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The Mauricio Gastón Institute
for Latino Community Development
and Public Policy

Latinos in New Haven | Connecticut

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 New Haven, 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 New Haven decreased by 5.2%, but its composition changed substantially. Latinos had a larger numerical growth than any other group, increasing by 9,200 or 53.4%, although Asians and “some other race” had a higher percent increase. Latinos now represent 21.4% of the population, an increase of 8.2 percentage points and the largest gain of any group. New Haven has the third largest population of Latinos in Connecticut and the seventh largest in the New England states. As a percentage of the total population, the Latino population in New Haven ranks sixth in the state.

Table 1

New Haven - Growth by Ethnicity								
	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Hispanic or Latino	26,443	21.4	17,243	13.2	9,200	53.4	8.2	
White	43,979	35.6	63,910	49.0	-19,931	-31.2	-13.4	
Black or African American	44,598	36.1	45,622	35.0	-1,024	-2.2	1.1	
American Indian and Alaska Native	348	0.3	364	0.3	-16	-4.4	0.0	
Asian ^a	4,776	3.9	3,064	2.3	1,759	57.4	1.6	
Pacific Islander ^a	47	0.0						
Some other race	408	0.3	271	0.2	137	50.6	0.1	
Two or more races ^b	3,027	2.4						
Total	123,626		130,474		-6,848	-5.2		

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.

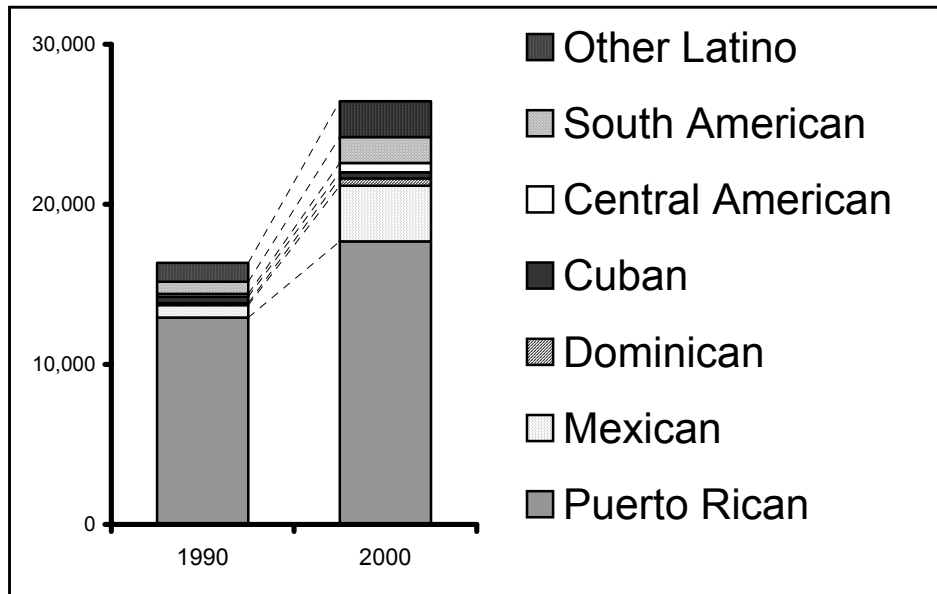
Table 2

New Haven - National Origin of Latinos						
	2000		1990 ^a		Growth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	26,443		16,350		10,093	61.7
Mexican	3,483	13.2	781	4.8	2,702	346.0
Puerto Rican	17,683	66.9	12,935	79.1	4,748	36.7
Cuban	371	1.4	394	2.4	-23	-5.8
Dominican Republic	460	1.7	113	0.7	347	307.1
Other Central American	586	2.2	192	1.2	394	205.2
Other South American	1,630	6.2	746	4.6	884	118.5
Other Hispanic or Latino	2,230	8.4	1,189	7.3	1,041	87.6

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

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

Figure 1
New Haven - 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 New Haven is Puerto Rican, at 66.9%, followed by “Other” Latinos and “Other South American.” “Other” Latinos were among the fastest-growing population - behind Mexicans, Dominicans, and Other Central American, and Other South Americans, growing by 87.6%, 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

