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Mandira Kala

University of Massachusetts Boston

Charles Jones

University of Massachusetts Boston

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Springfield

by *Mandira Kala and Charles Jones* | August 1, 2006



The Mauricio Gastón Institute
for Latino Community Development
and Public Policy

This fact sheet presents various economic, social, and demographic indicators pertaining to the Latino population in the Springfield Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)¹ and, when required, compares the Springfield MSA with the state of Massachusetts overall and with the other main areas of large Latino concentration, namely, the Boston, Lawrence, and Worcester Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas (PMSAs). In this fact sheet the term “Springfield” refers to the complete MSA and not just the city of Springfield. The information for this fact sheet comes from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey of 2004.²

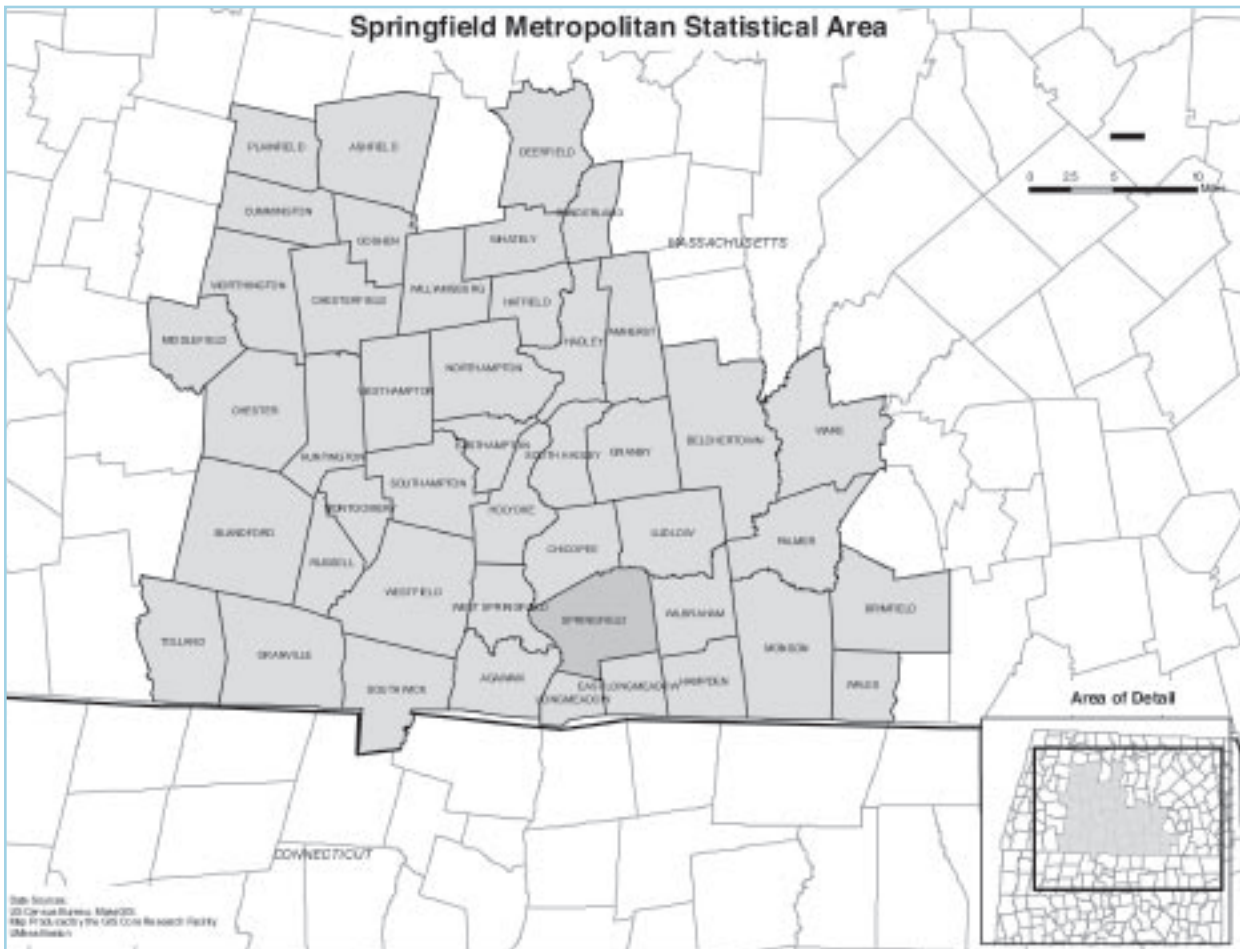
¹ A Metropolitan Statistical Area is a unit used by the U.S. Census but which is determined by the Office of Management and Budget. It is an area associated with at least one urbanized center with a population of at least 50,000 and which comprises a central county or counties (core) plus adjacent counties having a high degree of social and economic integration. The Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas (PMSAs) are the same as MSAs except that they are near (and economically/socially linked to) other PMSAs to form larger “CMSAs” – Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Areas that have a population of 1 million or more.

