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### Latinos in Lawrence, Massachusetts

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The Mauricio Gastón Institute  
for Latino Community Development  
and Public Policy

# Latinos in Lawrence | 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 Lawrence, the general population changes from 1990 to 2000 were similar to national and state trends, but unique because of Lawrence's large Latino population. Lawrence has the second largest population of Latinos in Massachusetts and the fifth largest in the New England states. However it has the highest proportion of Latinos in both the state and the region. In ten years, Lawrence has gone from majority White to the only city in New England where Latinos are the majority. The total population of Lawrence increased by 2.6% (see table 1). The population of people of color — African Americans, Asians, Latinos, Native Americans, and Pacific Islanders — grew while the population of non-Hispanic Whites actually shrank. Latinos had a larger numerical growth than any other group, increasing by 13,782 or 47.1%, although both Asians and Native Americans had a higher percent increase. Latinos now represent 59.7% of the population, an increase of 18.1 percentage points.

Table 1

Lawrence - Growth by Ethnicity							
	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Hispanic or Latino	43,019	59.7	29,237	41.6	13,782	47.1	18.1
White	24,569	34.1	38,401	54.7	-13,832	-36.0	-20.6
Black or African American	1,412	2.0	1,195	1.7	217	18.2	0.3
American Indian and Alaska Native	204	0.3	100	0.1	104	104.0	0.1
Asian <sup>a</sup>	1,832	2.5	1,087	1.5	763	70.2	1.0
Pacific Islander <sup>a</sup>	18	0.0					
Some other race	157	0.2	187	0.3	-30	-16.0	0.0
Two or more races <sup>b</sup>	832	1.2					
Total	72,043		70,207		1,836	2.6	

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.

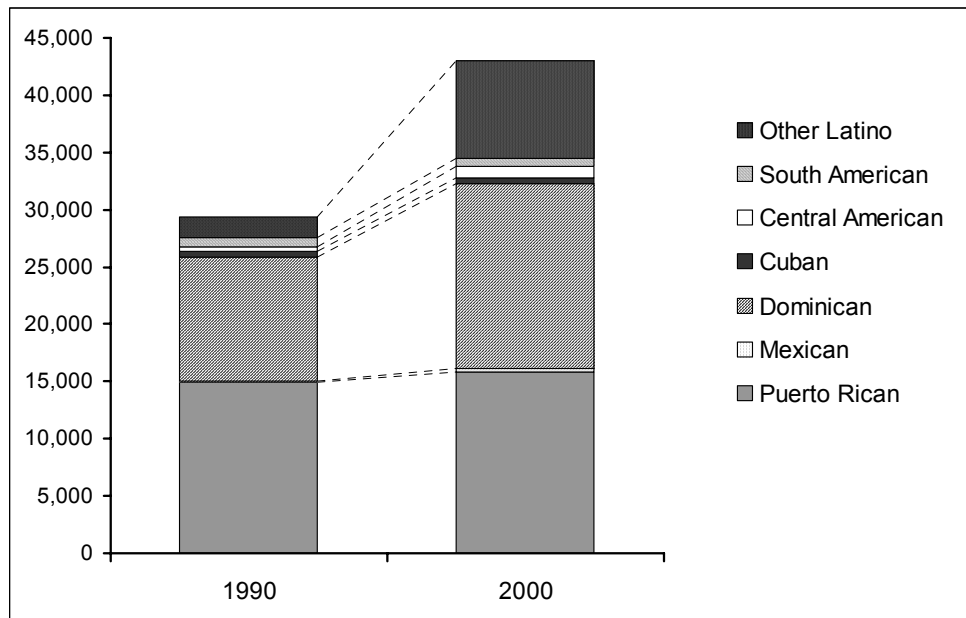
Table 2

Lawrence - National Origin of Latinos						
	2000		1990 <sup>a</sup>		Growth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	43,019		29,339		13,680	46.6
Mexican	316	0.7	84	0.3	232	276.2
Puerto Rican	15,816	36.8	14,928	50.9	888	5.9
Cuban	408	0.9	452	1.5	-44	-9.7
Dominican Republic	16,186	37.6	10,870	37.0	5,316	48.9
Guatemalan	794	1.8	270	0.9	524	194.1
Other Central American	207	0.5	163	0.6	44	27.0
Ecuadorian	372	0.9	581	2.0	-209	-36.0
Other South American	353	0.8	256	0.9	97	37.9
Other Hispanic or Latino	8,567	19.9	1,735	5.9	6,832	393.8

