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Latinos in Worcester

Part of a Series of Profiles of Latinos in Massachusetts Completed with Support from the Boston Foundation.

The Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy

The Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy was established at the University of Massachusetts at Boston in December of 1989. The creation of the Gastón Institute responds to the need for better understanding of the experience and conditions of life of Latinos in the Commonwealth! Its purpose is to conduct research about the Latino population in Massachusetts and to develop the kind of information and analysis necessary for the development of sound public policy and for the effective participation of the Latino population in public policy development in the Commonwealth. In an effort to facilitate access to vital information about Latinos to various audiences, and with support from the Boston Foundation, the Gastón Institute has produced a series of basic demographic profiles for selected cities in the Commonwealth based on the 1990 United States Census. These profiles are but one part of the Gastón Institute's broader initiative to disseminate the 1990 United States Census and to address other relevant aspects of the social and economic situation of Latinos in the Commonwealth.

General population changes in the city of Worcester reflected statewide trends, with the black, Latino and in particular Asian populations growing faster than the non-Latino white population, and Latinos growing in absolute number more than any other racial/ethnic group. Between 1980 and 1990 the total population of Worcester increased by 4.9%, and its composition changed substantially. The total Latino population of Worcester grew from 6,877 in 1980 to 16,258 in 1990, for an inter-censal increase of 136.4%. While Latinos represented 4.3% of the total population in 1980, they represented 9.6% in 1990. Worcester had the fourth largest absolute number of Latinos in Massachusetts in 1990, and its Latino population as a proportion of the total population of the city ranked seventh in the Commonwealth. (For more information about Latinos in Massachusetts see the back page.) The number of non-Latino whites decreased by 4.8% between 1980 and 1990, and the number of non-Latino blacks and Asians increased by 50.8% and 389.7% respectively.

Worcester: Total Population by Race and Ethnicity for 1980 and 1990

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number of persons	% of total population	Number of persons	% of total population	
Non-Latino population*	154,922	95.7	153,501	90.4	-0.9
White	148,500	91.8	141,416	83.3	-4.8
Black	4,473	2.8	6,746	4.0	50.8
Asian**	974	0.6	4,770	2.8	389.7
Other	975	0.6	569	0.3	-41.6
Latino population	6,877	4.3	16,258	9.6	136.4
Total	161,799	100.0	169,759	100.0	4.9

* Mutually exclusive categories

** This count of Non-Latino Asians includes Latinos who are Asians.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 1980. Census of Population and Housing: Summary Population and Housing Characteristics: Massachusetts. Washington, D.C. U.S. Government Printing Office. U.S. Bureau of the Census 1990. Census of Population and Housing, Massachusetts. Massachusetts Summary Tape File 1A.

¹ Latino will be used throughout to refer to a person living in the United States of Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, or Mexican ancestry as well as other Spanish-speaking people from Central or South American countries.

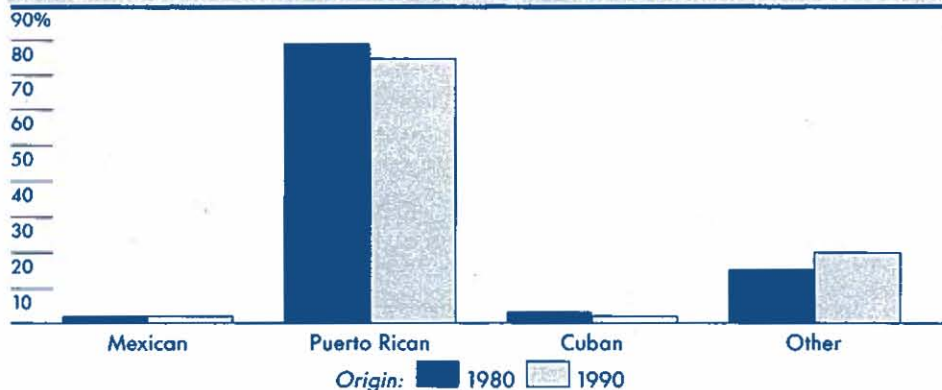
Puerto Ricans and "Other" Latinos were the major Latino groups in the city, accounting respectively for 74.8% and 20.4% of the total Latino population. Making up this "Other" category are Latinos from the Dominican Republic, Central and South America.² While Puerto Ricans remained the largest group in the city, their representation among Latinos decreased while the share of "Other" Latinos increased. Between 1980 and 1990 the share of "Other" Latinos increased from 15.3% of the Latino population to 20.4%, while Puerto Ricans decreased from 79% to 74.8%.

Worcester: Composition of Latino Population by National Origin for 1980 and 1990

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Mexican	167	2.4	397	2.4	137.7
Puerto Rican	5,433	79.0	12,166	74.8	123.9
Cuban	228	3.3	380	2.3	66.7
Other	1,049	15.3	3,315	20.4	216.0
Total	6,877	100.0	16,258	100.0	136.4

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 1980 and 1990.

