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Latinos in Leominster, Massachusetts

Daniel W. Vasquez
University of Massachusetts Boston

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Part of a series of profiles of Latinos in New England | January 2003

The Mauricio Gastón Institute
for Latino Community Development
and Public Policy

Latinos in Leominster | Massachusetts

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 Leominster, 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, which actually shrank, as did the Native American population (see table 1). The total population of Leominster increased by 8.3%, but its composition changed substantially. Latinos had a larger numerical growth than any other group, increasing by 1,383 or 43.8%, although both Asians and "some other race" had a higher percent increase. Latinos now represent 11% of the population, an increase of 2.7 percentage points and the largest gain of any group. Leominster has the 18th largest population of Latinos in Massachusetts and the 36th largest in the New England states. As a percentage of the total population, the Latino population in Leominster ranks 11th in the state.

Table 1

Leominster - Growth by Ethnicity

	2000		1990		Growth		Change
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	in Percent
Hispanic or Latino	4,544	11.0	3,161	8.3	1,383	43.8	2.7
White	33,673	81.5	33,509	87.8	164	0.5	-6.3
Black or African American	1,255	3.0	777	2.0	478	61.5	1.0
American Indian and Alaska Native	45	0.1	57	0.1	-12	-21.1	0.0
Asian [a]	998	2.4	601	1.6	409	68.1	0.9
Pacific Islander [a]	12	0.0					
Some other race	127	0.3	40	0.1	87	217.5	0.2
Two or more races [b]	649	1.6					
Total	41,303		38,145		3,158	8.3	

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

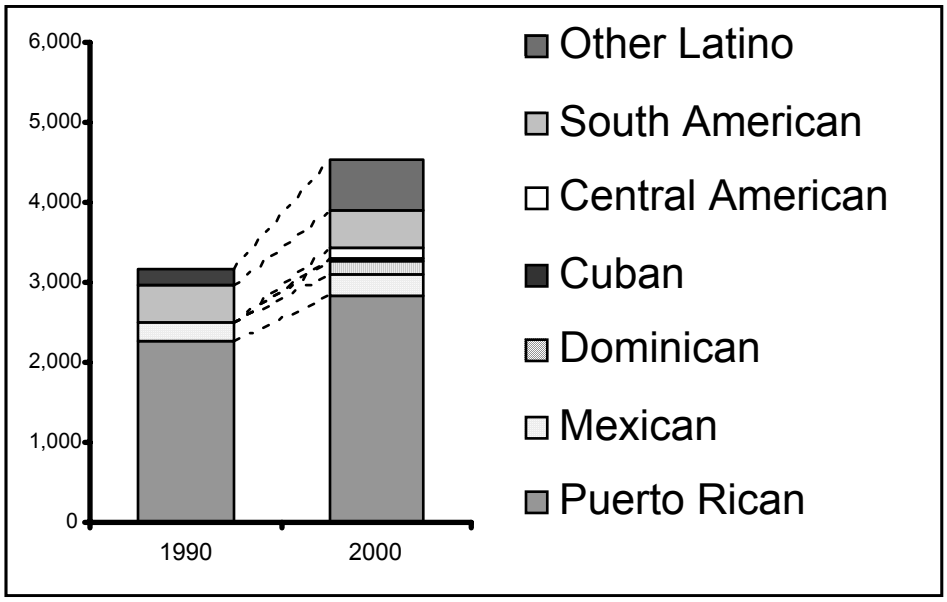
Leominster - National Origin of Latinos

	2000		1990 [a]		Growth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	4,544		3,164		1,380	43.6
Mexican	246	5.4	247	7.8	-1	-0.4
Puerto Rican	2,843	62.6	2,251	71.1	592	26.3
Cuban	34	0.7	6	0.2	28	466.7
Dominican Republic	190	4.2			190	
Other Central American	108	2.4	6	0.2	102	
Uruguayan	265	5.8			265	
Other South American	221	4.9	446	14.1	-225	-50.4
Other Hispanic or Latino	637	14.0	208	6.6	429	206.3

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

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

Figure 1
Leominster - Growth and Change of the Latino Population



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

All Latino national-origin groups grew significantly between 1990[1] and 2000. The largest group in Leominster is Puerto Rican, at 62.6%, followed by "Other" Latinos and Uruguayans. Behind Cubans, "Other" Latinos were the fastest-growing population, growing by 206.3%, 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

