

University of Massachusetts Boston

ScholarWorks at UMass Boston

Gastón Institute Publications

Gastón Institute for Latino Community
Development and Public Policy Publications

1-2003

Latinos in Methuen, Massachusetts

Daniel W. Vasquez

University of Massachusetts Boston

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umb.edu/gaston_pubs



Part of the [Chicana/o Studies Commons](#), [Demography, Population, and Ecology Commons](#), and the [Race and Ethnicity Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Vasquez, Daniel W., "Latinos in Methuen, Massachusetts" (2003). *Gastón Institute Publications*. 90.
https://scholarworks.umb.edu/gaston_pubs/90

This Research Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy Publications at ScholarWorks at UMass Boston. It has been accepted for inclusion in Gastón Institute Publications by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at UMass Boston. For more information, please contact scholarworks@umb.edu.



The Mauricio Gastón Institute
for Latino Community Development
and Public Policy

Latinos in Methuen | 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 Methuen, 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 Methuen increased by 9.5%, but its composition changed substantially. Latinos had a larger numerical growth than any other group, increasing by 2,151 or 103.9%, (although both “some other race” and Asians had a higher percent increase. Latinos now represent 9.6% of the population, an increase of 4.5 percentage points and the largest gain of any group. Methuen has the 21st largest population of Latinos in Massachusetts and the 39th largest in the New England states. As a percentage of the total population, the Latino population in Methuen ranks 14th in the state.

Table 1

Methuen - Growth by Ethnicity								
	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Hispanic or Latino	4,221	9.6	2,070	5.2	2,151	103.9	4.5	
White	37,561	85.8	37,070	92.7	491	1.3	-6.9	
Black or African American	406	0.9	276	0.7	130	47.1	0.2	
American Indian and Alaska Native	63	0.1	43	0.1	20	46.5	0.0	
Asian ^a	1,030	2.4	519	1.3	514	99.0	1.1	
Pacific Islander ^a	3	0.0						
Some other race	70	0.2	12	0.0	58	483.3	0.1	
Two or more races ^b	435	1.0						
Total	43,789		39,990		3,799	9.5		

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.

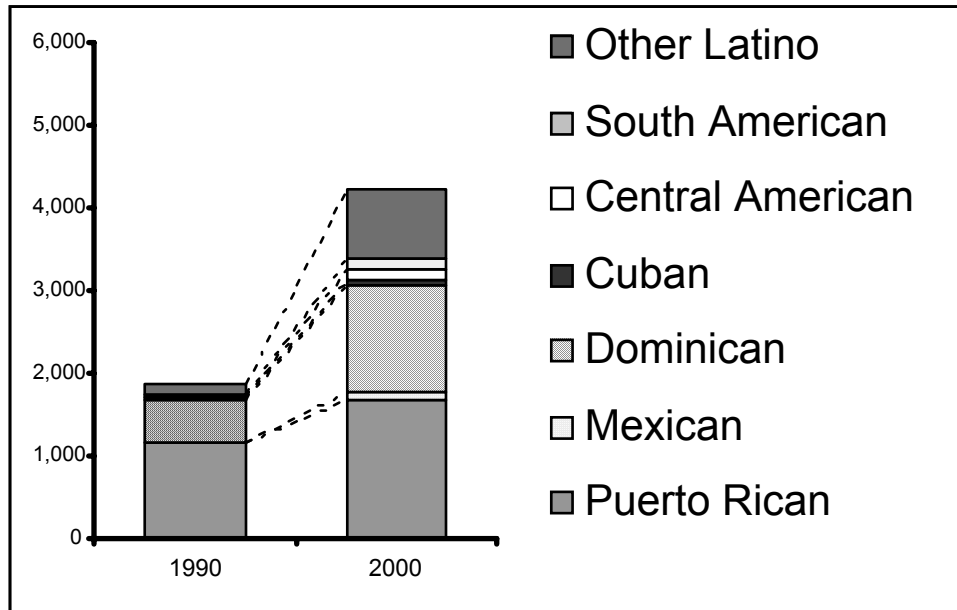
Table 2

Methuen - National Origin of Latinos						
	2000		1990 ^a		Growth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	4,221		1,879		2,342	124.6
Mexican	70	1.7	19	1.0	51	268.4
Puerto Rican	1,691	40.1	1,150	61.2	541	47.0
Cuban	73	1.7	7	0.4	66	942.9
Dominican Republic	1,308	31.0	521	27.7	787	151.1
Guatemalan	83	2.0			83	
Other Central American	33	0.8			33	
Ecuadorian	55	1.3	23	1.2	32	139.1
Other South American	60	1.4	38	2.0	22	57.9
Other Hispanic or Latino	848	20.1	121	6.4	727	600.8