Worcester: Latino Population by Origin (Percent of total Latinos in 1980-1990)

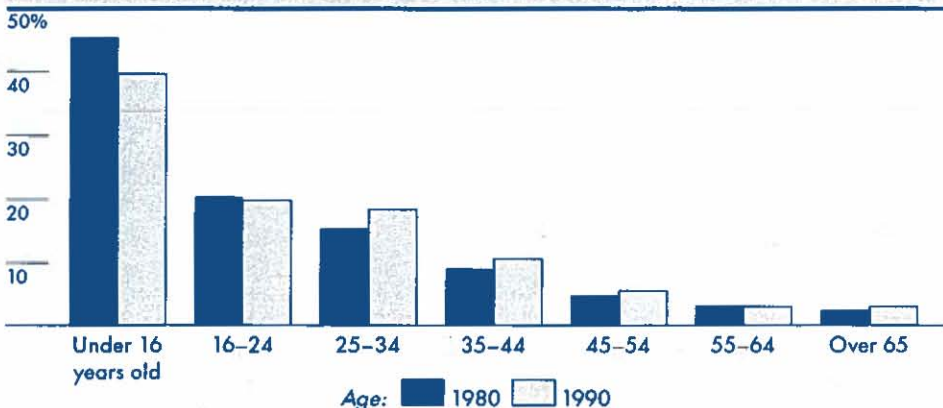


Worcester: Latino Population by Age for 1980 and 1990

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Under 16 years old	3,114	45.3	6,417	39.5	106.1
16-24	1,394	20.3	3,214	19.8	130.6
25-34	1,055	15.3	2,975	18.3	182.0
35-44	611	8.9	1,741	10.7	184.9
45-54	330	4.8	907	5.6	174.8
55-64	211	3.1	496	3.1	135.1
Over 65	162	2.4	508	3.1	213.6
Total	6,877	100.0	16,258	100.0	136.4
Median age	18.1		20.9		

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 1980 and 1990.

Worcester: Latino Population by Age (Percent of total Latinos in 1980-1990)



While the Latino population in Worcester remained relatively young between 1980 and 1990, it became older in general. Latino median age increased from 18.1 years in 1980 to 20.9 years in 1990. While the percentage of Latinos 24 years of age or younger was 65.6% of the total Latino population in 1980, they represented 59.3% in 1990. Conversely, for the same period, the percentage of Latinos between 25 and 54 years of age increased from 29% to 34.6%, and the share of Latinos 55 years of age and older increased slightly from 5.5% to 6.2%.

²It is not possible to disaggregate the "Other" Latino category so as to differentiate the share of those individuals from the Dominican Republic, South and Central American countries. Still unpublished 1990 U.S. Census data by nativity would further permit some degree of differentiation.

Worcester: Composition of Male Latino Population by Age for 1980 and 1990

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Under 16 years old	1,573	48.0	3,302	42.3	109.9
16-24	638	19.5	1,534	19.6	140.4
25-34	474	14.5	1,359	17.4	186.7
35-44	265	8.1	788	10.1	197.4
45-54	157	4.8	405	5.2	158.0
55-64	100	3.1	216	2.8	116.0
Over 65	67	2.0	209	2.7	211.9
Total	3,274	100.0	7,813	100.0	138.6
Median age	16.8		19.6		

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 1980 and 1990.

Worcester: Composition of Female Latino Population by Age for 1980 and 1990

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Under 16 years old	1,541	42.8	3,115	36.9	102.1
16-24	756	21.0	1,680	19.9	122.2
25-34	581	16.1	1,616	19.1	178.1
35-44	346	9.6	953	11.3	175.4
45-54	173	4.8	502	5.9	190.2
55-64	111	3.1	280	3.3	152.3
Over 65	95	2.6	299	3.5	214.7
Total	3,603	100.0	8,445	100.0	134.4
Median age	19.2		22.1		

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 1980 and 1990.

Between 1980 and 1990 the composition of the Latino population by household type did not change dramatically, with the exception of a decline in the share of married-couple households with related children. More minor changes included a small increase in the share of married-couples without related children, of male-headed households with or without related children, and of householders living alone and with other unrelated individuals. The share of female-headed households with related children also increased.

Worcester: Latino Population by Household Type for 1980 and 1990

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Married-couple family with related children	518	28.5	927	20.5	79.0
Married-couple family, no related children	156	8.6	432	9.5	176.9
Male householder, no wife present, with or without related children	80	4.4	266	5.9	232.5
Female householder, no husband present, with related children	656	36.0	1,790	39.6	172.9
Female householder, no husband present, no related children	75	4.1	214	4.7	185.3
Householder living alone	257	14.1	658	14.5	156.0
Householder not living alone	78	4.3	237	5.2	203.8
Total	1,820	100.0	4,524	100.0	148.6

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 1980 and 1990.

The median age of both Latino males and females increased in general, although Latino females continued to be older than Latino males. Median age for Latino males increased from 16.8 years in 1980 to 19.6 years in 1990, and Latino females' median age increased from 19.2 years to 22.1 years.

