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The Mauricio Gastón Institute
for Latino Community Development
and Public Policy

Latinos in East Hartford | 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 East Hartford, 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 1.7%, and its composition changed substantially. Latinos had the second largest numerical growth behind African-Americans (4,973), increasing by 4,546 or 151.2%. Latinos now represent 15.2% of the population, an increase of 9.3 percentage points, and the second largest gain behind African-Americans, at 10.2 percentage points. East Hartford has the tenth largest population of Latinos in Connecticut and the 22nd largest in the New England states. As a percentage of the total population, the Latino population in East Hartford ranks 12th in the state.

Table 1

East Hartford - Growth by Ethnicity							
	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Hispanic or Latino	7,552	15.2	3,006	6.0	4,546	151.2	9.3
White	29,557	59.6	42,084	83.4	-12,527	-29.8	-23.8
Black or African American	9,051	18.3	4,078	8.1	4,973	121.9	10.2
American Indian and Alaska Native	110	0.2	92	0.2	18	19.6	0.0
Asian ^a	1,972	4.0	1,104	2.2	877	79.4	1.8
Pacific Islander ^a	9	0.0					
Some other race	148	0.3	88	0.2	60	68.2	0.1
Two or more races ^b	1,176	2.4					
Total	49,575		50,452		-877	-1.7	

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.

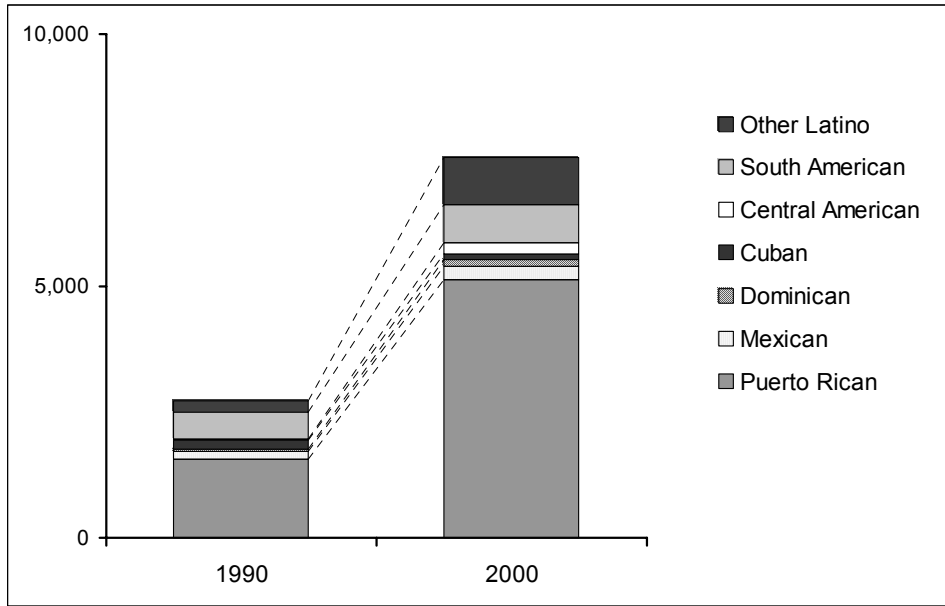
Table 2

East Hartford - National Origin of Latinos						
	2000		1990 ^a		Growth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	7,552		2,715		4,837	178.2
Mexican	259	3.4	160	5.9	99	61.9
Puerto Rican	5,121	67.8	1,556	57.3	3,565	229.1
Cuban	110	1.5	167	6.2	-57	-34.1
Dominican Republic	137	1.8	46	1.7	91	197.8
Salvadoran	132	1.7	31	1.1	101	325.8
Other Central American	89	1.2	0	0.0	89	
Other South American	757	10.0	545	20.1	212	38.9
Other Hispanic or Latino	947	12.5	210	7.7	737	351.0

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

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

Figure 1
East Hartford - 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 East Hartford is Puerto Rican, at 67.8%, followed by “Other” Latinos and “Other South American.” “Other” Latinos were among the fastest-growing population - growing by 351%, 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

