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The Mauricio Gastón Institute
for Latino Community Development
and Public Policy

Latinos in Central Falls | Rhode Island

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 Central Falls, 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 Central Falls increased by 7.3%, but its composition changed substantially. Latinos had a larger numerical growth than any other group, increasing by 3,922 or 76.6%, although American Indians had a higher percent increase. Latinos now represent 47.8% of the population, an increase of 18.7 percentage points and the largest gain of any group. Central Falls has the second largest population of Latinos in Rhode Island and the 21st largest in the New England states. As a percentage of the total population, the Latino population in Central Falls ranks first in the state.

Table 1

Central Falls - Growth by Ethnicity								
	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Hispanic or Latino	9,041	47.8	5,119	29.0	3,922	76.6	18.7	
White	7,577	40.0	11,437	64.8	-3,860	-33.8	-24.8	
Black or African American	816	4.3	493	2.8	323	65.5	1.5	
American Indian and Alaska Native	53	0.3	24	0.1	29	120.8	0.1	
Asian ^a	120	0.6	92	0.5	30	32.6	0.1	
Pacific Islander ^a	2	0.0						
Some other race	611	3.2	472	2.7	139	29.4	0.6	
Two or more races ^b	3,045	16.1						
Total	18,928		17,637		1,291	7.3		

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.

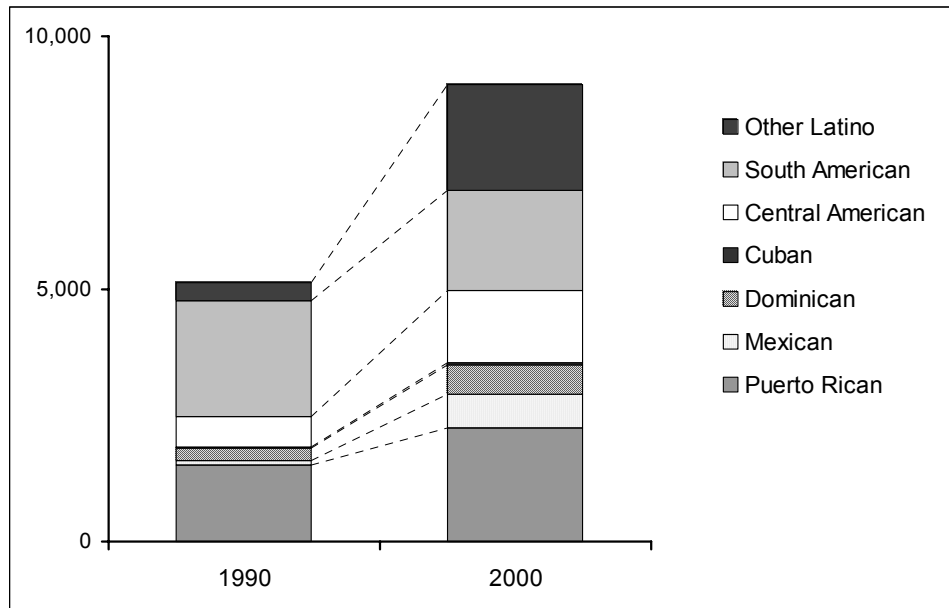
Table 2

Central Falls - National Origin of Latinos						
	2000		1990 ^a		Growth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	9,041		5,115		3,926	76.8
Mexican	677	7.5	91	1.8	586	644.0
Puerto Rican	2,249	24.9	1,509	29.5	740	49.0
Cuban	38	0.4	12	0.2	26	216.7
Dominican Republic	575	6.4	248	4.8	327	131.9
Other Central American	1,420	15.7	602	11.8	818	135.9
Other South American	1,999	22.1	2,295	44.9	-296	-12.9
Other Hispanic or Latino	2,083	23.0	358	7.0	1,725	481.8

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

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

Figure 1
Central Falls - 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 Central Falls is Puerto Rican, at 24.9%, followed by “Other” Latinos and “Other” South Americans. “Other” Latinos were among fastest-growing population, growing by 481.1%, 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

