



# RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

## **M.Ed. In TESL Program Country Informational Reports**

Produced by Graduate Students in the M.Ed. In TESL Program  
In the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development

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# *The Dominican Republic*



- *Sara Radtke*
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- *Spring 2013*

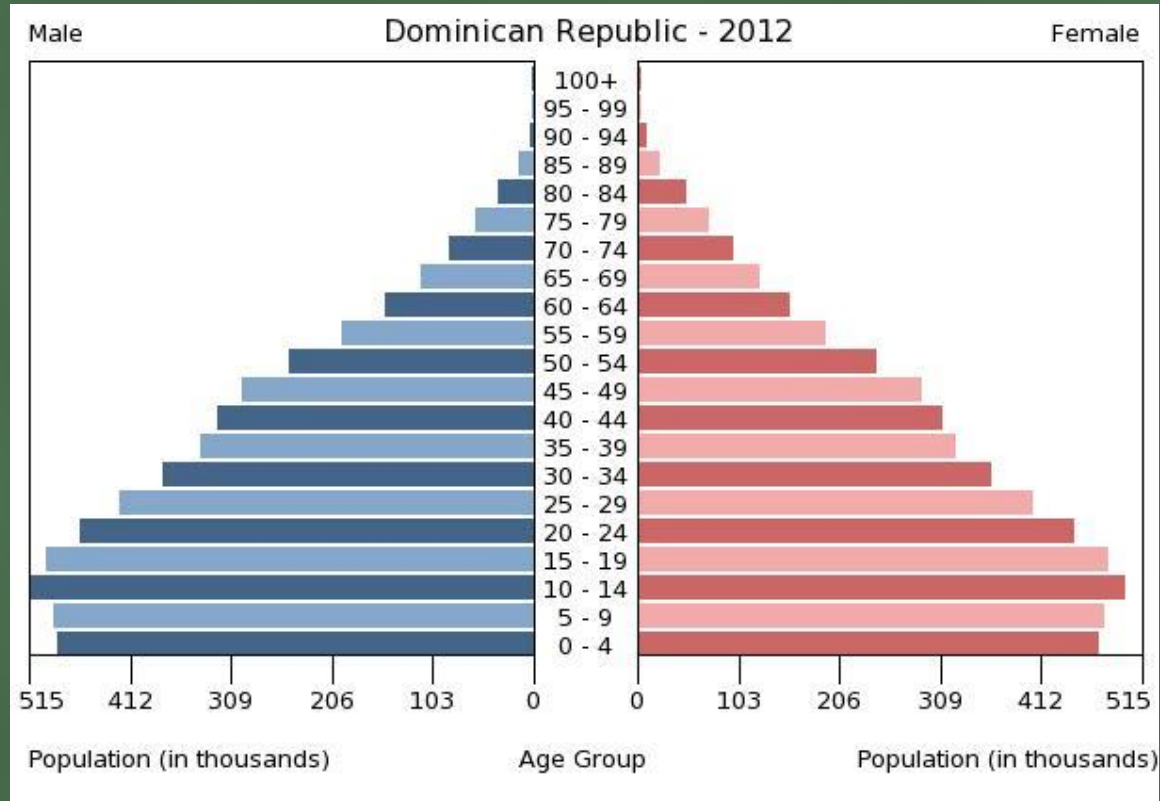
# Location Facts



- Dominican Republic shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti.
- Dominican Republic occupies the Eastern two-thirds of the island.
- The island is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the north and Caribbean Sea to the South.
- Has an area of 48, 730 square kilometers.
- It is the second largest Caribbean nation.
- More than twice the size of New Hampshire.

# *Dominican Republic Makeup*

- Population: 10,088,598 (July 2012 est.)
- Official Language: Spanish
- Poverty rate: 40.4%
- School Life Expectancy:
  - Total: 12 years
  - Male: 11 years
  - Female: 13 years
- Literacy rate:
  - Male: 86.8%
  - Female: 87.2%





# Schooling in the Dominican Republic

- Average Dominican attends school for 12 years.
- All children must attend school for 7 years.
- In many cases, schools are badly understaffed and do not offer all of the required grades.
- Due to the cost of books, the extra need for family income, and taking care of siblings, many economically disadvantaged children cannot attend school for more than a year or two.



