1.6            | 3.2                     | 1.5    | 3.1            | 3.6              | 2.4    | 3.3            | 4.8                            |        |                |
| 35 years and over                | 0.4                | 0.7    | 0.8            | 0.1                     | 3.7    | 0.0            | 0.9              | 4.3    | 1.4            | 0.0                            |        |                |
| All ages                         | 0.7                | 1.5    | 1.1            | 0.8                     | 2.1    | 1.6            | 1.2              | 3.7    | 2.0            | 3.1                            |        | 2.9            |

Source: October Current Population Surveys

**Table 10: Characteristics of College Enrollment, by Race/Ethnicity, 1997 to 2000 (in percent)**

|                                  | Hispanic |              |       |                     | Total | Non-Hispanic |       |                        | All   |
|----------------------------------|----------|--------------|-------|---------------------|-------|--------------|-------|------------------------|-------|
|                                  | Mexican  | Puerto Rican | Cuban | Cent or So American |       | White        | Black | Asian/Pacific Islander |       |
| Type of college                  |          |              |       |                     |       |              |       |                        |       |
| 18 to 24 years                   |          |              |       |                     |       |              |       |                        |       |
| 2-year college                   | 46.1     | 31.6         | 31.0  | 39.6                | 41.6  | 24.1         | 27.2  | 22.8                   | 26.0  |
| 4-year college                   | 49.4     | 65.7         | 62.0  | 54.1                | 53.6  | 68.4         | 66.8  | 66.1                   | 66.7  |
| Graduate                         | 4.5      | 2.7          | 6.9   | 6.3                 | 4.8   | 7.5          | 6.0   | 11.1                   | 7.3   |
|                                  | 100.0    | 100.0        | 100.0 | 100.0               | 100.0 | 100.0        | 100.0 | 100.0                  | 100.0 |
| 25 to 34 years                   |          |              |       |                     |       |              |       |                        |       |
| 2-year college                   | 40.6     | 28.3         | 19.3  | 21.0                | 35.5  | 21.6         | 27.9  | 13.0                   | 23.1  |
| 4-year college                   | 43.0     | 47.7         | 39.3  | 45.7                | 43.6  | 36.3         | 44.9  | 31.7                   | 38.1  |
| Graduate                         | 16.4     | 24.0         | 41.4  | 33.2                | 21.0  | 42.0         | 27.2  | 55.3                   | 38.8  |
|                                  | 100.0    | 100.0        | 100.0 | 100.0               | 100.0 | 100.0        | 100.0 | 100.0                  | 100.0 |
| 35 years and over                |          |              |       |                     |       |              |       |                        |       |
| 2-year college                   | 46.1     | 24.3         | 29.1  | 36.5                | 39.4  | 27.3         | 32.0  | 23.0                   | 28.7  |
| 4-year college                   | 34.1     | 19.1         | 20.3  | 27.1                | 31.8  | 29.8         | 36.8  | 19.2                   | 30.5  |
| Graduate                         | 19.8     | 56.6         | 50.6  | 36.4                | 28.8  | 42.9         | 31.2  | 57.8                   | 40.8  |
|                                  | 100.0    | 100.0        | 100.0 | 100.0               | 100.0 | 100.0        | 100.0 | 100.0                  | 100.0 |
| All ages                         |          |              |       |                     |       |              |       |                        |       |
| 2-year college                   | 45.2     | 29.5         | 29.3  | 35.1                | 40.2  | 24.3         | 28.5  | 20.1                   | 26.0  |
| 4-year college                   | 45.8     | 54.5         | 48.2  | 46.8                | 47.9  | 55.0         | 56.0  | 51.6                   | 54.3  |
| Graduate                         | 9.0      | 15.9         | 22.5  | 18.1                | 11.9  | 20.7         | 15.6  | 28.3                   | 19.7  |
|                                  | 100.0    | 100.0        | 100.0 | 100.0               | 100.0 | 100.0        | 100.0 | 100.0                  | 100.0 |
| In public college                | 87.2     | 73.3         | 81.7  | 83.5                | 84.5  | 76.4         | 79.7  | 76.5                   | 77.6  |
| Enrolled full-time               |          |              |       |                     |       |              |       |                        |       |
| 18 to 24 years                   | 71.8     | 82.2         | 89.0  | 76.7                | 74.2  | 84.8         | 84.8  | 88.3                   | 84.1  |
| 25 to 34 years                   | 38.4     | 40.3         | 57.8  | 45.0                | 40.8  | 44.3         | 45.9  | 65.9                   | 46.2  |
| 35 years and over                | 36.2     | 13.6         | 32.4  | 18.5                | 30.8  | 24.4         | 29.2  | 43.8                   | 26.6  |
| All ages                         | 60.2     | 61.1         | 71.5  | 58.8                | 60.4  | 66.0         | 65.5  | 77.0                   | 66.2  |
| Undergraduates older than age 24 | 30.9     | 34.1         | 27.9  | 33.6                | 32.2  | 27.4         | 35.7  | 23.7                   | 28.9  |

