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The Mauricio Gastón Institute
for Latino Community Development
and Public Policy

Latinos in Bridgeport | 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 Bridgeport, 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 Bridgeport decreased by 1.5%, but its composition changed substantially. Latinos had a larger numerical growth than any other group, increasing by 6,931 or 18.5%, although “some other race” and Asians had a higher percent increase. Latinos now represent 31.9% of the population, an increase of 5.4 percentage points and the largest gain of any group. Bridgeport has the second largest population of Latinos in Connecticut and the fourth largest in the New England states. As a percentage of the total population, the Latino population in Hartford ranks second in the state.

Table 1

Bridgeport - Growth by Ethnicity								
	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Hispanic or Latino	44,478	31.9	37,547	26.5	6,931	18.5	5.4	
White	43,158	30.9	64,659	45.6	-21,501	-33.3	-14.7	
Black or African American	40,974	29.4	35,633	25.1	5,341	15.0	4.2	
American Indian and Alaska Native	352	0.3	295	0.2	57	19.3	0.0	
Asian ^a	4,459	3.2	3,083	2.2	1,478	47.9	1.1	
Pacific Islander ^a	102	0.1						
Some other race	1,218	0.9	469	0.3	749	159.7	0.5	
Two or more races ^b	4,788	3.4						
Total	139,529		141,686		-2,157	-1.5		

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.

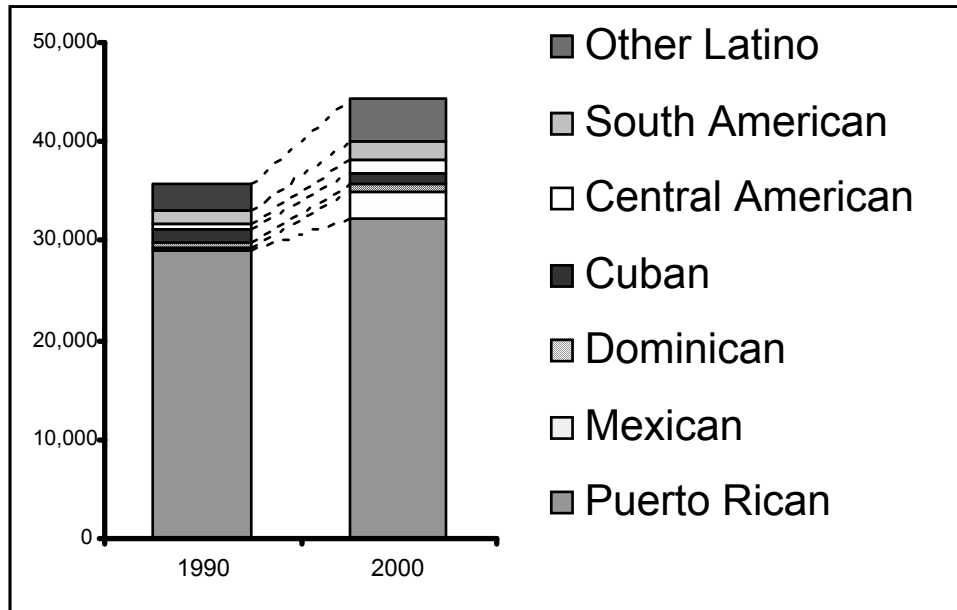
Table 2

Bridgeport - National Origin of Latinos						
	2000		1990 ^a		Growth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	44,478		35,840		8,638	24.1
Mexican	2,687	6.0	402	1.1	2,285	568.4
Puerto Rican	32,177	72.3	29,017	81.0	3,160	10.9
Cuban	994	2.2	1,474	4.1	-480	-32.6
Dominican Republic	886	2.0	386	1.1	500	129.5
Other Central American	1,443	3.2	516	1.4	927	179.7
Other South American	1,996	4.5	1,270	3.5	726	57.2
Other Hispanic or Latino	4,295	9.7	2,775	7.7	1,520	54.8

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

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

Figure 1
Bridgeport - 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 Bridgeport is Puerto Rican, at 72.3%, followed by “Other” Latinos and "Other South American." “Other” Latinos were among the fastest-growing population - behind Mexicans, Other Central Americans, Dominicans, and Other South Americans, growing by 54.8%, 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

