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### Latinos in Framingham, Massachusetts

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The Mauricio Gastón Institute  
for Latino Community Development  
and Public Policy

# Latinos in Framingham | 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 Framingham, 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 Framingham increased by 2.9%, but its composition changed substantially. Latinos had a larger numerical growth than any other group, increasing by 1,974 or 37.3%, although “some other race,” Asians, and African Americans had a higher percent increase. Latinos now represent 10.9% of the population, an increase of 2.7 percentage points and the largest gain of any group. Framingham has the 12th largest population of Latinos in Massachusetts and the 25th largest in the New England states. As a percentage of the total population, the Latino population in Framingham also ranks 12th in the state.

Table 1

Framingham - Growth by Ethnicity								
	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Hispanic or Latino	7,265	10.9	5,291	8.1	1,974	37.3	2.7	
White	50,293	75.2	55,381	85.2	-5,088	-9.2	-10.0	
Black or African American	2,991	4.5	2,151	3.3	840	39.1	1.2	
American Indian and Alaska Native	79	0.1	93	0.1	-14	-15.1	0.0	
Asian <sup>a</sup>	3,515	5.3	1,862	2.9	1,661	89.2	2.4	
Pacific Islander <sup>a</sup>	8	0.0						
Some other race	1,148	1.7	216	0.3	932	431.5	1.4	
Two or more races <sup>b</sup>	1,611	2.4						
Total	66,910		64,994		1,916	2.9		

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.

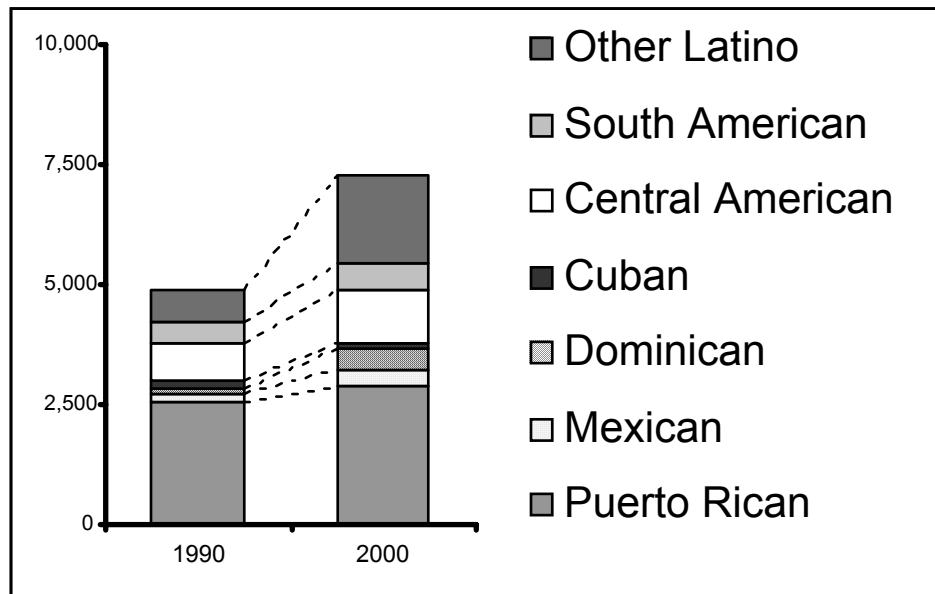
Table 2

Framingham - National Origin of Latinos						
	2000		1990 <sup>a</sup>		Growth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	7,265		4,877		2,388	49.0
Mexican	345	4.7	208	4.3	137	65.9
Puerto Rican	2,903	40.0	2,530	51.9	373	14.7
Cuban	110	1.5	201	4.1	-91	-45.3
Dominican Republic	402	5.5	72	1.5	330	458.3
Salvadoran	518	7.1	499	10.2	19	3.8
Guatemalan	454	6.2	195	4.0	259	132.8
Other Central American	157	2.2	78	1.6	79	101.3
Colombian	265	3.6	220	4.5	45	20.5
Other South American	291	4.0	228	4.7	63	27.6
Other Hispanic or Latino	1,820	25.1	646	13.2	1,174	181.7