Source: October Current Population Surveys

The upper left cell reads "46.1 percent of Mexican origin 18-to-24 year old college students were enrolled in 2-year colleges."

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Table 11: Characteristics of College Enrollment, by Generation, 1997 to 2000 (in percent)

| Type of college                  | Hispanic generation |        |                | White generation |        |                | Non-Hispanic Black generation |        |                | Asian/Pacific Islander generation |        |                |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------|----------------|------------------|--------|----------------|-------------------------------|--------|----------------|-----------------------------------|--------|----------------|
|                                  | Foreign-born        | Second | Third & Higher | Foreign-born     | Second | Third & Higher | Foreign-born                  | Second | Third & Higher | Foreign-born                      | Second | Third & Higher |
| 18 to 24 years                   |                     |        |                |                  |        |                |                               |        |                |                                   |        |                |
| 2-year college                   | 44.2                | 40.0   | 41.5           | 23.6             | 23.7   | 24.2           | 31.6                          | 18.6   | 27.4           | 22.4                              | 22.2   | 27.1           |
| 4-year college                   | 51.6                | 54.5   | 54.2           | 61.5             | 67.0   | 68.7           | 61.9                          | 73.7   | 66.8           | 64.8                              | 68.2   | 67.0           |
| Graduate                         | 4.2                 | 5.5    | 4.2            | 14.9             | 9.4    | 7.1            | 6.5                           | 7.7    | 5.8            | 12.8                              | 9.6    | 5.9            |
|                                  | 100.0               | 100.0  | 100.0          | 100.0            | 100.0  | 100.0          | 100.0                         | 100.0  | 100.0          | 100.0                             | 100.0  | 100.0          |
| 25 to 34 years                   |                     |        |                |                  |        |                |                               |        |                |                                   |        |                |
| 2-year college                   | 33.2                | 34.8   | 39.3           | 13.7             | 14.3   | 22.8           | 24.3                          | 24.9   | 28.6           | 11.1                              | 21.6   | 19.8           |
| 4-year college                   | 43.8                | 42.2   | 44.4           | 33.3             | 32.7   | 36.8           | 51.0                          | 48.0   | 43.8           | 29.3                              | 47.2   | 31.9           |
| Graduate                         | 23.0                | 22.9   | 16.3           | 53.0             | 53.0   | 40.4           | 24.7                          | 27.1   | 27.6           | 59.6                              | 31.2   | 48.3           |
|                                  | 100.0               | 100.0  | 100.0          | 100.0            | 100.0  | 100.0          | 100.0                         | 100.0  | 100.0          | 100.0                             | 100.0  | 100.0          |
| 35 years and over                |                     |        |                |                  |        |                |                               |        |                |                                   |        |                |
