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### Latinos in Salem, Massachusetts

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The Mauricio Gastón Institute  
for Latino Community Development  
and Public Policy

# Latinos in Salem | Massachusetts

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 Salem, 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, as did the Native American population (see table 1). The total population of Salem increased by 6.1%, but its composition changed substantially. Latinos had a larger numerical growth than any other group, increasing by 1,993 or 78.2%, although “some other race” had a higher percent increase. Latinos now represent 11.2% of the population, an increase of 4.5 percentage points and the largest gain of any group. Salem has the 19th largest population of Latinos in Massachusetts and the 37th largest in the New England states. As a percentage of the total population, the Latino population in Salem ranks 10th in the state.

Table 1

Salem - Growth by Ethnicity								
	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Hispanic or Latino	4,541	11.2	2,548	6.7	1,993	78.2	4.5	
White	33,277	82.4	34,348	90.2	-1,071	-3.1	-7.8	
Black or African American	966	2.4	564	1.5	402	71.3	0.9	
American Indian and Alaska Native	59	0.1	63	0.2	-4	-6.3	0.0	
Asian <sup>a</sup>	797	2.0	508	1.3	306	60.2	0.7	
Pacific Islander <sup>a</sup>	17	0.0						
Some other race	132	0.3	60	0.2	72	120.0	0.2	
Two or more races <sup>b</sup>	618	1.5						
Total	40,407		38,091		2,316	6.1		

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.

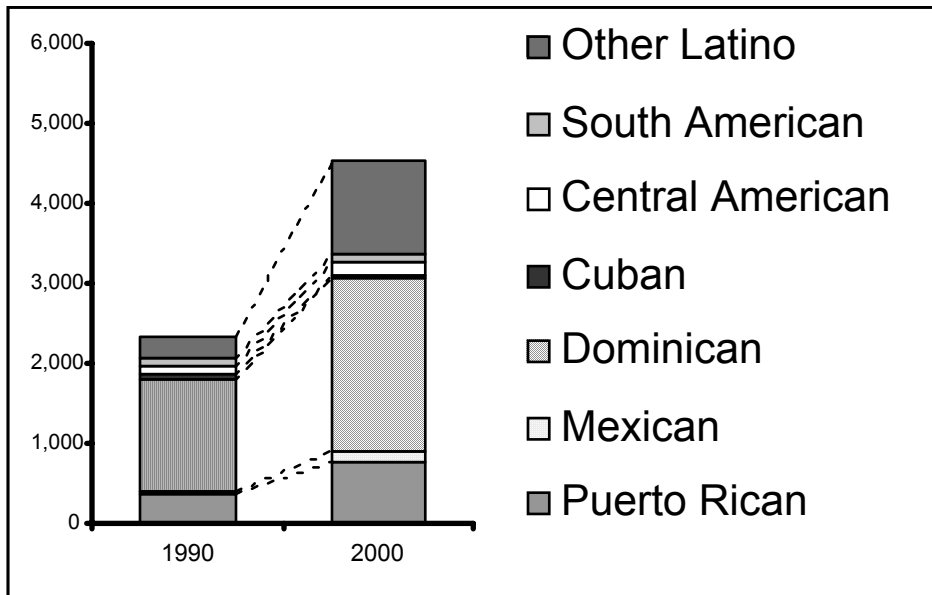
Table 2

Salem - National Origin of Latinos						
	2000		1990 <sup>a</sup>		Growth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	4,541		2,330		2,211	94.9
Mexican	131	2.9	47	2.0	84	178.7
Puerto Rican	759	16.7	361	15.5	398	110.2
Cuban	44	1.0	43	1.8	1	2.3
Dominican Republic	2,176	47.9	1,406	60.3	770	54.8
Honduran	87	1.9	39	1.7	48	123.1
Other Central American	76	1.7	55	2.4	21	38.2
Other South American	81	1.8	131	5.6	-50	-38.2
Other Hispanic or Latino	1,187	26.1	248	10.6	939	378.6

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  
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 Salem is Dominican, at 47.9%, followed by “Other” Latinos and Puerto Rican. “Other” Latinos were the fastest-growing population, growing by 378%, 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

