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### Latinos in Waterbury, Connecticut

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The Mauricio Gastón Institute  
for Latino Community Development  
and Public Policy

# Latinos in Waterbury | 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 Waterbury, 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 Waterbury decreased by 1.6%, and its composition changed substantially. Latinos had a larger numerical growth than any other group, increasing by 8,776 or 60.2%, although “some other race” and Asians had a higher percent increase. Latinos now represent 21.8% of the population, an increase of 8.4 percentage points and the largest gain of any group. Waterbury has the fourth largest population of Latinos in Connecticut and the ninth largest in the New England states. As a percentage of the total population, the Latino population in Waterbury ranks fifth in the state.

Table 1

Waterbury - Growth by Ethnicity								
	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Hispanic or Latino	23,354	21.8	14,578	13.4	8,776	60.2	8.4	
White	62,406	58.2	79,874	73.3	-17,468	-21.9	-15.1	
Black or African American	16,335	15.2	13,230	12.1	3,105	23.5	3.1	
American Indian and Alaska Native	319	0.3	304	0.3	15	4.9	0.0	
Asian <sup>a</sup>	1,584	1.5	733	0.7	894	122.0	0.8	
Pacific Islander <sup>a</sup>	43	0.0						
Some other race	655	0.6	242	0.2	413	170.7	0.4	
Two or more races <sup>b</sup>	2,575	2.4						
Total	107,271		108,961		-1,690	-1.6		

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.

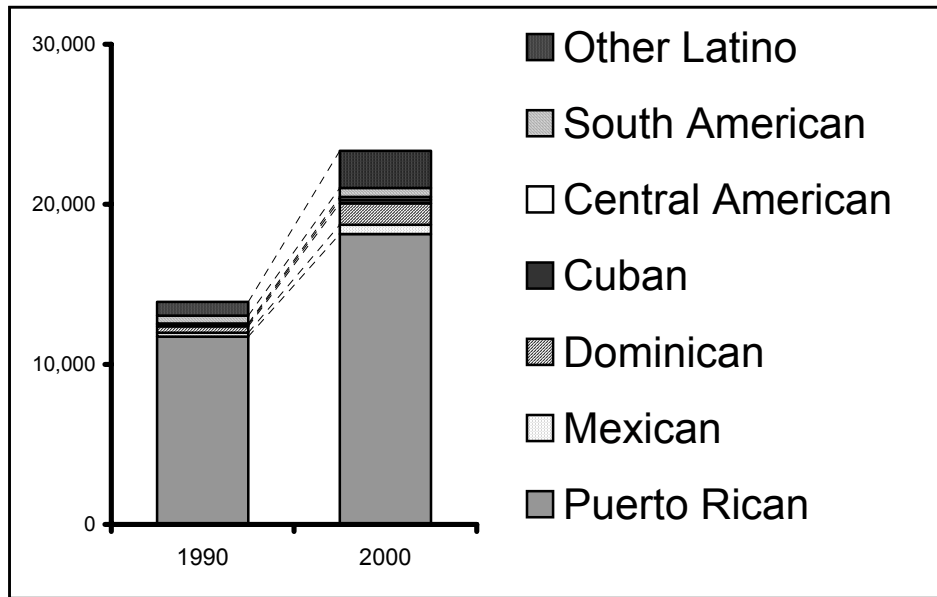
Table 2

Waterbury - National Origin of Latinos						
	2000		1990 <sup>a</sup>		Growth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	23,354		13,902		9,452	68.0
Mexican	588	2.5	236	1.7	352	149.2
Puerto Rican	18,149	77.7	11,742	84.5	6,407	54.6
Cuban	206	0.9	106	0.8	100	94.3
Dominican Republic	1,336	5.7	397	2.9	939	236.5
Other Central American	186	0.8	71	0.5	115	162.0
Other South American	568	2.4	502	3.6	66	13.1
Other Hispanic or Latino	2,321	9.9	848	6.1	1,473	173.7