Bridgeport - Households by Tenure							
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total Households	13,048		10,964		2,084	19.0	
Owners	3,615	27.7	2,579	23.5	1,036	40.2	4.2
Renters	9,433	72.3	8,385	76.5	1,048	12.5	

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

Latino-headed households are much more likely to rent than to own their home, 72.3% versus 27.7%, although there has been a 4.2% 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, 78.3%, live in family households (see table 4). Married couples with children represent 25.3% of Latino-headed households, slightly more than the Connecticut average of 24.5%. Families made up of a single female with children account for 26.2% of Latino households, which is greater than the state average of 7.9%, but less than it was in 1990.

Table 4

Bridgeport - Family Structure						
	2000		1990		Growth Percent	Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Latino Headed Households						
Families:	10,222	78.3	8,816	80.4	15.9	-2.1
with related children ^a :						
Married Couple, with children	3,304	25.3	2,945	26.9	12.2	-1.5
Female Head, with children	3,425	26.2	3,021	27.6	13.4	-1.3
Male Head, with children	653	5.0	486	4.4	34.4	0.6
without related children:						
Married Couple, no children	1,694	13.0	1,542	14.1	9.9	-1.1
Single, no children	1,146	8.8	822	7.5	39.4	1.3
Non-Family Household	2,826	21.7	2,148	19.6	31.6	2.1
Total Households	13,048		10,964		19.0	

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.

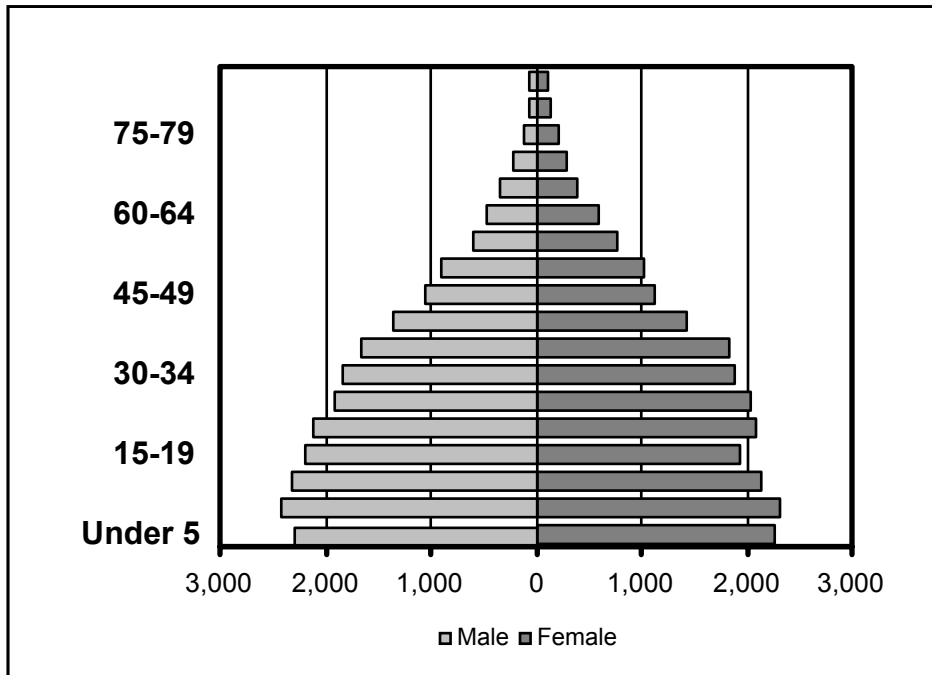
1990(b): 1990 Census Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Sample Data.