Salem - Households by Tenure							
	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Latino Headed Households							
Total Households	1,302		718		584	81.3	
Owners	181	13.9	63	8.8	118	187.3	5.1
Renters	1,121	86.1	655	91.2	466	71.1	

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

Latino-headed households are much more likely to rent than to own their home, 86.1% versus 13.9%, although there has been a 5.1% increase in home ownership since 1990 (see table 3). Still, this is much lower than the state average of 61.7%. Although there has been a small growth in the proportion of non-family households, it is still true that most

Latinos, 80.6%, live in family households (see table 4). Married couples with children represent 23.6% of Latino-headed households, slightly more than the Massachusetts average of 23.3%. Families made up of a single female with children account for 35.3% of Latino households, which is greater than the state average of 7.5%, but slightly less than it was in 1990.

Table 4

<b>Salem - Family Structure</b>						
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth Percent	Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Families:	1,049	80.6	575	80.1	82.4	0.5
with related children <sup>a</sup> :						
Married Couple, with children	307	23.6	164	22.8	87.2	0.7
Female Head, with children	459	35.3	254	35.4	80.7	-0.1
Male Head, with children	66	5.1	24	3.3	175.0	1.7
without related children:						
Married Couple, no children	111	8.5	65	9.1	70.8	-0.5
Single, no children	106	8.1	68	9.5	55.9	-1.3
Non-Family Household	253	19.4	143	19.9	76.9	-0.5
Total Households	1,302		718		81.3	

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.

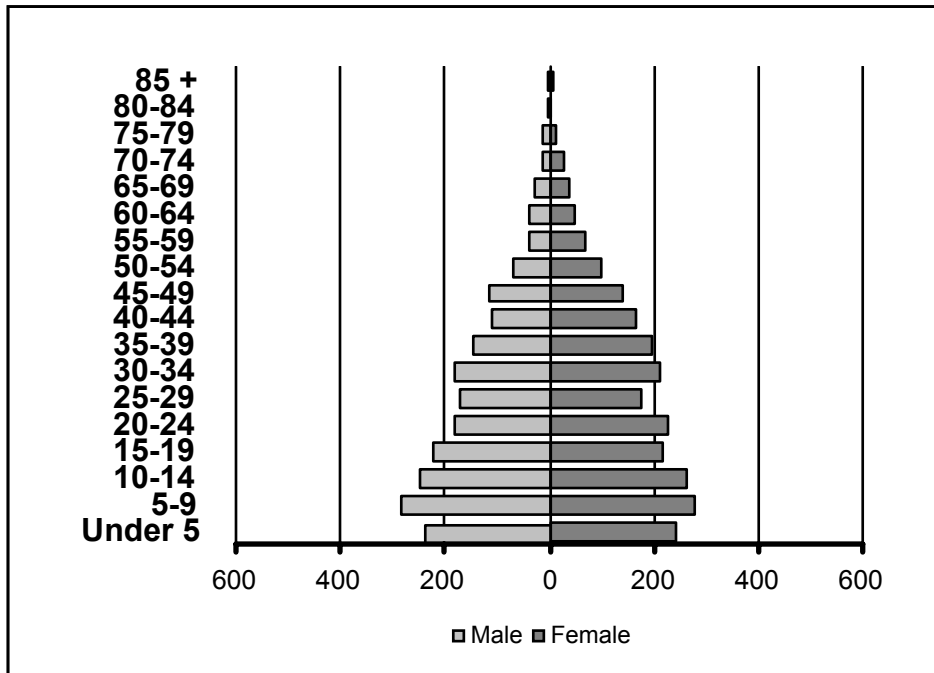
1990(b): 1990 Census Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Sample Data.

