

4-2002

Latinos in Massachusetts

Charles Jones
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

Jones, Charles, "Latinos in Massachusetts" (2002). *Gastón Institute Publications*. 102.
https://scholarworks.umb.edu/gaston_pubs/102

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 Massachusetts

by Charles Jones, Research Associate

PART OF A SERIES OF PROFILES OF LATINOS IN NEW ENGLAND | APRIL 2002

The Mauricio Gastón Institute at 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 process. In an effort to present vital information about Latinos to various 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 includes 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 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 Massachusetts, the general population changes from 1990 to 2000 were like national and New England trends. The population of people of color - African

Americans, Asians, Latinos, Native Americans and Pacific Islanders - all grew at a higher rate than did the population of Non-Hispanic Whites, which actually shrank in the Commonwealth. While the total population increased by 5.5%, its composition changed substantially. Latinos had a larger numerical growth than any other group, adding 141,180 or 49.1%, though both Asians and Others had a higher percent increase. Latinos now represent 6.8% of the population, an increase of 2 percentage points and the largest gain of any group. Massachusetts has the largest population of Latinos in New England and the 12th largest of the 50 states, though as a percent of the total, Massachusetts' Latino population ranks 20th in the nation and 3rd in New England.

Massachusetts - Growth by Ethnicity

	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Hispanic or Latino	428,729	6.8	287,549	4.8	141,180	49.1	2.0
White	5,198,359	81.9	5,280,292	87.8	81,933	1.6	5.9
Black or African American	318,329	5.0	274,464	4.6	43,865	16.0	0.5
American Indian and Alaska Native	11,264	0.2	10,545	0.2	719	6.8	0.0
Asian ^a	236,786	3.7	140,338	2.3	98,154	69.9	1.4
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander ^a	1,706	0.0					
Some other race	43,586	0.7	23,237	0.4	20,349	87.6	0.3
Two or more races ^b	110,338	1.7					
Total	6,349,097		6,016,425		332,672	5.5	

Source: 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 No equivalent category in the 1990 census

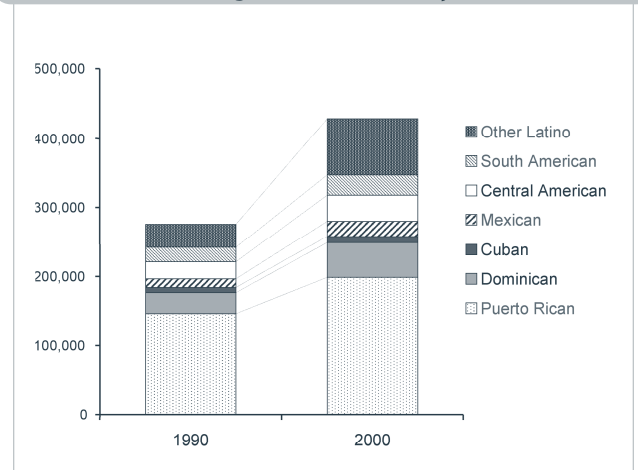
Massachusetts - National Origin of Latinos

	2000		1990 ^a		Growth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	428,729		275,859		152,870	55.4
Mexican	22,288	5.2	12,922	4.7	9,366	72.5
Puerto Rican	199,207	46.5	146,015	52.9	53,192	36.4
Cuban	8,867	2.1	7,621	2.8	1,246	16.3
Dominican Republic	49,913	11.6	30,177	10.9	19,736	65.4
Salvadoran	15,900	3.7	9,428	3.4	6,472	68.6
Guatemalan	11,437	2.7	6,953	2.5	4,484	64.5
Other Central American	10,980	2.6	7,503	2.7	3,477	46.3
Colombian	12,788	3.0	8,864	3.2	3,924	44.3
Other South American	15,248	3.6	12,559	4.6	2,689	21.4
Other Hispanic or Latino	82,101	19.1	33,817	12.3	48,284	142.8

Source: Census Bureau 2000, 1990(b)

^a 1990 figures for nationality are from sample data only and differ from population counts¹.

Growth and Change of the Latino Population



All Latino National groups grew significantly between 1990¹ and 2000. The largest group in Massachusetts is Puerto Rican, at 52.9%, followed by 'Other' and Dominican. 'Other' Latinos were the fastest growing population, growing by 142.8%, a trend seen across the U.S. A person is counted as 'Other' if they write in 'Spanish' or 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.

Massachusetts - Households by Tenure

Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth	Change
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	in Percent
Total Households	121,928		81,649		49.3	
Owners	26,609	21.8	15,296	18.7	74.0	3.1
Renters	95,319	78.2	66,353	81.3	43.7	

Source: Census Bureau 2000, 1990(a)

Latino headed households are much more likely to rent than to own their home (78.2 versus 21.8%), although there has been a 3.1% improvement since 1990. Still, this is much less than the state average of 61.7% household ownership. Although there has been a small growth in the proportion of non-family households, it is still true that most Latinos - 75% - live in family households. 25.2% of Latino headed households are a married couple with children, slightly more than the Massachusetts average of 23.3%. A single female with children makes up 26.7% of Latino households, more than the state average of 7.5% but a lower proportion than in 1990.

