

University of Massachusetts Boston

ScholarWorks at UMass Boston

Gastón Institute Publications

Gastón Institute for Latino Community
Development and Public Policy Publications

3-2003

Latinos in New London, Connecticut

Daniel W. Vasquez

University of Massachusetts Boston

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umb.edu/gaston_pubs



Part of the [Chicana/o Studies Commons](#), [Demography, Population, and Ecology Commons](#), and the [Race and Ethnicity Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Vasquez, Daniel W., "Latinos in New London, Connecticut" (2003). *Gastón Institute Publications*. 58.
https://scholarworks.umb.edu/gaston_pubs/58

This Research Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy Publications at ScholarWorks at UMass Boston. It has been accepted for inclusion in Gastón Institute Publications by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at UMass Boston. For more information, please contact scholarworks@umb.edu.



The Mauricio Gastón Institute
for Latino Community Development
and Public Policy

Latinos in New London | 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 London, 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 London decreased by 10.1%, but its composition changed substantially. Latinos had a larger numerical growth than any other group, increasing by 1,602 or 46.3%. Latinos now represent 19.7% of the population, an increase of 7.6 percentage points and the largest gain of any group. New London has the 11th largest population of Latinos in Connecticut and the 30th largest in the New England states. As a percentage of the total population, the Latino population in New London ranks eighth in the state.

Table 1

New London - Growth by Ethnicity							
	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Hispanic or Latino	5,061	19.7	3,459	12.1	1,602	46.3	7.6
White	14,394	56.1	19,773	69.3	-5,379	-27.2	-13.2
Black or African American	4,393	17.1	4,505	15.8	-112	-2.5	1.3
American Indian and Alaska Native	197	0.8	169	0.6	28	16.6	0.2
Asian ^a	537	2.1	563	2.0	-12	-2.1	0.2
Pacific Islander ^a	14	0.1					
Some other race	102	0.4	71	0.2	31	43.7	0.1
Two or more races ^b	973	3.8					
Total	25,671		28,540		-2,869	-10.1	

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.

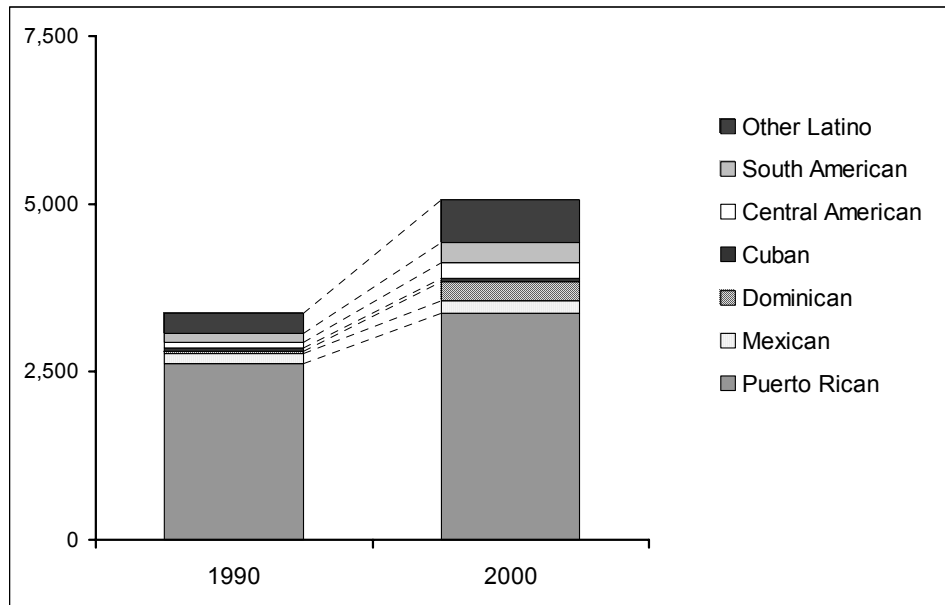
Table 2

New London - National Origin of Latinos						
	2000		1990 ^a		Growth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	5,061		3,381		1,680	49.7
Mexican	176	3.5	144	4.3	32	22.2
Puerto Rican	3,382	66.8	2,625	77.6	757	28.8
Cuban	54	1.1	38	1.1	16	42.1
Dominican Republic	280	5.5	42	1.2	238	566.7
Other Central American	227	4.5	92	2.7	135	146.7
Other South American	302	6.0	128	3.8	174	135.9
Other Hispanic or Latino	640	12.6	312	9.2	328	105.1

