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## Latinos in Lawrence: Poverty, Income, Education, Employment, and Housing

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# Latinos in Lawrence

## Poverty, Income, Education, Employment, and Housing

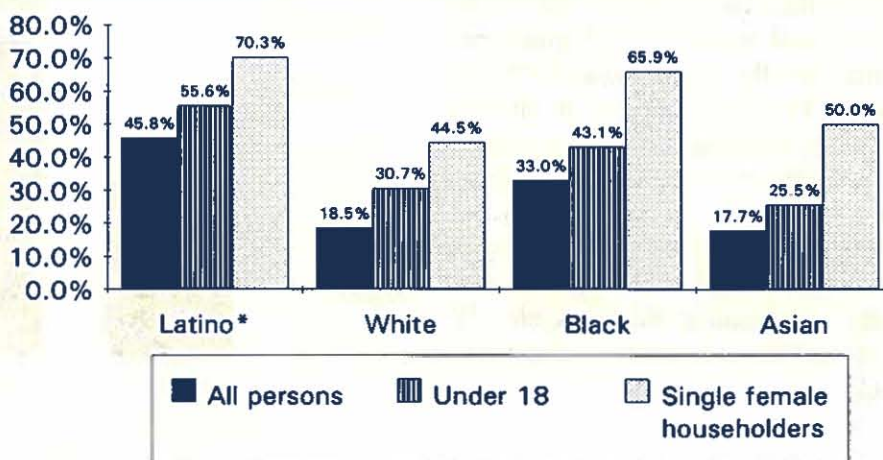
Part two of a series of profiles of Latinos in Massachusetts completed with support from The Boston Foundation

The Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy was established at the University of Massachusetts Boston in December of 1989. The creation of the Gastón Institute responds to the need for better understanding of the experience and conditions of life of Latinos in the Commonwealth. Its purpose is to conduct research about the Latino population in Massachusetts and to develop the kind of information and analysis necessary for the development of sound public policy and for the effective participation of the Latino population in public policy development in the Commonwealth. In an effort to facilitate the access to vital information about Latinos to various audiences, and with support from the Boston Foundation, the Gastón Institute has produced a series of basic demographic profiles for selected cities in the Commonwealth based on the 1990 U.S. Census of Population and Housing (Massachusetts Summary Tape File 3A, produced by the U.S. Bureau of the Census). These profiles are but one part of a broader initiative to disseminate the 1990 U.S. Census and to address other relevant aspects of the social and economic situation of Latinos in the Commonwealth.



Latinos had the largest proportion of persons with income below the poverty level, 45.8%. The poverty rate for Latinos is almost two and one-half times that of whites (18.5%) and Asians (17.7%) and higher than the rate for blacks (33.0%). Of those Latinos under the age of 18, 55.6% had income below the poverty level. In particular, the rate of poverty was greatest among those Latino children under 5 years of age.

**Lawrence: Select Poverty Rates by Race and Ethnicity in 1989**



Universe: Persons for whom poverty status is determined and families headed by single females  
 \*Latino may be of any race

**Lawrence: Poverty Status by Age and Race and Ethnicity in 1989**

Persons Below Poverty	Latino*	Poverty Rate	Total**	Poverty Rate	White	Poverty Rate	Black	Poverty Rate	Asian	Poverty Rate
Total below poverty level	13,329	45.8%	18,946	27.5%	8,262	18.5%	1,459	33.0%	212	17.7%
Under 5 years	2,427	62.5%	3,127	45.4%	1,087	30.1%	198	43.0%	31	41.3%
5 years	451	62.5%	587	48.0%	209	35.4%	37	48.7%	20	32.3%
6 to 11 years	2,504	53.7%	3,165	42.7%	1,229	33.9%	226	35.6%	39	21.7%
12 to 17 years	1,873	49.6%	2,443	37.0%	981	27.2%	285	50.9%	16	16.3%
18 to 64 years	5,866	37.9%	8,356	21.7%	3,620	14.3%	695	27.0%	81	11.1%
65 to 74 years	122	32.0%	588	12.6%	493	11.3%	18	22.0%	8	29.6%
75 years and over	86	43.7%	680	19.4%	643	19.0%	0	--	17	73.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,081</b>		<b>68,881</b>		<b>44,596</b>		<b>4,423</b>		<b>1,198</b>	

