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### Latinos in Hartford, Connecticut

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The Mauricio Gastón Institute  
for Latino Community Development  
and Public Policy

# Latinos in 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 Hartford, the general population changes from 1990 to 2000 were not 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 Hartford decreased by 13.1%, but its composition changed substantially. Latinos had a larger numerical growth than any other group, increasing by 5,123 or 11.6%, although “some other race” had a higher percent increase. Latinos now represent 40.5% of the population, an increase of 8.9 percentage points and the largest gain of any group. Hartford has the largest population of Latinos in Connecticut and the third largest in the New England states. As a percentage of the total population, the Latino population in Hartford ranks first in the state.

Table 1

<b>Hartford - Growth by Ethnicity</b>							
	<b>2000</b>		<b>1990</b>		<b>Growth</b>		<b>Change in Percent</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	
Hispanic or Latino	49,260	40.5	44,137	31.6	5,123	11.6	8.9
White	21,677	17.8	42,614	30.5	-20,937	-49.1	-12.7
Black or African American	43,775	36.0	50,225	35.9	-6,450	-12.8	0.1
American Indian and Alaska Native	328	0.3	332	0.2	-4	-1.2	0.0
Asian <sup>a</sup>	1,898	1.6	1,833	1.3	107	5.8	0.3
Pacific Islander <sup>a</sup>	42	0.0					
Some other race	685	0.6	598	0.4	87	14.5	0.1
Two or more races <sup>b</sup>	3,913	3.2					
<b>Total</b>	<b>121,578</b>		<b>139,739</b>		<b>-18,161</b>	<b>-13.0</b>	

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

Note: Growth figures will not balance due to the new multiracial category.

<sup>a</sup> 'Asian and Pacific Islander' was split for the 2000 census. Growth and changes reflect combined total.

<sup>b</sup> There was no equivalent category in the 1990 census.

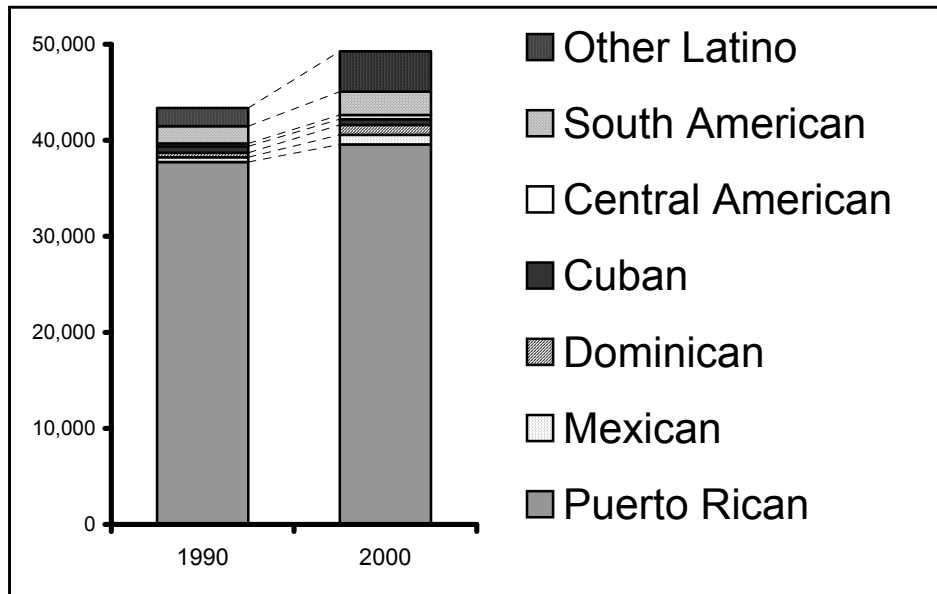
Table 2

<b>Hartford - National Origin of Latinos</b>						
	<b>2000</b>		<b>1990 <sup>a</sup></b>		<b>Growth</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Hispanic or Latino	49,260		43,372		5,888	13.6
Mexican	993	2.0	498	1.1	495	99.4
Puerto Rican	39,586	80.4	37,732	87.0	1,854	4.9
Cuban	610	1.2	685	1.6	-75	-10.9
Dominican Republic	1,013	2.1	471	1.1	542	115.1
Other Central American	422	0.9	288	0.7	134	46.5
Other South American	2,430	4.9	1,805	4.2	625	34.6
Other Hispanic or Latino	4,206	8.5	1,893	4.4	2,313	122.2

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

<sup>a</sup> 1990 figures for nationality are from sample data only and differ from population counts.<sup>1</sup>

Figure 1  
Hartford - Growth and Change of the Latino Population



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

All Latino national-origin groups grew significantly between 1990<sup>1</sup> and 2000. The largest group in Hartford is Puerto Rican, at 80.4%, followed by “Other” Latinos and “Other” South American. “Other” Latinos were the fastest-growing population, growing by 122.2%, 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](http://factfinder.census.gov).