East Hartford CDP - Households by Tenure							
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total Households	2,214		892		1,322	148.2	
Owners	747	33.7	342	38.3	405	118.4	-4.6
Renters	1,467	66.3	550	61.7	917	166.7	

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

Latino-headed households are much more likely to rent than to own their home, 66.3% versus 33.7%, and there has been a 4.6% decrease in home ownership since 1990 (see table 3). 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,

79.5%, live in family households (see table 4). Married couples with children represent 28.9% of Latino-headed households, more than the Connecticut average of 24.5%. Families made up of a single female with children account for 27.1% of Latino households, which is greater than the state average of 7.9%, and more than it was in 1990.

Table 4

East Hartford CDP - Family Structure						
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth Percent	Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Families:	1,761	79.5	710	79.6	148.0	-0.1
with related children ^a :						
Married Couple, with children	640	28.9	323	36.2	98.1	-7.3
Female Head, with children	599	27.1	135	15.1	343.7	11.9
Male Head, with children	111	5.0	41	4.6	170.7	0.4
without related children:						
Married Couple, no children	269	12.1	159	17.8	69.2	-5.7
Single, no children	142	6.4	52	5.8	173.1	0.6
Non-Family Household	453	20.5	182	20.4	148.9	0.1
Total Households	2,214		892		148.2	

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.

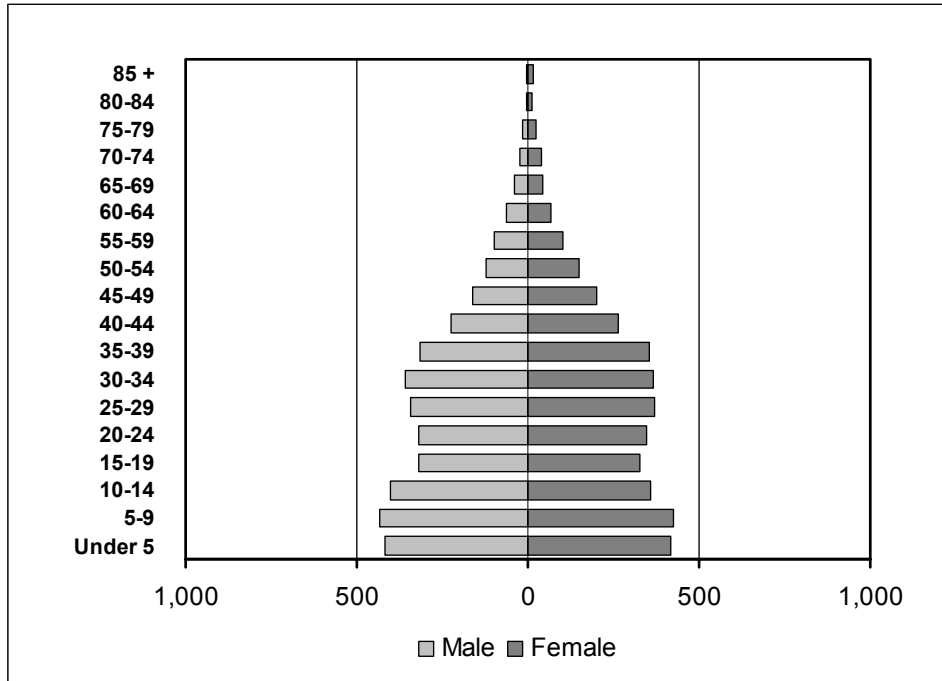
1990(b): 1990 Census Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Sample Data.