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  
Lawrence - Growth and Change of the Latino Population



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

Across the state, all Latino national-origin groups grew significantly between 1990<sup>1</sup> and 2000. In Lawrence, however, most of the growth was from Dominicans and “Other” Latinos (see table 2 and figure 1). Dominicans are now the largest group in Lawrence at 37.6%, overtaking Puerto Ricans who were the majority in 1990. “Other” Latinos were the fastest-growing population, growing by 393.8%, a trend seen across the U.S. 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

Lawrence - Households by Tenure							
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total Households	12,371		7,841		4,530	57.8	
Owners	2,462	19.9	997	12.7	1,465	146.9	7.2
Renters	9,909	80.1	6,844	87.3	3,065	44.8	

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

Latino-headed households are much more likely to rent than to own their home, 80.1% versus 19.9%, although there has been a 7.2% 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 headed households are family households, 81.3% (see table 4). Married couples with children represent 26.1% of Latino-headed households, slightly more than the Massachusetts average of 23.3%. Families made up of a single female with children account for 31.5% of Latino households, which is greater than the state average of 7.5%, but less than it was in 1990.

Table 4

<b>Lawrence - Family Structure</b>						
	<b>2000</b>		<b>1990</b>		<b>Growth</b>	<b>Change</b>
Latino Headed Households	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>in Percent</b>
Families:	10,053	81.3	6,645	84.7	51.3	-3.5
with related children <sup>a</sup> :						
Married Couple, with children	3,229	26.1	2,015	25.7	60.2	0.4
Female Head, with children	3,902	31.5	3,182	40.6	22.6	-9.0
Male Head, with children	733	5.9	343	4.4	113.7	1.6
without related children:						
Married Couple, no children	1,260	10.2	589	7.5	113.9	2.7
Single, no children	929	7.5	516	6.6	80.0	0.9
Non-Family Household	2,318	18.7	1,196	15.3	93.8	3.5
Total Households	12,371		7,841		57.8	

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.

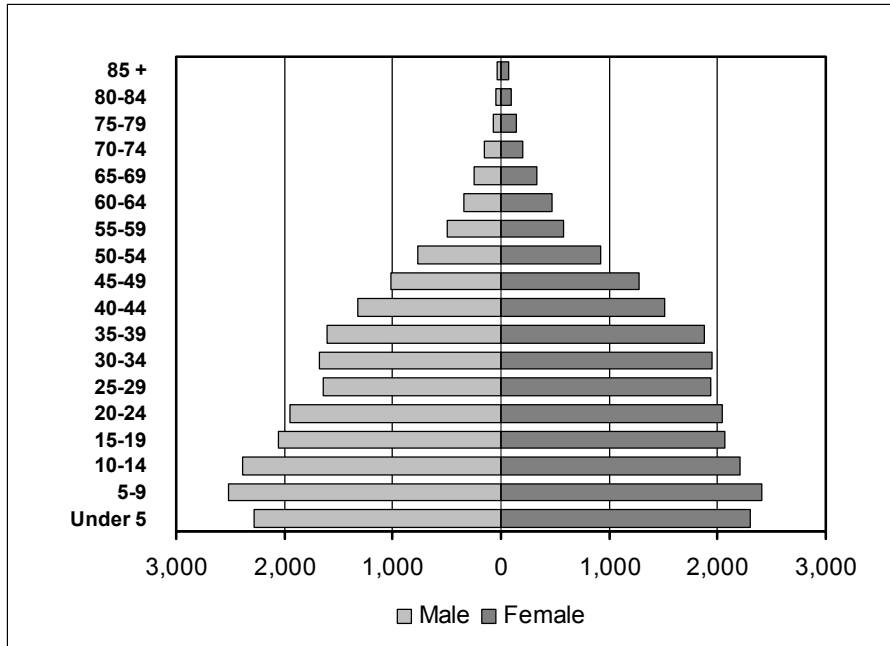
1990(b): 1990 Census Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Sample Data.