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  
Waterbury - 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 Waterbury is Puerto Rican, at 77.7%, followed by “Other” Latinos and Dominicans. “Other” Latinos were among the fastest-growing population - behind Dominicans, growing by 173.7%, 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

Waterbury - Households by Tenure							
	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Latino Headed Households							
Total Households	7,030		4,413		2,617	59.3	
Owners	1,567	22.3	855	19.4	712	83.3	2.9
Renters	5,463	77.7	3,558	80.6	1,905	53.5	

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

Latino-headed households are much more likely to rent than to own their home, 77.7% versus 22.3%, although there has been a 2.9% 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, 77.5%, live in family households (see table 4). Married couples with children represent 24.5% of Latino-headed households, slightly more than the Connecticut average of 24.5%. Families made up of a single female with children account for 30.1% of Latino households, which is greater than the state average of 7.9%, and more than it was in 1990.

Table 4

<b>Waterbury - Family Structure</b>						
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth Percent	Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
<b>Families:</b>	5,448	77.5	3,462	78.5	57.4	-1.0
with related children <sup>a</sup> :						
Married Couple, with children	1,724	24.5	1,199	27.2	43.8	-2.6
Female Head, with children	2,115	30.1	1,205	27.3	75.5	2.8
Male Head, with children	393	5.6	184	4.2	113.6	1.4
without related children:						
Married Couple, no children	729	10.4	571	12.9	27.7	-2.6
Single, no children	487	6.9	303	6.9	60.7	0.1
<b>Non-Family Household</b>	1,582	22.5	951	21.5	66.4	1.0
<b>Total Households</b>	7,030		4,413		59.3	

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.

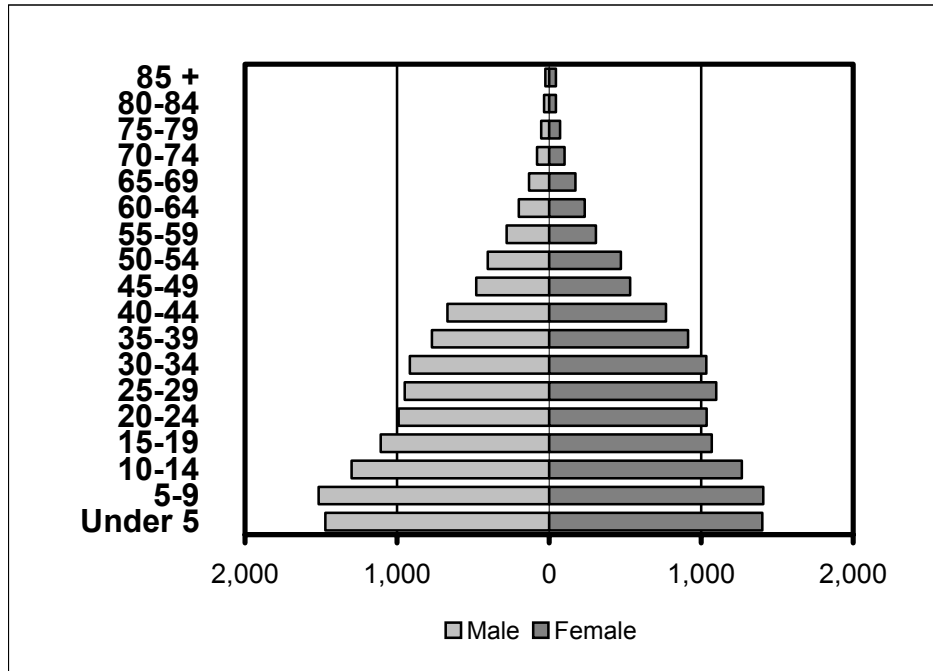
1990(b): 1990 Census Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Sample Data.