Universe: Persons for whom poverty is determined

\*Latino may be of any race

\*\*Total includes Native Americans and Other Races



### Lawrence: Poverty Status by Family Type, by Race and Ethnicity, with Presence and Age of Children, in 1989

Families	Latino*	Poverty rate	Total**	Poverty rate	White	Poverty rate	Black	Poverty rate	Asian	Poverty rate
Income below poverty level	3,189	46.8%	4,339	25.6%	1,798	16.0%	350	33.8%	38	15.7%
Married-couple family:	575	20.0%	893	8.7%	404	5.1%	64	12.0%	21	11.6%
With related children under 18 years	515	22.3%	724	13.1%	289	8.1%	64	15.9%	10	7.1%
No related children under 18 years	60	10.7%	169	3.6%	115	2.7%	0	--	11	26.8%
Male householder, no wife present:	234	42.3%	309	28.1%	149	24.0%	17	17.7%	0	--
With related children under 18 years	165	49.3%	205	39.1%	105	38.6%	0	--	0	--
No related children under 18 years	69	31.7%	104	18.0%	44	12.6%	17	24.3%	0	--
Female householder, no husband present:	2,380	70.3%	3,137	56.4%	1,245	44.5%	269	65.9%	17	50.0%
With related children under 18 years	2,233	73.1%	2,905	67.0%	1,091	59.5%	244	69.1%	17	58.6%
No related children under 18 years	147	44.4%	232	19.0%	154	16.0%	25	45.5%	0	--
<b>Total Families</b>	<b>6,810</b>		<b>16,939</b>		<b>11,264</b>		<b>1,036</b>		<b>242</b>	

Universe: Families

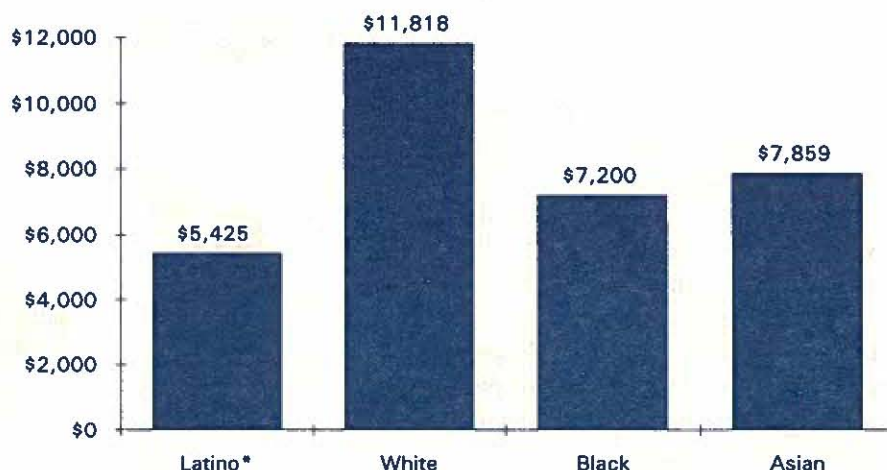
\*Latino may be of any race

\*\*Total includes Native Americans and Other Races



Among Latino families, 46.8% had incomes below the poverty level in 1989, almost three times greater than white (16.0%) and Asian (15.7%) families and higher than the poverty level for black families (33.8%). However, in all race and ethnicity groups (except for Asians) the majority of those families with income below the poverty level were single female households. For Latino families, 73.1% of single female households with related children under 18 years had incomes below the poverty level.

### Lawrence: Per Capita Income by Race and Ethnicity in 1989



Universe: Persons

\*Latino may be of any race

### Lawrence: Household Income by Race and Ethnicity in 1989

Household Income	Latino *	Total**	White	Black	Asian
Less than \$5,000	1,146	2,366	1,522	171	24
\$5,000 to \$9,999	1,929	4,690	3,115	203	37
\$10,000 to \$14,999	838	2,085	1,406	83	9
\$15,000 to \$24,999	1,386	4,011	2,842	205	30
\$25,000 to \$34,999	1,025	3,272	2,301	295	68
\$35,000 to \$49,999	812	3,847	3,088	234	48
\$50,000 to \$74,999	529	2,745	2,299	81	56
\$75,000 to \$99,999	58	773	716	13	6
\$100,000 and more	38	268	243	7	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,761</b>	<b>24,057</b>	<b>17,532</b>	<b>1,292</b>	<b>280</b>

Universe: Households

Median household income in Lawrence: \$22,183

\*Latino may be of any race

\*\*Total includes Native Americans and Other Races



While median income for households in Massachusetts in 1989 was \$36,952, the median income in Lawrence was \$22,183. In 1989, the per capita income of Latinos in Lawrence was \$5,425 lower than any other race or ethnic group. Blacks and Asians had a slightly higher per capita income, \$7,200 and \$7,859 respectively. Whites had the highest per capita income, \$11,818.

