

Based on school enrollment data, we estimate that more than 135,000 Puerto Ricans relocated to the United States six months after Hurricane Maria landed in Puerto Rico. Prior estimates of the magnitude of this exodus are based on movement of passenger or projections based on recent migration trends from Puerto Rico to the United States.



According to the survey of school districts¹, 11,554 Puerto Rican students enrolled in Florida's schools; 2,556 in Massachusetts; 2,874 in Pennsylvania; 2,218 in New York; 1,827 in Connecticut; and 886 in New Jersey. Table 1 also include averages for Puerto Rican school-age children (A) and total migrants (B) from 2013 to 2016 from the yearly surveys of the American Community Survey from the U.S.

Bureau of the Census. This data permit us to estimate the ratio (B/A) of school-age children to total migrant population. This ratio is then used to estimate the total migration that corresponds to the average number of children. In other words, the data on school enrollment can be extrapolated to estimate the total post-Maria exodus from Puerto Rico.

Table 1. Post-Maria 2017 School Enrollment Estimates and Predicted Population Estimates

	(A) School-Age Children Migrants (2013-2016)	(B) Puerto Rican Migrants (2013-2016)	(B/A) Ratio of School-Age Children to Total Migrant Population	Puerto Rican School Enrollment Data (K-12)	Migration Estimates (2018)	Distribution (2018)
National	13,050	64,933	4.98	24,406	135,592	100%
Selected States	10,043	49,864	4.97	21,640	111,185	82%
FL	4,955	24,221	4.89	11,554	56,477	42%
MA	546	3,251	5.95	2,556	15,208	11%
CT	359	2,614	7.28	1,827	13,292	10%
NY	756	3,822	5.06	2,218	11,217	8%
PA	1,652	6,333	3.83	2,599	9,963	7%
NJ	548	3,109	5.67	886	5,027	4%
Other States*	3,007	15,069	5.01	2,766	24,406	18%

Source: American Community Survey, 2013-2016 (1-year estimates) and Selected Department of Education.

We estimate that six months after the storm, 135,592 people migrated from Puerto Rico to the United States. The distribution of the post-Hurricane Maria exodus from Puerto Rico follows a familiar pattern with the prefer location of Florida with the largest share of relocations reaching 56,477 people representing 42% of the total flow. Flori-

da is followed by states in the Northeast: Massachusetts, 15,208 (11% of the total flow), Connecticut, 13,292 (10%), New York, 11,217 (8%), Pennsylvania, 9,963 (7%), and New Jersey, 5,027 (4%).

NOTES

¹ Refer to Jennifer Hinojosa, Nashia Román, and Edwin Meléndez. Puerto Rican Post-Maria Relocation by States, Centro RB2017-03, Issued March 2018.

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