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

*Notes:*

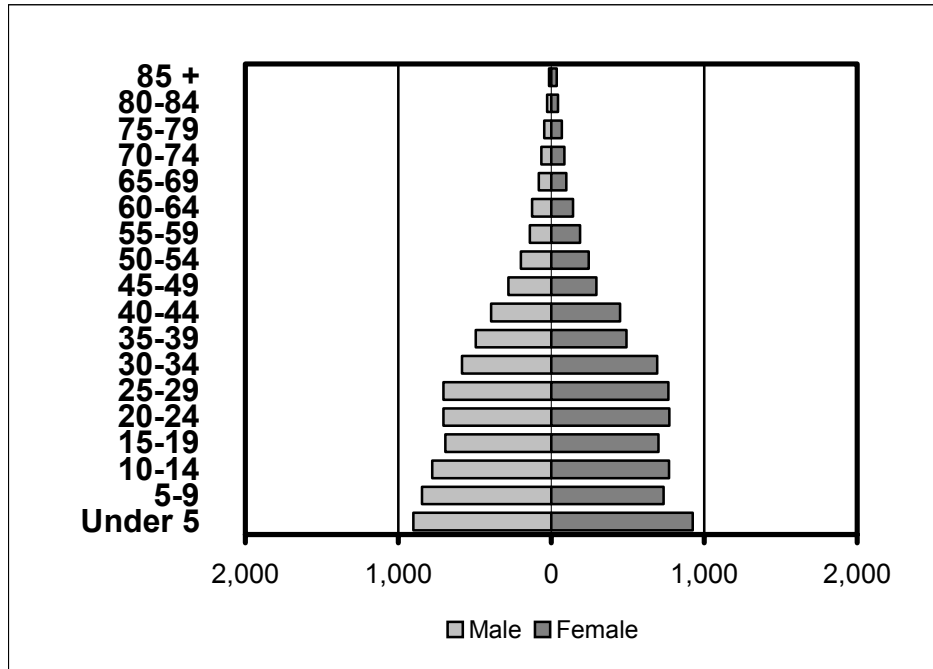
<sup>1</sup> Sample data from 1990 are based on the “Long Form” files. About one person or household in six receives the Long Form Census. The estimates from there do not match the enumerations in the 100% or “Short Form” data. There are sources of error in any census or survey; however the estimates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

Figure 2  
Waterbury - Age Profile 2000



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

Figure 3  
Waterbury - Age Profile 1990



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

The age composition of Latinos in Waterbury 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 Waterbury and in the rest of the country remains relatively young, it is older than it was in 1990. In 2000, 45.1% of Latinos were younger than 20, just slightly fewer than the 45.5% in 1990 (see table 5). The Latino median age of 22.8 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>Waterbury - 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	5,799	24.8	3,405	23.4	70.3
10-19	4,743	20.3	2,940	20.2	61.3
20-29	4,074	17.4	2,948	20.2	38.2
30-39	3,632	15.6	2,261	15.5	60.6
40-49	2,450	10.5	1,419	9.7	72.7
50-59	1,464	6.3	771	5.3	89.9
60-69	740	3.2	449	3.1	64.8
70 and over	452	1.9	385	2.6	17.4
Total	23,354		14,578		60.2
Median Age	22.8		23.3		

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

Table 6

<b>Waterbury - 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	2,988	26.3	1,746	24.7	71.1
10-19	2,406	21.1	1,470	20.8	63.7
20-29	1,939	17.0	1,411	19.9	37.4
30-39	1,686	14.8	1,078	15.2	56.4
40-49	1,149	10.1	674	9.5	70.5
50-59	684	6.0	339	4.8	101.8
60-69	333	2.9	207	2.9	60.9
70 and over	192	1.7	152	2.1	26.3
Total	11,377		7,077		60.8
Median Age	21.5		22.4		

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

Table 7

<b>Waterbury - 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	2,811	23.5	1,659	22.1	69.4
10-19	2,337	19.5	1,470	19.6	59.0
20-29	2,135	17.8	1,537	20.5	38.9
30-39	1,946	16.2	1,183	15.8	64.5
40-49	1,301	10.9	745	9.9	74.6
50-59	780	6.5	432	5.8	80.6
60-69	407	3.4	242	3.2	68.2
70 and over	260	2.2	233	3.1	11.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,977</b>		<b>7,501</b>		<b>59.7</b>
<b>Median Age</b>	<b>24.1</b>		<b>24.0</b>		

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