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The Mauricio Gastón Institute
for Latino Community Development
and Public Policy

Latinos in Brockton | 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 Brockton, 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 Brockton increased by 1.6%, but its composition changed substantially. Behind African Americans and “some other race,” Latinos had a larger numerical growth than most other groups, increasing by 1,692 or 28.9%. Latinos now represent 8% of the population, an increase of 1.7 percentage points. Brockton has the 10th largest population of Latinos in Massachusetts and the 23rd largest in the New England states. As a percentage of the total population, the Latino population in Brockton ranks 19th in the state.

Table 1

Brockton - Growth by Ethnicity							
	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Hispanic or Latino	7,552	8.0	5,860	6.3	1,692	28.9	1.7
White	54,902	58.2	71,885	77.5	-16,983	-23.6	-19.3
Black or African American	15,913	16.9	10,841	11.7	5,072	46.8	5.2
American Indian and Alaska Native	276	0.3	235	0.3	41	17.4	0.0
Asian ^a	2,044	2.2	1,549	1.7	522	33.7	0.5
Pacific Islander ^a	27	0.0					
Some other race	6,971	7.4	2,418	2.6	4,553	188.3	4.8
Two or more races ^b	6,619	7.0					
Total	94,304		92,788		1,516	1.6	

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

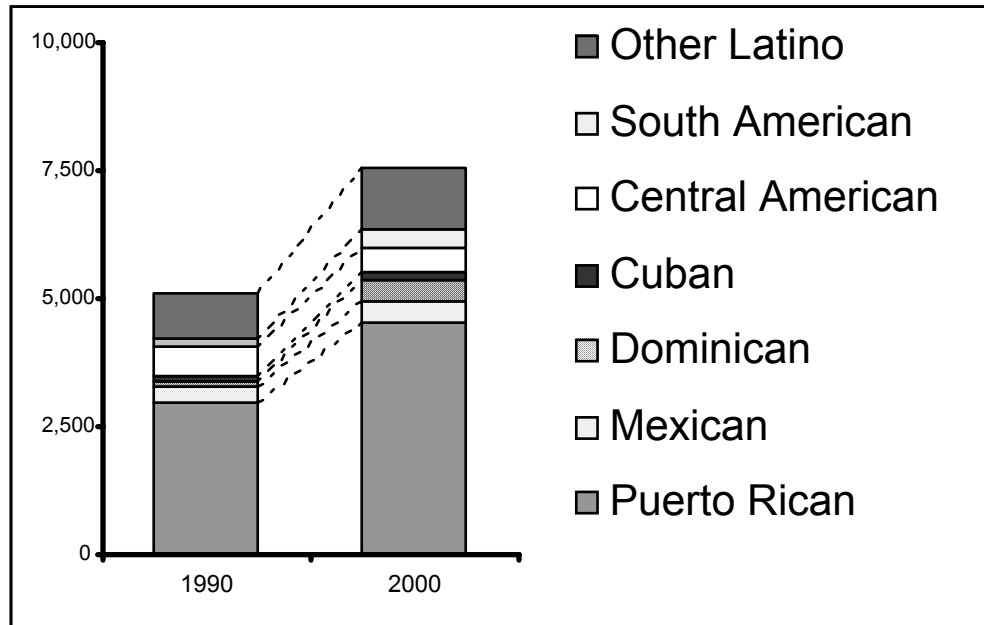
Brockton - National Origin of Latinos						
	2000		1990 ^a		Growth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	7,552		5,098		2,454	48.1
Mexican	404	5.3	289	5.7	115	39.8
Puerto Rican	4,545	60.2	2,983	58.5	1,562	52.4
Cuban	152	2.0	124	2.4	28	22.6
Dominican Republic	403	5.3	96	1.9	307	319.8
Guatemalan	147	1.9	258	5.1	-111	-43.0
Other Central American	334	4.4	293	5.7	41	14.0
Peruvian	125	1.7	80	1.6	45	56.3
Other South American	245	3.2	115	2.3	130	113.0
Other Hispanic or Latino	1,197	15.9	860	16.9	337	39.2

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

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

Figure 1

Brockton - 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 Brockton is Puerto Rican, at 60.2%, followed by “Other” Latinos and Dominicans. “Other” Latinos were one of the fastest-growing populations, growing by 39.2%, 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.

