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The Mauricio Gastón Institute
for Latino Community Development
and Public Policy

Latinos in Norwalk | 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 Norwalk, 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 Norwalk increased by 5.9%, but its composition changed substantially. Latinos had a larger numerical growth than any other group, increasing by 5,627 or 76.7%, although Asians had a higher percent increase. Latinos now represent 9.4% of the population, an increase of 6.3 percentage points and the largest gain of any group. Bridgeport has the seventh largest population of Latinos in Connecticut and the sixteenth largest in the New England states. As a percentage of the total population, the Latino population in Bridgeport ranks eleventh in the state.

Table 1

Norwalk - Growth by Ethnicity								
	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Hispanic or Latino	12,966	15.6	7,339	9.4	5,627	76.7	6.3	
White	53,324	64.3	57,812	73.8	-4,488	-7.8	-9.5	
Black or African American	12,231	14.7	11,681	14.9	550	4.7	-0.2	
American Indian and Alaska Native	95	0.1	85	0.1	10	11.8	0.0	
Asian ^a	2,672	3.2	1,266	1.6	1,434	113.3	1.6	
Pacific Islander ^a	28	0.0						
Some other race	137	0.2	148	0.2	-11	-7.4	0.0	
Two or more races ^b	1,498	1.8						
Total	82,951		78,331		4,620	5.9		

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.

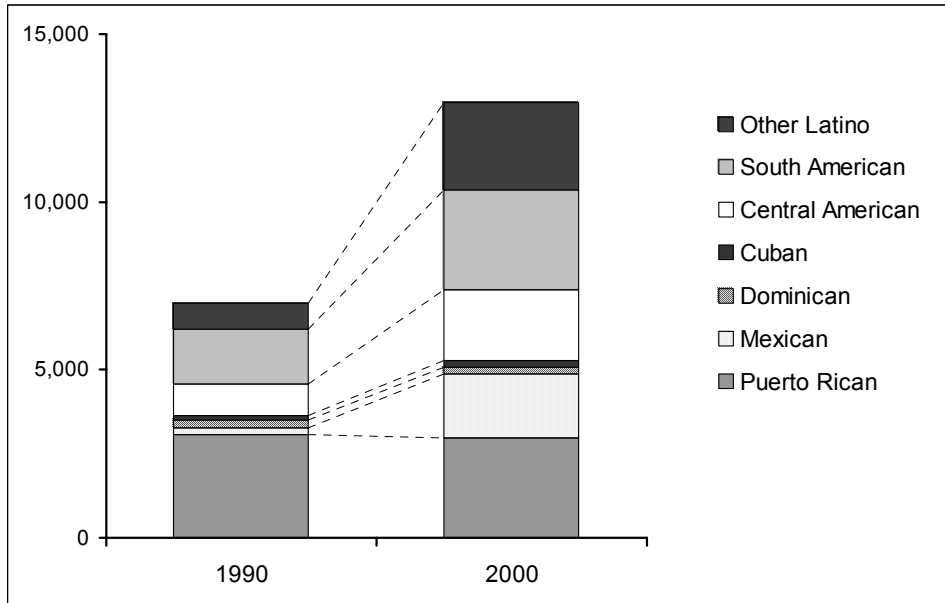
Table 2

Norwalk - National Origin of Latinos						
	2000		1990 ^a		Growth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	12,966		6,977		5,989	85.8
Mexican	1,897	14.6	182	2.6	1,715	942.3
Puerto Rican	2,978	23.0	3,082	44.2	-104	-3.4
Cuban	191	1.5	131	1.9	60	45.8
Dominican Republic	216	1.7	255	3.7	-39	-15.3
Other Central American	2,117	16.3	935	13.4	1,182	126.4
Other South American	2,959	22.8	1,632	23.4	1,327	81.3
Other Hispanic or Latino	2,608	20.1	760	10.9	1,848	243.2