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

**Notes:**

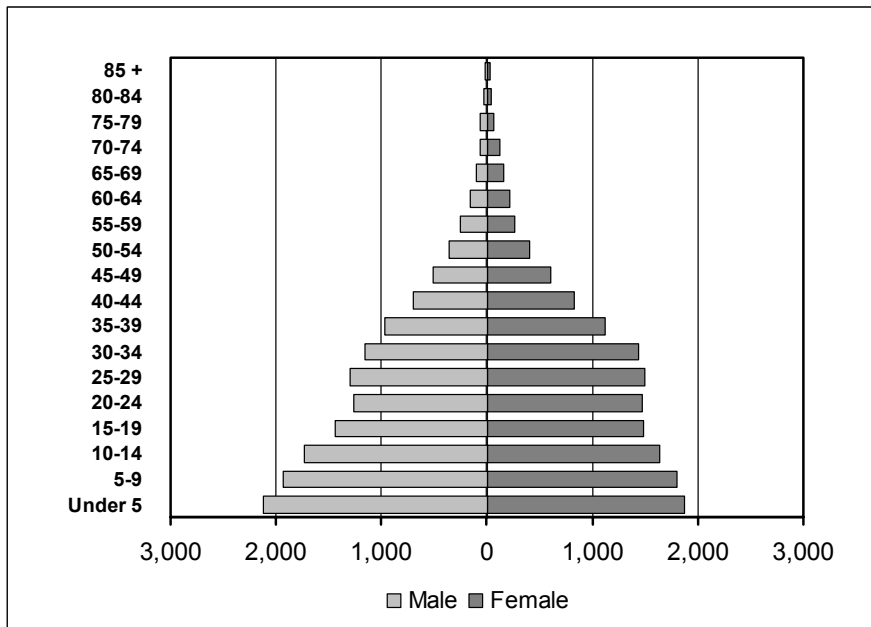
<sup>1</sup> Sample data from 1990 are based on the “Long Form” files. About one person or household in six receives the Long Form Census. The estimates from there do not match the enumerations in the 100% or “Short Form” data. For example there is a 4.5% difference in the total number of Latinos in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



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

Figure 3  
Lawrence - Age Profile 1990



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

The age composition of Latinos in Massachusetts 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 Lawrence and in the rest of the country is older than it was in 1990, it remains relatively young. In 2000, 42.4% of Latinos were younger than 20, fewer than the 47.9% in 1990 (see table 5). By comparison, only 26.4% of all Massachusetts residents were under 20. The Latino median age of 24.0 is much younger than the overall Massachusetts median age of 36.5. Women still tend to be quite a bit older than men, but the gap closed during the 1990s (see tables 6 and 7). There is also a noticeable gender imbalance; among Latinos over 20, women outnumber men, 53% to 47%.

Table 5

<b>Lawrence - Latinos by Age</b>					
	<b>2000</b>		<b>1990</b>		<b>Growth</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Under 10 years	9,514	22.1	7,726	26.4	23.1
10-19	8,724	20.3	6,286	21.5	38.8
20-29	7,571	17.6	5,526	18.9	37.0
30-39	7,106	16.5	4,689	16.0	51.5
40-49	5,131	11.9	2,653	9.1	93.4
50-59	2,765	6.4	1,282	4.4	115.7
60-69	1,385	3.2	639	2.2	116.7
70 and over	823	1.9	436	1.5	88.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,019</b>		<b>29,237</b>		<b>47.1</b>
<b>Median Age</b>	<b>24.0</b>		<b>21.0</b>		

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

Table 6

<b>Lawrence - 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	4,794	23.2	4,059	28.7
10-19	4,444	21.6	3,163	22.3
20-29	3,592	17.4	2,560	18.1
30-39	3,274	15.9	2,127	15.0
40-49	2,345	11.4	1,211	8.5
50-59	1,265	6.1	615	4.3
60-69	589	2.9	260	1.8
70 and over	318	1.5	171	1.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,621</b>		<b>14,166</b>	
<b>Median Age</b>	<b>22.6</b>		<b>19.5</b>	

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

Table 7

<b>Lawrence - 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	4,720	21.1	3,667	24.3
10-19	4,280	19.1	3,123	20.7
20-29	3,979	17.8	2,966	19.7
30-39	3,832	17.1	2,562	17.0
40-49	2,786	12.4	1,442	9.6
50-59	1,500	6.7	667	4.4
60-69	796	3.6	379	2.5
70 and over	505	2.3	265	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,398</b>		<b>15,071</b>	
<b>Median Age</b>	<b>25.4</b>		<b>22.7</b>	

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