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The Mauricio Gastón Institute
for Latino Community Development
and Public Policy

Latinos in West Haven | 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 West Haven, 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 New London decreased by 3.1%, but its composition changed substantially. Latinos had a larger numerical growth than any other group, increasing by 2,829 or 146.7%. Latinos now represent 9.1% of the population, an increase of 5.5 percentage points and the largest gain of any group. West Haven has the 13th largest population of Latinos in Connecticut and the 35th largest in the New England states. As a percentage of the total population, the Latino population in West Haven ranks 13th in the state.

Table 1

West Haven - Growth by Ethnicity								
	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Hispanic or Latino	4,757	9.1	1,928	3.6	2,829	146.7	5.5	
White	36,521	69.7	44,261	81.9	-7,740	-17.5	-12.2	
Black or African American	8,257	15.8	6,587	12.2	1,670	25.4	3.6	
American Indian and Alaska Native	97	0.2	108	0.2	-11	-10.2	0.0	
Asian ^a	1,512	2.9	1,061	2.0	465	43.8	1.0	
Pacific Islander ^a	14	0.0						
Some other race	105	0.2	76	0.1	29	38.2	0.1	
Two or more races ^b	1,097	2.1						
Total	52,360		54,021		-1,661	-3.1		

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.

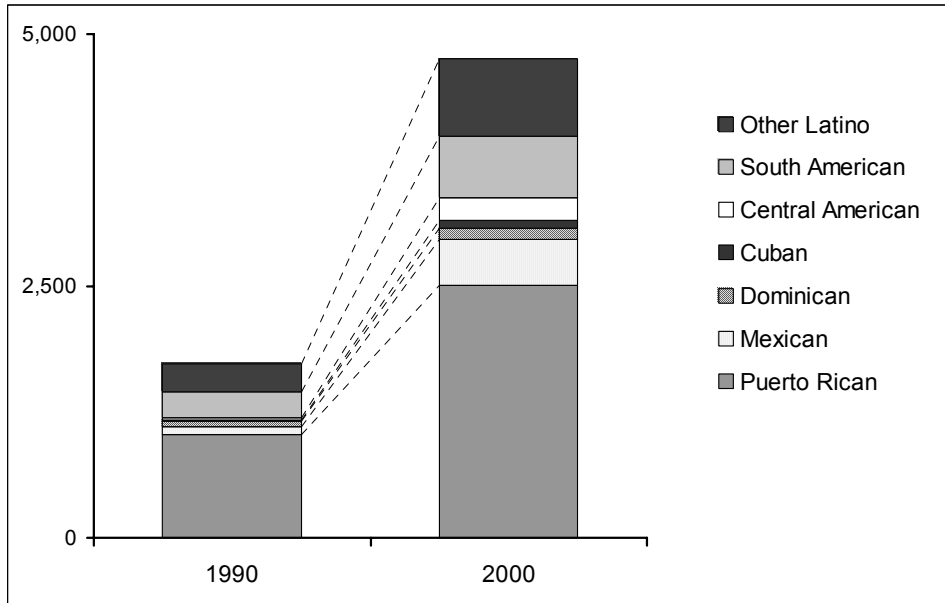
Table 2

West Haven - National Origin of Latinos						
	2000		1990 ^a		Growth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	4,757		1,726		3,031	175.6
Mexican	451	9.5	76	4.4	375	493.4
Puerto Rican	2,510	52.8	1,025	59.4	1,485	144.9
Cuban	86	1.8	20	1.2	66	330.0
Dominican Republic	110	2.3	53	3.1	57	107.5
Other Central American	219	4.6	20	1.2	199	995.0
Other South American	614	12.9	259	15.0	355	137.1
Other Hispanic or Latino	767	16.1	273	15.8	494	181.0

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

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

Figure 1
West Haven - 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 New London is Puerto Rican, at 52.8%, followed by “Other” Latinos and “Other South American.” “Other” Latinos were among the fastest-growing population - behind Other Central Americans, Mexicans, and Cubans, growing by 105.1%, 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