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

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

Figure 1
Methuen - 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 Methuen is Puerto Rican, at 40.1%, followed by Dominicans and "Other" Latinos. Behind Cubans, "Other" Latinos were the fastest-growing population, growing by 600.8%, 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

Methuen - Households by Tenure							
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total Households	1,179		572		607	106.1	
Owners	361	30.6	134	23.4	227	169.4	7.2
Renters	818	69.4	438	76.6	380	86.8	

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

Latino-headed households are much more likely to rent than to own their home, 69.4% versus 30.6%, 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 Latinos, 82.7%, 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 28.2% of Latino households, which is greater than the state average of 7.5%, but less than it was in 1990.

Table 4

Methuen - Family Structure						
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth Percent	Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Families:	975	82.7	497	86.9	96.2	-4.2
with related children ^a :						
Married Couple, with children	377	32.0	169	29.5	123.1	2.4
Female Head, with children	333	28.2	223	39.0	49.3	-10.7
Male Head, with children	61	5.2	11	1.9	454.5	3.3
without related children:						
Married Couple, no children	130	11.0	70	12.2	85.7	-1.2
Single, no children	74	6.3	24	4.2	208.3	2.1
Non-Family Household	204	17.3	75	13.1	172.0	4.2
Total Households	1,179		572		106.1	

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.

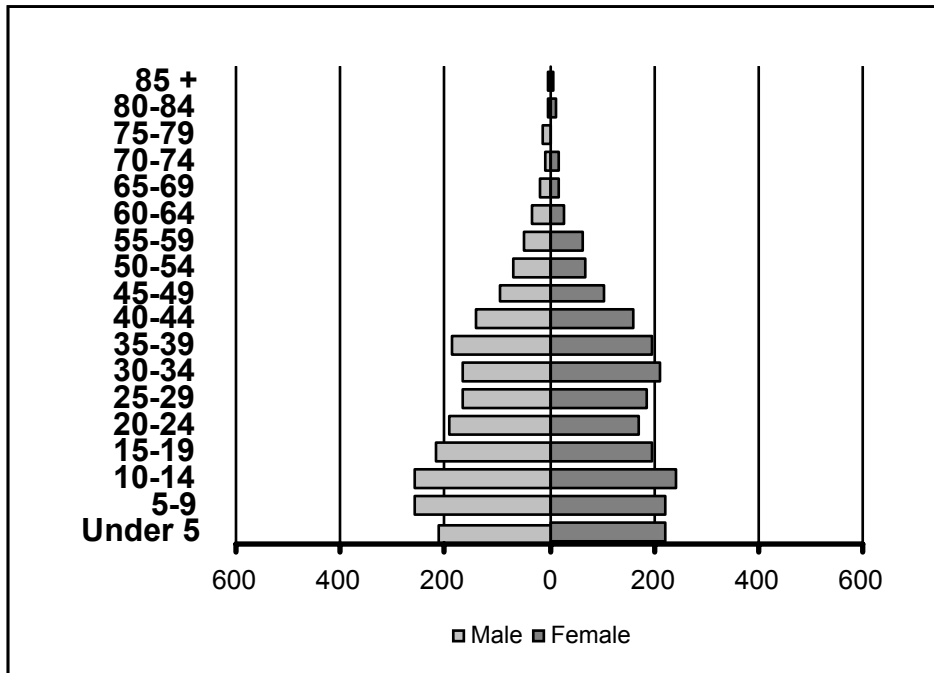
1990(b): 1990 Census Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Sample Data.