| 2-year college                   | 37.8                | 27.2   | 48.5           | 20.2             | 25.8   | 27.8           | 25.7                          | 45.5   | 32.6           | 22.7                              | 26.7   | 21.8           |
| 4-year college                   | 33.5                | 34.2   | 28.4           | 27.2             | 30.3   | 29.9           | 33.1                          | 36.1   | 37.4           | 18.6                              | 30.4   | 13.9           |
| Graduate                         | 28.7                | 38.6   | 23.1           | 52.6             | 43.9   | 42.3           | 41.1                          | 18.4   | 30.0           | 58.7                              | 42.8   | 64.3           |
|                                  | 100.0               | 100.0  | 100.0          | 100.0            | 100.0  | 100.0          | 100.0                         | 100.0  | 100.0          | 100.0                             | 100.0  | 100.0          |
| All ages                         |                     |        |                |                  |        |                |                               |        |                |                                   |        |                |
| 2-year college                   | 39.7                | 39.0   | 42.2           | 19.9             | 22.3   | 24.7           | 27.6                          | 22.1   | 28.9           | 18.8                              | 22.0   | 25.3           |
| 4-year college                   | 45.9                | 49.8   | 47.8           | 45.7             | 53.3   | 55.6           | 52.8                          | 65.2   | 55.8           | 46.5                              | 64.5   | 53.8           |
| Graduate                         | 14.5                | 11.2   | 10.0           | 34.4             | 24.5   | 19.7           | 19.6                          | 12.7   | 15.3           | 34.7                              | 13.5   | 20.8           |
|                                  | 100.0               | 100.0  | 100.0          | 100.0            | 100.0  | 100.0          | 100.0                         | 100.0  | 100.0          | 100.0                             | 100.0  | 100.0          |
| In public college                | 85.1                | 82.2   | 86.5           | 72.6             | 68.2   | 77.2           | 78.1                          | 66.7   | 80.7           | 76.0                              | 77.6   | 77.6           |
| Enrolled full-time               |                     |        |                |                  |        |                |                               |        |                |                                   |        |                |
| 18 to 24 years                   | 71.2                | 72.2   | 79.5           | 85.4             | 83.9   | 84.8           | 82.3                          | 89.9   | 84.7           | 88.2                              | 90.6   | 80.4           |
| 25 to 34 years                   | 39.5                | 41.9   | 41.6           | 59.4             | 43.2   | 43.4           | 50.5                          | 39.6   | 45.6           | 67.8                              | 60.4   | 53.7           |
| 35 years and over                | 24.2                | 30.5   | 39.1           | 29.4             | 23.3   | 24.2           | 36.2                          | 50.1   | 27.8           | 43.8                              | 48.8   | 37.1           |
| All ages                         | 52.8                | 64.0   | 64.6           | 65.0             | 65.2   | 66.1           | 62.6                          | 76.0   | 65.3           | 74.8                              | 85.3   | 69.9           |
| Undergraduates older than age 24 | 43.0                | 20.3   | 34.7           | 37.3             | 25.8   | 27.1           | 45.0                          | 25.3   | 35.3           | 29.6                              | 12.9   | 19.5           |