Latinos in Massachusetts

The following charts correspond directly to those on the previous pages and offer a quick reference to the population, age and household status of Latinos in Massachusetts. In brief:

- The total population of Massachusetts increased from 5,737,037 in 1980 to 6,016,425, with Latinos growing in absolute number more than any other racial/ethnic group, becoming the largest minority group in the Commonwealth.
- Puerto Ricans and "Other" Latinos were the largest Latino subgroups in the state, accounting respectively for 2.5% and 1.9% of the total population. (Latinos in the "Other" category are from the Dominican Republic, Central and South America.)
- The Latino population, while remaining relatively young, became older in general, with the Latino median age increasing from 21.2 years in 1980 to 23.7 years in 1990.
- The median age of both Latino males and females increased between 1980 and 1990, with the median age for Latino males increasing from 20.3 years in 1980 to 23.1 years in 1990, and Latino females' median age increasing from 22.2 years to 24.3 years.

Massachusetts: Composition of Total Population by Racial/Ethnic Group and Latino Population by National Origin for 1980 and 1990

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Non-Latino — white	5,305,963	92.5	5,280,292	87.8	-0.5
Non-Latino — black	212,608	3.7	274,464	4.6	29.1
Non-Latino — Asian	49,501	0.9	143,392	2.4 ^a	189.7
Latino origin	141,043	2.5	287,549	4.8	103.9
Mexican	7,385	0.1	12,703	0.2	72.0
Puerto Rican	76,450	1.3	151,193	2.5	97.8
Cuban	6,617	0.1	8,106	0.1	22.5
Other	50,591	0.9	115,547	1.9	128.4
Total Population	5,737,037	100.0^b	6,016,425	100.0^c	4.9

^a This count of Non-Latino Asians includes Latinos who are Asians. In 1980, 892 Latinos (0.6% of all Latinos) identified their race as Asian in Massachusetts.

^b The 1980 total population includes 27,922 persons who are of other races and not of Latino origin.

^c The 1990 total population includes 30,728 persons who are of other races and not of Latino origin.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 1980. Census of Population and Housing: Summary Population and Housing Characteristics: Massachusetts. Washington, D.C. U.S. Government Printing Office. U.S. Bureau of the Census 1990. Census of Population and Housing, Massachusetts. Massachusetts Summary Tape File 1A.

Massachusetts: Latino Population by Household Type for 1980 and 1990

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Married-couple family with related children	12,648	31.5	20,371	24.9	70.2
Married-couple family, no related children	5,995	14.9	10,201	12.5	222.9
Male householder, no wife present, with or without related children	1,600	4.0	5,166	6.3	145.0
Female householder, no husband present, with related children	9,449	23.6	23,150	28.4	115.9
Female householder, no husband present, no related children	1,725	4.3	3,725	4.6	53.4
Householder living alone*	8,689	21.7	13,330	16.3	53.4
Householder not living alone			5,706	7.0	
Total	40,106	100.0	81,649	100.0	103.6

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 1980 and 1990.

*In 1980, this category includes non-family householders (living alone or not)

Massachusetts: Latino Population by Age for 1980 and 1990

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Under 16 years old	53,503	37.9	97,135	33.8	181.6
16-24	28,477	20.2	55,042	19.1	193.3
25-34	24,655	17.5	59,333	20.6	140.7
35-44	14,531	10.3	35,774	12.4	146.2
45-54	8,809	6.2	19,081	6.6	116.6
55-64	5,915	4.2	10,731	3.7	81.4
Over 65	5,153	3.7	10,453	3.6	102.9
Total	141,043	100.0	287,549	100.0	103.9
Median age	21.2		23.7		

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 1980 and 1990.

Massachusetts: Composition of Male Latino Population by Age for 1980 and 1990

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Under 16 years old	27,378	40.0	49,663	34.9	81.4
16-24	13,801	20.2	27,685	19.4	100.6
25-34	11,610	17.0	29,633	20.8	155.2
35-44	6,687	9.8	17,460	12.3	161.1
45-54	4,117	6.0	9,000	6.3	118.6
55-64	2,660	3.9	4,885	3.4	83.6
Over 65	2,133	3.1	4,137	2.9	94.0
Total	68,386	100.0	142,463	100.0	108.3
Median age	20.3		23.1		

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 1980 and 1990.

Massachusetts: Composition of Female Latino Population by Age for 1980 and 1990

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Under 16 years old	26,125	36.0	47,472	32.7	81.7
16-24	14,676	20.2	27,357	18.9	86.4
25-34	13,045	18.0	29,700	20.5	127.7
35-44	7,844	10.8	18,314	12.6	133.5
45-54	4,692	6.5	10,081	6.9	114.9
55-64	3,255	4.5	5,846	4.0	79.6
Over 65	3,020	4.2	6,316	4.4	109.1
Total	72,657	100.0	145,086	100.0	99.7
Median age	22.2		24.3		

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 1980 and 1990.