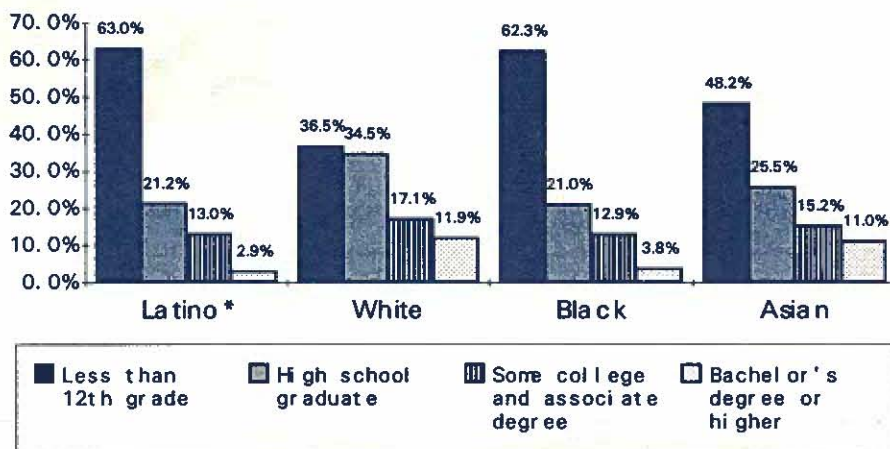


In 1990, 63.0% of the Latinos and 62.3% of blacks in the city of Lawrence had not received a high school diploma. At higher levels of education, 13.0% of Latinos attended some college or received an associate degree. However, only 2.9% received a bachelor's, professional, or graduate degree. Overall, the educational attainment of the Latino and black populations lagged the other race or ethnic groups.



**Lawrence: Educational Attainment by Race and Ethnicity in 1990**

Educational Attainment	Latino*	Total**	White	Black	Asian
Less than 9th grade	4,124	8,588	5,251	712	168
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	3,680	8,707	5,636	656	117
High school graduate	2,631	12,445	10,277	461	151
Some college, no degree	1,181	4,765	3,731	215	39
Associate degree	426	1,789	1,349	69	51
Bachelor's degree	254	2,585	2,334	19	63
Graduate or professional	100	1,330	1,215	64	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,396</b>	<b>40,209</b>	<b>29,793</b>	<b>2,196</b>	<b>591</b>



Universe: Persons 25 years old and over

\*Latino may be of any race

\*\*Total includes Native Americans and Other Races

**Lawrence: Employment Status by Race and Ethnicity in 1990**

Persons	Latino*	Total**	White	Black	Asian
<b>Male</b>	<b>8,022</b>	<b>23,201</b>	<b>16,268</b>	<b>1,631</b>	<b>413</b>
Employed	4,413	13,649	9,842	815	236
Unemployed	1,430	2,532	1,359	262	26
Armed forces	11	39	23	11	0
Not in labor force	2,168	6,981	5,044	543	151
Participation Rate	72.8%	69.7%	68.9%	66.0%	63.4%
Unemployment Rate	24.4%	15.6%	12.1%	24.1%	9.9%
<b>Female</b>	<b>9,424</b>	<b>26,855</b>	<b>19,061</b>	<b>1,386</b>	<b>401</b>
Employed	3,583	11,995	9,034	595	218
Unemployed	1,223	1,998	1,025	181	12
Armed forces	0	12	12	0	0
Not in labor force	4,618	12,850	8,990	610	171
Participation Rate	51.0%	52.1%	52.8%	56.0%	57.4%
Unemployment Rate	25.4%	14.3%	10.2%	23.3%	5.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,446</b>	<b>50,056</b>	<b>35,329</b>	<b>3,017</b>	<b>814</b>
Employed	7,996	25,644	18,876	1,410	454
Unemployed	2,653	4,530	2,384	443	38
Armed forces	11	51	35	11	0
Not in labor force	6,786	19,831	14,034	1,153	322
Participation Rate	61.0%	60.3%	60.2%	61.4%	60.4%
Unemployment Rate	24.9%	15.0%	11.2%	23.8%	7.7%

