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The Mauricio Gastón Institute
for Latino Community Development
and Public Policy

Latinos in Lynn | 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 Lynn, 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 (see table 1). The total population of Lynn increased by 9.6%, but its composition changed substantially. Latinos had a larger numerical growth than any other group, increasing by 8,951 or 120.4%. Latinos now represent 18.4% of the population, an increase of 9.2 percentage points and the largest gain of any group. Lynn has the seventh largest population of Latinos in Massachusetts and the 14th largest in the New England states. As a percentage of the total population, the Latino population in Lynn ranks fifth in the state.

Table 1

Lynn - Growth by Ethnicity								
	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Hispanic or Latino	16,383	18.4	7,432	9.1	8,951	120.4	9.2	
White	55,630	62.5	65,166	80.2	-9,536	-14.6	-17.7	
Black or African American	8,165	9.2	5,423	6.7	2,742	50.6	2.5	
American Indian and Alaska Native	168	0.2	147	0.2	21	14.3	0.0	
Asian ^a	5,686	6.4	2,879	3.5	2,846	98.9	2.9	
Pacific Islander ^a	39	0.0						
Some other race	349	0.4	198	0.2	151	76.3	0.1	
Two or more races ^b	2,630	3.0						
Total	89,050		81,245		7,805	9.6		

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.

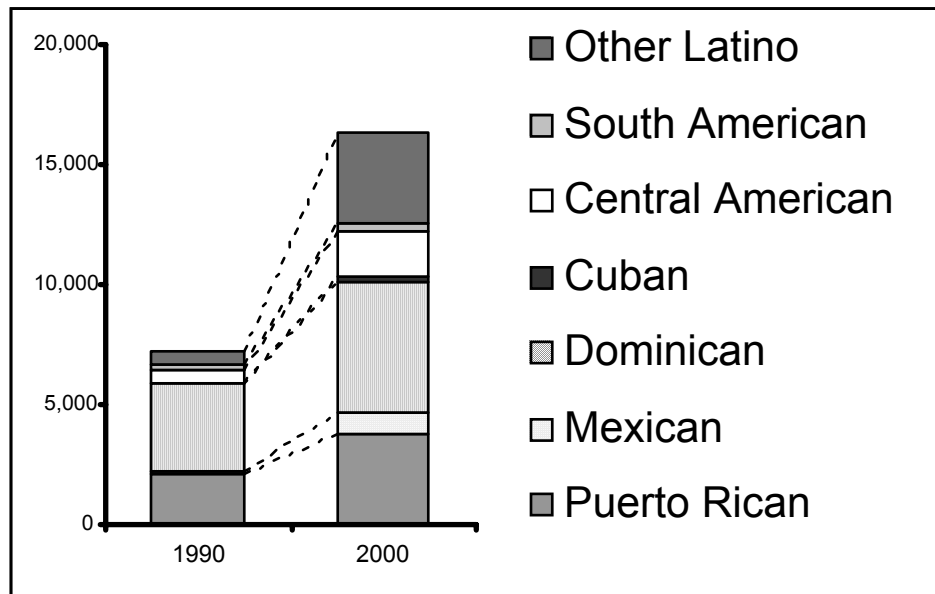
Table 2

Lynn - National Origin of Latinos						
	2000		1990 ^a		Growth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	16,383		7,193		9,190	127.8
Mexican	853	5.2	167	2.3	686	410.8
Puerto Rican	3,769	23.0	2,091	29.1	1,678	80.2
Cuban	148	0.9	71	1.0	77	108.5
Dominican Republic	5,517	33.7	3,612	50.2	1,905	52.7
Guatemalan	1,442	8.8	290	4.0	1,152	397.2
Other Central American	521	3.2	165	2.3	356	215.8
Colombian	144	0.9	141	2.0	3	2.1
Other South American	172	1.0	146	2.0	26	17.8
Other Hispanic or Latino	3,817	23.3	510	7.1	3,307	648.4

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

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

Figure 1
Lynn - 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 Lynn is Dominican, at 33.7%, followed by “Other” Latinos and Puerto Ricans. “Other” Latinos were the fastest-growing population, growing by 648.4%, 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