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  
Framingham - 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 Framingham is Puerto Rican, at 40%, followed by “Other” Latinos and Salvadorans. Behind Dominicans and Guatemalans, “Other” Latinos were the fastest-growing population, growing by 181.7%, 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

Framingham - Households by Tenure							
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total Households	2,047		1,575		472	30.0	
Owners	456	22.3	232	14.7	224	96.6	7.5
Renters	1,591	77.7	1,343	85.3	248	18.5	

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 7.5% 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, 77.5%, live in family households (see table 4). Married couples with children represent 32% of Latino-headed households, more than the Massachusetts average of 23.3%. Families made up of a single female with children account for 21.1% of Latino households, which is greater than the state average of 7.5%, and slightly higher than it was in 1990.

Table 4

<b>Framingham - Family Structure</b>						
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth Percent	Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Families:	1,587	77.5	1,171	74.3	35.5	3.2
with related children <sup>a</sup> :						
Married Couple, with children	655	32.0	464	29.5	41.2	2.5
Female Head, with children	431	21.1	269	17.1	60.2	4.0
Male Head, with children	65	3.2	57	3.6	14.0	-0.4
without related children:						
Married Couple, no children	284	13.9	251	15.9	13.1	-2.1
Single, no children	152	7.4	130	8.3	16.9	-0.8
Non-Family Household	460	22.5	404	25.7	13.9	-3.2
Total Households	2,047		1,575		30.0	

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.

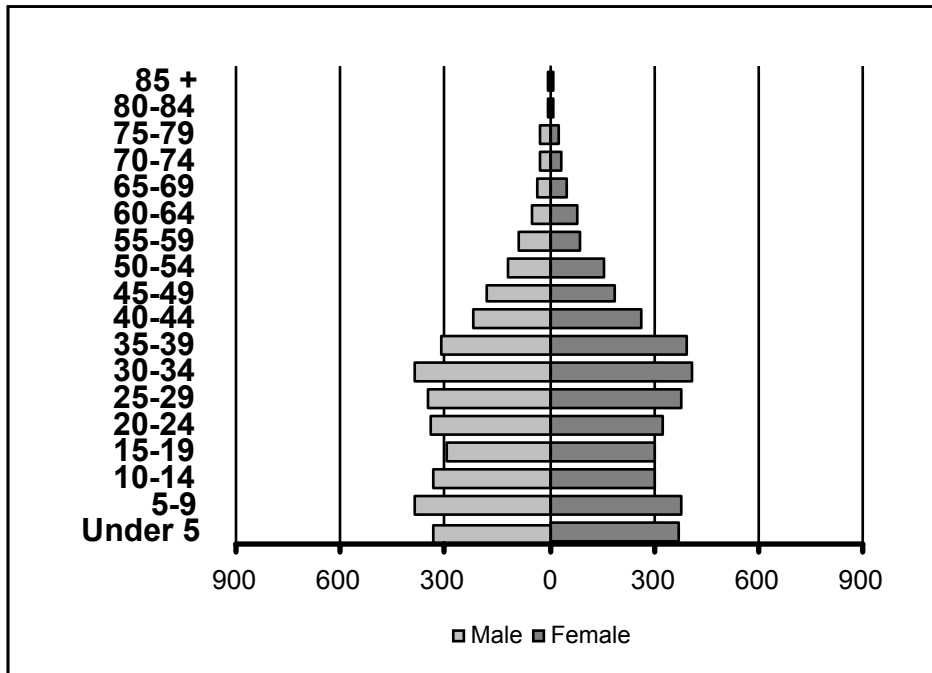
1990(b): 1990 Census Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Sample Data.

