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The Mauricio Gastón Institute
for Latino Community Development
and Public Policy

Latinos in Danbury | 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 Danbury, 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 Danbury increased by 14.1%, but its composition changed substantially. Latinos had a larger numerical growth than any other group, increasing by 6,746 or 133.7%, although “some other race” had a higher percent increase. Latinos now represent 15.8% of the population, an increase of 8.1 percentage points and the largest gain of any group. Danbury has the 9th largest population of Latinos in Connecticut and the 18th largest in the New England states. As a percentage of the total population, the Latino population in Danbury ranks 10th in the state.

Table 1

| Danbury - Growth by Ethnicity | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|----------------------|--|
| | 2000 | | 1990 | | Growth | | Change in Percent | |
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | | |
| Hispanic or Latino | 11,791 | 15.8 | 5,045 | 7.7 | 6,746 | 133.7 | 8.1 | |
| White | 50,945 | 68.1 | 53,668 | 81.8 | -2,723 | -5.1 | -13.8 | |
| Black or African American | 4,743 | 6.3 | 4,002 | 6.1 | 741 | 18.5 | 0.2 | |
| American Indian and Alaska Native | 131 | 0.2 | 117 | 0.2 | 14 | 12.0 | 0.0 | |
| Asian ^a | 4,068 | 5.4 | 2,514 | 3.8 | 1,567 | 62.3 | 1.6 | |
| Pacific Islander ^a | 13 | 0.0 | | | | | | |
| Some other race | 1,096 | 1.5 | 239 | 0.4 | 857 | 358.6 | 1.1 | |
| Two or more races ^b | 2,061 | 2.8 | | | | | | |
| Total | 74,848 | | 65,585 | | 9,263 | 14.1 | | |

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.

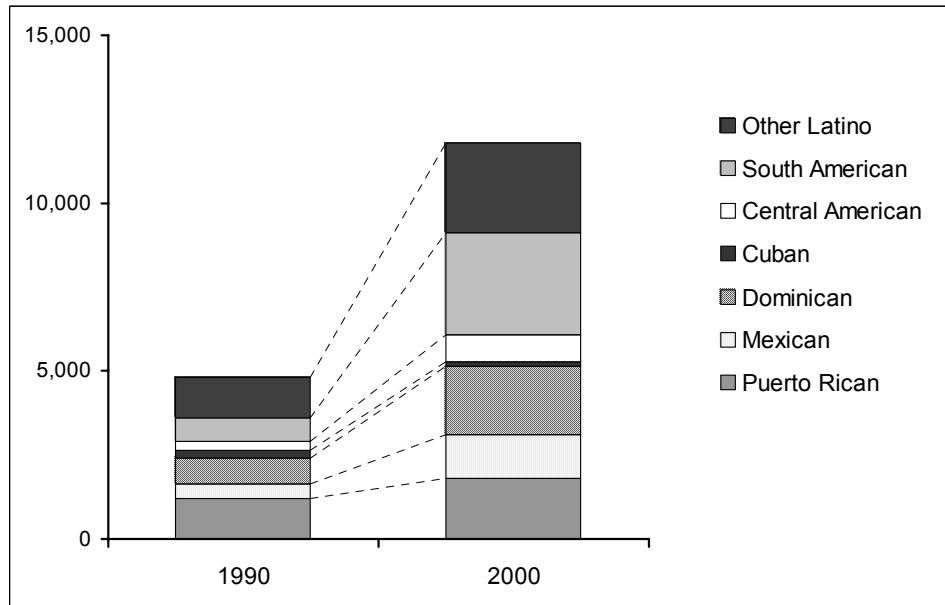
Table 2

| Danbury - National Origin of Latinos | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|---------|-------------------|---------|--------|---------|
| | 2000 | | 1990 ^a | | Growth | |
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Hispanic or Latino | 11,791 | | 4,810 | | 6,981 | 145.1 |
| Mexican | 1,294 | 11.0 | 443 | 9.2 | 851 | 192.1 |
| Puerto Rican | 1,818 | 15.4 | 1,187 | 24.7 | 631 | 53.2 |
| Cuban | 138 | 1.2 | 215 | 4.5 | -77 | -35.8 |
| Dominican Republic | 2,033 | 17.2 | 789 | 16.4 | 1,244 | 157.7 |
| Other Central American | 795 | 6.7 | 275 | 5.7 | 520 | 189.1 |
| Other South American | 3,049 | 25.9 | 715 | 14.9 | 2,334 | 326.4 |
| Other Hispanic or Latino | 2,664 | 22.6 | 1,186 | 24.7 | 1,478 | 124.6 |