Central Falls - Households by Tenure							
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total Households	2,586		1,482		1,104	74.5	
Owners	290	11.2	170	11.5	120	70.6	-0.3
Renters	2,296	88.8	1,312	88.5	984	75.0	

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

Latino-headed households are much more likely to rent than to own their home, 88.8% versus 11.2%, and there has been a 0.3% decrease in home ownership since 1990 (see table 3). This is much lower than the state average of 60%. Although there has been a small growth in the proportion of non-family households, it is still true that most Latinos, 80.5%, live in family households (see table 4). Married couples with children represent 31.3% of Latino-headed households, more than the Rhode Island average of 21.9%. Families made up of a single female with children account for 24.2% of Latino households, which is greater than the state average of 8.6%, but less than it was in 1990.

Table 4

Central Falls - Family Structure						
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth Percent	Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Families:	2,082	80.5	1,203	81.2	73.1	-0.7
with related children ^a :						
Married Couple, with children	809	31.3	432	29.1	87.3	2.1
Female Head, with children	625	24.2	376	25.4	66.2	-1.2
Male Head, with children	150	5.8	90	6.1	66.7	-0.3
without related children:						
Married Couple, no children	269	10.4	152	10.3	77.0	0.1
Single, no children	229	8.9	153	10.3	49.7	-1.5
Non-Family Household	504	19.5	279	18.8	80.6	0.7
Total Households	2,586		1,482		74.5	

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.

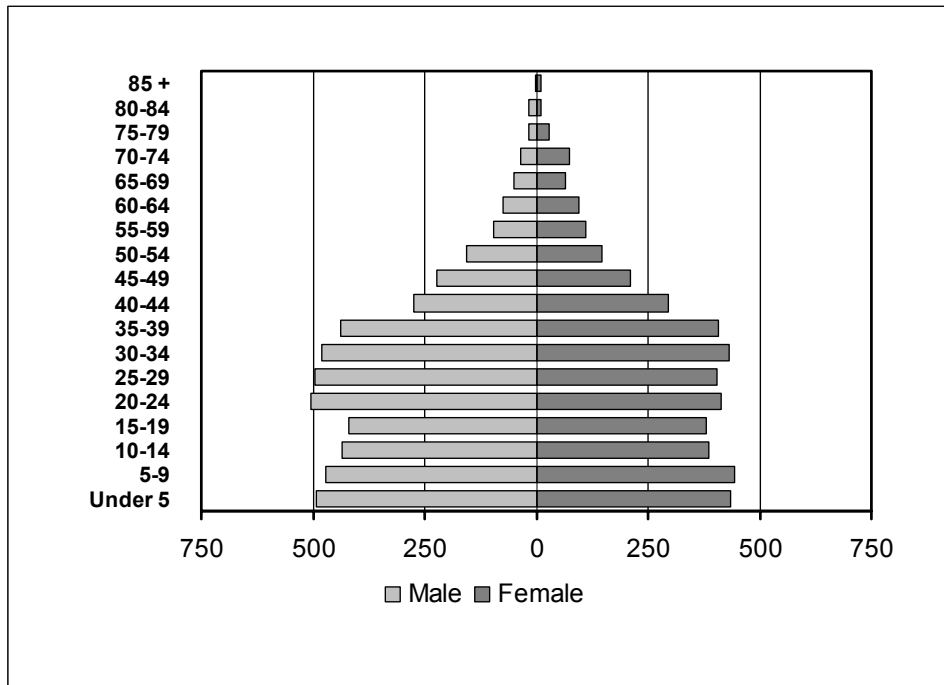
1990(b): 1990 Census Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Sample Data.

