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## Latinos in Springfield, Massachusetts

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The Mauricio Gastón Institute  
for Latino Community Development  
and Public Policy

# Latinos in Springfield | Massachusetts

by Charles Jones, 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 Springfield, the general population changes from 1990 to 2000 were similar to national and state trends, with certain aspects exaggerated. The total population fell by 3.1% (see table 1), led by a reduction of 25.6% in the non-Hispanic White population. Meanwhile, the population of people of color — African Americans, Asians, Latinos, Native Americans, and Pacific Islanders — grew by 31%, almost making up for the decline. Latinos had a larger numerical growth than any other group, increasing by 14,815 people or 55.8%, although Asians had a higher percent increase. Latinos now represent 27.2% of the population, an increase of 10.3 percentage points and the largest gain of any group. The third largest city in Massachusetts, Springfield has the third largest population of Latinos and the sixth largest in the New England states. As a percentage of the total population, the Latino population in Springfield ranks fifth in the state (**or fourth if we just count cities - Fort Devens is fourth**).

Table 1

Springfield - Growth by Ethnicity							
	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Hispanic or Latino	41,343	27.2	26,528	16.9	14,815	55.8	10.3
White	74,291	48.8	99,869	63.6	-25,578	-25.6	-14.8
Black or African American	29,831	19.6	28,484	18.1	1,347	4.7	1.5
American Indian and Alaska Native	336	0.2	265	0.2	71	26.8	0.1
Asian <sup>a</sup>	2,857	1.9	1,531	1.0	1,368	89.4	0.9
Pacific Islander <sup>a</sup>	42	0.0					
Some other race	236	0.2	306	0.2	-70	-22.9	0.0
Two or more races <sup>b</sup>	3,146	2.1					
Total	152,082		156,983		-4,901	-3.1	

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.

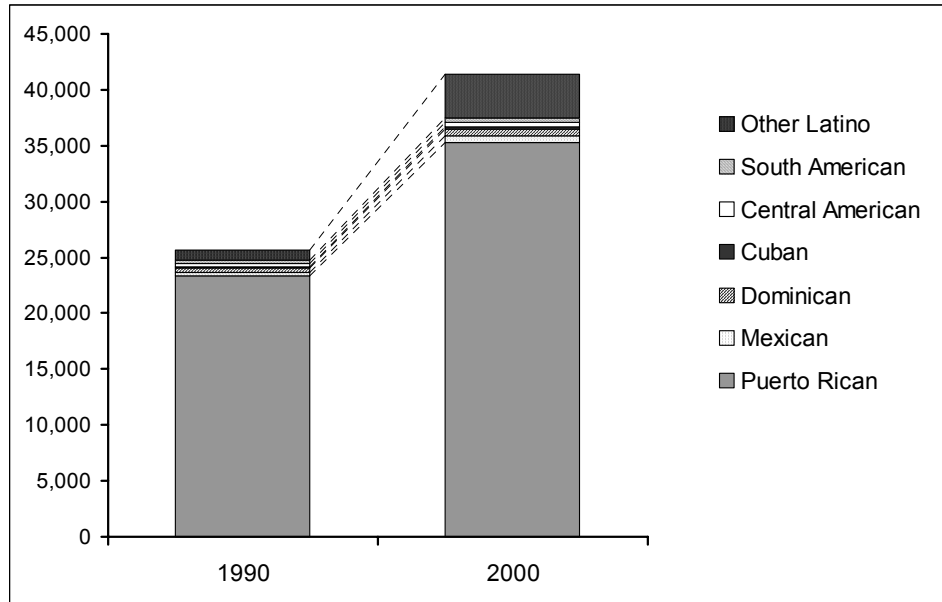
Table 2

Springfield - National Origin of Latinos						
	2000		1990 <sup>a</sup>		Growth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	41,343		25,642		15,701	61.2
Mexican	630	1.5	249	1.0	381	153.0
Puerto Rican	35,251	85.3	23,396	91.2	11,855	50.7
Cuban	232	0.6	172	0.7	60	34.9
Dominican Republic	614	1.5	383	1.5	231	60.3
Central American	381	0.9	238	0.9	143	60.1
South American	418	1.0	317	1.2	101	31.9
Other Hispanic or Latino	3,817	9.2	887	3.5	2,930	330.3