Lynn - Households by Tenure							
	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Latino Headed Households							
Total Households	4,430		2,108		2,322	110.2	
Owners	788	17.8	276	13.1	512	185.5	4.7
Renters	3,642	82.2	1,832	86.9	1,810	98.8	

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

Latino-headed households are much more likely to rent than to own their home, 82.2% versus 17.8%, although there has been a 4.7% 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, 79.9%, live in family households (see table 4). Married couples with children

represent 27.2% of Latino-headed households, slightly more than the Massachusetts average of 23.3%. Families made up of a single female with children account for 30.1% of Latino households, which is greater than the state average of 7.5%, but less than it was in 1990.

Table 4

Lynn - Family Structure						
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth Percent	Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Families:	3,540	79.9	1,645	78.0	115.2	1.9
with related children ^a :						
Married Couple, with children	1,204	27.2	463	22.0	160.0	5.2
Female Head, with children	1,333	30.1	731	34.7	82.4	-4.6
Male Head, with children	267	6.0	99	4.7	169.7	1.3
without related children:						
Married Couple, no children	412	9.3	210	10.0	96.2	-0.7
Single, no children	324	7.3	142	6.7	128.2	0.6
Non-Family Household	890	20.1	463	22.0	92.2	-1.9
Total Households	4,430		2,108		110.2	

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.

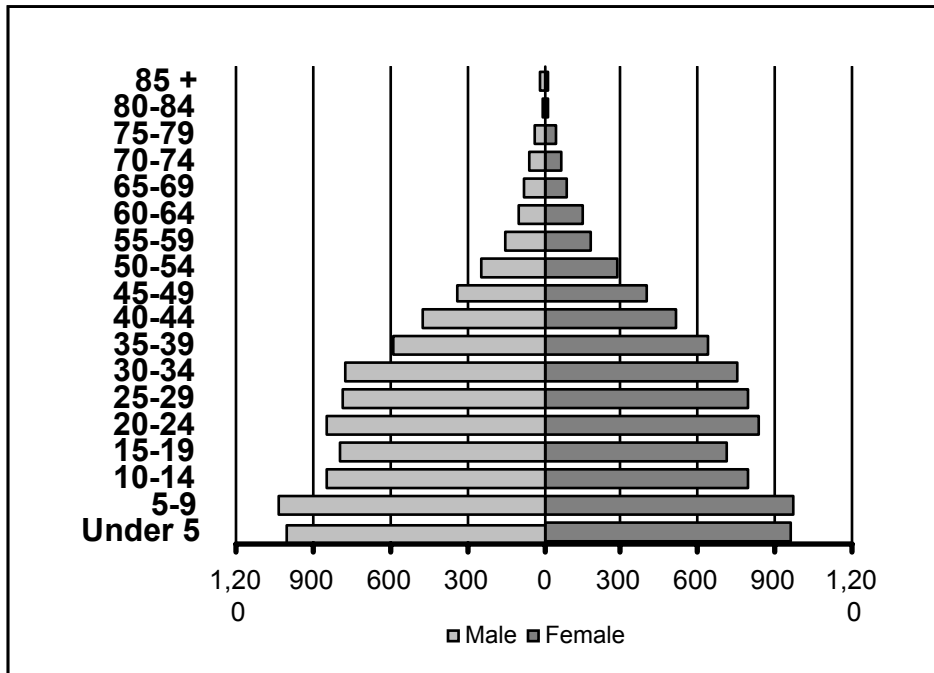
1990(b): 1990 Census Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Sample Data.

