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The Mauricio Gastón Institute
for Latino Community Development
and Public Policy

Latinos in Maine

by Daniel W. Vasquez, Research Associate

The Mauricio Gastón Institute of the University of Massachusetts Boston conducts research on and for the Latino population. A goal is to generate the kind of information and analysis necessary to develop sound public policy, and to improve Latino participation in the policy making process. In an effort to present vital information about Latinos to diverse audiences, the Gastón Institute has produced a series of basic demographic profiles for the states and selected cities of New England, based on the United States Census 2000.

Census 2000 data include changes in the way people were counted. The most significant change is to allow persons to select more than one race, creating a new multiracial category of “two or more races”, but meaning people may not be included in the race with which they most identify. There was, however, no way to choose more than one ethnicity; one must choose either Latino or not. Throughout this profile, numbers reflect Latinos of all races, or non-Latinos by race, with persons of two or more races counted separately. All categorizations are based solely on self-identification. All of this complicates comparisons between 1990 and 2000 data. However, the concepts are similar enough to make trends and patterns clear.

In Maine, the general population changes from 1990 to 2000 were similar to national and state trends. The population of people of color — African Americans, Asians, Latinos, Native Americans, and Pacific Islanders — grew at a higher rate than did the population of Non-Hispanic Whites (see table 1). The total population of Maine increased by 3.8%, but its composition changed substantially. Behind Whites and Asians, Latinos had a significant numerical growth, increasing by 2,531 or 37.1%. Latinos now represent 0.7% of the population, an increase of 0.2 percentage points. Maine has the fifth largest population of Latinos in New England and the 48th largest in the 50 states.

Table 1

Maine - Growth by Ethnicity								
	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Hispanic or Latino	9,360	0.7	6,829	0.6	2,531	37.1	0.2	
White	1,230,297	96.5	1,203,357	98.0	26,940	2.2	-1.5	
Black or African American	6,440	0.5	4,937	0.4	1,503	30.4	0.1	
American Indian and Alaska Native	6,911	0.5	5,898	0.5	1,013	17.2	0.1	
Asian ^a	9,014	0.7	6,505	0.5	2,843	43.7	0.2	
Pacific Islander ^a	334	0.0						
Some other race	836	0.1	402	0.0	434	108.0	0.0	
Two or more races ^b	11,731	0.9						
Total	1,274,923		1,227,928		46,995	3.8		

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a).

Note: Growth figures will not balance due to the new multiracial category.

^a 'Asian and Pacific Islander' was split for the 2000 census. Growth and changes reflect combined total.

^b There was no equivalent category in the 1990 census.

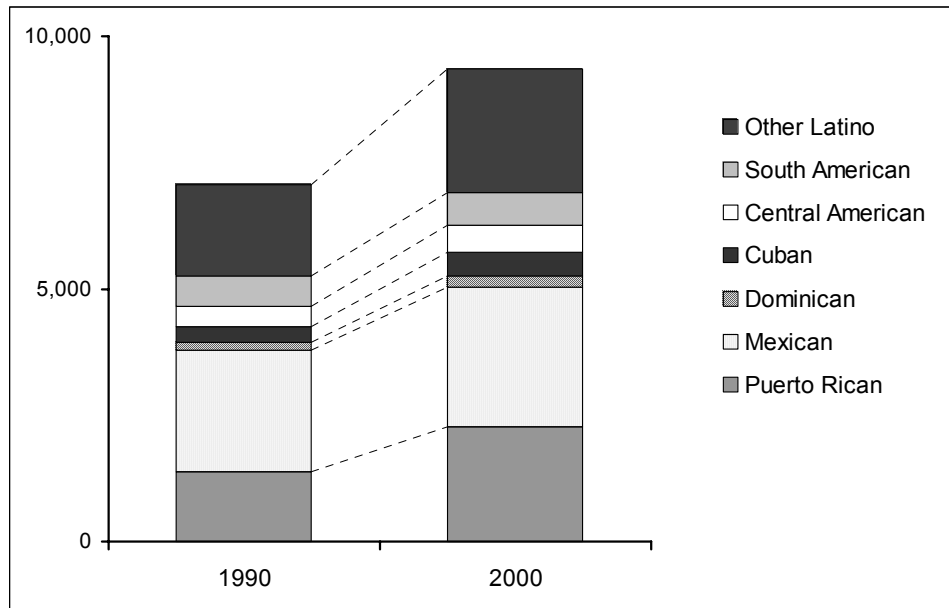
Table 2

Maine - National Origin of Latinos						
	2000		1990 ^a		Growth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	9,360		7,069		2,291	32.4
Mexican	2,756	29.4	2,398	33.9	358	14.9
Puerto Rican	2,275	24.3	1,382	19.6	893	64.6
Cuban	478	5.1	323	4.6	155	48.0
Dominican Republic	214	2.3	157	2.2	57	36.3
Other Central American	533	5.7	393	5.6	140	35.6
Other South American	648	6.9	605	8.6	43	7.1
Other Hispanic or Latino	2,456	26.2	1,811	25.6	645	35.6

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(b).