Table 3

Hartford - Households by Tenure							
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total Households	15,259		13,016		2,243	17.2	
Owners	1,922	12.6	1,228	9.4	694	56.5	3.2
Renters	13,337	87.4	11,788	90.6	1,549	13.1	

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

Latino-headed households are much more likely to rent than to own their home, 87.4% versus 12.6%, although there has been a 3.2% 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, 74.2%, live in family households (see table 4). Married couples with children

represent 18% of Latino-headed households, less than the Connecticut average of 24.5%. Families made up of a single female with children account for 33.2% of Latino households, which is greater than the state average of 7.9%, but less than it was in 1990.

Table 4

<b>Hartford - Family Structure</b>						
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth Percent	Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Families:	11,326	74.2	10,129	77.8	11.8	-3.6
with related children <sup>a</sup> :						
Married Couple, with children	2,749	18.0	2,318	17.8	18.6	0.2
Female Head, with children	5,060	33.2	5,010	38.5	1.0	-5.3
Male Head, with children	677	4.4	574	4.4	17.9	0.0
without related children:						
Married Couple, no children	1,506	9.9	1,179	9.1	27.7	0.8
Single, no children	1,334	8.7	1,048	8.1	27.3	0.7
Non-Family Household	3,933	25.8	2,887	22.2	36.2	3.6
Total Households	15,259		13,016		17.2	

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

<sup>a</sup> Own or related children under 18 only.

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*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.

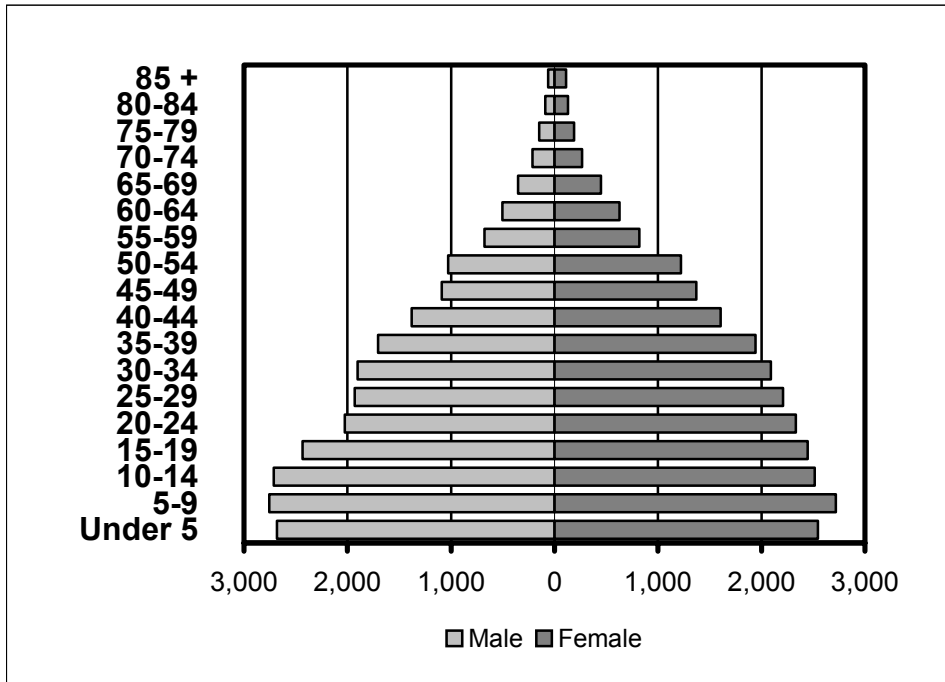
1990(b): 1990 Census Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Sample Data.