Source: October Current Population Surveys

The upper left cell reads "44.2 percent of Hispanic foreign-born 18-to-24 year old college students were enrolled in 2-year colleges."

Table 12: Characteristics of College Enrollment, by Latino Generation, 1997 to 2000 (in percent)

| Type of college                  | Mexican generation |        |                | Puerto Rican generation |        |                | Cuban generation |        |                | Cent or So American generation |        |                |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------|----------------|-------------------------|--------|----------------|------------------|--------|----------------|--------------------------------|--------|----------------|
|                                  | Foreign-born       | Second | Third & Higher | Foreign-born            | Second | Third & Higher | Foreign-born     | Second | Third & Higher | Foreign-born                   | Second | Third & Higher |
| 18 to 24 years                   |                    |        |                |                         |        |                |                  |        |                |                                |        |                |
| 2-year college                   | 50.2               | 45.0   | 45.1           | 32.1                    | 27.9   | 35.2           | 34.7             | 31.9   |                | 42.6                           | 38.0   |                |
| 4-year college                   | 46.2               | 49.6   | 50.8           | 67.9                    | 70.0   | 60.4           | 65.3             | 58.9   |                | 51.7                           | 54.6   |                |
| Graduate                         | 3.6                | 5.4    | 4.1            | 0.0                     | 2.1    | 4.4            | 0.0              | 9.2    |                | 5.7                            | 7.4    |                |
|                                  | 100.0              | 100.0  | 100.0          | 100.0                   | 100.0  | 100.0          | 100.0            | 100.0  |                | 100.0                          | 100.0  |                |
| 25 to 34 years                   |                    |        |                |                         |        |                |                  |        |                |                                |        |                |
| 2-year college                   | 41.6               | 36.4   | 42.2           | 30.3                    | 27.8   | 26.3           | 17.8             | 25.2   |                | 19.8                           | 29.9   |                |
| 4-year college                   | 43.6               | 42.9   | 42.6           | 36.5                    | 56.4   | 43.4           | 38.9             | 46.1   |                | 47.9                           | 32.8   |                |
| Graduate                         | 14.9               | 20.7   | 15.2           | 33.2                    | 15.8   | 30.3           | 43.2             | 28.8   |                | 32.2                           | 37.3   |                |
|                                  | 100.0              | 100.0  | 100.0          | 100.0                   | 100.0  | 100.0          | 100.0            | 100.0  |                | 100.0                          | 100.0  |                |
| 35 years and over                |                    |        |                |                         |        |                |                  |        |                |                                |        |                |
| 2-year college                   | 35.4               | 34.8   | 56.3           | 43.2                    | 17.3   |                | 42.9             | 0.0    |                | 37.1                           | 64.5   | 14.6           |
| 4-year college                   | 50.6               | 41.7   | 22.8           | 43.7                    | 9.9    |                | 7.7              | 37.2   |                | 27.4                           | 35.5   | 19.1           |
| Graduate                         | 14.0               | 23.4   | 20.9           | 13.1                    | 72.7   |                | 49.4             | 62.7   |                | 35.5                           | 0.0    | 66.4           |
|                                  | 100.0              | 100.0  | 100.0          | 100.0                   | 100.0  |                | 100.0            | 100.0  |                | 100.0                          | 100.0  | 100.0          |
| All ages                         |                    |        |                |                         |        |                |                  |        |                |                                |        |                |
| 2-year college                   | 45.7               | 43.7   | 46.3           | 32.1                    | 25.6   | 34.0           | 32.8             | 29.2   | 0.0            | 34.5                           | 39.6   | 5.5            |
| 4-year college                   | 45.8               | 47.2   | 44.5           | 52.0                    | 54.3   | 56.9           | 42.7             | 52.5   | 61.2           | 44.9                           | 49.2   | 61.3           |
| Graduate                         | 8.4                | 9.0    | 9.2            | 15.9                    | 20.0   | 9.1            | 24.5             | 18.3   | 38.8           | 20.6                           | 11.2   | 33.2           |
|                                  | 100.0              | 100.0  | 100.0          | 100.0                   | 100.0  | 100.0          | 100.0            | 100.0  | 100.0          | 100.0                          | 100.0  | 100.0          |
| In public college                | 90.0               | 87.3   | 85.5           | 82.3                    | 60.5   | 87.3           | 85.3             | 77.8   | 81.4           | 83.6                           | 82.5   | 90.7           |
| Enrolled full-time               |                    |        |                |                         |        |                |                  |        |                |                                |        |                |
| 18 to 24 years                   | 63.2               | 68.8   | 79.7           | 100.0                   | 76.5   | 80.6           | 85.5             | 93.9   |                | 75.4                           | 77.1   |                |
| 25 to 34 years                   | 31.5               | 43.9   | 41.1           | 46.2                    | 38.5   | 34.5           | 56.3             | 53.9   |                | 42.9                           | 50.1   |                |
| 35 years and over                | 37.2               | 29.4   | 38.8           | 0.0                     | 18.7   |                | 23.1             | 61.2   |                | 19.6                           | 0.0    | 14.1           |
| All ages                         | 49.7               | 62.4   | 64.5           | 62.7                    | 53.4   | 72.7           | 60.9             | 84.2   | 62.1           | 52.6                           | 72.0   | 59.9           |
| Undergraduates older than age 24 | 41.0               | 19.3   | 35.1           | 48.5                    | 40.2   | 14.4           | 37.3             | 18.4   |                | 44.6                           | 12.4   |                |

Source: October Current Population Surveys

The upper left cell reads "50.2 percent of Mexican origin foreign-born 18-to-24 year old college students were enrolled in 2-year colleges."