# Education



## Education System in the Dominican Republic

Education	School/Level	Grade From	Grade To	Age From	Age To	Years	Notes
Primary	Basic Primary School	1	9			9	
Middle	Intermediate School					2	
Secondary	Secondary					4	Students receive a bachillerato (high school diploma)
Secondary	Six year liceo - Secondary Teacher, Vocational, Polytechnics					6	Graduates receive bachillerato certificate in polytechnics, teacher training & vocational schools.
Vocational	Vocational training program			14	17	4	Admission requires fundamental education certificate.
Tertiary	University/College level			18			The University of Santo Domingo, founded in 1538, is the oldest university in the Americas

- Primary Education is officially free and compulsory for children aged 7-14.
- Primary schooling is followed by a two year intermediate school and a four year secondary course.
- A diploma called the *bachillerato* is awarded after completion.
- Only half of the students continue on to *liceo* (high school)

# Secondary Schooling

- Only 59% attend secondary schooling after their required primary schooling.
- There are nearly 1,000 secondary schools available to all children.
- Many economically advantaged children go to Europe or the United States for their Secondary and University educations.
- The only public university is the University of Santo Domingo.





# Students in the Dominican Republic

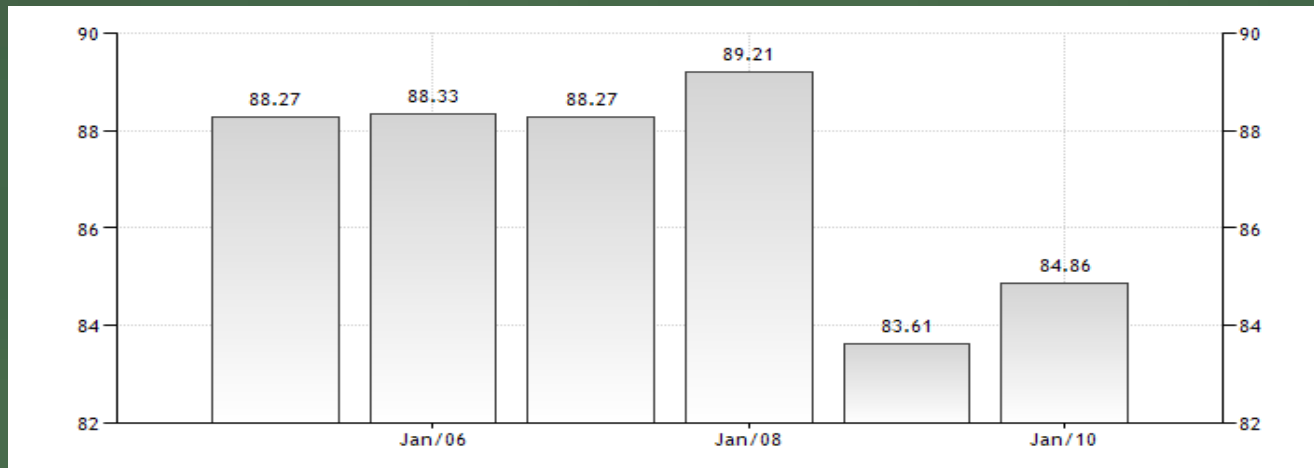
- Students attend school Monday through Friday.
- Public school students attend school for four hours a day either in the morning or afternoon.
- Students attending private schools attend for six hours a day.
- Curriculum includes: mathematics, science, Spanish, history, government, human development, and PE.
- Each morning students sing *Himno Nacional* (national anthem)
- All Students wear uniforms to school.
  - Public school: uniforms consist of a blue shirt, beige slacks or a skirt, white socks, and black shoes
  - Private School: uniforms vary according to school colors





# Teacher Qualifications

- The Trained teachers in primary education (% of total teachers) in Dominican Republic was last reported at 84.86 in 2010, according to a World Bank report published in 2012. Trained teachers in primary education are the percentage of primary school teachers who have received the minimum organized teacher training (pre-service or in-service) required for teaching in their country.



- In the past it was considered ordinary for a public school teacher to be a graduate only of one of the normal schools that trained high school graduates for two years in teaching techniques.
- Reforms have mandated that each teacher must have a *licenciatura* or a university five-year degree to be able to teach in the public school system. Under the *Plan Decenal* funds were made available for teachers to return to school to upgrade their credentials.

# *Presidential Forum for Excellence in Dominican Education*



Dr. Leonel Fernández  
President of the Dominican Republic from  
1996 to 2000 and 2004 to 2012

- In February 2005, the Presidential Forum for Excellence in Dominican Education was created.
- The goals of this program were:
  - Improve and expand schools
  - Train adults in important careers
  - Provide funding for teachers
  - Raise the quality of teaching methods
  - Increase the number of years children stayed in school
  - Incorporating new advances in technology.

