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Capstone Project

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Abstract

America is a destination many people choose to come and accomplish their life objectives and dreams; this may not be as simple as people may think. America is the destination of hundreds or maybe millions of people around the world, for decades in search for a better life, social economic status, education and protection. This is also known as the “American Dream”. In the search of this dream, immigrants sacrifice their family union, their traditions, culture, leave loved ones behind and everything they know, even putting their lives at risk to accomplish these life objectives. The lack of opportunities in their places of Origin pushes them to this great adventure called America.

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Capstone Focus and Rationale

Education Disparities among Immigrant students in New York City

Immigrants, Disparities, American Dream, Sanctuary City

Scope of Problem – New York City is known to be a Sanctuary City, and this is one of the reasons immigrants come, to follow their life objectives and dreams. But is the city prepared to receive these families, provide and fulfill all their necessities to live a dignified life? Can this city give children and young adults a worthy education without sacrificing their own?

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Chapter One - Introductions

Capstone Focus and Rationale - Why explore this topic?

Research Question

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Scope of Problem – Discuss the problem or issue

Discuss information obtained from two studies to justify focus

Chapter Two – Historical Informed Analysis

History of Problem

Causes

Consequences

Role of Organizations, Policies, Practices, Funding

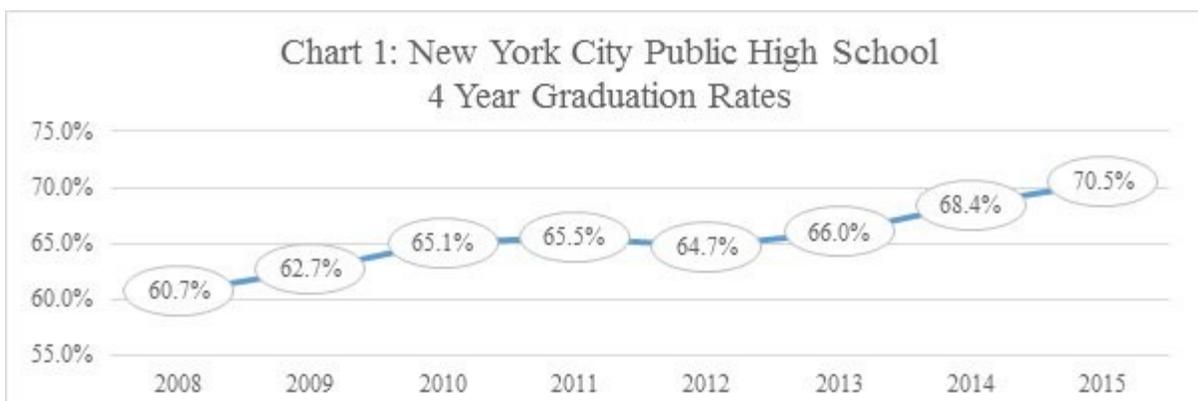
Chapter Three – Data Trend Analysis and Interpretations

New York City has made consistent progress in recent years in boosting overall graduation rates, as shown in Chart 1. According to data from the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE), the four-year graduation rate rose from 60.7 percent for the class that entered high school in the fall of 2004, to 70.5 percent for those who entered high school in the fall of 2011. [2] These gains are an important achievement and represent true progress in ensuring that New York City students have the education they need to go to college or find employment. It is important to mention that this study is for students in general, no specific race or ethnicity.

Data Analysis

Chart 1 shows the percentage of students graduating high school from the year 2008 to 2015. Starting at 60.7 percent in 2008 then progressing up to a 70.5 percent in 2015.

Chart 1



New York Public Schools 4-year Graduation Rates

There are many factors that we can take into consideration when we see students from the Latino community dropping out school, one of them could be the economic factor. Families can not afford basic living necessities and sometimes these conditions push young adults to leave school

and start to work at an early age, so they can help their mothers with the expenses. Taking on sometimes the role of head of household. This not only applies to the students, but the schools located in certain areas where the economic factor is not as high.