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

Notes:

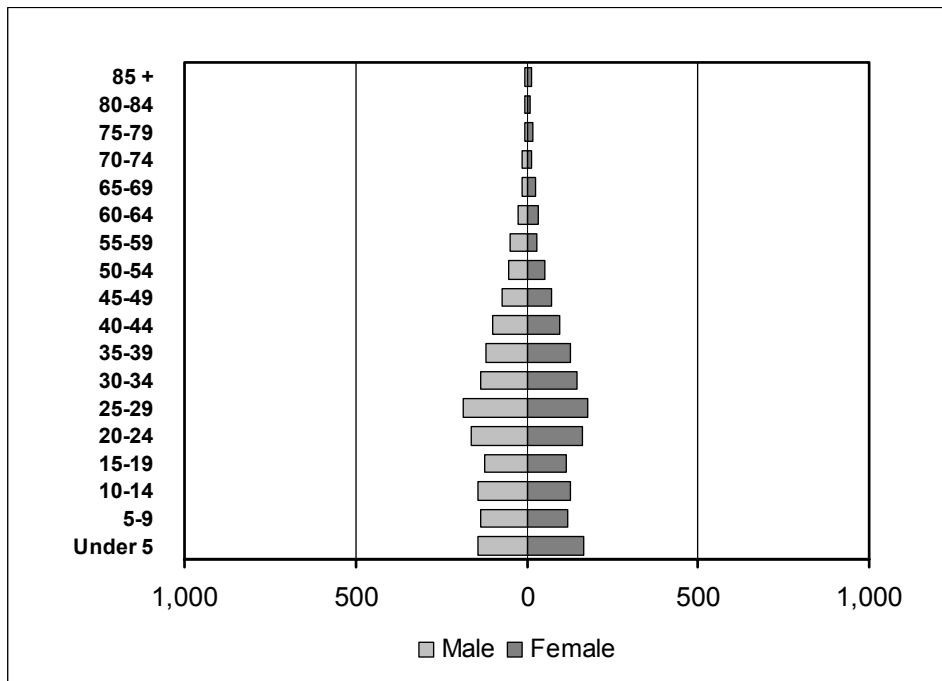
¹ Sample data from 1990 are based on the “Long Form” files. About one person or household in six receives the Long Form Census. The estimates from there do not match the enumerations in the 100% or “Short Form” data. There are sources of error in any census or survey; however the estimates here are accurate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

Figure 2
East Hartford - Age Profile 2000



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

Figure 3
East Hartford - Age Profile 1990



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

The age composition of Latinos in East Hartford 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, 41.2% of Latinos were younger than 20, fewer than the 35.7% in 1990 (see table 5). The Latino median age of 25 is much younger than the overall Connecticut median age of 37.5. 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

East Hartford - Latinos by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 10 years	1,696	22.5	566	18.8	199.6
10-19	1,410	18.7	509	16.9	177.0
20-29	1,381	18.3	693	23.1	99.3
30-39	1,394	18.5	525	17.5	165.5
40-49	850	11.3	341	11.3	149.3
50-59	474	6.3	182	6.1	160.4
60-69	210	2.8	101	3.4	107.9
70 and over	137	1.8	89	3.0	53.9
Total	7,552		3,006		151.2
Median Age	25.0		26.3		

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

Table 6

East Hartford - Latino Males by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 10 years	851	23.2	277	18.6	207.2
10-19	723	19.7	264	17.7	173.9
20-29	662	18.1	351	23.5	88.6
30-39	673	18.4	254	17.0	165.0
40-49	386	10.5	173	11.6	123.1
50-59	223	6.1	101	6.8	120.8
60-69	101	2.8	39	2.6	159.0
70 and over	48	1.3	33	2.2	45.5
Total	3,667		1,492		145.8
Median Age	24.1		26.1		

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

Table 7

East Hartford - Latina Females by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
Under 10 years	845	21.8	289	19.1	192.4
10-19	687	17.7	245	16.2	180.4
20-29	719	18.5	342	22.6	110.2
30-39	721	18.6	271	17.9	166.1
40-49	464	11.9	168	11.1	176.2
50-59	251	6.5	81	5.4	209.9
60-69	109	2.8	62	4.1	75.8
70 and over	89	2.3	56	3.7	58.9
Total	3,885		1,514		156.6
Median Age	25.8		26.6		

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