² U.S. Census Bureau 2005. American Community Survey 2004. Core Tables <http://www2.census.gov/acs2004/Core_Tables/> Published 27 Aug 2005.



The Springfield Metropolitan Statistical Area:

The MSA of Springfield comprises the cities and towns of Sunderland (in Franklin County); Agawam, Chicopee, East Longmeadow, Hampden, Holyoke, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Monson, Montgomery, Palmer, Russell, Southwick, Springfield, Westfield, West Springfield and Wilbraham (in Hampden County); and Amherst, Belchertown, Easthampton, Granby, Hadley, Hatfield, Huntington, Northampton, Southampton, South Hadley, Ware, and Williamsburg (in Hampshire County). It also includes the cities of East Windsor, Enfield, Somers, Suffield, and Windsor Locks in Connecticut.



December 2005 (OMB Bulletin No. 06-01) <http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/metro-def.html>

Population: Race, National Origin, and Nativity

Race of the population: The MSA of Springfield comprises the cities and towns of Sunderland (in Franklin County); Agawam, Chicopee, East Longmeadow, Hampden, Holyoke, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Monson, Montgomery, Palmer, Russell, Southwick, Springfield, Westfield, West Springfield and Wilbraham (in Hampden County); and Amherst, Belchertown, Easthampton, Granby, Hadley, Hatfield, Huntington, Northampton, Southampton, South Hadley, Ware, and Williamsburg (in Hampshire County). It also includes the cities of East Windsor, Enfield, Somers, Suffield, and Windsor Locks in Connecticut.

TABLE 1: POPULATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY. 2004 (%)

	Massachusetts	Boston PMSA	Lawrence PMSA	Springfield MSA	Worcester PMSA
Total Population	6,201,416	3,274,585	422,228	560,472	523,569
Hispanic or Latino	7.7	6.6	17.5	14.1	7.9
White	80.3	79.0	75.6	75.7	83.7
Black or African American	5.6	6.6	2.2	6.7	3.1
American Indian and Alaska Native	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Asian	4.6	6.1	3.5	2.2	3.9
Some other race	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Two or more races	1.0	1.1	1.0	<1%	<1%

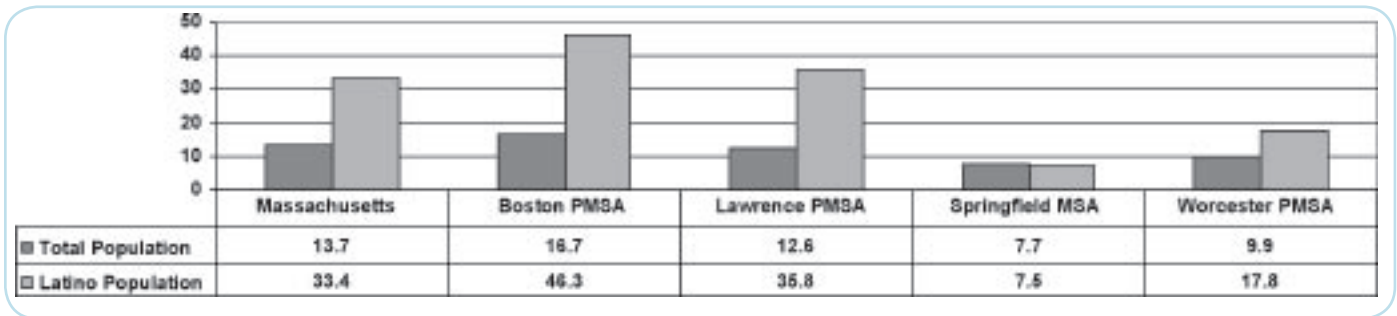
National origin of the Latino population: Puerto Ricans are by far the largest national group residing in the Springfield MSA: they account for 89.3% of the Latino population, almost twice the state average of 45.6%. With the exception of Mexicans, who account for 3.6% of the Latino population, the representation of other national groups is very small.