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

*Notes:*

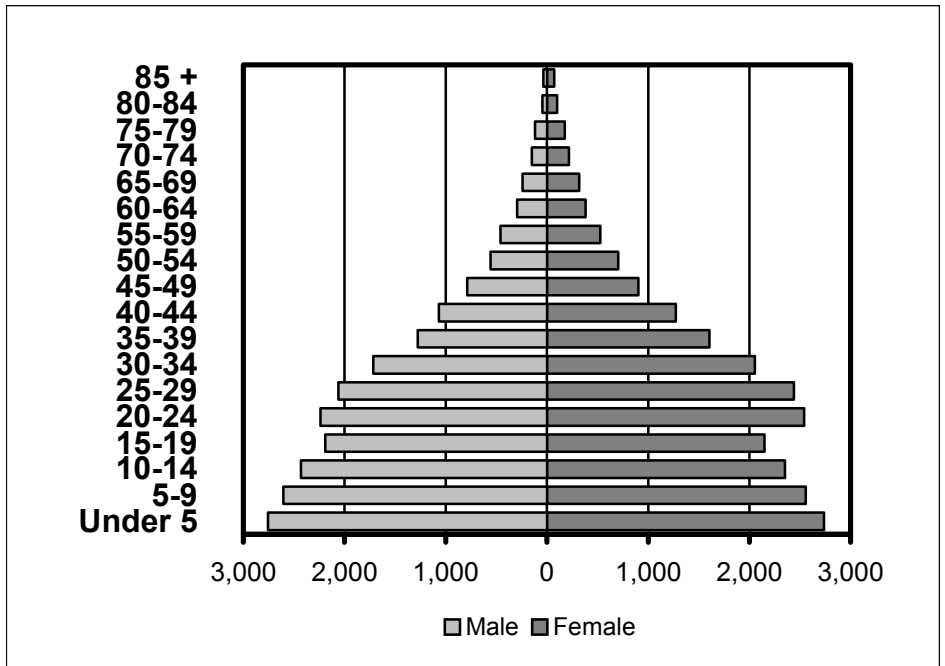
<sup>1</sup> Sample data from 1990 are based on the “Long Form” files. About one person or household in six receives the Long Form Census. The estimates from there do not match the enumerations in the 100% or “Short Form” data. There are sources of error in any census or survey; however the estimates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

Figure 2  
Hartford - Age Profile 2000



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

Figure 3  
Hartford - Age Profile 1990



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

The age composition of Latinos in 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 Hartford and in the rest of the country remains relatively young, it is older than it was in 1990. In 2000, 42.2% of Latinos were younger than 20, just slightly fewer than the 44.8% in 1990 (see table 5). The Latino median age of 24.3 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

<b>Hartford - Latinos by Age</b>					
	<b>2000</b>		<b>1990</b>		<b>Growth</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Under 10 years	10,701	21.7	10,655	24.1	0.4
10-19	10,104	20.5	9,122	20.7	10.8
20-29	8,494	17.2	9,279	21.0	-8.5
30-39	7,639	15.5	6,653	15.1	14.8
40-49	5,439	11.0	4,030	9.1	35.0
50-59	3,742	7.6	2,246	5.1	66.6
60-69	1,934	3.9	1,236	2.8	56.5
70 and over	1,207	2.5	916	2.1	31.8
Total	49,260		44,137		11.6
Median Age	24.3		22.4		

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

Table 6

<b>Hartford - Latino Males by Age</b>					
	<b>2000</b>		<b>1990</b>		<b>Growth</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Under 10 years	5,437	23.0	5,360	25.5	1.4
10-19	5,145	21.7	4,623	22.0	11.3
20-29	3,956	16.7	4,299	20.4	-8.0
30-39	3,605	15.2	2,993	14.2	20.4
40-49	2,466	10.4	1,855	8.8	32.9
50-59	1,702	7.2	1,016	4.8	67.5
60-69	859	3.6	539	2.6	59.4
70 and over	514	2.2	352	1.7	46.0
Total	23,684		21,037		12.6
Median Age	22.9		21.1		

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

Table 7

<b>Hartford - Latina Females by Age</b>					
	<b>2000</b>		<b>1990</b>		<b>Growth Percent</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	
Under 10 years	5,264	20.6	5,295	22.9	-0.6
10-19	4,959	19.4	4,499	19.5	10.2
20-29	4,538	17.7	4,980	21.6	-8.9
30-39	4,034	15.8	3,660	15.8	10.2
40-49	2,973	11.6	2,175	9.4	36.7
50-59	2,040	8.0	1,230	5.3	65.9
60-69	1,075	4.2	697	3.0	54.2
70 and over	693	2.7	564	2.4	22.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,576</b>		<b>23,100</b>		<b>10.7</b>
<b>Median Age</b>	<b>25.5</b>		<b>23.4</b>		

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