Leominster - Households by Tenure

	2000		1990		Growth		Change
Latino Headed Households	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	in Percent
Total Households	1,428		974		454	46.6	
Owners	289	20.2	141	14.5	148	105.0	5.8
Renters	1,139	79.8	833	85.5	306	36.7	

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

Latino-headed households are much more likely to rent than to own their home, 79.8% versus 20.2%, although there has been a 5.8% increase in home ownership since 1990 (see table 3). Still, this is much lower than the state average of 61.7%. Although there has been a small growth in the proportion of non-family households, it is still true that most Latinos, 77.2%, live in family households (see table 4). Married couples with children represent 29.3% of Latino-headed households, more than the Massachusetts average of 23.3%. Families made up of a single female with children account for 24.6% of Latino households, which is greater than the state average of 7.5%, and an increase from its 1990 level.

Table 4

Leominster - Family Structure

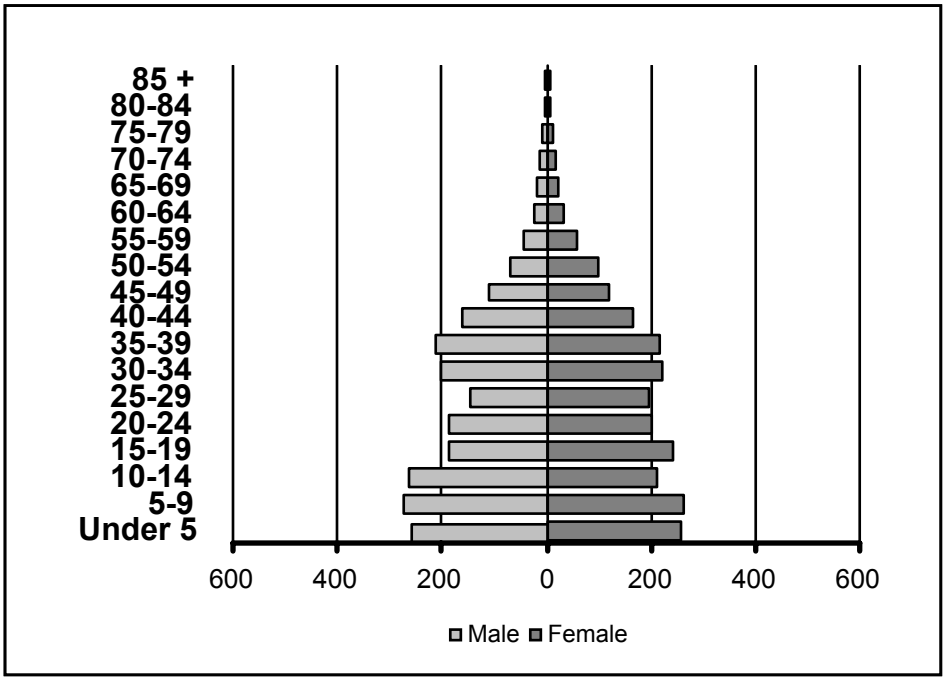
	2000		1990		Growth	Change
Latino Headed Households	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	in Percent
Families:	1,103	77.2	751	77.1	46.9	0.1
with related children [a]:						
Married Couple, with children	418	29.3	359	36.9	16.4	-7.6
Female Head, with children	351	24.6	148	15.2	137.2	9.4
Male Head, with children	79	5.5	50	5.1	58.0	0.4
without related children:						
Married Couple, no children	170	11.9	142	14.6	19.7	-2.7
Single, no children	85	6.0	52	5.3	63.5	0.6
Non-Family Household	325	22.8	223	22.9	45.7	-0.1
Total Households	1,428		974		46.6	

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.

