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The Mauricio Gastón Institute
for Latino Community Development
and Public Policy

Latinos in Nashua | New Hampshire

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 Nashua, 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 (see table 1). The total population of Nashua increased by 8.7%, but its composition changed substantially. Latinos had a larger numerical growth than any other group, increasing by 2,981 or 123.8%, although “some other race” had a higher percent increase. Latinos now represent 6.2% of the population, an increase of 3.2 percentage points and the largest gain of any group. Nashua has the largest population of Latinos in New Hampshire and the 28th largest in the New England states. As a percentage of the total population, the Latino population in Nashua ranks first in the state.

Table 1

Nashua - Growth by Ethnicity								
	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Hispanic or Latino	5,388	6.2	2,407	3.0	2,981	123.8	3.2	
White	74,907	86.5	74,334	93.3	573	0.8	-6.8	
Black or African American	1,571	1.8	1,143	1.4	428	37.4	0.4	
American Indian and Alaska Native	220	0.3	165	0.2	55	33.3	0.0	
Asian ^a	3,339	3.9	1,525	1.9	1,840	120.7	2.0	
Pacific Islander ^a	26	0.0						
Some other race	247	0.3	88	0.1	159	180.7	0.2	
Two or more races ^b	907	1.0						
Total	86,605		79,662		6,943	8.7		

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.

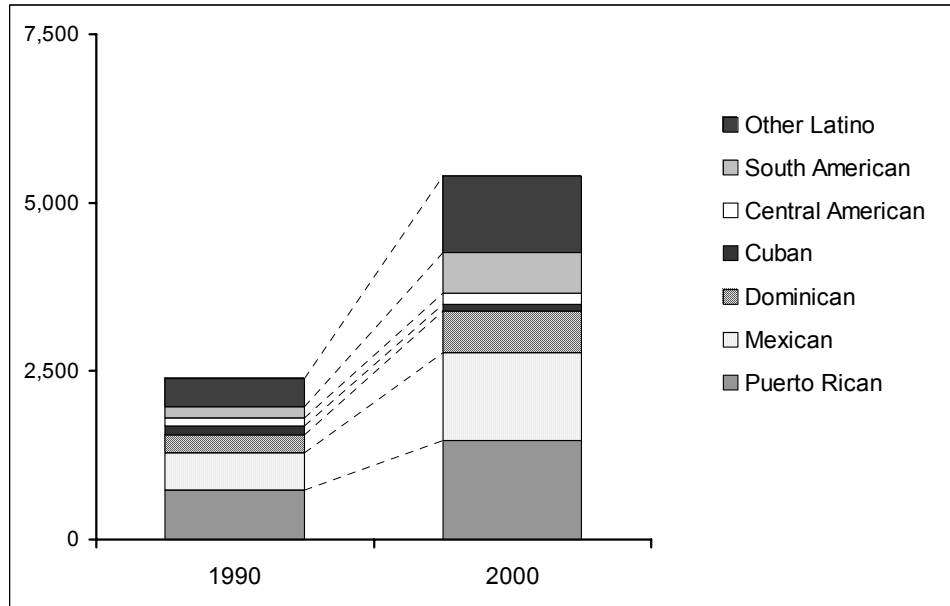
Table 2

Nashua - National Origin of Latinos						
	2000		1990 ^a		Growth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	5,388		2,392		2,996	125.3
Mexican	1,306	24.2	554	23.2	752	135.7
Puerto Rican	1,468	27.2	739	30.9	729	98.6
Cuban	98	1.8	137	5.7	-39	-28.5
Dominican Republic	624	11.6	259	10.8	365	140.9
Other Central American	170	3.2	114	4.8	56	49.1
Other South American	591	11.0	169	7.1	422	249.7
Other Hispanic or Latino	1,131	21.0	420	17.6	711	169.3

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

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

Figure 1
Nashua - 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 Nashua is Puerto Rican, at 27.2%, followed by Mexicans and “Other” Latinos. “Other” Latinos were among fastest-growing population, growing by 169.3%, 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

