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### Latinos in Waltham, Massachusetts

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The Mauricio Gastón Institute  
for Latino Community Development  
and Public Policy

# Latinos in Waltham | 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 Waltham, 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 Native Americans (see table 1). The total population of Waltham increased by 2.3%, but its composition changed substantially. Behind Asians, Latinos had a larger numerical growth than any other group, increasing by 1,792 or 55.3%, although both Asians and “some other race” had a higher percent increase. Latinos now represent 8.5% of the population, an increase of 2.9 percentage points. Waltham has the sixteenth largest population of Latinos in Massachusetts and the 31st largest in the New England states. As a percentage of the total population, the Latino population in Waltham ranks 19th in the state.

Table 1

Waltham - Growth by Ethnicity								
	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Hispanic or Latino	5,031	8.5	3,239	5.6	1,792	55.3	2.9	
White	46,416	78.4	50,871	87.9	-4,455	-8.8	-9.5	
Black or African American	2,484	4.2	1,616	2.8	868	53.7	1.4	
American Indian and Alaska Native	54	0.1	59	0.1	-5	-8.5	0.0	
Asian <sup>a</sup>	4,299	7.3	2,022	3.5	2,292	113.4	3.8	
Pacific Islander <sup>a</sup>	15	0.0						
Some other race	147	0.2	71	0.1	76	107.0	0.1	
Two or more races <sup>b</sup>	780	1.3						
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,226</b>		<b>57,878</b>		<b>1,348</b>	<b>2.3</b>		

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.

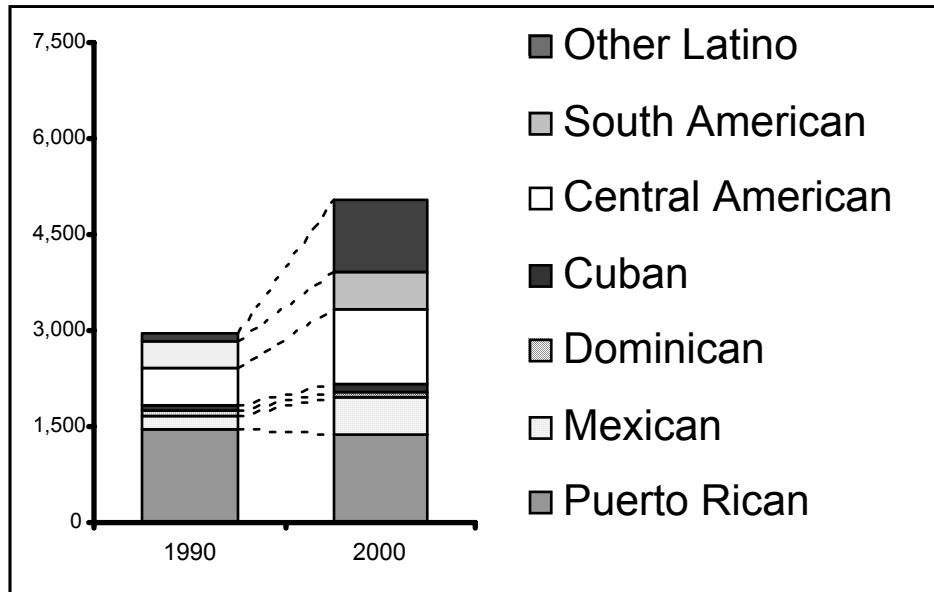
Table 2

Waltham - National Origin of Latinos						
	2000		1990 <sup>a</sup>		Growth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	5,031		2,970		2,061	69.4
Mexican	609	12.1	224	7.5	385	171.9
Puerto Rican	1,360	27.0	1,458	49.1	-98	-6.7
Cuban	95	1.9	83	2.8	12	14.5
Dominican Republic	86	1.7	84	2.8	2	2.4
Guatemalan	928	18.4	429	14.4	499	116.3
Other Central American	239	4.8	157	5.3	82	52.2
Other South American	609	12.1	408	13.7	201	49.3
Other Hispanic or Latino	1,105	22.0	127	4.3	978	770.1