West Haven - Households by Tenure							
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total Households	1,410		626		784	125.2	
Owners	419	29.7	216	34.5	203	94.0	-4.8
Renters	991	70.3	410	65.5	581	141.7	

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

Latino-headed households are much more likely to rent than to own their home, 70.3% versus 29.7%, and there has been a 4.8% 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, 75.6%, live in family households (see table 4). Married couples with children represent

29.2% of Latino-headed households, slightly more than the Connecticut average of 24.5%. Families made up of a single female with children account for 20.1% of Latino households, which is greater than the state average of 7.9%, and more than it was in 1990.

Table 4

West Haven - Family Structure						
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth Percent	Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Families:	1,066	75.6	458	73.2	132.8	2.4
with related children ^a :						
Married Couple, with children	412	29.2	190	30.4	116.8	-1.1
Female Head, with children	284	20.1	82	13.1	246.3	7.0
Male Head, with children	76	5.4	28	4.5	171.4	0.9
without related children:						
Married Couple, no children	177	12.6	113	18.1	56.6	-5.5
Single, no children	117	8.3	45	7.2	160.0	1.1
Non-Family Household	344	24.4	168	26.8	104.8	-2.4
Total Households	1,410		626		125.2	

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.

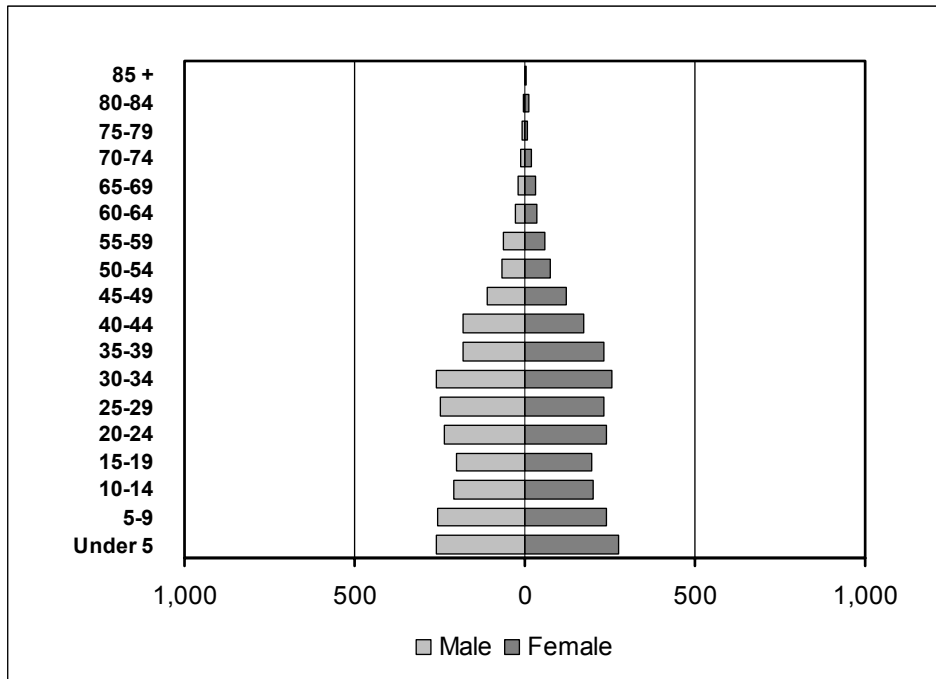
1990(b): 1990 Census Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Sample Data.