Massachusetts - Family Structure

Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth	Change
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Families:	91,481	75.0	62,613	76.7	46.1	-1.7
WITH RELATED CHILDREN: ^a						
Married Couple	30,709	25.2	20,371	24.9	50.7	0.2
Female Head	32,498	26.7	23,150	28.4	40.4	-1.7
Male Head	5,505	4.5	2,928	3.6	88.0	0.9
WITHOUT RELATED CHILDREN:						
Married Couple	13,636	11.2	10,201	12.5	33.7	-1.3
Single	9,133	7.5	5,963	7.3	53.2	0.2
Non-Family Household	30,447	25.0	19,036	23.3	59.9	1.7
Total Households	121,928		81,649		49.3	

Source: 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.

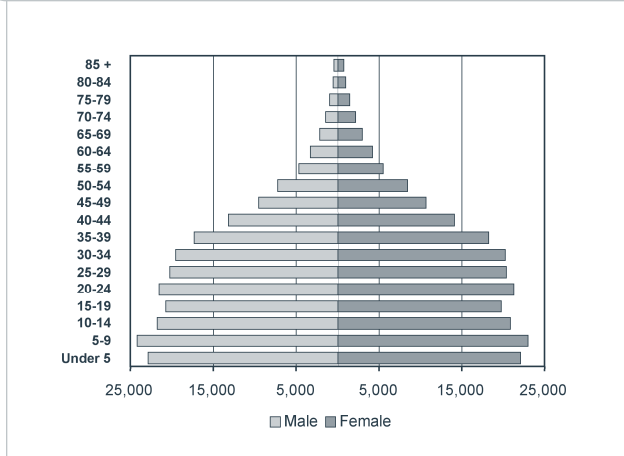
1990(b): 1990 Census Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Sample Data.

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

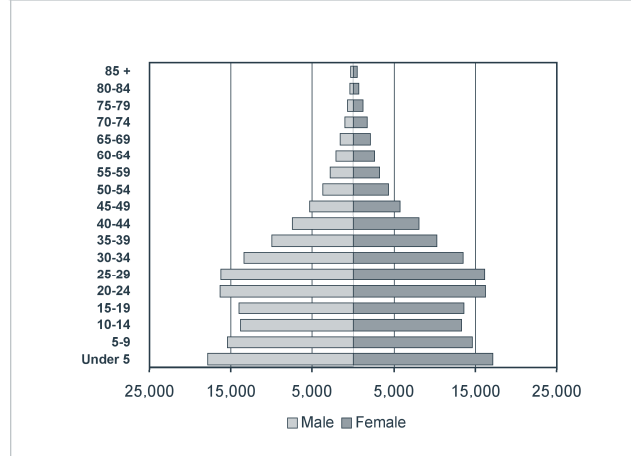
Notes:

¹ Sample data from 1990 is 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 many potential sources of error in any census or survey, however the estimates are accurate enough to note trends and patterns.

Age Profile 2000



Age Profile 1990



The population pyramids above show how the age composition of Latinos in Massachusetts has changed. Numerically, there has been an increase among all age groups, but especially in the middle years. Even though there are many more children, the overall shape shows a maturing population. Specific figures are in the tables below.

The Latino population in Massachusetts remains, like the rest of the country, relatively young, but is older than it was in 1990. 40.9% of Latinos are less than 20, just slightly fewer than the 41.6% in 1990. The Latino median age of 24.5 is much younger than the total Massachusetts median 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.

Massachusetts - Latinos by Age

	2000		1990		Growth Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 10 years	92,191	21.5	64,993	22.6	41.8
10-19	83,209	19.4	54,682	19.0	52.2
20-29	83,449	19.5	64,870	22.6	28.6
30-39	75,267	17.6	47,221	16.4	59.4
40-49	47,519	11.1	26,563	9.2	78.9
50-59	25,873	6.0	14,074	4.9	83.8
60-69	12,569	2.9	8,474	2.9	48.3
70 and over	8,652	2.0	6,672	2.3	29.7
Total	428,729		287,549		49.1
Median Age	24.5		23.7		

Massachusetts - Latino Males by Age

	2000		1990	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 10 years	47,121	22.3	33,243	23.3
10-19	42,515	20.1	27,813	19.5
20-29	41,861	19.8	32,507	22.8
30-39	36,814	17.4	23,441	16.5
40-49	22,716	10.7	12,754	9.0
50-59	11,892	5.6	6,473	4.5
60-69	5,428	2.6	3,721	2.6
70 and over	3,354	1.6	2,511	1.8
Total	211,701		142,463	
Median Age	23.7		23.1	