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  
Springfield - 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 Springfield is overwhelmingly Puerto Rican, at 85.3%, but by a smaller margin than in 1990. “Other” Latinos were the fastest-growing population, growing by 330%, 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

Springfield - Households by Tenure							
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total Households	12,452		7,602		4,850	63.8	
Owners	2,596	20.8	1,111	14.6	1,485	133.7	6.2
Renters	9,856	79.2	6,491	85.4	3,365	51.8	

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

Latino-headed households are much more likely to rent than to own their home, 79.2% versus 19.8%, although there has been a 6.2% 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 Latino households, 76.2%, are families (see table 4). Married couples with children

represent 19.0% of Latino-headed households, slightly less than the Massachusetts average of 23.3%. Families made up of a single female with children account for 36.6% of Latino households, which is greater than the state average of 7.5%, but less than it was in 1990.

Table 4

<b>Springfield - Family Structure</b>						
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth Percent	Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Families:	9,487	76.2	6,091	80.1	55.8	-3.9
with related children <sup>a</sup> :						
Married Couple, with children	2,364	19.0	1,571	20.7	50.5	-1.7
Female Head, with children	4,554	36.6	3,131	41.2	45.4	-4.6
Male Head, with children	536	4.3	247	3.2	117.0	1.1
without related children:						
Married Couple, no children	1,127	9.1	669	8.8	68.5	0.3
Single, no children	906	7.3	473	6.2	91.5	1.1
Non-Family Household	2,965	23.8	1,511	19.9	96.2	3.9
Total Households	12,452		7,602		63.8	

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.

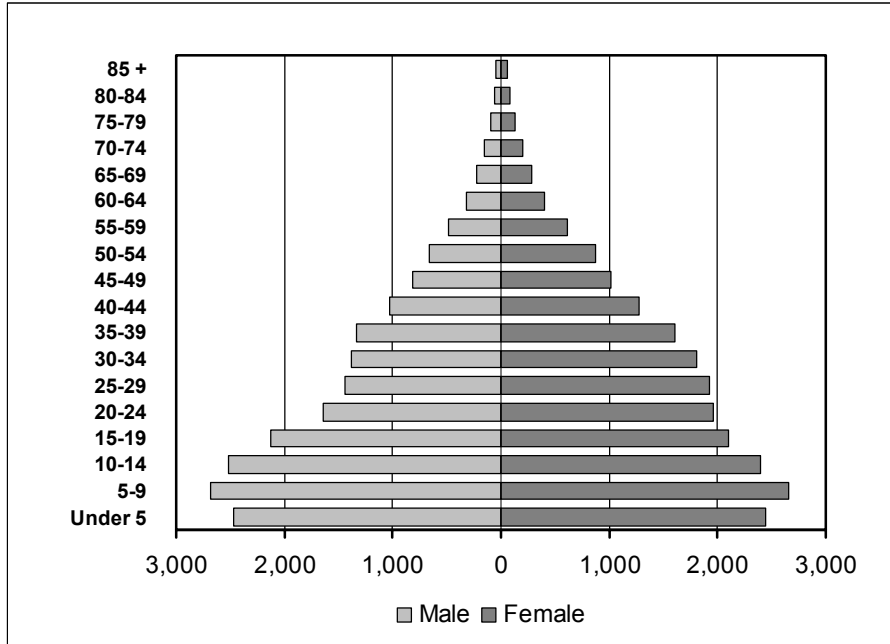
1990(b): 1990 Census Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Sample Data.