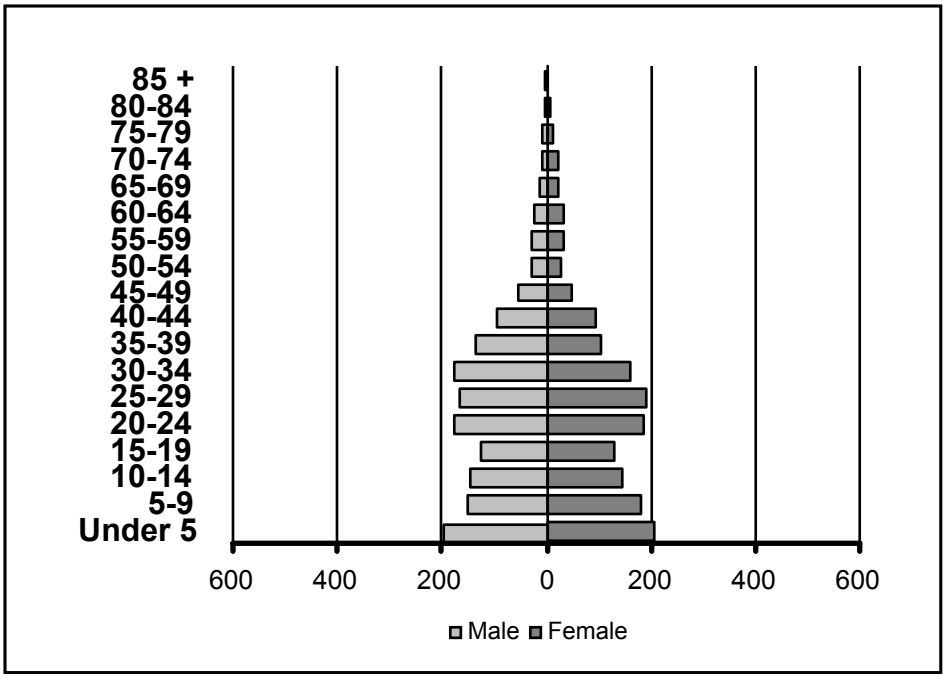
Notes:
[1] Sample data from 1990 are based on the "Long Form" files. About one person or household in six receives the Long Form Census. The estimates from there do not match the enumerations in the 100% or "Short Form" data. For example there is a 4.5% difference in the total number of Latinos in Massachusetts. There are sources of error in any census or survey, however the estimates here are accurate enough to note trends and patterns.

Figure 2
Leominster - Age Profile 2000



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

Figure 3
Leominster - Age Profile 1990



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

The age composition of Latinos in Leominster 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 Leominster and in the rest of the country remains relatively young, it is even younger than it was in 1990. In 2000, 43.1% of Latinos were younger than 20, greater than the 40.3% in 1990 (see table 5). The Latino median age of 24 is much younger than the overall Massachusetts median age of 36.5. 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

Leominster - Latinos by Age

	2000		1990		Growth
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
Under 10 years	1,060	23.3	747	23.6	41.9
10-19	901	19.8	547	17.3	64.7
20-29	725	16.0	725	22.9	0.0
30-39	854	18.8	579	18.3	47.5
40-49	560	12.3	286	9.0	95.8
50-59	273	6.0	122	3.9	123.8
60-69	97	2.1	91	2.9	6.6
70 and over	74	1.6	64	2.0	15.6
Total	4,544		3,161		43.8
Median Age	24.0		24.1		

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

Table 6

Leominster - Latino Males by Age

	2000		1990		Growth
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
Under 10 years	538	24.7	356	22.9	51.1
10-19	447	20.5	272	17.5	64.3
20-29	327	15.0	344	22.2	-4.9
30-39	413	19.0	314	20.2	31.5
40-49	273	12.5	147	9.5	85.7
50-59	114	5.2	59	3.8	93.2
60-69	40	1.8	38	2.4	5.3
70 and over	26	1.2	23	1.5	13.0
Total	2,178		1,553		40.2
Median Age	22.7		24.3		

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

Table 7

Leominster - Latina Females by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
Under 10 years	522	22.1	391	24.3	33.5
10-19	454	19.2	275	17.1	65.1
20-29	398	16.8	381	23.7	4.5
30-39	441	18.6	265	16.5	66.4
40-49	287	12.1	139	8.6	106.5
50-59	159	6.7	63	3.9	152.4
60-69	57	2.4	53	3.3	7.5
70 and over	48	2.0	41	2.5	17.1
Total	2,366		1,608		47.1
Median Age	25.1		23.8		

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