# Research and Innovation

- The education system is in the process of being restructured.

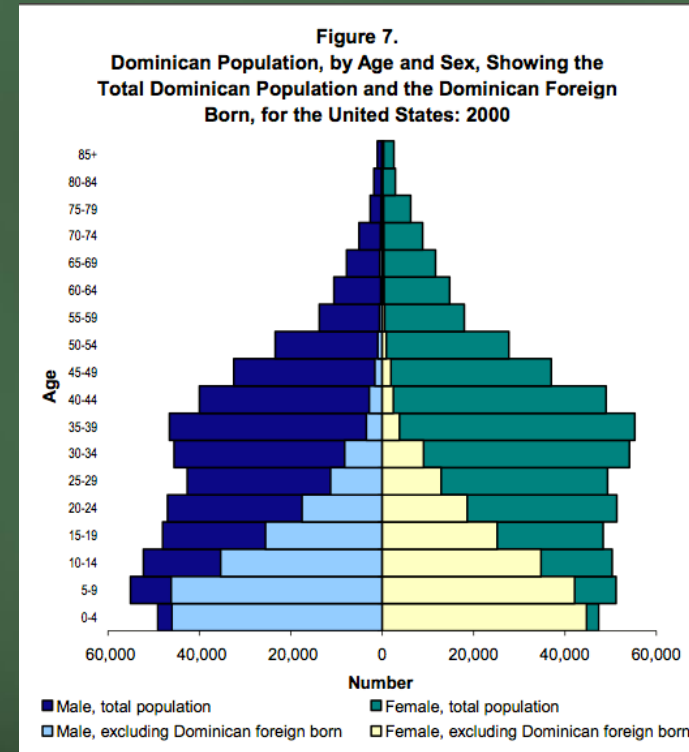
The immediate labors are:

- Achieve universal literacy for the Dominican population.
- Make reading the foundation of the entire educational structure.
- Universal coverage of primary and secondary education.
- Grow and improve the educational infrastructure, especially in rural areas.
- Strengthen secondary education.
- Increase the number of young people between 18 and 24 that go on to higher studies. Decrease university drop-outs.
- Widen, diversify and improve curricular offerings, especially in fields related to the basic sciences and technology.
- Supply teachers with initial education and continuous quality training.
- Encourage scientific debate in and from the educational centers, above all in the university sphere.
- Assist universities in increasing their research budgets. Link research and teaching.
- Improve relations between the higher education centers and national productive sectors.



# *Dominican Immigration*

- Dominicans are the fifth-largest population of Hispanic origin living in the United States.
- Nearly six-in-ten Dominicans (57%) in the United States are foreign born compared with 37% of Hispanics and 13% of the U.S. population overall.
- Less than half of Dominican immigrants (47%) are U.S. citizens.
- A majority (55%) of Dominicans speak English proficiently.
- There are more women than men in the Dominican population.
- The higher number of women relative to men is due to the higher number of female immigrants.