^a 1990 figures for nationality are from sample data only and differ from population counts.¹

Figure 1
Maine - Growth and Change of the Latino Population



Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a).

All Latino national-origin groups grew significantly between 1990¹ and 2000. The largest group in Maine is Mexican, at 29.4%, followed by “Other” Latinos and Puerto Ricans. Behind Puerto Ricans, Cubans, and Dominicans, “Other” Latinos were the fastest-growing population, growing by 103.1%, a trend seen across the U.S. (see table 2 and figure 1). A person is counted as “Other” if they write in “Spanish” or give an answer that can’t be assigned to a particular nationality (such as “Latino”), or if they identify more than one origin, or leave the answer blank. Future scholarly studies may better describe the composition of this category. The detailed breakdown of Central and South Americans is available at the Census Bureau’s American Fact Finder service, online at: factfinder.census.gov.

Table 3

Maine - Households by Tenure							
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total Households	2,475		1,880		595	31.6	
Owners	1,144	46.2	883	47.0	261	29.6	-0.7
Renters	1,331	53.8	997	53.0	334	33.5	

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a).

Latino-headed households are much more likely to rent than to own their home, 53.8% versus 46.2%, and there has been a 0.7% decrease in home ownership since 1990 (see table 3). This is much lower than the U.S. average of 68.7%. Although there has been a small growth in the proportion of non-family households, it is still true that most Latinos, 67.6%, live in family households (see table 4). Married couples with children represent 28.9% of Latino-headed households, slightly more than the U.S. average of 24.7%. Families made up of a single female with children account for 13% of Latino households, which is greater than the U.S. average of 8.3%, and more than it was in 1990.

Table 4

Maine - Family Structure						
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth Percent	Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Families:	1,672	67.6	1,299	69.1	28.7	-1.5
with related children ^a :						
Married Couple, with children	716	28.9	628	33.4	14.0	-4.5
Female Head, with children	321	13.0	160	8.5	100.6	4.5
Male Head, with children	101	4.1	55	2.9	83.6	1.2
without related children:						
Married Couple, no children	439	17.7	402	21.4	9.2	-3.6
Single, no children	95	3.8	54	2.9	75.9	1.0
Non-Family Household	803	32.4	581	30.9	38.2	1.5
Total Households	2,475		1,880		31.6	

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a).

^a Own or related children under 18 only.

Data Sources:

All available at American Fact Finder [online service]: <http://factfinder.census.gov/>

U.S. Census Bureau:

2000: Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF1) 100% Data.

1990(a): 1990 Census Summary Tape File 1 (STF1) 100% Data.

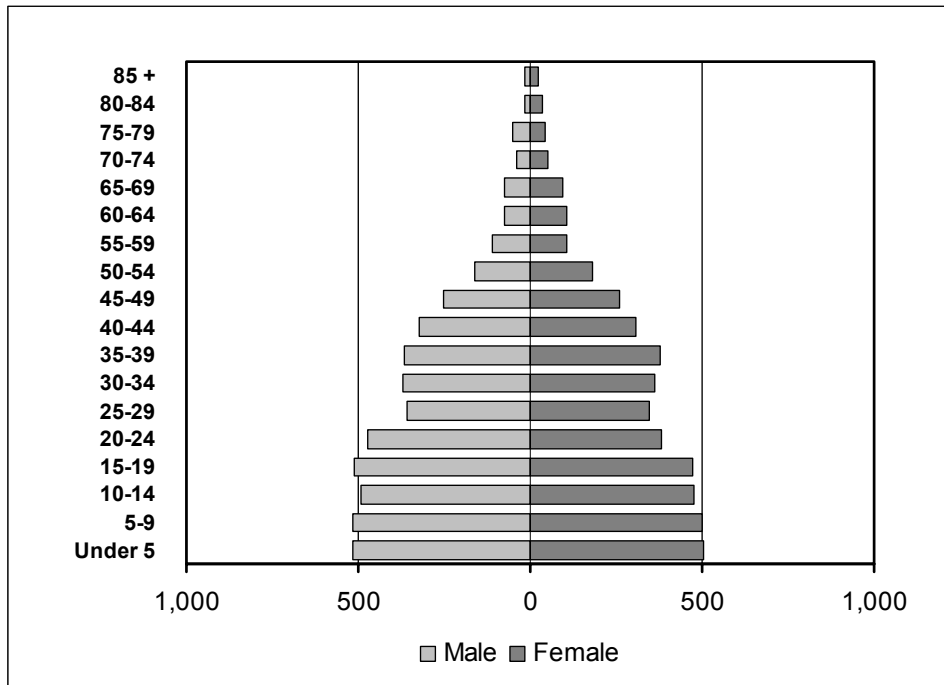
1990(b): 1990 Census Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Sample Data.