Chart 2

“Students in the lowest quintile of the Economic Need Index had a 51 percent graduation rate, while those in the highest quintile had a 96 percent graduation rate”.

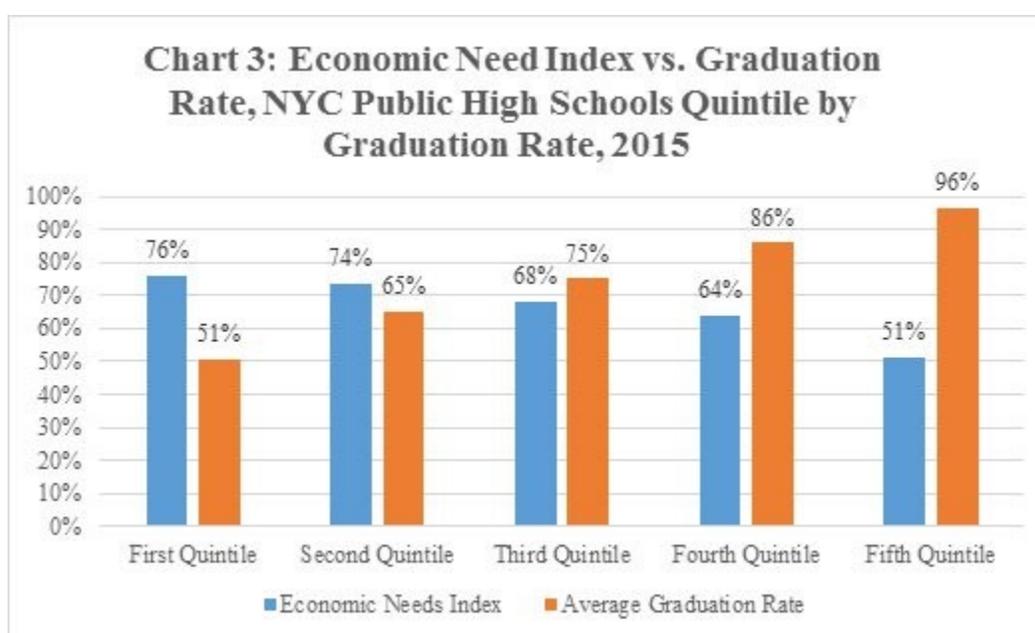


Chart 2 show the economic need vs graduation rate in New York city

Current data also shows that, despite overall improvements, significant disparities in graduation rates exist in New York City when viewed through the lens of race and ethnicity. While 82 percent of white students graduated in four years, only 64 percent of Hispanic students and 65.4 percent of black students did so in 2015.[\[3\]](#) As shown in Chart 4, among the schools included in the analysis, schools with decreasing graduation rates between 2011 and 2015 had a higher share

of black and Hispanic students (88 percent combined) than the school population generally (63 percent).