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

Notes:

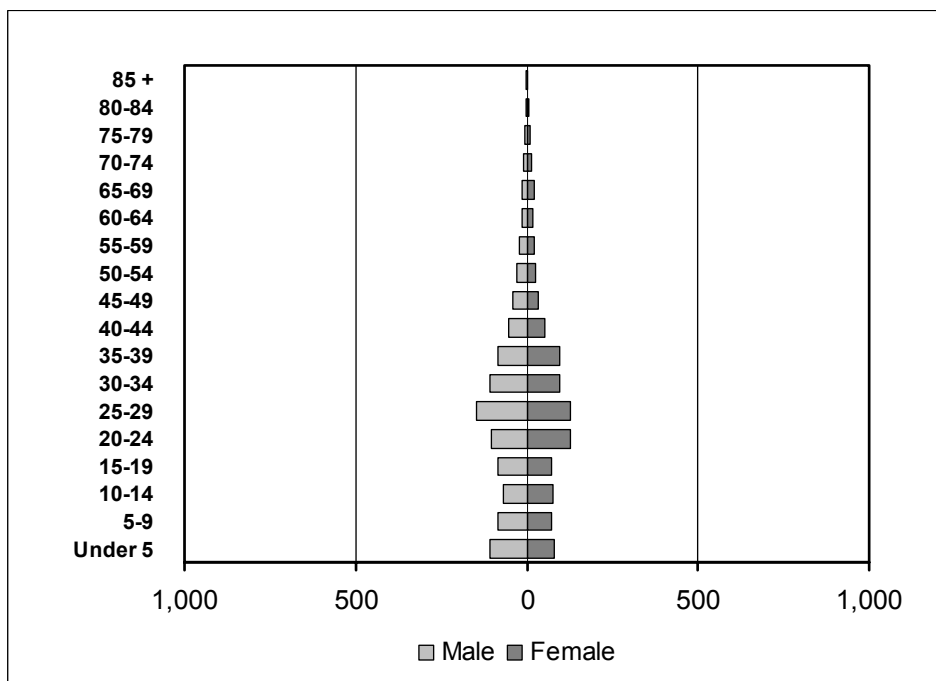
¹ Sample data from 1990 are based on the “Long Form” files. About one person or household in six receives the Long Form Census. The estimates from there do not match the enumerations in the 100% or “Short Form” data. There are sources of error in any census or survey; however the estimates here are accurate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

Figure 2
West Haven - Age Profile 2000



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

Figure 3
West Haven - Age Profile 1990



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

The age composition of Latinos in West Haven 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 West Haven and in the rest of the country remains relatively young, it is older than it was in 1990. In 2000, 38.6% of Latinos were younger than 20, just slightly greater than the 33.5% in 1990 (see table 5). The Latino median age of 25.7 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

West Haven - Latinos by Age						
	2000		1990		Growth Percent	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Under 10 years	1,029	21.6	343	17.8	200.0	
10-19	807	17.0	302	15.7	167.2	
20-29	959	20.2	504	26.1	90.3	
30-39	927	19.5	385	20.0	140.8	
40-49	588	12.4	183	9.5	221.3	
50-59	266	5.6	94	4.9	183.0	
60-69	116	2.4	67	3.5	73.1	
70 and over	65	1.4	50	2.6	30.0	
Total	4,757		1,928		146.7	
Median Age	25.7		26.7			

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

Table 6

West Haven - Latino Males by Age						
	2000		1990		Growth Percent	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Under 10 years	514	22.0	191	19.6	169.1	
10-19	410	17.5	152	15.6	169.7	
20-29	485	20.7	251	25.7	93.2	
30-39	439	18.8	193	19.8	127.5	
40-49	292	12.5	95	9.7	207.4	
50-59	132	5.6	48	4.9	175.0	
60-69	49	2.1	26	2.7	88.5	
70 and over	20	0.9	19	1.9	5.3	
Total	2,341		975		140.1	
Median Age	25.2		26.4			

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

Table 7

West Haven - Latina Females by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
Under 10 years	515	21.3	152	15.9	238.8
10-19	397	16.4	150	15.7	164.7
20-29	474	19.6	253	26.5	87.4
30-39	488	20.2	192	20.1	154.2
40-49	296	12.3	88	9.2	236.4
50-59	134	5.5	46	4.8	191.3
60-69	67	2.8	41	4.3	63.4
70 and over	45	1.9	31	3.3	45.2
Total	2,416		953		153.5
Median Age	26.2		27.1		

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