1992: 1990 Census of Population: General Population Characteristics. Washington DC: GPO.

Notes:

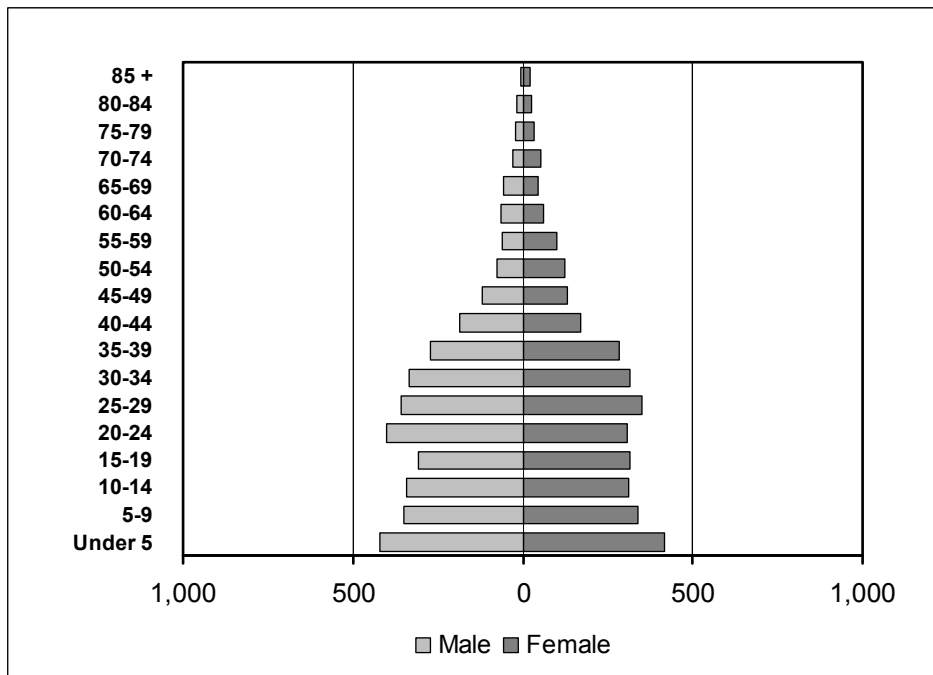
¹ Sample data from 1990 are based on the “Long Form” files. About one person or household in six receives the Long Form Census. The estimates from there do not match the enumerations in the 100% or “Short Form” data. There are sources of error in any census or survey, however the estimates here are accurate enough to note trends and patterns.

Figure 2
Maine - Age Profile 2000



Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a), 1992.

Figure 3
Maine - Age Profile 1990



Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a), 1992.

The age composition of Latinos in Maine has changed. There has been an increase among all age groups, but especially among those in the middle years. Even though there are many more children, the overall Latino population is maturing (see figures 2 and 3).

While the Latino population in Maine and in the rest of the country remains relatively young, it is older than it was in 1990. In 2000, 42.6% of Latinos were younger than 20, just slightly more than the 41% in 1990 (see table 5). The Latino median age of 23.8 is much younger than the overall Maine median age of 38.6. Women still tend to be older than men, but the gap closed during the 1990s. In addition to becoming relatively older, both Latinos and Latinas became less concentrated in the 20-29 age group (see tables 6 and 7).

Table 5

Maine - Latinos by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 10 years	2,034	21.7	1,526	22.3	33.3
10-19	1,953	20.9	1,278	18.7	52.8
20-29	1,563	16.7	1,421	20.8	10.0
30-39	1,480	15.8	1,204	17.6	22.9
40-49	1,144	12.2	608	8.9	88.2
50-59	558	6.0	356	5.2	56.7
60-69	350	3.7	229	3.4	52.8
70 and over	278	3.0	207	3.0	34.3
Total	9,360		6,829		37.1
Median Age	23.8		24.2		

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a), 1992.

Table 6

Maine - Latino Males by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 10 years	1,031	21.8	772	22.5	33.5
10-19	1,002	21.2	651	19.0	53.9
20-29	832	17.6	763	22.2	9.0
30-39	739	15.7	606	17.7	21.9
40-49	575	12.2	308	9.0	86.7
50-59	270	5.7	135	3.9	100.0
60-69	151	3.2	123	3.6	22.8
70 and over	122	2.6	73	2.1	67.1
Total	4,722		3,431		37.6
Median Age	23.0		23.5		

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a), 1992.

Table 7

Maine - Latina Females by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 10 years	1,003	21.6	754	22.2	33.0
10-19	951	20.5	627	18.5	51.7
20-29	731	15.8	658	19.4	11.1
30-39	741	16.0	598	17.6	23.9
40-49	569	12.3	300	8.8	89.7
50-59	288	6.2	221	6.5	30.3
60-69	199	4.3	106	3.1	87.7
70 and over	156	3.4	134	3.9	16.4
Total	4,638		3,398		36.5
Median Age	24.7		25.1		

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a), 1992.