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

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

Figure 1
Norwalk - Growth and Change of the Latino Population



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

All Latino national-origin groups grew significantly between 1990¹ and 2000 - with the exception of marginal decreases in the Puerto Rican and Dominican populations. The largest group in Norwalk is Puerto Rican, at 23%, followed by "Other South American", at 22.8%. Mexicans were the fastest-growing population, increasing 942.3%, followed by "Other Latino" and "Other Central Americans", growing by 243.2% and 126.4%, respectively, 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

Norwalk - Households by Tenure							
	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Latino Headed Households							
Total Households	3,483		2,072		1,411	68.1	
Owners	990	28.4	589	28.4	401	68.1	0.0
Renters	2,493	71.6	1,483	71.6	1,010	68.1	

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

Latino-headed households are much more likely to rent than to own their home, 71.6% versus 28.4%, as there has been a 0% 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, 79.2%, live in family households (see table 4). Married couples with children represent 35.6% of Latino-headed households, slightly more than the Connecticut average of 24.5%. Families made up of a single female with children account for 14.1% of Latino households, which is greater than the state average of 7.9%, but less than it was in 1990.

Table 4

Norwalk - Family Structure						
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth Percent	Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Families:	2,757	79.2	1,644	79.3	67.7	-0.2
with related children ^a :						
Married Couple, with children	1,241	35.6	727	35.1	70.7	0.5
Female Head, with children	492	14.1	312	15.1	57.7	-0.9
Male Head, with children	168	4.8	69	3.3	143.5	1.5
without related children:						
Married Couple, no children	471	13.5	357	17.2	31.9	-3.7
Single, no children	385	11.1	179	8.6	115.1	2.4
Non-Family Household	726	20.8	428	20.7	69.6	0.2
Total Households	3,483		2,072		68.1	

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.

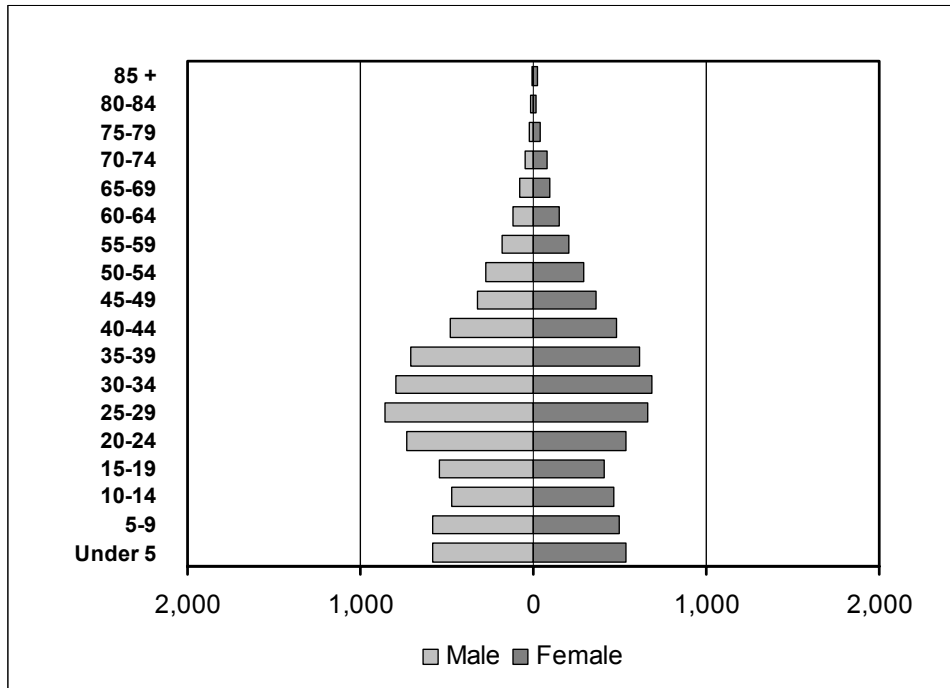
1990(b): 1990 Census Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Sample Data.