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 London - 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 London is Puerto Rican, at 66.8%, followed by “Other” Latinos and “Other South American.” “Other” Latinos were among the fastest-growing population - behind Dominicans, Other Central Americans and Other South Americans, growing by 105.1%, 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

New London - Households by Tenure							
	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Latino Headed Households							
Total Households	1,537		997		540	54.2	
Owners	315	20.5	147	14.7	168	114.3	5.8
Renters	1,222	79.5	850	85.3	372	43.8	

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

Latino-headed households are much more likely to rent than to own their home, 79.5% versus 20.5%, 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 66.8%. Although there has been a small growth in the proportion of non-family households, it is still true that most

Latinos, 73.6%, live in family households (see table 4). Married couples with children represent 23% of Latino-headed households, slightly more than the Connecticut average of 24.5%. Families made up of a single female with children account for 29.1% of Latino households, which is greater than the state average of 7.9%, but less than it was in 1990.

Table 4

New London - Family Structure						
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth Percent	Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Families:	1,132	73.6	761	76.3	48.8	-2.7
with related children ^a :						
Married Couple, with children	353	23.0	247	24.8	42.9	-1.8
Female Head, with children	448	29.1	292	29.3	53.4	-0.1
Male Head, with children	77	5.0	34	3.4	126.5	1.6
without related children:						
Married Couple, no children	139	9.0	127	12.7	9.4	-3.7
Single, no children	115	7.5	61	6.1	88.5	1.4
Non-Family Household	405	26.4	236	23.7	71.6	2.7
Total Households	1,537		997		54.2	

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.

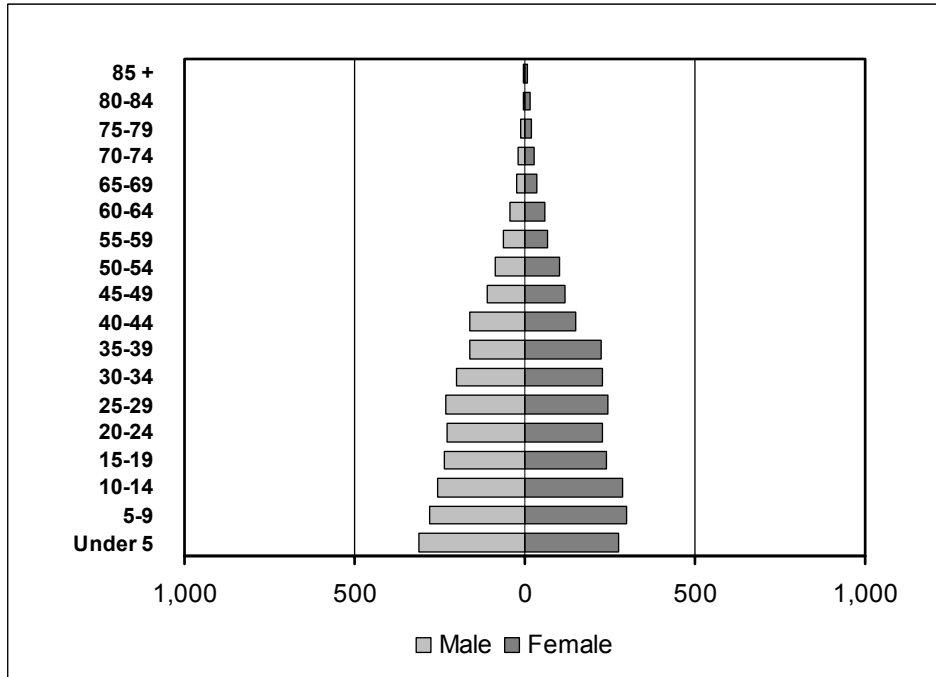
1990(b): 1990 Census Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Sample Data.