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  
Waltham - 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 Waltham is Puerto Rican, at 27%, followed by “Other” Latinos and Guatemalans. “Other” Latinos were the fastest-growing population, growing by 770%, 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

Waltham - Households by Tenure							
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total Households	1,358		851		507	59.6	
Owners	260	19.1	140	16.5	120	85.7	2.7
Renters	1,098	80.9	711	83.5	387	54.4	

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

Latino-headed households are much more likely to rent than to own their home, 80.9% versus 19.1%, although there has been a 2.7% 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, 76.2%, live in family households (see table 4). Married couples with children

represent 32.3% of Latino-headed households, slightly more than the Massachusetts average of 23.3%. Families made up of a single female with children account for 13.6% of Latino households, which is greater than the state average of 7.5%, but less than it was in 1990.

Table 4

<b>Waltham - Family Structure</b>						
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth Percent	Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Families:	1,035	76.2	640	75.2	61.7	1.0
with related children <sup>a</sup> :						
Married Couple, with children	439	32.3	253	29.7	73.5	2.6
Female Head, with children	185	13.6	156	18.3	18.6	-4.7
Male Head, with children	58	4.3	36	4.2	61.1	0.0
without related children:						
Married Couple, no children	219	16.1	129	15.2	69.8	1.0
Single, no children	134	9.9	66	7.8	103.0	2.1
Non-Family Household	323	23.8	211	24.8	53.1	-1.0
Total Households	1,358		851		59.6	

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.

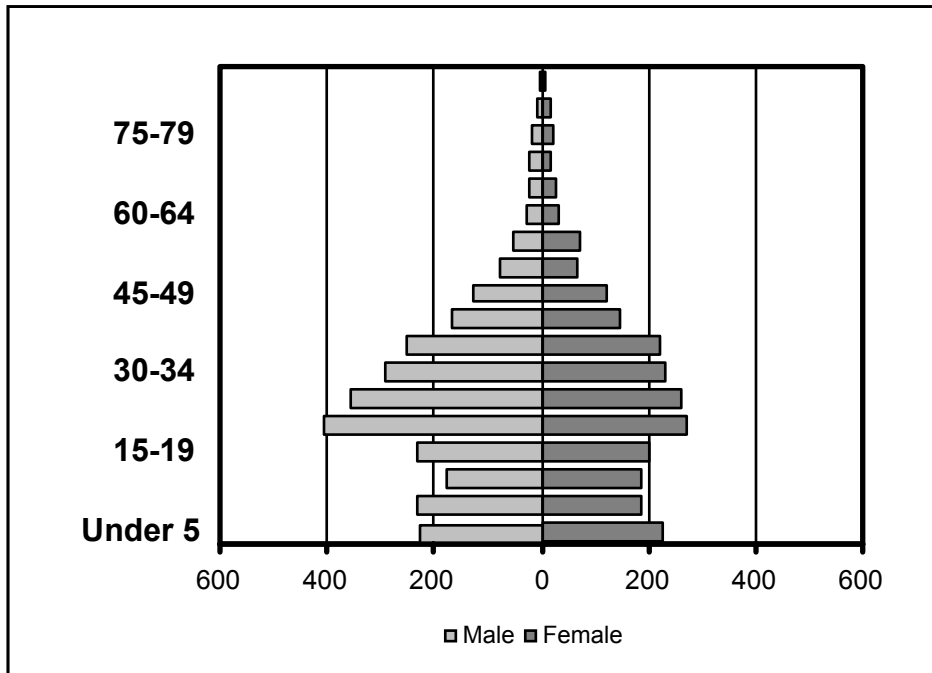
1990(b): 1990 Census Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Sample Data.