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

*Notes:*

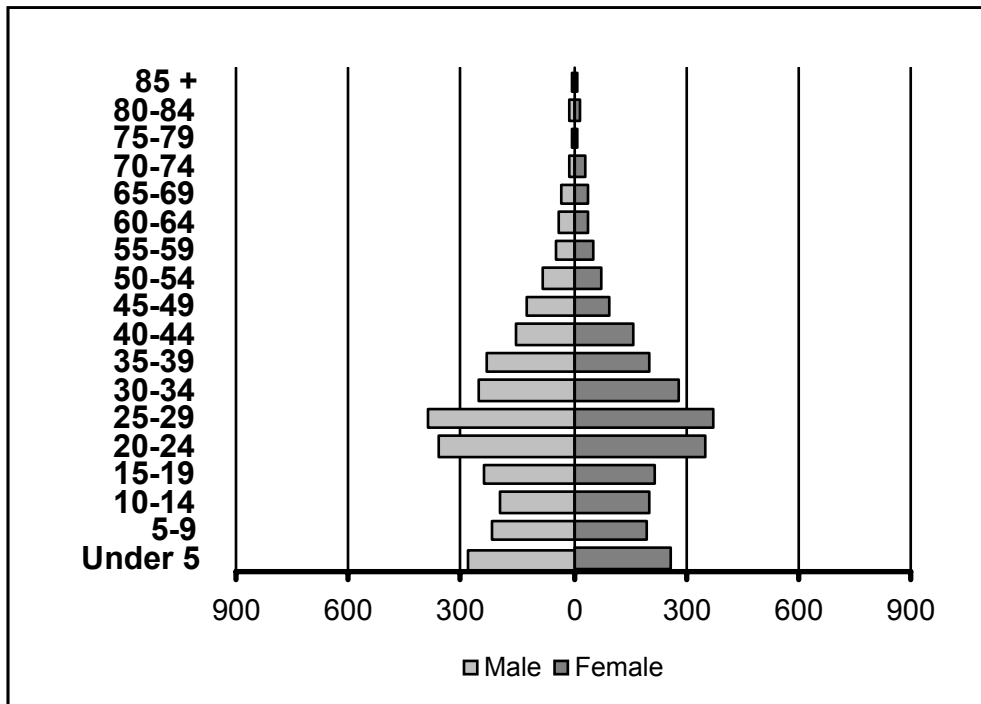
<sup>1</sup> Sample data from 1990 are based on the “Long Form” files. About one person or household in six receives the Long Form Census. The estimates from there do not match the enumerations in the 100% or “Short Form” data. For example there is a 4.5% difference in the total number of Latinos in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



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

Figure 3  
Framingham - Age Profile 1990



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

The age composition of Latinos in Framingham 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 Framingham and in the rest of the country remains relatively young, it is even younger than it was in 1990. In 2000, 37.3% of Latinos were younger than 20, just slightly greater than the 34.2% in 1990 (see table 5). The Latino median age of 26.8 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>Framingham - 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	1,484	20.4	963	18.2	54.1
10-19	1,228	16.9	848	16.0	44.8
20-29	1,394	19.2	1,476	27.9	-5.6
30-39	1,503	20.7	968	18.3	55.3
40-49	850	11.7	532	10.1	59.8
50-59	451	6.2	251	4.7	79.7
60-69	208	2.9	150	2.8	38.7
70 and over	147	2.0	103	1.9	42.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,265</b>		<b>5,291</b>		<b>37.3</b>
<b>Median Age</b>	<b>26.8</b>		<b>25.6</b>		

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

Table 6

<b>Framingham - 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	728	20.8	507	19.1	43.6
10-19	627	17.9	430	16.2	45.8
20-29	690	19.7	745	28.0	-7.4
30-39	700	20.0	483	18.2	44.9
40-49	400	11.4	275	10.3	45.5
50-59	207	5.9	125	4.7	65.6
60-69	83	2.4	69	2.6	20.3
70 and over	63	1.8	27	1.0	133.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,498</b>		<b>2,661</b>		<b>31.5</b>
<b>Median Age</b>	<b>25.7</b>		<b>25.4</b>		

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

Table 7

<b>Framingham - 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	756	20.1	456	17.3	65.8
10-19	601	16.0	418	15.9	43.8
20-29	704	18.7	731	27.8	-3.7
30-39	803	21.3	485	18.4	65.6
40-49	450	11.9	257	9.8	75.1
50-59	244	6.5	126	4.8	93.7
60-69	125	3.3	81	3.1	54.3
70 and over	84	2.2	76	2.9	10.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,767</b>		<b>2,630</b>		<b>43.2</b>
<b>Median Age</b>	<b>27.8</b>		<b>25.8</b>		

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