New Haven - Households by Tenure							
	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Latino Headed Households							
Total Households	7,524		4,919		2,605	53.0	
Owners	1,286	17.1	869	17.7	417	48.0	-0.6
Renters	6,238	82.9	4,050	82.3	2,188	54.0	

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

Latino-headed households are much more likely to rent than to own their home, 82.9% versus 17.1%, and there has been a .6% decrease in home ownership since 1990 (see table 3). Still, this is much lower than the state average of 66.8%. Although there has been a small growth in the proportion of non-family households, it is still true that most

Latinos, 75.4%, live in family households (see table 4). Married couples with children represent 23.1% of Latino-headed households, slightly less than the Connecticut average of 24.5%. Families made up of a single female with children account for 29% of Latino households, which is greater than the state average of 7.9%, but less than it was in 1990.

Table 4

New Haven - Family Structure						
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth Percent	Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Families:	5,675	75.4	3,741	76.1	51.7	-0.6
with related children ^a :						
Married Couple, with children	1,741	23.1	1,139	23.2	52.9	0.0
Female Head, with children	2,182	29.0	1,557	31.7	40.1	-2.7
Male Head, with children	351	4.7	153	3.1	129.4	1.6
without related children:						
Married Couple, no children	788	10.5	522	10.6	51.0	-0.1
Single, no children	613	8.1	370	7.5	65.7	0.6
Non-Family Household	1,849	24.6	1,178	23.9	57.0	0.6
Total Households	7,524		4,919		53.0	

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.

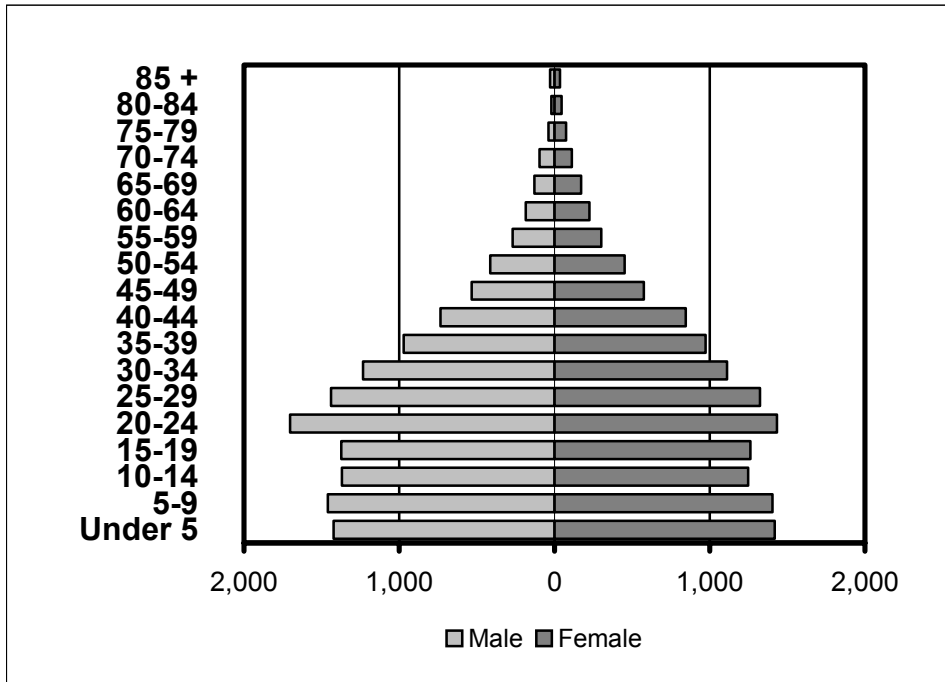
1990(b): 1990 Census Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Sample Data.