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

Notes:

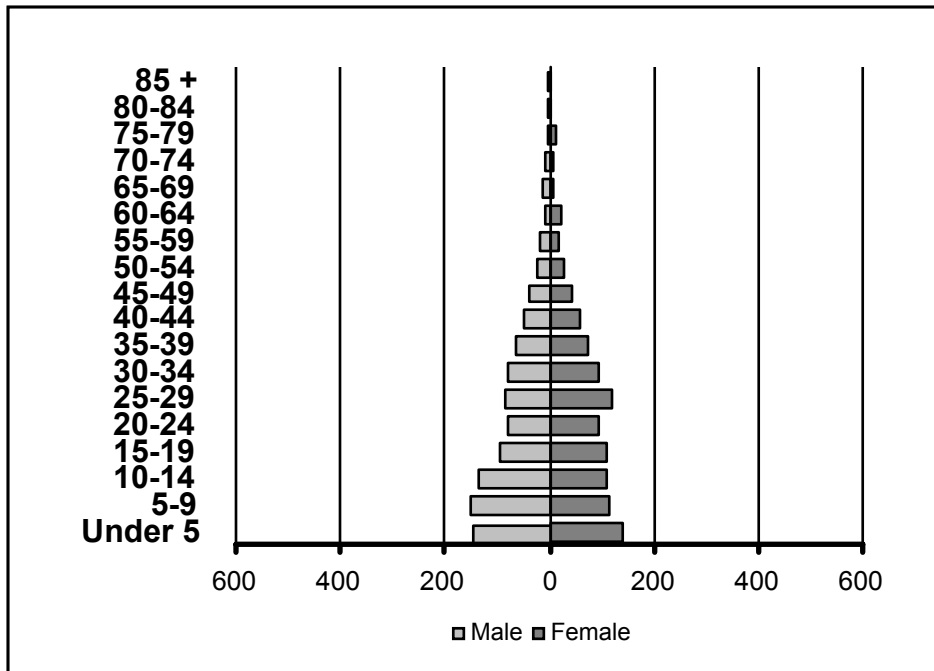
¹ Sample data from 1990 are based on the “Long Form” files. About one person or household in six receives the Long Form Census. The estimates from there do not match the enumerations in the 100% or “Short Form” data. For example there is a 4.5% difference in the total number of Latinos in Massachusetts.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

Figure 2
Methuen - Age Profile 2000



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

Figure 3
Methuen - Age Profile 1990



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

The age composition of Latinos in Methuen 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 Methuen and in the rest of the country remains relatively young, it is older than it was in 1990. In 2000, 43.4% of Latinos were younger than 20, just slightly fewer than the 48.6% in 1990 (see table 5). The Latino median age of 23.8 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

Methuen - Latinos by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
Under 10 years	920	21.8	561	27.1	64.0
10-19	911	21.6	446	21.5	104.3
20-29	714	16.9	379	18.3	88.4
30-39	760	18.0	310	15.0	145.2
40-49	502	11.9	190	9.2	164.2
50-59	247	5.9	93	4.5	165.6
60-69	102	2.4	51	2.5	100.0
70 and over	65	1.5	40	1.9	62.5
Total	4,221		2,070		103.9
Median Age	23.8		20.9		

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

Table 6

Methuen - Latino Males by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
Under 10 years	477	22.8	304	30.3	56.9
10-19	474	22.7	227	22.6	108.8
20-29	357	17.1	162	16.1	120.4
30-39	353	16.9	143	14.2	146.9
40-49	237	11.3	89	8.9	166.3
50-59	116	5.6	45	4.5	157.8
60-69	54	2.6	20	2.0	170.0
70 and over	22	1.1	14	1.4	57.1
Total	2,090		1,004		108.2
Median Age	22.4		18.2		

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

Table 7

Methuen - Latina Females by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 10 years	443	20.8	257	24.1	72.4
10-19	437	20.5	219	20.5	99.5
20-29	357	16.8	217	20.4	64.5
30-39	407	19.1	167	15.7	143.7
40-49	265	12.4	101	9.5	162.4
50-59	131	6.1	48	4.5	172.9
60-69	48	2.3	31	2.9	54.8
70 and over	43	2.0	26	2.4	65.4
Total	2,131		1,066		99.9
Median Age	25.5		23.1		

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