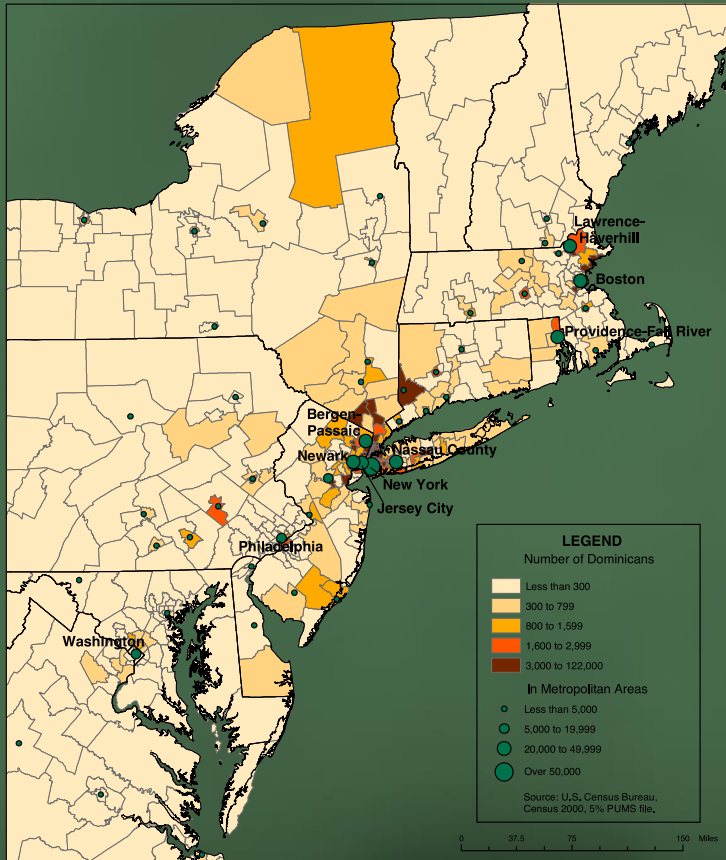




# Dominican U.S. Population

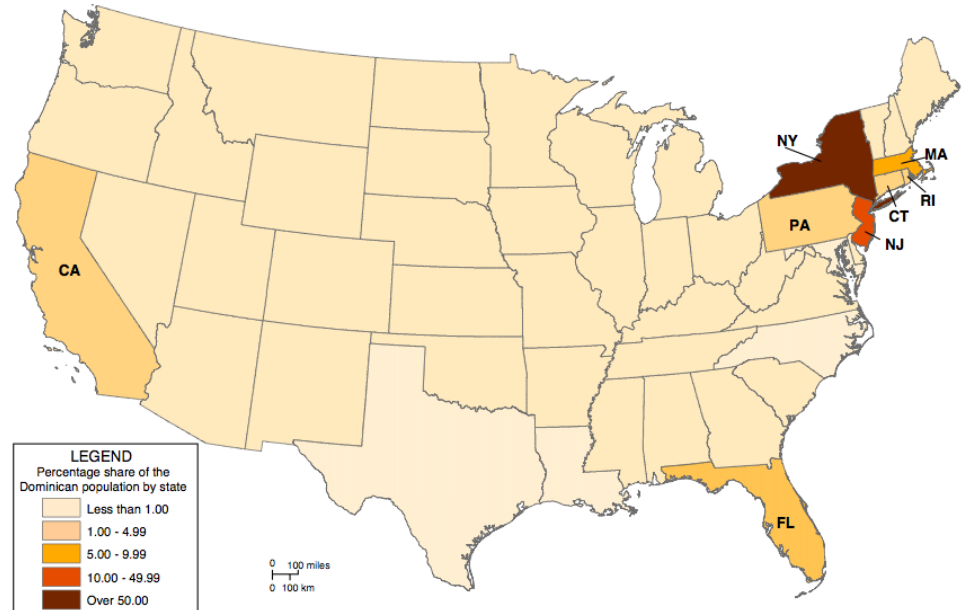
## The Dominican Population in the Northeastern United States

including the foreign born and those of Dominican origin and ancestry



## The Dominican Population in the United States\*

including the foreign born and those of Dominican origin and ancestry



- Among the five states with Dominican populations over 20,000, Rhode Island and Florida experienced the most rapid growth between 1990 and 2000.
- Eight-in-ten Dominicans (79%) live in the Northeast, and nearly half (48%) live in New York.
- The three states with the largest Dominican populations are New York, New Jersey, and Florida
- Between 1998 and 2002, an average of 20,000 permanent immigrants were admitted each year to the United States from the Dominican Republic.

# *Dominican Education in the U.S.*

Table 9.  
**Educational Attainment of Native Hispanics and Dominicans in the United States, Age 25 and Over: 2000**

Educational attainment	Hispanics (excluding Dominicans)		Dominicans	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	7,907,651	100.0	59,439	100.0
No schooling completed	234,152	3.0	1,253	2.1
Less than high school	2,261,232	28.6	10,680	18.0
Some grade school	788,737	10.0	2,637	4.4
Some high school	1,472,495	18.6	8,043	13.5
High school diploma	2,176,489	27.5	12,955	21.8
Some college/associate's degree	2,198,544	27.8	21,379	36.0
Bachelor's degree or higher	1,037,234	13.1	13,172	22.2
Bachelor's degree	705,428	8.9	9,290	15.6
Graduate degree	331,806	4.2	3,882	6.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, 5% PUMS File.

- Approximately 80 percent of all Dominicans born in the United States have at least a high school degree.
- One in five of all Dominicans born in the United States has at least a Bachelor's degree.
- Dominicans born in the United States achieve a higher level of education, on average, than other native Hispanic groups.
- Dominicans have higher levels of education than the Hispanic population overall. Some 15% of Dominicans ages 25 and older—compared with 13% of all U.S. Hispanics—have obtained at least a bachelor's degree.

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Cover Slide

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