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

Notes:

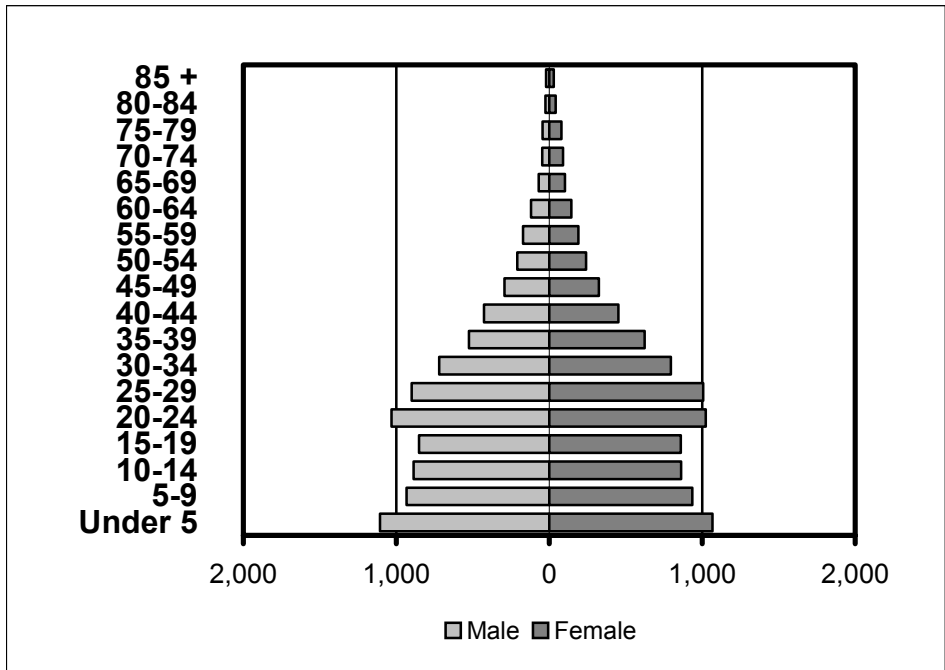
¹ Sample data from 1990 are based on the “Long Form” files. About one person or household in six receives the Long Form Census. The estimates from there do not match the enumerations in the 100% or “Short Form” data. There are sources of error in any census or survey; however the estimates here are accurate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

Figure 2
New Haven - Age Profile 2000



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

Figure 3
New Haven - Age Profile 1990



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

The age composition of Latinos in New Haven 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 New Haven and in the rest of the country remains relatively young, it is older than it was in 1990. In 2000, 41.5% of Latinos were younger than 20, just slightly fewer than the 43.5% in 1990 (see table 5). The Latino median age of 23.6 is much younger than the overall Connecticut median age of 37.4. 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

New Haven - Latinos by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 10 years	5,707	21.6	4,042	23.4	41.2
10-19	5,252	19.9	3,461	20.1	51.7
20-29	5,902	22.3	3,962	23.0	49.0
30-39	4,289	16.2	2,663	15.4	61.1
40-49	2,689	10.2	1,496	8.7	79.7
50-59	1,438	5.4	810	4.7	77.5
60-69	712	2.7	434	2.5	64.1
70 and over	454	1.7	375	2.2	21.1
Total	26,443		17,243		53.4
Median Age	23.6		22.6		

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

Table 6

New Haven - Latino Males by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 10 years	2,883	21.5	2,040	24.3	41.3
10-19	2,743	20.4	1,739	20.8	57.7
20-29	3,144	23.4	1,931	23.0	62.8
30-39	2,204	16.4	1,245	14.9	77.0
40-49	1,268	9.4	720	8.6	76.1
50-59	686	5.1	380	4.5	80.5
60-69	315	2.3	188	2.2	67.6
70 and over	185	1.4	136	1.6	36.0
Total	13,428		8,379		60.3
Median Age	23.2		21.9		

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

Table 7

New Haven - Latina Females by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 10 years	2,824	21.7	2,002	22.6	41.1
10-19	2,509	19.3	1,722	19.4	45.7
20-29	2,758	21.2	2,031	22.9	35.8
30-39	2,085	16.0	1,418	16.0	47.0
40-49	1,421	10.9	776	8.8	83.1
50-59	752	5.8	430	4.9	74.9
60-69	397	3.1	246	2.8	61.4
70 and over	269	2.1	239	2.7	12.6
Total	13,015		8,864		46.8
Median Age	24.0		22.6		

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