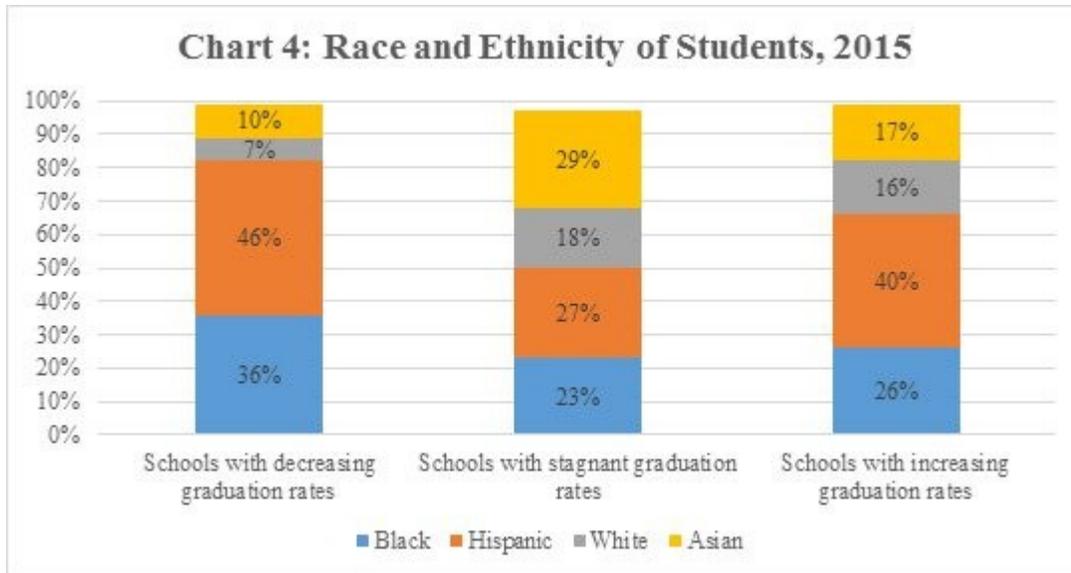


Chart 3 show graduation rates between Black, Hispanic, Asian and White students

In total, during the last nine years, 33 percent of Black students in public high schools in this analysis attended a high school that has experienced an overall decline in graduation rates since 2011. The same is true for only 12 percent of white students.

Today, there are various organizations that support immigrant children with their education in the United States. And this is a good start, but much more work is needed on several fronts. Legislation is where permanent change can be implemented to ensure that immigrant students and children of immigrant parents can have a successful education in the United States” (Lopez., P., 9). One of the reasons why voting is important, we can help create laws that would help those less fortunate have better opportunities.

In conclusion the “United States is a nation of immigrants” (Larrotta., P., 60). These families coming to better their lives and offer an opportunity to their families to accomplish their

dreams is an exceptional demonstration of love. Leaving all you know behind and starting from zero in a country where everything is different, even the language is extremely difficult, but the desire for accomplishing their life objectives is greater than any obstacle they may encounter. I know the feeling I am an immigrant myself and many of the challenges presented here, I experienced before. I come from a family, that the only desired was to have a better way of living and more opportunities to make their dreams come true. I migrated to the United States back in September 1998 from Colombia South America, a teenage girl full of fears and insecurities, living everything I knew behind, my mother, my family and my friends. I didn't speak English, one of my first obstacles, didn't know anybody in my new school, I felt lost. Fast forward to now, twenty-two years later, I am still here in the U.S. finishing my bachelor's degree and still going for my dreams. I know what these families of immigrants go through, and therefore I would like to do more to help. I would like to learn more about immigration laws, I would like to help children that want to further their education and accomplish their dreams. I firmly believe that Education is the key to a better future. And if you dream it and visualized it you can accomplished anything you put your time and effort to.

The truth is that the world should be one of open borders, so that each person looks for the ideal place to live. If we all had the opportunity for a decent and high-quality education, we would not be a burden in any part of the world, on the contrary, we would be people who would contribute to the improvement of our world. "Immigrant children are the future of the United States. The type of future they contribute will depend on the investment this nation makes on their education and wellbeing". In order words if we contribute to immigrant education, and make laws that they can benefit from, the country will have educated professional adults helping their communities prosper. "To ensure that this happens the federal and state governments and

the departments of education should protect the future generation and facilitates the resources needed to complete their education” (Lopez., P., 9). My goal is to become an advocate to help immigrants’ students further their education. I would have loved for people to helped me through the college process, back then there weren’t as many programs or information as now, but it’s never too late to learn and help those in need. Critical systems class had thought me that, there’s a solution to every problem, the key to resolve them is not analyzed every aspect of it and find the root of it. Immigration is a sensitive subject that needs to get address from the root, and find logical solution for everyone, this way we can all benefit from a safe and control immigration process.

References

- Lopez, V. (2021, June 23). Barriers in the United States Education System for Immigrant Children. *Latina Republic*. <https://latinarepublic.com/2021/06/23/barriers-in-the-united-states-education-system-for-immigrant-children/>