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

Notes:

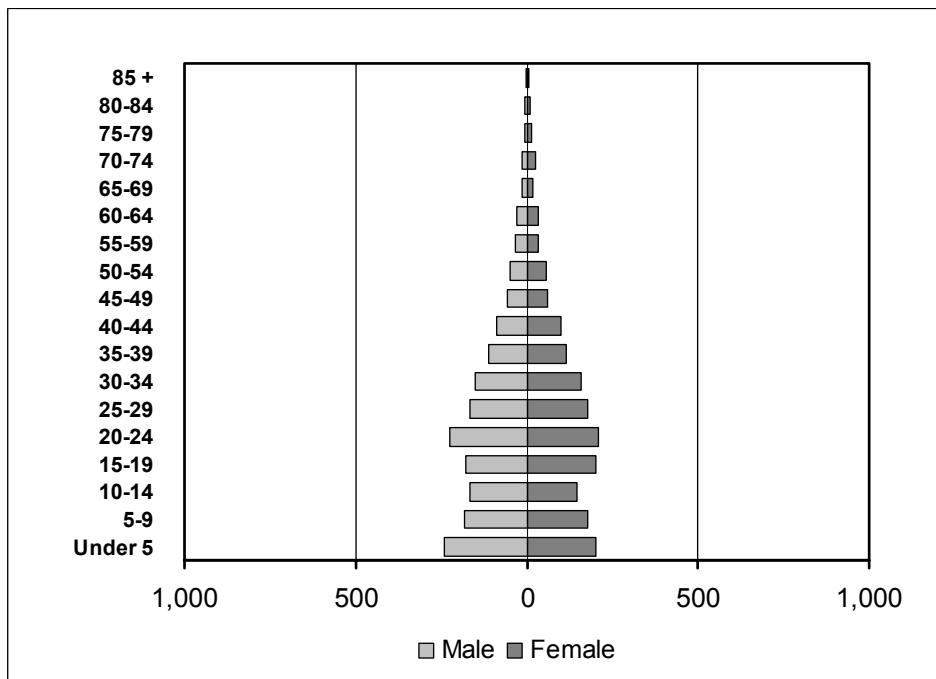
¹ Sample data from 1990 are based on the “Long Form” files. About one person or household in six receives the Long Form Census. The estimates from there do not match the enumerations in the 100% or “Short Form” data. There are sources of error in any census or survey; however the estimates here are accurate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

Figure 2
New London - Age Profile 2000



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

Figure 3
New London - Age Profile 1990



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

The age composition of Latinos in New London 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 Bridgeport and in the rest of the country remains relatively young, it is older than it was in 1990. In 2000, 43.2% of Latinos were younger than 20, just slightly fewer than the 43.3% 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 London - Latinos by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 10 years	1,164	23.0	802	23.2	45.1
10-19	1,020	20.2	694	20.1	47.0
20-29	933	18.4	780	22.5	19.6
30-39	817	16.1	534	15.4	53.0
40-49	542	10.7	301	8.7	80.1
50-59	318	6.3	170	4.9	87.1
60-69	163	3.2	98	2.8	66.3
70 and over	104	2.1	80	2.3	30.0
Total	5,061		3,459		46.3
Median Age	23.6		22.3		

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

Table 6

New London - Latino Males by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 10 years	592	24.4	421	24.6	40.6
10-19	492	20.2	347	20.3	41.8
20-29	460	18.9	390	22.8	17.9
30-39	362	14.9	261	15.2	38.7
40-49	272	11.2	142	8.3	91.5
50-59	148	6.1	80	4.7	85.0
60-69	68	2.8	45	2.6	51.1
70 and over	37	1.5	26	1.5	42.3
Total	2,431		1,712		42.0
Median Age	22.7		21.7		

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

Table 7

New London - Latina Females by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 10 years	572	21.7	381	21.8	50.1
10-19	528	20.1	347	19.9	52.2
20-29	473	18.0	390	22.3	21.3
30-39	455	17.3	273	15.6	66.7
40-49	270	10.3	159	9.1	69.8
50-59	170	6.5	90	5.2	88.9
60-69	95	3.6	53	3.0	79.2
70 and over	67	2.5	54	3.1	24.1
Total	2,630		1,747		50.5
Median Age	24.5		23.2		

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