Massachusetts - Latina Females by Age

	2000		1990	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 10 years	45,070	20.8	31,750	21.9
10-19	40,694	18.8	26,869	18.5
20-29	41,588	19.2	32,363	22.0
30-39	38,453	17.7	23,780	16.4
40-49	24,803	11.4	13,809	9.5
50-59	13,981	6.4	7,601	5.2
60-69	7,141	3.3	4,753	3.3
70 and over	5,298	2.4	4,161	2.9
Total	217,028		145,086	
Median Age	25.4		24.3	

Source: Census Bureau 2000, 1990(a), 1992

Latinos in the United States

- The population of the 50 United States grew by 13.2% between 1990 and 2000, to over 281 million people.
- The U.S. Latino population grew by 57.9%, or nearly 13 million more people. This is by far the largest numerical growth of any racial or ethnic group.
- People of Mexican or Mexican American origin continue to make up a majority of Latinos in the U.S., but by a smaller margin than in 1990.
- 'Other' Latinos were the fastest growing population, increasing by 223% and now constituting 17.6% of the total Latino population.
- 45.7% of Latino-headed households own their home, 3.3% more than in 1990 but significantly less than the national average of 66.2% homeownership.
- 80% of Latino households are families, compared to 68% of all U.S. households. The composition of Latino households is similar to the way it was in 1990.
- The U.S. Latino population is still very young; the median age of 25.8 is nearly 10 years less than a total U.S. median age of 35.3.

United States - Growth by Ethnicity

	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Hispanic or Latino	35,305,818	12.5	22,354,059	9.0	12,951,759	57.9	3.6
White	194,552,774	69.1	188,128,296	75.6	6,424,478	3.4	-6.5
Black or African American	33,974,837	12.1	29,216,293	11.7	4,758,544	16.3	0.3
American Indian and Alaska Native	2,068,883	0.7	1,793,773	0.7	275,110	15.3	0.0
Asian ^a	10,123,169	3.6	6,968,359	2.8	3,508,319	50.3	0.9
Pacific Islander ^a	353,509	0.1					
Some other race	467,770	0.2	249,093	0.1	218,677	87.8	0.1
Two or more races ^b	4,602,146	1.6					
Total	281,421,906		248,709,873		32,712,033	13.2	

Source: 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 No equivalent category in the 1990 census

United States - National Origin of Latinos

	2000		1990 ^a		Growth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	35,305,818	100.0	21,900,089	100.0	13,405,729	61.2
Mexican	20,640,711	58.5	13,393,208	61.2	7,247,503	54.1
Puerto Rican	3,406,178	9.6	2,651,815	12.1	754,363	28.4
Cuban	1,241,685	3.5	1,053,197	4.8	188,488	17.9
Dominican Republic	764,945	2.2	520,151	2.4	244,794	47.1
Central American	1,686,937	4.8	1,323,830	6.0	363,107	27.4
South American	1,353,562	3.8	1,035,602	4.7	317,960	30.7
Other Hispanic or Latino	6,211,800	17.6	1,922,286	8.8	4,289,514	223.1

Source: Census Bureau 2000, 1990(b)

^a 1990 figures for nationality are from sample data only and differ from population counts¹.

United States - Households by Tenure

Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth Percent	Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Total Households	9,222,402	100.0	6,001,718	100.0	53.7	
Owners	4,212,520	45.7	2,545,584	42.4	65.5	3.3
Renters	5,009,882	54.3	3,456,134	57.6	45.0	

Source: Census Bureau 2000, 1990(a)

United States - Family Structure

Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth Percent	Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Families:	7,381,950	80.0	4,789,261	79.8	54.1	0.2
WITH RELATED CHILDREN: ^a						
Married Couple	3,525,190	38.2	2,264,382	37.7	55.7	0.5
Female Head	1,258,742	13.6	800,431	13.0	57.3	0.3
Male Head	467,938	5.1	247,972	4.1	88.7	0.9
WITHOUT RELATED CHILDREN:						
Married Couple	1,448,094	15.7	1,033,190	17.2	40.2	-1.5
Single	681,986	7.4	443,286	7.4	53.8	0.0
Non-Family Household	1,840,452	20.0	1,212,457	20.2	51.8	-0.2
Total Households	9,222,402	100.0	6,001,718	100.0	53.7	

Source: Census Bureau 2000, 1990(a)

^a Own or related children under 18 only

United States - Latinos by Age

	2000		1990		Growth Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 10 years	7,341,654	20.8	4,581,376	20.5	60.2
10-19	6,335,058	17.9	4,055,574	18.1	56.2
20-29	6,794,761	19.2	4,645,680	20.8	46.3
30-39	5,950,059	16.9	3,723,029	16.7	59.8
40-49	4,079,320	11.6	2,238,178	10.0	82.3
50-59	2,320,968	6.6	1,395,297	6.2	66.3
60-69	1,349,760	3.8	989,899	4.4	36.4
70 and over	1,134,238	3.2	725,026	3.2	56.4
Total	35,305,818		22,354,059		57.9
Median Age	25.8		25.5		

Source: Census Bureau 2000, 1990(a), 1992