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

Notes:

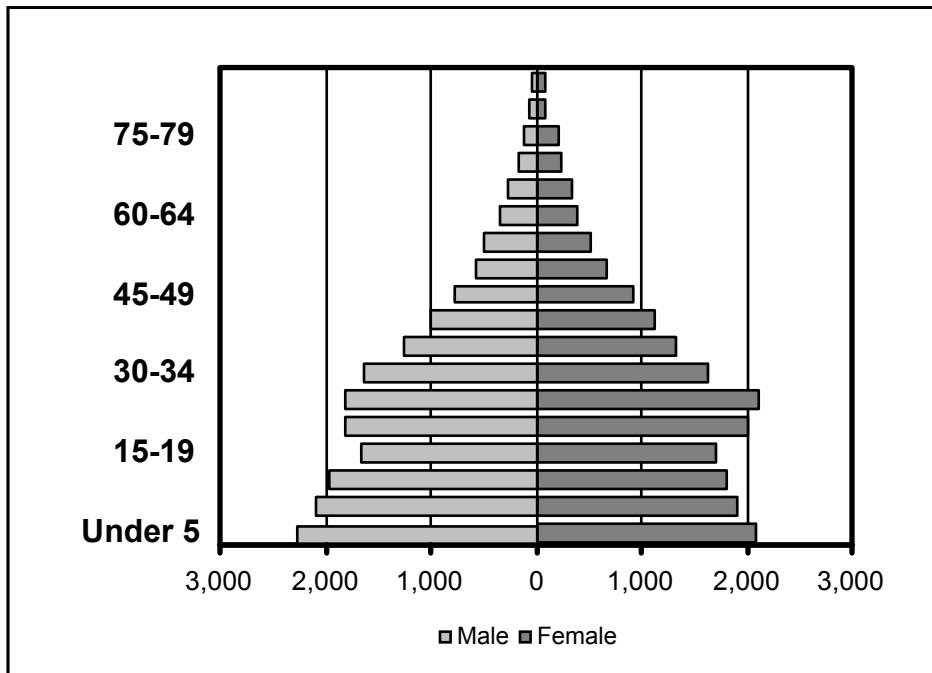
¹ Sample data from 1990 are based on the “Long Form” files. About one person or household in six receives the Long Form Census. The estimates from there do not match the enumerations in the 100% or “Short Form” data. There are sources of error in any census or survey; however the estimates here are accurate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

Figure 2
Bridgeport - Age Profile 2000



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

Figure 3
Bridgeport - Age Profile 1990



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

The age composition of Latinos in Bridgeport 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, 40.2% of Latinos were younger than 20, just slightly fewer than the 41.3% in 1990 (see table 5). The Latino median age of 25.2 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

Bridgeport - Latinos by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 10 years	9,302	20.9	8,377	22.3	11.0
10-19	8,599	19.3	7,150	19.0	20.3
20-29	8,149	18.3	7,746	20.6	5.2
30-39	7,192	16.2	5,839	15.6	23.2
40-49	4,969	11.2	3,826	10.2	29.9
50-59	3,274	7.4	2,267	6.0	44.4
60-69	1,787	4.0	1,335	3.6	33.9
70 and over	1,206	2.7	1,007	2.7	19.8
Total	44,478		37,547		18.5
Median Age	25.2		24.3		

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

Table 6

Bridgeport - Latino Males by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 10 years	4,730	21.6	4,365	23.8	8.4
10-19	4,506	20.6	3,624	19.8	24.3
20-29	4,029	18.4	3,619	19.8	11.3
30-39	3,476	15.9	2,885	15.8	20.5
40-49	2,409	11.0	1,771	9.7	36.0
50-59	1,483	6.8	1,060	5.8	39.9
60-69	790	3.6	601	3.3	31.4
70 and over	442	2.0	384	2.1	15.1
Total	21,865		18,309		19.4
Median Age	24.0		23.3		

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

Table 7

Bridgeport - Latina Females by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 10 years	4,572	20.2	4,012	20.9	14.0
10-19	4,093	18.1	3,526	18.3	16.1
20-29	4,120	18.2	4,127	21.5	-0.2
30-39	3,716	16.4	2,954	15.4	25.8
40-49	2,560	11.3	2,055	10.7	24.6
50-59	1,791	7.9	1,207	6.3	48.4
60-69	997	4.4	734	3.8	35.8
70 and over	764	3.4	623	3.2	22.6
Total	22,613		19,238		17.5
Median Age	26.3		25.1		

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