Table 3

Brockton - Households by Tenure							
	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Latino Headed Households							
Total Households	2,139		1,658		481	29.0	
Owners	601	28.1	420	25.3	181	43.1	2.8
Renters	1,538	71.9	1,238	74.7	300	24.2	

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

Latino-headed households are much more likely to rent than to own their home, 71.9% versus 28.1%, although there has been a 2.8% 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, 77.3%, live in family households (see table 4). Married couples with children represent 26.3% of Latino-headed households, slightly more than the Massachusetts average of 23.3%. Families made up of a single female with children account for 26.7%

of Latino households, which is greater than the state average of 7.5%, but less than it was in 1990.

Table 4

Brockton - Family Structure						
	2000		1990		Growth Percent	Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Latino Headed Households						
Families:	1,653	77.3	1,336	80.6	23.7	-3.3
with related children ^a :						
Married Couple, with children	563	26.3	487	29.4	15.6	-3.1
Female Head, with children	572	26.7	470	28.3	21.7	-1.6
Male Head, with children	119	5.6	71	4.3	67.6	1.3
without related children:						
Married Couple, no children	241	11.3	186	11.2	29.6	0.0
Single, no children	158	7.4	122	7.4	29.5	0.0
Non-Family Household	486	22.7	322	19.4	50.9	3.3
Total Households	2,139		1,658		29.0	

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.

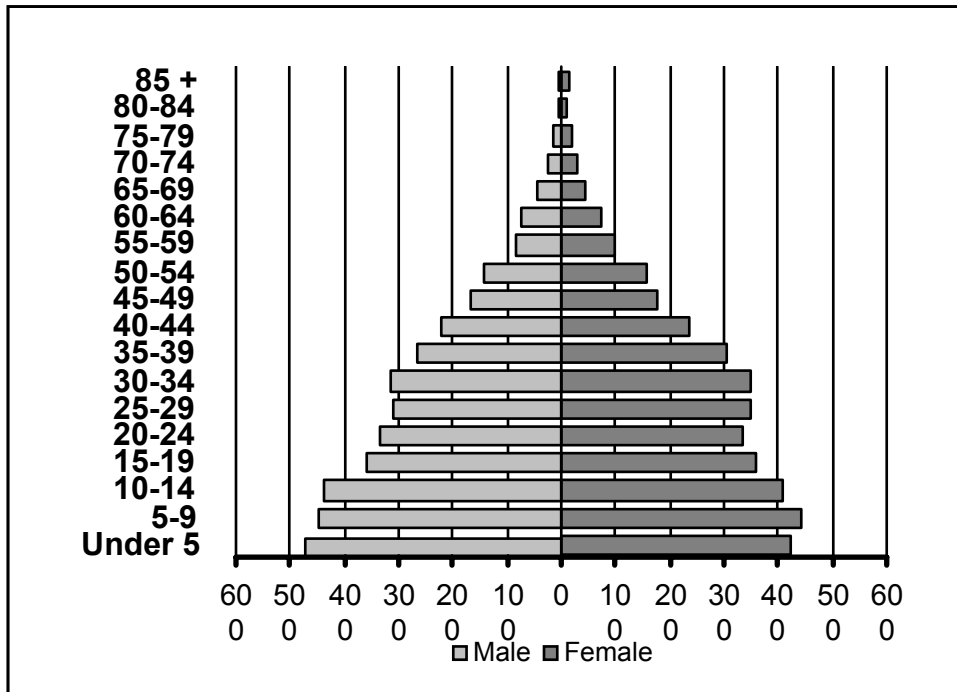
1990(b): 1990 Census Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Sample Data.