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

Notes:

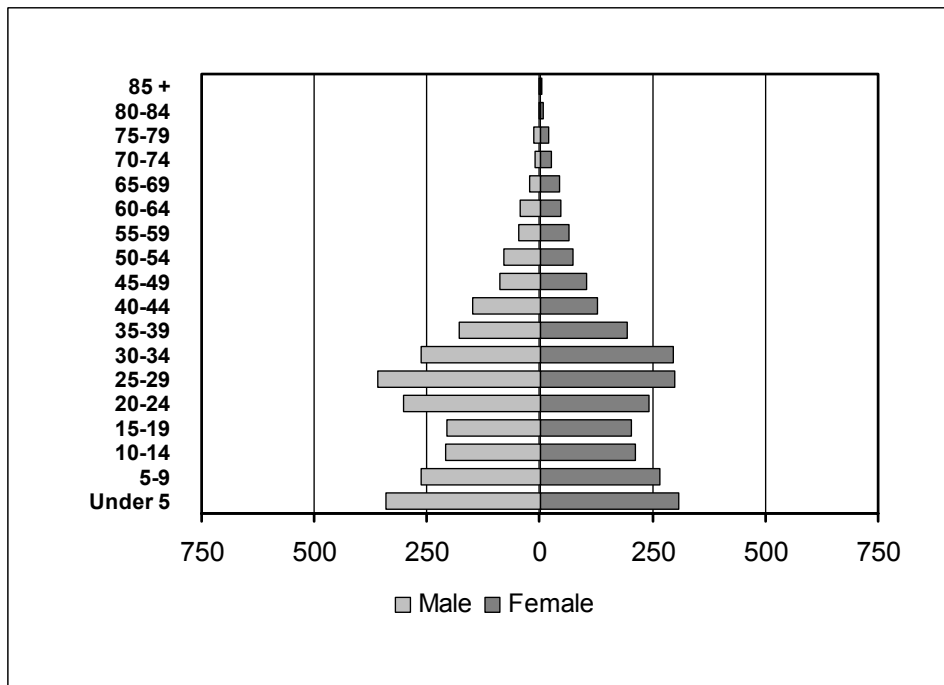
¹ Sample data from 1990 are based on the “Long Form” files. About one person or household in six receives the Long Form Census. The estimates from there do not match the enumerations in the 100% or “Short Form” data. There are sources of error in any census or survey; however the estimates here are accurate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

Figure 2
Central Falls - Age Profile 2000



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

Figure 3
Central Falls - Age Profile 1990



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

The age composition of Latinos in Central Falls 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 Central Falls and in the rest of the country remains relatively young, it is older than it was in 1990. In 2000, 38.4% of Latinos were younger than 20, just slightly fewer than the 39.2% in 1990 (see table 5). The Latino median age of 25.8 is much younger than the overall Rhode Island median age of 36.7. 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

Central Falls - Latinos by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 10 years	1,842	20.4	1,176	23.0	56.6
10-19	1,624	18.0	829	16.2	95.9
20-29	1,821	20.1	1,203	23.5	51.4
30-39	1,758	19.4	930	18.2	89.0
40-49	1,002	11.1	470	9.2	113.2
50-59	511	5.7	266	5.2	92.1
60-69	284	3.1	157	3.1	80.9
70 and over	199	2.2	88	1.7	126.1
Total	9,041		5,119		76.6
Median Age	25.8		25.1		

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

Table 6

Central Falls - Latino Males by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 10 years	964	20.6	602	23.4	60.1
10-19	857	18.3	414	16.1	107.0
20-29	1,001	21.4	661	25.6	51.4
30-39	917	19.6	440	17.1	108.4
40-49	495	10.6	238	9.2	108.0
50-59	251	5.4	126	4.9	99.2
60-69	123	2.6	68	2.6	80.9
70 and over	71	1.5	28	1.1	153.6
Total	4,679		2,577		81.6
Median Age	25.1		24.6		

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

Table 7

Central Falls - Latina Females by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 10 years	878	20.1	574	22.6	53.0
10-19	767	17.6	415	16.3	84.8
20-29	820	18.8	542	21.3	51.3
30-39	841	19.3	490	19.3	71.6
40-49	507	11.6	232	9.1	118.5
50-59	260	6.0	140	5.5	85.7
60-69	161	3.7	89	3.5	80.9
70 and over	128	2.9	60	2.4	113.3
Total	4,362		2,542		71.6
Median Age	26.6		25.6		

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