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

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

Figure 1
Growth and Change of the Latino Population



All Latino national-origin groups grew significantly between 1990¹ and 2000. The largest group in Danbury is “Other South American”, at 25.9%, followed by “Other” Latinos and Dominicans “Other” Latinos were among the fastest-growing population, growing by 124.6, 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

| Danbury - Households by Tenure | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|-------------------|
| | 2000 | | 1990 | | Growth | | Change in Percent |
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | |
| Latino Headed Households | | | | | | | |
| Total Households | 2,810 | | 1,367 | | 1,443 | 105.6 | |
| Owners | 663 | 23.6 | 356 | 26.0 | 307 | 86.2 | -2.4 |
| Renters | 2,147 | 76.4 | 1,011 | 74.0 | 1,136 | 112.4 | |

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

Latino-headed households are much more likely to rent than to own their home, 70.6% versus 29.4%, although there has been a 1.6% 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, 77.9%, live in family households (see table 4). Married couples with children represent 27.1% of Latino-headed households, slightly more than the Connecticut

average of 24.5%. Families made up of a single female with children account for 24.9% of Latino households, which is greater than the state average of 7.9%, but less than it was in 1990.

Table 4

| Danbury - Family Structure | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Latino Headed Households | 2000 | | 1990 | | Growth Percent | Change in Percent |
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | | |
| Families: | 2,282 | 81.2 | 1,061 | 77.6 | 115.1 | 3.6 |
| with related children ^a : | | | | | | |
| Married Couple, with children | 985 | 35.1 | 419 | 30.7 | 135.1 | 4.4 |
| Female Head, with children | 426 | 15.2 | 215 | 15.7 | 98.1 | -0.6 |
| Male Head, with children | 147 | 5.2 | 46 | 3.4 | 219.6 | 1.9 |
| without related children: | | | | | | |
| Married Couple, no children | 446 | 15.9 | 247 | 18.1 | 80.6 | -2.2 |
| Single, no children | 278 | 9.9 | 134 | 9.8 | 107.5 | 0.1 |
| Non-Family Household | 528 | 18.8 | 306 | 22.4 | 72.5 | -3.6 |
| Total Households | 2,810 | | 1,367 | | 105.6 | |

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. There are sources of error in any census or survey; however the estimates here are accurate enough to note trends and patterns.

Figure 2
Age Profile 2000

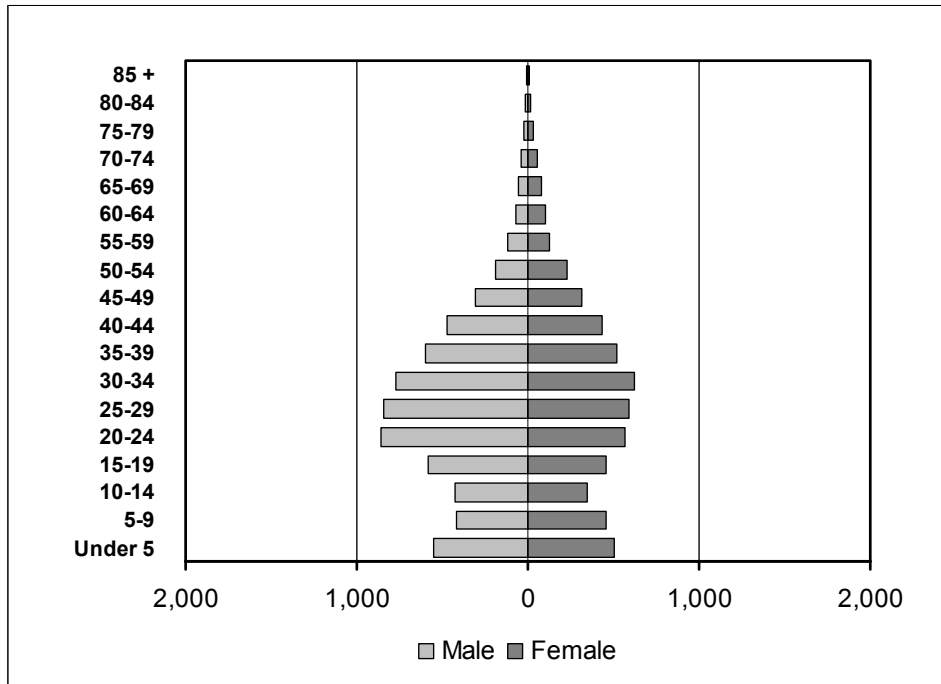
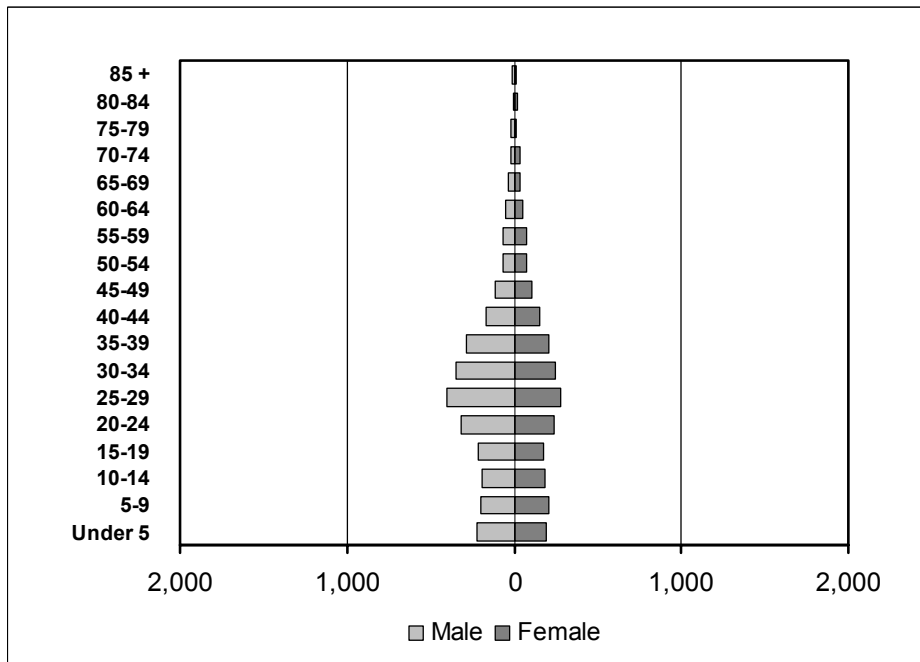