TABLE 2: NATIONAL ORIGIN OF LATINO POPULATION (%)

	Massachusetts	Boston PMSA	Lawrence PMSA	Springfield MSA	Worcester PMSA
Total Latino	478,929	214,447	73,965	78,801	41,075
Puerto Rican	45.7	26.3	31.3	89.3	69.7
Dominican	15.6	13.9	50.2	1.8	2.9
Guatemalan	6.5	10.4	2.4	1.3	4.6
Salvadoran	6.0	11.3	<1%	<1%	<1%
Colombian	5.8	9.2	3.8	<1%	<1%
Mexican	3.9	4.6	<1%	3.6	6.6
Other Central American	5.0	9.0	2.0	<1%	<1%
Other South American	4.7	6.0	3.5	<1%	12.1
Other Hispanic or Latino	10.8	14.0	6.7	5.2	10.2

Nativity of population Because of its dense concentration of Puerto Ricans, who are U.S. citizens by birth, the Springfield MSA records a lower percentage of foreign born among its Latino population than any other region of the state. The Springfield MSA also has a low representation of foreign born in its overall population: 7.7% compared to 12.7% in Massachusetts as a whole.

FIGURE 1: FOREIGN BORN AS A % OF TOTAL AND LATINO POPULATIONS



Age and Gender

Age. In all regions of the state, the Latino population is younger than the average population; this is also the case in Springfield. The median age of the total population in Springfield is 37.4 years as compared to 24.7 years for the Latino population. Forty six percent of the Latino population in Springfield falls in the age group of 25–64 years and 31% of the Latino population is in the age group of 5–19 years.

TABLE 3: MEDIAN AGE (IN YEARS) AND AGE DISTRIBUTION (IN %) OF TOTAL POPULATION AND LATINO POPULATION

	Massachusetts		Boston PMSA		Lawrence PMSA		Springfield MSA		Worcester PMSA	
	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino
Median Age	38.1	26.5	38.0	28.2	37.3	23.3	37.4	24.7	37.5	25.7
Under 5 years	6	11	7	10	8	14	6	10	6	10
5 to 19 years	19	27	18	25	23	28	20	31	19	25
20 to 24 years	6	9	6	7	7	12	7	9	7	13
25 to 64 years	56	50	57	56	53	44	53	46	57	52
65 and older	13	2	13	2	9	2	13	3	11	0

Gender: At 52%, females are a majority in both the general population and among Latinos in Springfield.

TABLE 4: GENDER OF TOTAL POPULATION AND LATINO POPULATION (%)

	Massachusetts		Boston PMSA		Lawrence PMSA		Springfield MSA		Worcester PMSA	
	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino
Total Population	6,201,416	478,929	3,274,585	214,447	422,228	73,965	560,472	78,801	523,569	41,075
% Female	52	51	52	49	52	49	52	52	51	55

