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### Latinos in Woonsocket, Rhode Island

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The Mauricio Gastón Institute  
for Latino Community Development  
and Public Policy

# Latinos in Woonsocket | 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 Woonsocket, 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), which actually shrank. The total population of Woonsocket decreased by 1.5%, but its composition changed substantially. Latinos had a larger numerical growth than any other group, increasing by 2,874 or 248.6%. Latinos now represent 9.3% of the population, an increase of 6.7 percentage points and the largest gain of any group. Woonsocket has the fourth largest population of Latinos in Rhode Island and the 40<sup>th</sup> largest in the New England states. As a percentage of the total population, the Latino population in Woonsocket ranks fourth in the state.

Table 1

Woonsocket - Growth by Ethnicity								
	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Hispanic or Latino	4,030	9.3	1,156	2.6	2,874	248.6	6.7	
White	34,503	79.8	40,190	91.6	-5,687	-14.2	-11.8	
Black or African American	1,692	3.9	1,123	2.6	569	50.7	1.4	
American Indian and Alaska Native	98	0.2	73	0.2	25	34.2	0.1	
Asian <sup>a</sup>	1,733	4.0	1,284	2.9	460	35.8	1.1	
Pacific Islander <sup>a</sup>	11	0.0						
Some other race	89	0.2	51	0.1	38	74.5	0.1	
Two or more races <sup>b</sup>	708	1.6						
Total	43,224		43,877		-653	-1.5		

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.

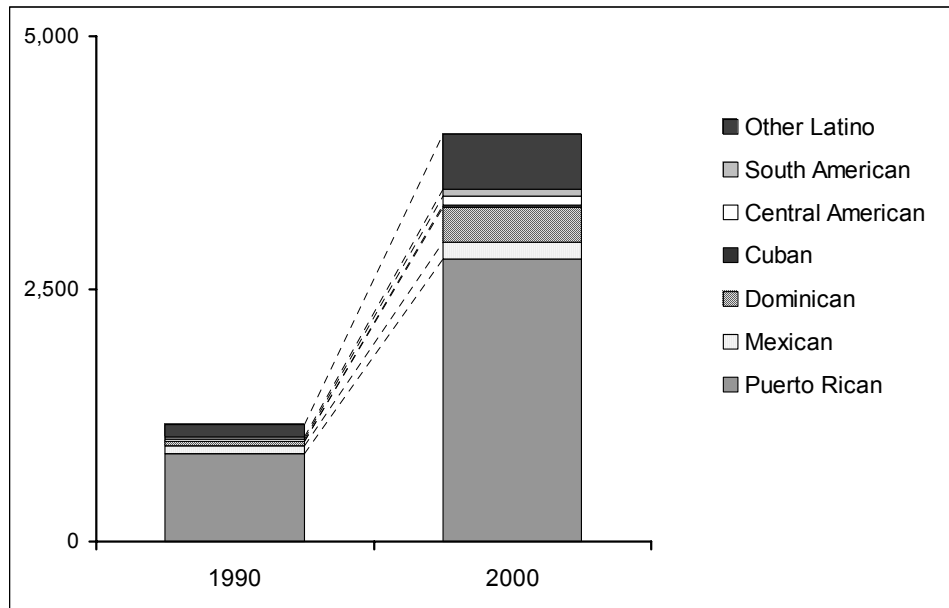
Table 2

Woonsocket - National Origin of Latinos						
	2000		1990 <sup>a</sup>		Growth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	4,030		1,153		2,877	249.5
Mexican	168	4.2	79	6.9	89	112.7
Puerto Rican	2,798	69.4	873	75.7	1,925	220.5
Cuban	22	0.5	0	0.0	22	-
Dominican Republic	343	8.5	41	3.6	302	736.6
Other Central American	86	2.1	24	2.1	62	258.3
Other South American	65	1.6	18	1.6	47	261.1
Other Hispanic or Latino	548	13.6	118	10.2	430	364.4