Universe: Persons 16 years and over

\*Latino may be of any race

\*\*Total includes Native Americans and Other Races

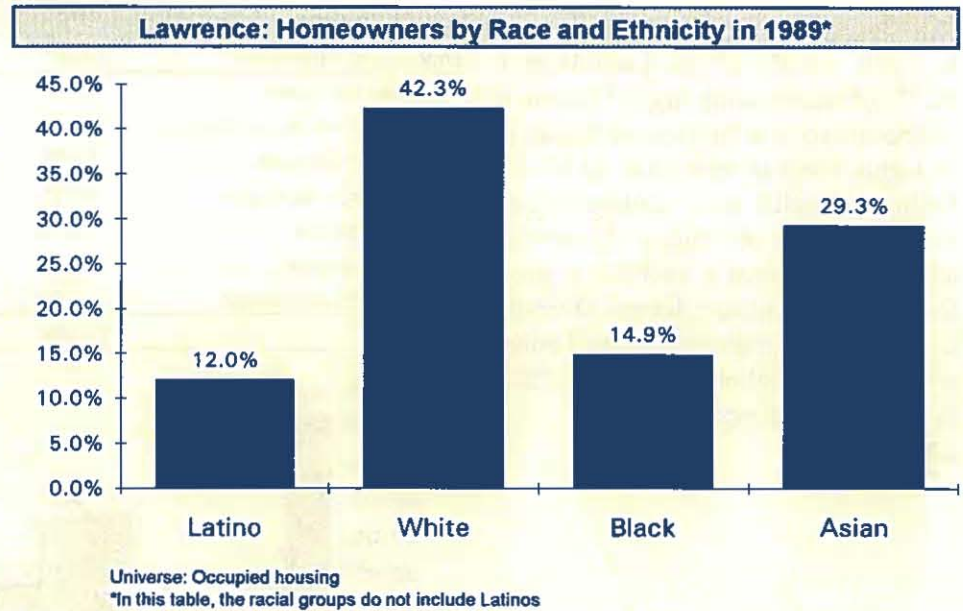


In 1990, Latinos constituted 35.3% of the Lawrence labor force. Of the 10,649 Latinos in the labor force (employed plus unemployed), 4,806 were females and 5,843 were males. The labor force participation rate for Latino men in 1990 was 72.8%, higher than any other group. Their unemployment rate was 24.4%; this proportion is higher than any other group. Latina women also had the highest unemployment rate (25.4%) and lowest participation rate (51.0%) of any other group of women.





In 1989, only 12.0% of Latino households were homeowners, compared to 42.3% of white, 14.9% of black, and 29.3% of Asian householders. The majority of Latino householders, 88.0%, rented their dwelling.



**Lawrence: Mortgage Status by Race and Ethnicity in 1989**

Mortgage Payments	Latino*	Total**	White	Black	Asian
Less than \$300	0	32	32	0	0
\$300 to \$499	19	317	300	0	9
\$500 to \$999	177	1,094	986	8	13
\$1,000 or more	199	1,137	938	46	56
Not mortgaged:	0	1,820	1,820	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>4,076</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>78</b>

Universe: Specified owner-occupied housing units include only one-family houses, on fewer than 10 acres, without a business or medical office on property

\*Latino may be of any race

\*\*Total includes Native Americans and Other Races



Of those with a mortgage, 50.4% of the Latinos in Lawrence had a mortgage of over \$1,000; 23.0% of whites, 85.2% of blacks, and 71.8% of Asians had a mortgage over \$1,000.



Of those in renter-occupied housing units, 32.5% of the Latinos paid less than \$500 monthly compared to 41.7% of whites, 28.7% of blacks, and 26.1% of Asians. The majority of Latino renters (4,451) paid a gross rent of \$500 to \$999 a month; only 1.2% of Latinos paid a monthly rent of over \$1,000, while 1.5% of whites and 0.9% of blacks paid over \$1,000.

**Lawrence: Amount of Gross Rent by Race and Ethnicity for 1989**

Gross Rent per Month	Latino	Total*	White	Black	Asian
Less than \$300	1,171	3,255	2,278	128	22
\$300 to \$499	1,029	3,063	2,218	161	41
\$500 to \$999	4,451	9,705	5,936	697	178
\$1,000 or more	81	251	167	9	0
No cash rent	32	203	175	11	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,764</b>	<b>16,477</b>	<b>10,774</b>	<b>1,006</b>	<b>241</b>

Universe: Specified renter-occupied housing  
\*Total includes Native Americans and Other Races