Nashua - Households by Tenure							
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total Households	1,433		722		711	98.5	
Owners	288	20.1	170	23.5	118	69.4	-3.4
Renters	1,145	79.9	552	76.5	593	107.4	

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

Latino-headed households are much more likely to rent than to own their home, 79.9% versus 20.1%, and there has been a 3.4% decrease in home ownership since 1990 (see table 3). This is much lower than the state average of 69.7%. Although there has been a small growth in the proportion of non-family households, it is still true that most Latinos, 77.7%, live in family households (see table 4). Married couples with children represent 33.2% of Latino-headed households, more than the New Hampshire average of 26.2%. Families made up of a single female with children account for 19.2% of Latino households, which is greater than the state average of 6.2%, and greater than it was in 1990.

Table 4

Nashua - Family Structure						
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth Percent	Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Families:	1,114	77.7	527	73.0	111.4	4.7
with related children ^a :						
Married Couple, with children	476	33.2	237	32.8	100.8	0.4
Female Head, with children	275	19.2	80	11.1	243.8	8.1
Male Head, with children	98	6.8	31	4.3	216.1	2.5
without related children:						
Married Couple, no children	160	11.2	122	16.9	31.1	-5.7
Single, no children	105	7.3	57	7.9	84.2	-0.6
Non-Family Household	319	22.3	195	27.0	63.6	-4.7
Total Households	1,433		722		98.5	

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.

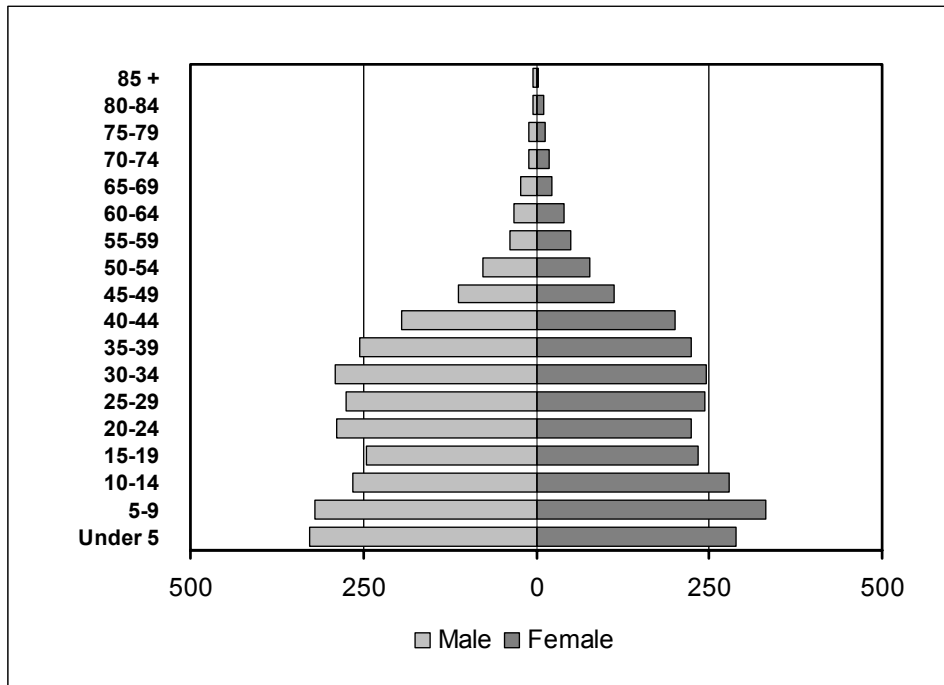
1990(b): 1990 Census Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Sample Data.