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  
Woonsocket - 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 Woonsocket is Puerto Rican, at 69.4%, followed by “Other” Latinos and Dominicans. “Other” Latinos were among fastest-growing population, growing by 364.4%, 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

Woonsocket - Households by Tenure							
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total Households	1,132		343		789	230.0	
Owners	78	6.9	31	9.0	47	151.6	-2.1
Renters	1,054	93.1	312	91.0	742	237.8	

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

Latino-headed households are much more likely to rent than to own their home, 93.1% versus 6.9%, and there has been a 2.1% 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, 82.2%, live in family households (see table 4). Married couples with children represent 23.9% of Latino-headed households, slightly more than the Rhode Island average of 21.9%. Families made up of a single female with children account for 41.9% of Latino households, which is greater than the state average of 8.6%, and greater than it was in 1990.

Table 4

<b>Woonsocket - Family Structure</b>						
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth Percent	Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Families:	931	82.2	261	76.1	256.7	6.2
with related children <sup>a</sup> :						
Married Couple, with children	270	23.9	76	22.2	255.3	1.7
Female Head, with children	474	41.9	120	35.0	295.0	6.9
Male Head, with children	58	5.1	14	4.1	314.3	1.0
without related children:						
Married Couple, no children	73	6.4	39	11.4	87.2	-4.9
Single, no children	56	4.9	12	3.5	366.7	1.4
Non-Family Household	201	17.8	82	23.9	145.1	-6.2
Total Households	1,132		343		230.0	

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

<sup>a</sup> 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.

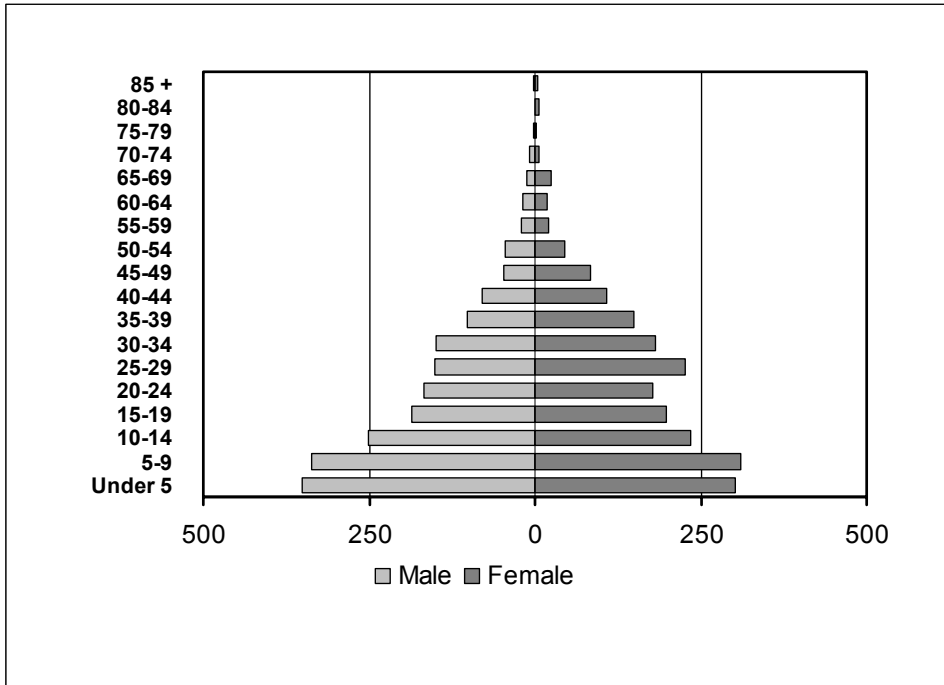
1990(b): 1990 Census Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Sample Data.