Figure 3
Age Profile 1990



The age composition of Latinos in Danbury 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 Danbury and in the rest of the country remains relatively young, it is older than it was in 1990. In 2000, 31.6% of Latinos were younger than 20, just slightly fewer than the 31.7% in 1990 (see table 5). The Latino median age of 27.5 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

| Danbury - Latinos by Age | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2000 | | 1990 | | Growth |
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Percent |
| Under 10 years | 1,920 | 16.3 | 822 | 16.3 | 133.6 |
| 10-19 | 1,804 | 15.3 | 776 | 15.4 | 132.5 |
| 20-29 | 2,856 | 24.2 | 1,239 | 24.6 | 130.5 |
| 30-39 | 2,518 | 21.4 | 1,083 | 21.5 | 132.5 |
| 40-49 | 1,528 | 13.0 | 549 | 10.9 | 178.3 |
| 50-59 | 668 | 5.7 | 283 | 5.6 | 136.0 |
| 60-69 | 304 | 2.6 | 170 | 3.4 | 78.8 |
| 70 and over | 193 | 1.6 | 123 | 2.4 | 56.9 |
| Total | 11,791 | | 5,045 | | 133.7 |
| Median Age | 27.5 | | 27.7 | | |

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

Table 6

| Danbury - Latino Males by Age | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2000 | | 1990 | | Growth |
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Percent |
| Under 10 years | 962 | 15.2 | 426 | 15.5 | 125.8 |
| 10-19 | 1,003 | 15.8 | 414 | 15.0 | 142.3 |
| 20-29 | 1,697 | 26.8 | 726 | 26.4 | 133.7 |
| 30-39 | 1,371 | 21.6 | 631 | 22.9 | 117.3 |
| 40-49 | 781 | 12.3 | 288 | 10.5 | 171.2 |
| 50-59 | 311 | 4.9 | 137 | 5.0 | 127.0 |
| 60-69 | 125 | 2.0 | 84 | 3.1 | 48.8 |
| 70 and over | 86 | 1.4 | 48 | 1.7 | 79.2 |
| Total | 6,336 | | 2,754 | | 130.1 |
| Median Age | 26.9 | | 27.6 | | |

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

Table 7

| Danbury - Latina Females by Age | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| | 2000 | 1990 | Growth |

| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Percent |
|----------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|---------|
| Under 10 years | 958 | 17.6 | 396 | 17.3 | 141.9 |
| 10-19 | 801 | 14.7 | 362 | 15.8 | 121.3 |
| 20-29 | 1,159 | 21.2 | 513 | 22.4 | 125.9 |
| 30-39 | 1,147 | 21.0 | 452 | 19.7 | 153.8 |
| 40-49 | 747 | 13.7 | 261 | 11.4 | 186.2 |
| 50-59 | 357 | 6.5 | 146 | 6.4 | 144.5 |
| 60-69 | 179 | 3.3 | 86 | 3.8 | 108.1 |
| 70 and over | 107 | 2.0 | 75 | 3.3 | 42.7 |
| Total | 5,455 | | 2,291 | | 138.1 |
| Median Age | 28.4 | | 28.0 | | |

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