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

*Notes:*

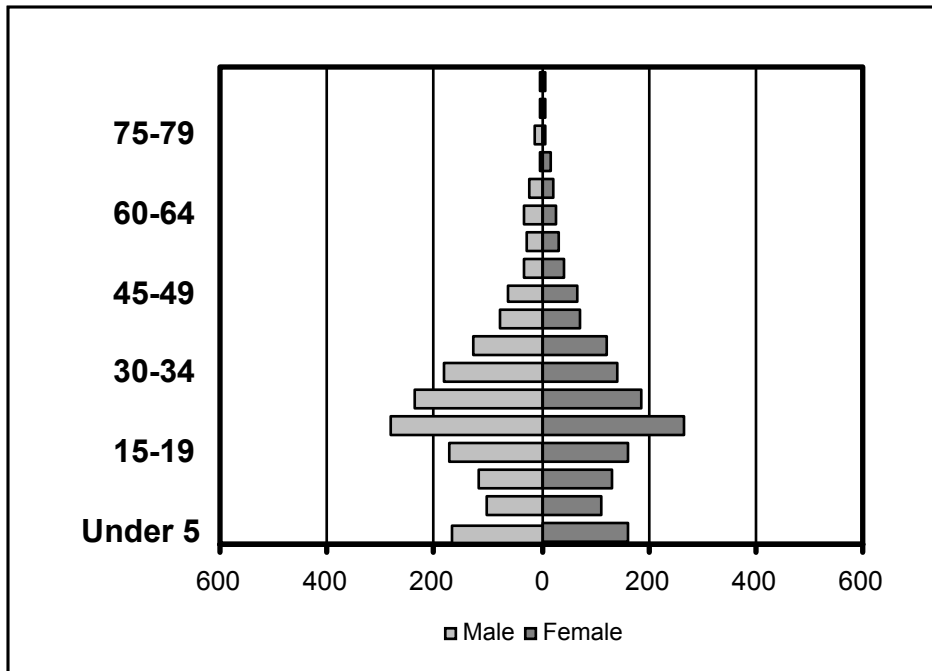
<sup>1</sup> Sample data from 1990 are based on the “Long Form” files. About one person or household in six receives the Long Form Census. The estimates from there do not match the enumerations in the 100% or “Short Form” data. For example there is a 4.5% difference in the total number of Latinos in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



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

Figure 3  
Waltham - Age Profile 1990



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

The age composition of Latinos in Waltham 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 Waltham and in the rest of the country remains relatively young, it is older than it was in 1990. In 2000, 33.4% of Latinos were younger than 20, just slightly fewer than the 35.1% in 1990 (see table 5). The Latino median age of 26.1 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>Waltham - 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	875	17.4	551	17.0	58.8
10-19	804	16.0	586	18.1	37.2
20-29	1,293	25.7	970	29.9	33.3
30-39	1,000	19.9	577	17.8	73.3
40-49	562	11.2	270	8.3	108.1
50-59	274	5.4	131	4.0	109.2
60-69	115	2.3	102	3.1	12.7
70 and over	108	2.1	52	1.6	107.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,031</b>		<b>3,239</b>		<b>55.3</b>
<b>Median Age</b>	<b>26.1</b>		<b>24.3</b>		

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

Table 6

<b>Waltham - 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	463	17.1	277	16.7	67.1
10-19	412	15.3	292	17.6	41.1
20-29	762	28.2	515	31.0	48.0
30-39	542	20.1	312	18.8	73.7
40-49	291	10.8	135	8.1	115.6
50-59	133	4.9	59	3.6	125.4
60-69	53	2.0	53	3.2	0.0
70 and over	44	1.6	16	1.0	175.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,700</b>		<b>1,659</b>		<b>62.7</b>
<b>Median Age</b>	<b>25.7</b>		<b>24.5</b>		

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

Table 7

<b>Waltham - 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	412	17.7	274	17.3	50.4
10-19	392	16.8	294	18.6	33.3
20-29	531	22.8	455	28.8	16.7
30-39	458	19.6	265	16.8	72.8
40-49	271	11.6	135	8.5	100.7
50-59	141	6.0	72	4.6	95.8
60-69	62	2.7	49	3.1	26.5
70 and over	64	2.7	36	2.3	77.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,331</b>		<b>1,580</b>		<b>47.5</b>
<b>Median Age</b>	<b>26.8</b>		<b>24.0</b>		

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