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## APPENDIX A: DESCRIPTION OF DATA

Our college enrollment estimates are derived from the October Current Population Survey (CPS). Collected by the U.S. Census Bureau, the CPS is the nation's foremost national monthly survey. The Survey is the basis for the monthly release of the national unemployment rate and additional indicators of the vitality of the labor market. In October the Census Bureau supplements the basic interview questions with additional questions on school enrollment. The Census Bureau publishes tabulations on college enrollment (U.S. Census Bureau, undated). Tabulations based on the CPS should not be confused with the fall enrollment in degree-granting institutions tabulated by the National Center for Education Statistics. The National Center for Education Statistics fall enrollment tallies are part of the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, a survey of postsecondary institutions (National Center on Education Statistics, 2001). The CPS is a household survey, and thus the person reports on his/her college enrollment status, rather than the postsecondary institution. A major advantage of the CPS is that it possesses a wealth of information on all individuals, not just the characteristics of college students.

The October CPS surveys about 50,000 households or 120,000 persons. Approximately 6,500 of these individuals are enrolled in college. "Traditional college age" is the age range of 18 to 24 years of age, and we wanted to examine college enrollment behavior for this conventional age group. A CPS has about 11,000 18- to 24-year-old respondents, of which about 1,500 are Hispanic. In order to derive college enrollment estimates for the major Latino origin groups and generations, the October 2000 CPS did not provide sufficient sample sizes. We surmounted sample size considerations by concatenating the four most recent CPS school enrollment supplements, 1997 to 2000. Appendix Table A reports the unweighted sample sizes for the combined 1997 to 2000 sample.<sup>14</sup> All the enrollment counts reported in the paper are on an annual basis. The annual figures are the average of the 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2000 counts. That is, we weighted the combined 1997 to 2000 data file by dividing the CPS weight by 4.

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<sup>14</sup> The CPS is a nationally representative sample of housing units. It does not, however, sample a completely new set of housing units each month. Rather, the housing units rotate in and out of the sample (Madrian and Lefgren, 1999). As a result of the rotation scheme, half of the housing units in October of year  $t$  will be in the sample of October of year  $t+1$ . We did not adjust our estimates for the nonindependence of the housing units across years.

**Table A. Unweighted Sample Sizes, by Generation, 1997 to 2000**

|                   | Mexican generation |        |                | Puerto Rican generation |        |                | Cuban generation |        |                |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------|----------------|-------------------------|--------|----------------|------------------|--------|----------------|
|                   | Foreign-born       | Second | Third & Higher | Foreign-born            | Second | Third & Higher | Foreign-born     | Second | Third & Higher |
| 18 to 24 years    | 1,798              | 1,033  | 1,103          | 122                     | 255    | 114            | 63               | 72     | 14             |
| 25 to 34 years    | 3,351              | 791    | 1,388          | 279                     | 408    | 143            | 157              | 81     | 20             |
| 35 years and over | 4,737              | 1,676  | 2,855          | 1,219                   | 447    | 193            | 1,023            | 84     | 30             |
| All ages          | 11,330             | 9,974  | 9,179          | 1,860                   | 1,906  | 1,117          | 1,317            | 462    | 130            |

|                   | Central or South American generation |        |                | Non-Hispanic White generation |        |                |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|----------------|-------------------------------|--------|----------------|
|                   | Foreign-born                         | Second | Third & Higher | Foreign-born                  | Second | Third & Higher |
| 18 to 24 years    | 611                                  | 217    | 53             | 707                           | 1,462  | 26,836         |
| 25 to 34 years    | 1,245                                | 156    | 33             | 1,834                         | 2,471  | 42,661         |
| 35 years and over | 2,591                                | 141    | 120            | 8,874                         | 20,361 | 172,392        |
| All ages          | 4,958                                | 1,965  | 348            | 12,373                        | 29,966 | 325,094        |

|                   | Non-Hispanic Black generation |        |                | Non-Hispanic Asian/Pacific Islander generation |        |                |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|--------|----------------|------------------------------------------------|--------|----------------|
|                   | Foreign-born                  | Second | Third & Higher | Foreign-born                                   | Second | Third & Higher |
| 18 to 24 years    | 340                           | 229    | 4,315          | 1,001                                          | 612    | 322            |
| 25 to 34 years    | 610                           | 233    | 6,086          | 2,362                                          | 502    | 416            |
| 35 years and over | 1,682                         | 343    | 20,301         | 6,183                                          | 1,006  | 1,195          |
| All ages          | 2,927                         | 2,177  | 45,916         | 10,621                                         | 5,289  | 3,009          |

Source: October Current Population Surveys

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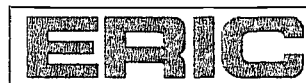
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