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

Notes:

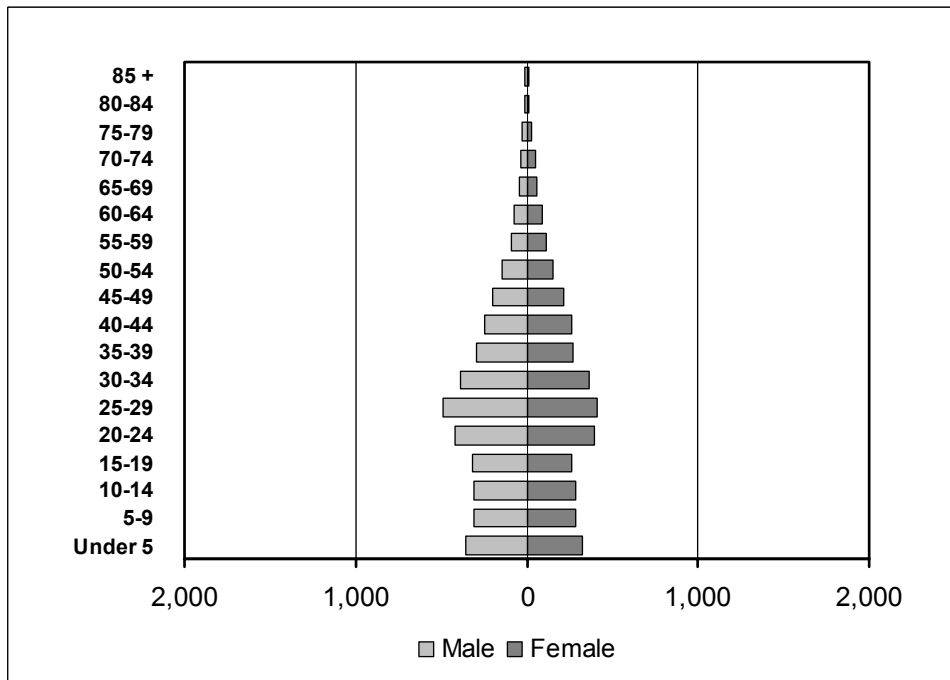
¹ Sample data from 1990 are based on the “Long Form” files. About one person or household in six receives the Long Form Census. The estimates from there do not match the enumerations in the 100% or “Short Form” data. There are sources of error in any census or survey; however the estimates here are accurate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

Figure 2
Norwalk - Age Profile 2000



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

Figure 3
Norwalk - Age Profile 1990



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

The age composition of Latinos in Norwalk 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 Norwalk and in the rest of the country remains relatively young, it is older than it was in 1990. In 2000, 31.5% of Latinos were younger than 20, just slightly fewer than the 33.4% in 1990 (see table 5). The Latino median age of 28.7 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

Norwalk - Latinos by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
Under 10 years	2,197	16.9	1,280	17.4	71.6
10-19	1,894	14.6	1,176	16.0	61.1
20-29	2,788	21.5	1,712	23.3	62.9
30-39	2,802	21.6	1,317	17.9	112.8
40-49	1,643	12.7	919	12.5	78.8
50-59	950	7.3	493	6.7	92.7
60-69	437	3.4	259	3.5	68.7
70 and over	255	2.0	183	2.5	39.3
Total	12,966		7,339		76.7
Median Age	28.7		27.2		

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

Table 6

Norwalk - Latino Males by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
Under 10 years	1,165	17.1	665	17.7	75.2
10-19	1,017	14.9	629	16.8	61.7
20-29	1,588	23.3	906	24.2	75.3
30-39	1,508	22.1	680	18.1	121.8
40-49	807	11.8	446	11.9	80.9
50-59	459	6.7	233	6.2	97.0
60-69	192	2.8	111	3.0	73.0
70 and over	93	1.4	78	2.1	19.2
Total	6,829		3,748		82.2
Median Age	27.9		26.6		

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

Table 7

Norwalk - Latina Females by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
Under 10 years	1,032	16.8	615	17.1	67.8
10-19	877	14.3	547	15.2	60.3
20-29	1,200	19.6	806	22.4	48.9
30-39	1,294	21.1	637	17.7	103.1
40-49	836	13.6	473	13.2	76.7
50-59	491	8.0	260	7.2	88.8
60-69	245	4.0	148	4.1	65.5
70 and over	162	2.6	105	2.9	54.3
Total	6,137		3,591		70.9
Median Age	29.7		27.9		

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