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

*Notes:*

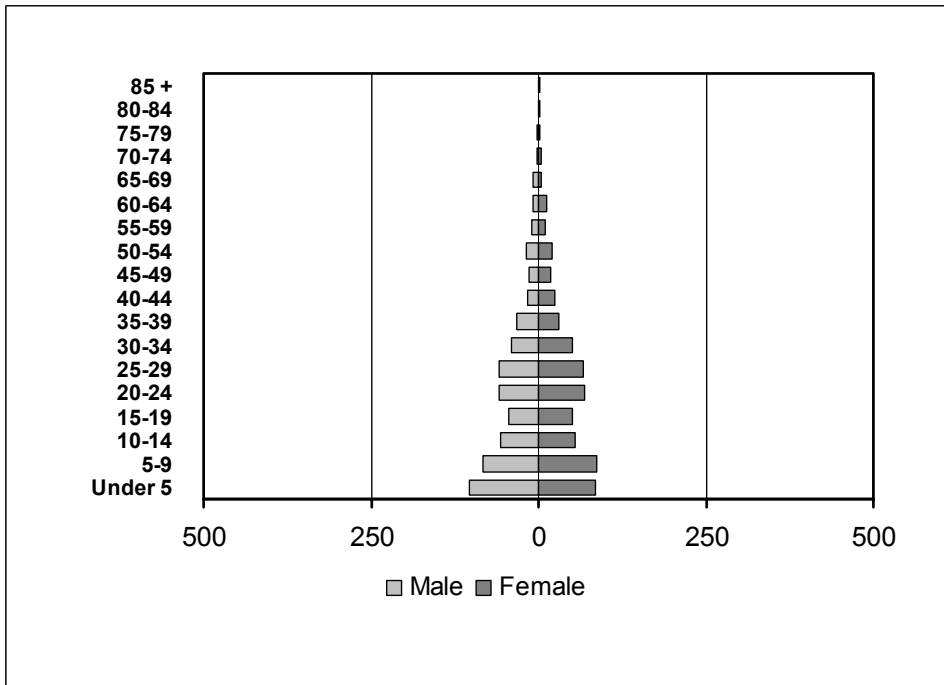
<sup>1</sup> Sample data from 1990 are based on the “Long Form” files. About one person or household in six receives the Long Form Census. The estimates from there do not match the enumerations in the 100% or “Short Form” data. There are sources of error in any census or survey, however the estimates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

Figure 2  
Woonsocket - Age Profile 2000



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

Figure 3  
Woonsocket - Age Profile 1990



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

The age composition of Latinos in Woonsocket 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 Woonsocket and in the rest of the country remains relatively young, it is older than it was in 1990. In 2000, 53.9% of Latinos were younger than 20, greater than the 48.9% in 1990 (see table 5). The Latino median age of 17.9 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

<b>Woonsocket - 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	1,300	32.3	359	31.1	262.1
10-19	870	21.6	206	17.8	322.3
20-29	723	17.9	253	21.9	185.8
30-39	583	14.5	155	13.4	276.1
40-49	318	7.9	73	6.3	335.6
50-59	131	3.3	59	5.1	122.0
60-69	73	1.8	33	2.9	121.2
70 and over	32	0.8	18	1.6	77.8
Total	4,030		1,156		248.6
Median Age	17.9		20.6		

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

Table 6

<b>Woonsocket - 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	688	35.6	187	33.5	267.9
10-19	438	22.7	101	18.1	333.7
20-29	319	16.5	117	20.9	172.6
30-39	252	13.1	73	13.1	245.2
40-49	126	6.5	31	5.5	306.5
50-59	65	3.4	29	5.2	124.1
60-69	30	1.6	16	2.9	87.5
70 and over	13	0.7	5	0.9	160.0
Total	1,931		559		245.4
Median Age	15.7		19.2		

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

Table 7

<b>Woonsocket - 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	612	29.2	172	28.8	255.8
10-19	432	20.6	105	17.6	311.4
20-29	404	19.2	136	22.8	197.1
30-39	331	15.8	82	13.7	303.7
40-49	192	9.1	42	7.0	357.1
50-59	66	3.1	30	5.0	120.0
60-69	43	2.0	17	2.8	152.9
70 and over	19	0.9	13	2.2	46.2
Total	2,099		597		251.6
Median Age	20.2		21.5		

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