Economic Wellbeing

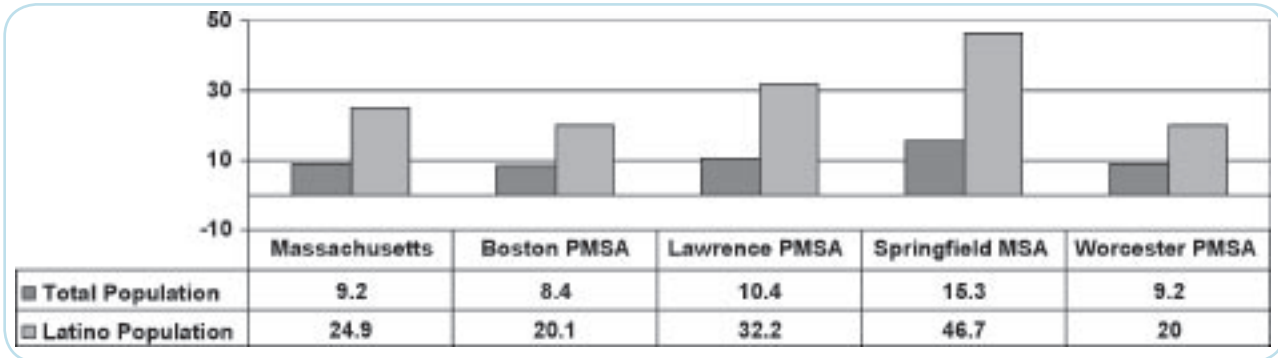
Family Income: In Springfield, the median family income of Latinos is \$19,924, which is 46% of the income of its overall population (\$42,977). Latino incomes in the Springfield MSA are also quite low when compared to the incomes of Latinos in Boston, Lawrence, and Worcester.

TABLE 5: MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME OF TOTAL POPULATION AND LATINO POPULATION

	Massachusetts		Boston PMSA		Lawrence PMSA		Springfield MSA		Worcester PMSA	
	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino
Median family income (in \$)	55,658	36,258	61,333	42,294	63,715	29,917	42,977	19,924	52,600	26,700
Latino median family income as a % of median family income of total population	65.1%		69.0%		47.0%		46.4%		50.8%	

Poverty: In Springfield, the median family income of Latinos is \$19,924, which is 46% of the income of its overall population (\$42,977). Latino incomes in the Springfield MSA are also quite low when compared to the incomes of Latinos in Boston, Lawrence, and Worcester.

FIGURE 2: POVERTY RATES FOR TOTAL POPULATION AND LATINO POPULATION (%)



Composition of Families

The composition of families. The most prevalent composition of Latino families is one headed by a female: 42% of Latino family households in Springfield are headed by a woman. Springfield has the highest percentage of female headed families and the lowest representation of married couple families of any of the regions with high Latino concentration.

TABLE 6: FAMILY COMPOSITION OF TOTAL POPULATION AND LATINO POPULATION (% OF HOUSEHOLDS)

	Massachusetts		Boston PMSA		Lawrence PMSA		Springfield MSA		Worcester PMSA	
	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino
Married-couple family	48.3	34.7	47.9	39.0	54.8	33.9	42.3	17.9	47.2	33.1
Male householder, no wife present	3.9	9.4	3.9	12.4	4.1	7.7	5.0	6.9	3.7	4.5
Female householder, no husband present	12.1	32.7	11.4	26.8	12.6	32.0	15.2	42.2	10.7	30.1
Non-family households	35.7	23.1	36.8	21.8	28.5	26.4	37.4	32.9	38.3	32.3

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment of Latino adults. When compared to other areas of Latino concentration like Boston, Lawrence, and Worcester, Springfield records the highest percentage of Latinos (27.1%) with less than a ninth grade education. Only 25.5% of Latinos in Springfield have any education beyond high school, and only 1.8% have graduate or professional degrees.

TABLE 7: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF POPULATION OVER 25, OF TOTAL POPULATION AND LATINO POPULATION (%)

	Massachusetts		Boston PMSA		Lawrence PMSA		Springfield MSA		Worcester PMSA	
	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino
Less than 9th grade	4.6	17.7	3.7	16.1	4.6	16.6	6.0	27.1	4.4	20.4
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	7.2	15.9	6.2	16.7	7.3	9.2	10.0	18.1	8.0	15.1
High school graduate	27.9	31.3	25.6	30.2	26.6	28.6	31.1	29.3	28.7	35.0
Some college, no degree	15.3	13.9	13.9	11.6	17.9	21.2	17.1	13.4	16.3	13.1
Associate's degree	7.7	5.7	6.7	5.2	8.6	4.3	8.5	3.2	7.7	6.1
Bachelor's degree	21.8	10.2	24.2	12.5	22.0	14.3	15.1	7.1	22.2	4.0
Graduate or professional degree	15.6	5.3	19.2	7.8	13.1	5.8	12.4	1.8	12.8	6.4