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

Notes:

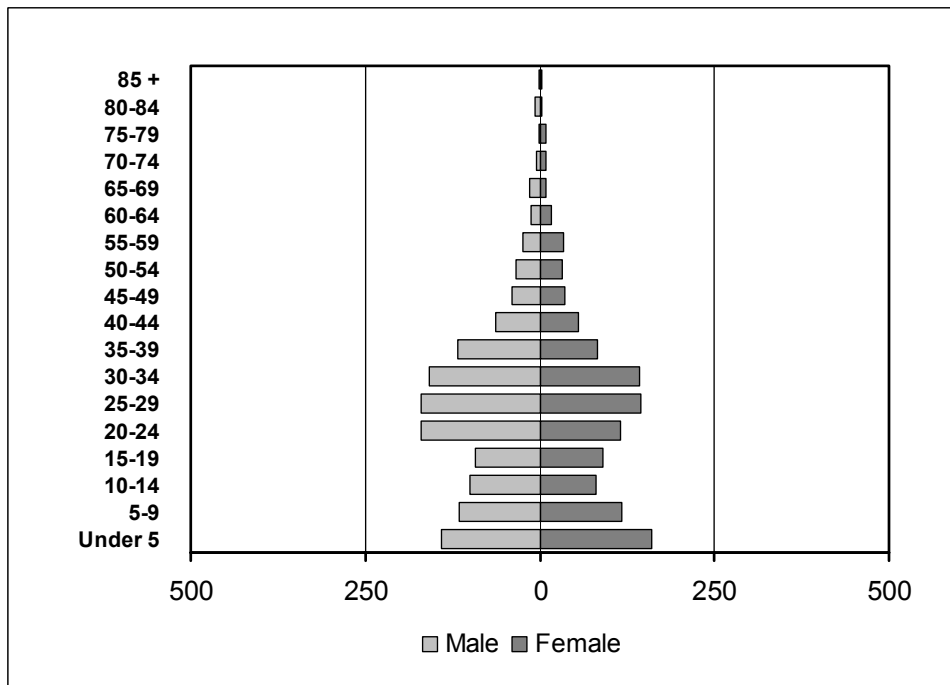
¹ Sample data from 1990 are based on the “Long Form” files. About one person or household in six receives the Long Form Census. The estimates from there do not match the enumerations in the 100% or “Short Form” data. There are sources of error in any census or survey; however the estimates here are accurate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

Figure 2
Nashua - Age Profile 2000



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

Figure 3
Nashua - Age Profile 1990



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

The age composition of Latinos in Nashua 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 Nashua and in the rest of the country remains relatively young, it is older than it was in 1990. In 2000, 42.5% of Latinos were younger than 20, just slightly fewer than the 37.3% in 1990 (see table 5). The Latino median age of 23.8 is much younger than the overall New Hampshire median age of 37.1. 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

Nashua - Latinos by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 10 years	1,267	23.5	534	22.2	137.3
10-19	1,025	19.0	364	15.1	181.6
20-29	1,030	19.1	600	24.9	71.7
30-39	1,015	18.8	502	20.9	102.2
40-49	618	11.5	194	8.1	218.6
50-59	244	4.5	125	5.2	95.2
60-69	118	2.2	51	2.1	131.4
70 and over	71	1.3	37	1.5	91.9
Total	5,388		2,407		123.8
Median Age	23.8		25.3		

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

Table 6

Nashua - Latino Males by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 10 years	647	23.3	256	20.2	152.7
10-19	512	18.5	193	15.2	165.3
20-29	563	20.3	340	26.9	65.6
30-39	545	19.7	276	21.8	97.5
40-49	306	11.0	103	8.1	197.1
50-59	116	4.2	59	4.7	96.6
60-69	54	1.9	26	2.1	107.7
70 and over	28	1.0	13	1.0	115.4
Total	2,771		1,266		118.9
Median Age	23.8		25.3		

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

Table 7

Nashua - Latina Females by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
Under 10 years	620	23.7	278	24.4	123.0
10-19	513	19.6	171	15.0	200.0
20-29	467	17.8	260	22.8	79.6
30-39	470	18.0	226	19.8	108.0
40-49	312	11.9	91	8.0	242.9
50-59	128	4.9	66	5.8	93.9
60-69	64	2.4	25	2.2	156.0
70 and over	43	1.6	24	2.1	79.2
Total	2,617		1,141		129.4
Median Age	23.9		25.3		

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