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

Notes:

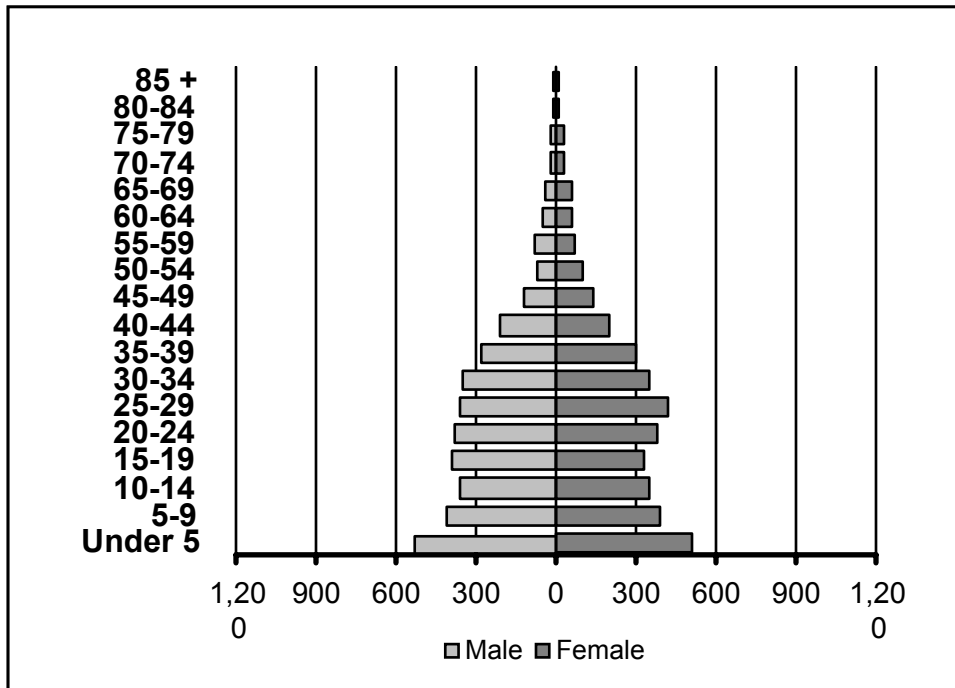
¹ Sample data from 1990 is based on the “Long Form” files. About one person or household in six receives the Long Form Census. The estimates from there do not match the enumerations in the 100% or “Short Form” data. For example there is a 4.5% difference in the total number of Latinos in Massachusetts.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

Figure 2
Lynn - Age Profile 2000



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

Figure 3
Lynn - Age Profile 1990



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

The age composition of Latinos in Lynn 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 Lynn and in the rest of the country remains relatively young, it is older than it was in 1990. In 2000, 43.5% of Latinos were younger than 20, just slightly fewer than the 44.3% in 1990 (see table 5). The Latino median age of 23.1 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

Lynn - Latinos by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 10 years	3,975	24.3	1,857	25.0	114.1
10-19	3,142	19.2	1,435	19.3	119.0
20-29	3,261	19.9	1,548	20.8	110.7
30-39	2,751	16.8	1,284	17.3	114.3
40-49	1,728	10.5	663	8.9	160.6
50-59	857	5.2	314	4.2	172.9
60-69	412	2.5	195	2.6	111.3
70 and over	257	1.6	136	1.8	89.0
Total	16,383		7,432		120.4
Median Age	23.1		22.8		

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

Table 6

Lynn - Latino Males by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 10 years	2,045	25.0	954	25.8	114.4
10-19	1,639	20.0	753	20.4	117.7
20-29	1,628	19.9	742	20.1	119.4
30-39	1,365	16.7	635	17.2	115.0
40-49	813	9.9	325	8.8	150.2
50-59	395	4.8	144	3.9	174.3
60-69	180	2.2	84	2.3	114.3
70 and over	112	1.4	58	1.6	93.1
Total	8,177		3,695		121.3
Median Age	22.4		21.9		

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

Table 7

Lynn - Latina Females by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 10 years	1,930	23.5	903	24.2	113.7
10-19	1,503	18.3	682	18.2	120.4
20-29	1,633	19.9	806	21.6	102.6
30-39	1,386	16.9	649	17.4	113.6
40-49	915	11.2	338	9.0	170.7
50-59	462	5.6	170	4.5	171.8
60-69	232	2.8	111	3.0	109.0
70 and over	145	1.8	78	2.1	85.9
Total	8,206		3,737		119.6
Median Age	23.9		23.8		

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