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

Notes:

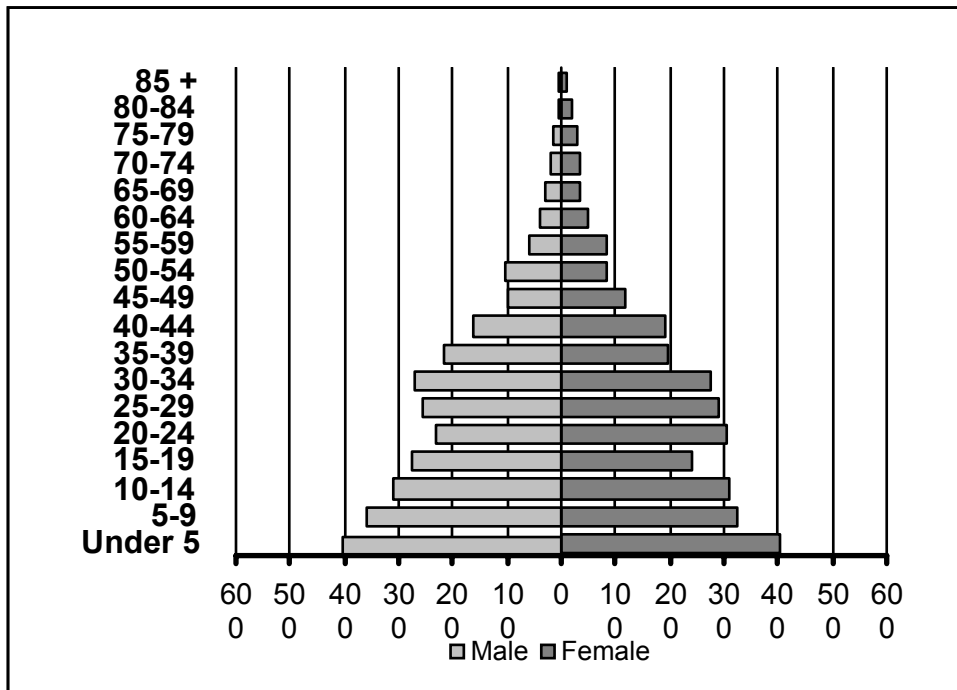
¹ Sample data from 1990 are based on the “Long Form” files. About one person or household in six receives the Long Form Census. The estimates from there do not match the enumerations in the 100% or “Short Form” data. For example there is a 4.5% difference in the total number of Latinos in Massachusetts. There are sources of error in any census or survey, however the estimates here are accurate enough to note trends and patterns.

Figure 2
Brockton - Age Profile 2000



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

Figure 3
Brockton - Age Profile 1990



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

The age composition of Latinos in Brockton 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 Brockton and in the rest of the country remains relatively young, it is older than it was in 1990. In 2000, 44.3% of Latinos were younger than 20, just slightly fewer than the 47.3% 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

Brockton - Latinos by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
Under 10 years	1,786	23.6	1,499	25.6	19.1
10-19	1,564	20.7	1,142	19.5	37.0
20-29	1,323	17.5	1,080	18.4	22.5
30-39	1,232	16.3	955	16.3	29.0
40-49	801	10.6	569	9.7	40.8
50-59	484	6.4	328	5.6	47.6
60-69	239	3.2	150	2.6	59.3
70 and over	123	1.6	137	2.3	-10.2
Total	7,552		5,860		28.9
Median Age	23.1		22.9		

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

Table 6

Brockton - Latino Males by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
Under 10 years	922	24.7	769	26.8	19.9
10-19	796	21.3	588	20.5	35.4
20-29	642	17.2	486	17.0	32.1
30-39	580	15.6	486	17.0	19.3
40-49	389	10.4	261	9.1	49.0
50-59	229	6.1	160	5.6	43.1
60-69	122	3.3	70	2.4	74.3
70 and over	49	1.3	47	1.6	4.3
Total	3,729		2,867		30.1
Median Age	22.1		21.8		

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

Table 7

Brockton - Latina Females by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 10 years	864	22.6	730	24.4	18.4
10-19	768	20.1	554	18.5	38.6
20-29	681	17.8	594	19.8	14.6
30-39	652	17.1	469	15.7	39.0
40-49	412	10.8	308	10.3	33.8
50-59	255	6.7	168	5.6	51.8
60-69	117	3.1	80	2.7	46.3
70 and over	74	1.9	90	3.0	-17.8
Total	3,823		2,993		27.7
Median Age	24.3		23.7		

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