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

*Notes:*

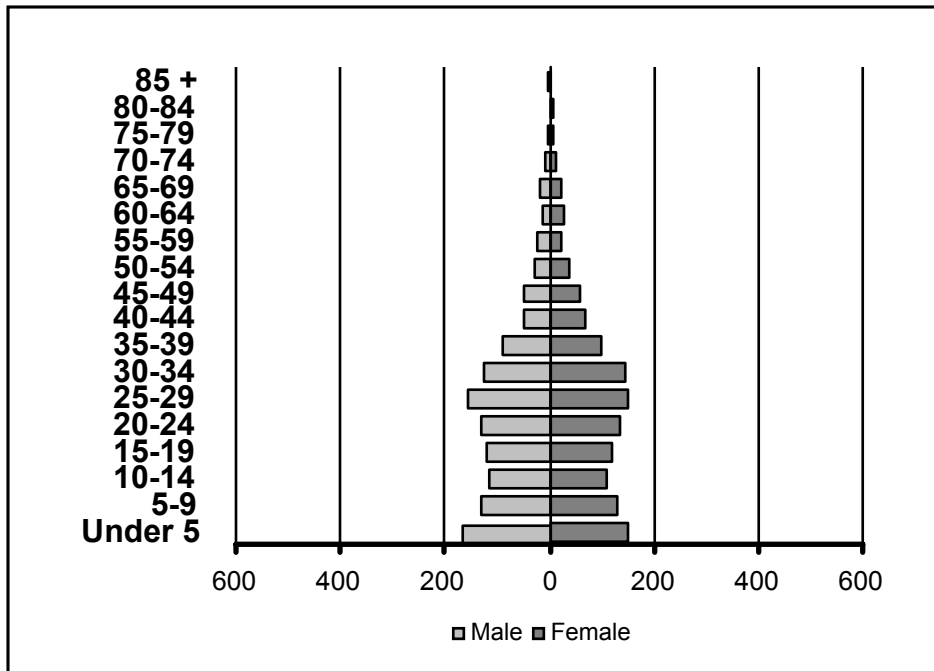
<sup>1</sup> Sample data from 1990 are based on the “Long Form” files. About one person or household in six receives the Long Form Census. The estimates from there do not match the enumerations in the 100% or “Short Form” data. For example there is a 4.5% difference in the total number of Latinos in Massachusetts. 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



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

Figure 3  
Age Profile 1990



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

The age composition of Latinos in Salem 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 Salem and in the rest of the country remains relatively young, it is even younger than it was in 1990. In 2000, 44.1% of Latinos were younger than 20, greater than the 41.3% in 1990 (see table 5). The Latino median age of 23.1 is much younger than the overall Massachusetts median age of 36.5. 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

<b>Salem - Latinos 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	1,049	23.1	582	22.8	80.2
10-19	952	21.0	471	18.5	102.1
20-29	758	16.7	572	22.4	32.5
30-39	736	16.2	462	18.1	59.3
40-49	531	11.7	226	8.9	135.0
50-59	278	6.1	113	4.4	146.0
60-69	155	3.4	80	3.1	93.8
70 and over	82	1.8	42	1.6	95.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,541</b>		<b>2,548</b>		<b>78.2</b>
<b>Median Age</b>	<b>23.1</b>		<b>24.0</b>		

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

Table 6

<b>Salem - Latino Males 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	526	25.0	301	24.5	74.8
10-19	471	22.4	239	19.5	97.1
20-29	351	16.7	286	23.3	22.7
30-39	326	15.5	214	17.4	52.3
40-49	223	10.6	97	7.9	129.9
50-59	108	5.1	49	4.0	120.4
60-69	68	3.2	32	2.6	112.5
70 and over	32	1.5	10	0.8	220.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,105</b>		<b>1,228</b>		<b>71.4</b>
<b>Median Age</b>	<b>21.4</b>		<b>22.8</b>		

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

Table 7

<b>Salem - 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	523	21.5	281	21.3	86.1
10-19	481	19.7	232	17.6	107.3
20-29	407	16.7	286	21.7	42.3
30-39	410	16.8	248	18.8	65.3
40-49	308	12.6	129	9.8	138.8
50-59	170	7.0	64	4.8	165.6
60-69	87	3.6	48	3.6	81.3
70 and over	50	2.1	32	2.4	56.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,436</b>		<b>1,320</b>		<b>84.5</b>
<b>Median Age</b>	<b>24.7</b>		<b>25.3</b>		

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