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

*Notes:*

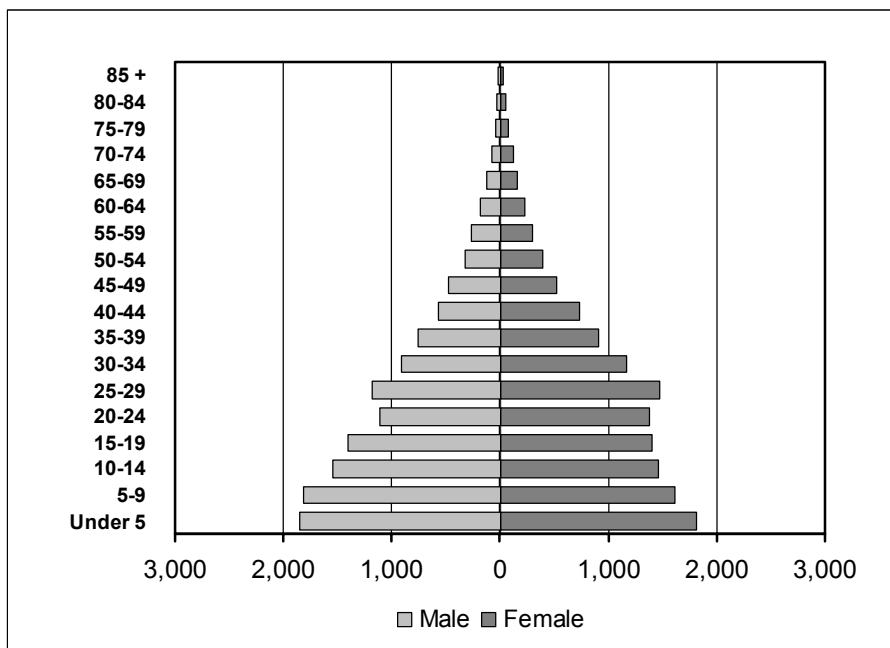
<sup>1</sup> Sample data from 1990 are based on the “Long Form” files. About one person or household in six receives the Long Form Census. The estimates from there do not match the enumerations in the 100% or “Short Form” data. For example there is a 4.5% difference in the total number of Latinos in 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  
Springfield - Age Profile 2000



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

Figure 3  
Springfield - Age Profile 1990



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

The age composition of Latinos in Springfield has changed. There has been an increase among all age groups, but especially among those 30 and over. Even though there are many more children, the overall Latino population is maturing (see figures 2 and 3).

While the Latino population in Springfield and in the rest of the country remains relatively young, it is older than it was in 1990. In 2000, 46.9% of Latinos were younger than 20, just slightly fewer than the 48.6% in 1990 (see table 5). The Latino median age of 21.8 is much younger than the overall Massachusetts median age of 36.5. Women tend to be older than men, with a 3.5 year difference in median age. Though there are slightly more boys than girls under 20, among those 20 and older there are far more women than men, 55.8% versus 44.2% of the adult Latino population (see tables 6 and 7).

Table 5

<b>Springfield - 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	10,254	24.8	7,094	26.7	44.5
10-19	9,140	22.1	5,810	21.9	57.3
20-29	6,975	16.9	5,154	19.4	35.3
30-39	6,123	14.8	3,754	14.2	63.1
40-49	4,138	10.0	2,286	8.6	81.0
50-59	2,642	6.4	1,274	4.8	107.4
60-69	1,238	3.0	696	2.6	77.9
70 and over	833	2.0	460	1.7	81.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,343</b>		<b>26,528</b>		<b>55.8</b>
<b>Median Age</b>	<b>21.8</b>		<b>20.7</b>		

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

Table 6

<b>Springfield - Latino Males by Age</b>				
	<b>2000</b>		<b>1990</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Under 10 years	5,151	26.4	3,664	28.9
10-19	4,644	23.8	2,949	23.3
20-29	3,087	15.8	2,292	18.1
30-39	2,717	13.9	1,677	13.2
40-49	1,839	9.4	1,037	8.2
50-59	1,147	5.9	582	4.6
60-69	553	2.8	300	2.4
70 and over	355	1.8	168	1.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,493</b>		<b>12,669</b>	
<b>Median Age</b>	<b>19.9</b>		<b>19.0</b>	

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

Table 7

<b>Springfield - Latina Females by Age</b>				
	<b>2000</b>		<b>1990</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Under 10 years	5,103	23.4	3,430	24.7
10-19	4,496	20.6	2,861	20.6
20-29	3,888	17.8	2,862	20.7
30-39	3,406	15.6	2,077	15.0
40-49	2,299	10.5	1,249	9.0
50-59	1,495	6.8	692	5.0
60-69	685	3.1	396	2.9
70 and over	478	2.2	292	2.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,850</b>		<b>13,859</b>	
<b>Median Age</b>	<b>23.4</b>		<b>22.4</b>	

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