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### Latinos in New Bedford: Poverty, Income, Education, Employment, and Housing

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# Latinos in New Bedford

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

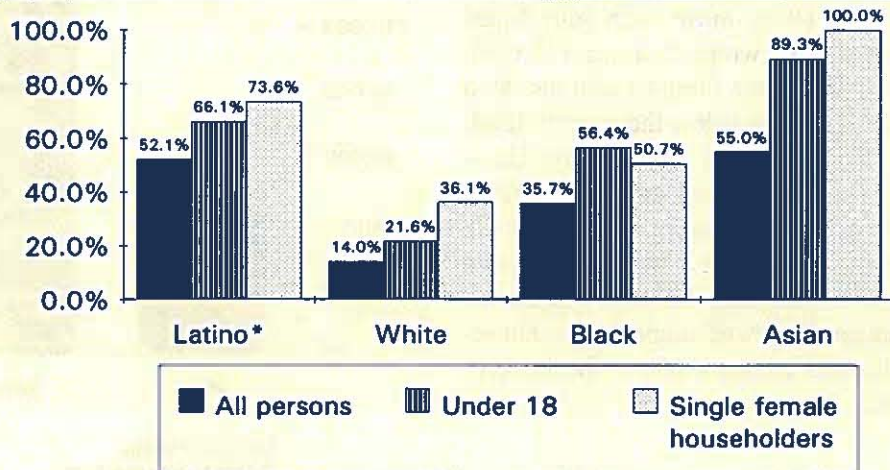
Part two of a series of profiles of Latinos in Massachusetts completed with support from The Boston Foundation

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 and Asians had the largest proportion of persons with income below the poverty level, 52.1% and 55.0% respectively. The poverty rate for Latinos is more than three and one-half times that of whites (14.0%) and higher than the rate for blacks (35.7%). Of those Latinos under the age of 18, 66.1% had income below the poverty level. In particular, the rate of poverty was greatest among those Latino children under 11 years of age.

**New Bedford: 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

**New Bedford: 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	2,880	52.1%	16,430	16.8%	12,036	14.0%	1,329	35.7%	183	55.0%
Under 5 years	537	71.7%	2,292	30.8%	1,525	24.8%	220	53.5%	36	76.6%
5 years	138	68.3%	459	33.3%	307	27.3%	51	64.6%	0	--
6 to 11 years	489	68.6%	2,114	25.8%	1,361	20.0%	283	62.9%	21	100.0%
12 to 17 years	425	57.4%	1,824	23.4%	1,231	19.1%	180	49.9%	35	100.0%
18 to 64 years	1,269	42.6%	7,636	13.4%	5,694	11.4%	540	25.6%	91	40.8%
65 to 74 years	18	18.9%	976	10.4%	891	10.2%	18	9.9%	0	--
75 years and over	4	8.2%	1,129	16.4%	1,027	15.8%	37	27.2%	0	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,529</b>		<b>97,908</b>		<b>85,935</b>		<b>3,724</b>		<b>333</b>	

Universe: Persons for whom poverty is determined

\*Latino may be of any race

\*\*Total includes Native Americans and Other Races



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

Families	Latino *	Poverty rate	Total**	Poverty rate	White	Poverty rate	Black	Poverty rate	Asian	Poverty rate
Income below poverty level	722	51.5%	3,903	14.6%	2,813	12.0%	334	32.2%	30	58.8%
Married-couple family:	158	25.2%	1,103	5.7%	918	5.1%	42	9.7%	21	55.3%
With related children under 18 years	140	31.2%	653	7.4%	485	6.0%	42	18.8%	21	55.3%
No related children under 18 years	18	10.1%	450	4.4%	433	4.4%	0	--	0	--
Male householder, no wife present:	60	66.7%	247	22.6%	187	21.2%	28	33.3%	0	--
With related children under 18 years	50	72.5%	177	33.7%	133	32.6%	28	48.3%	0	--
No related children under 18 years	10	47.6%	70	12.3%	54	11.4%	0	--	0	--
Female householder, no husband present:	504	73.6%	2,553	40.1%	1,708	36.1%	264	50.7%	9	100.0%
With related children under 18 years	476	79.3%	2,416	55.9%	1,633	53.5%	251	60.3%	9	100.0%
No related children under 18 years	28	32.9%	137	6.7%	75	4.4%	13	12.4%	0	--
<b>Total Families</b>	<b>1,403</b>		<b>26,677</b>		<b>23,492</b>		<b>1,037</b>		<b>51</b>	

Universe: Families

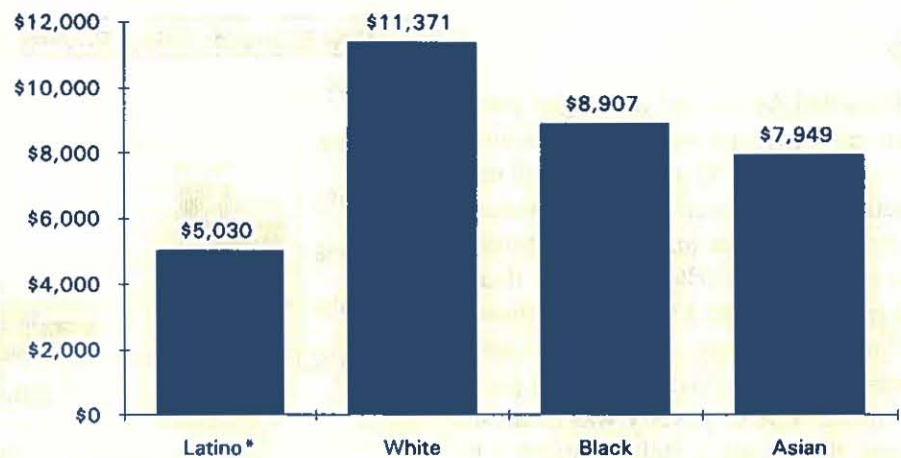
\*Latino may be of any race

\*\*Total includes Native Americans and Other Races



Among Latino families in New Bedford, 51.5% had income below the poverty level in 1989, more than four times greater than white families (12.0%). Black and Asian families also had high rates of income below the poverty level, 32.2% and 58.8% respectively. However, in all race and ethnicity groups, except Asians, the majority of those families below the poverty level were single female householders. For Latino families, 73.6% of single female households had incomes below the poverty level.

### New Bedford: Per Capita Income by Race and Ethnicity in 1989



Universe: Persons

\*Latino may be of any race

### New Bedford: Household Income by Race and Ethnicity in 1989

Household Income	Latino *	Total**	White	Black	Asian
Less than \$5,000	265	2,562	2,095	180	13
\$5,000 to \$9,999	517	7,264	6,117	321	19
\$10,000 to \$14,999	241	4,280	3,788	169	15
\$15,000 to \$24,999	292	6,678	5,871	294	11
\$25,000 to \$34,999	187	6,206	5,614	212	11
\$35,000 to \$49,999	130	6,325	5,812	160	17
\$50,000 to \$74,999	47	4,054	3,765	117	9
\$75,000 to \$99,999	13	889	846	10	0
\$100,000 and more	0	388	367	13	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,692</b>	<b>38,646</b>	<b>34,275</b>	<b>1,476</b>	<b>95</b>

Universe: Households

Median household income in New Bedford: \$22,647

\*Latino may be of any race

\*\*Total includes Native Americans and Other Races



While the Massachusetts median household income in 1989 was \$36,952, the median income for New Bedford was \$22,647. In 1989, the per capita income of Latinos in New Bedford was \$5,030, lower than any other race or ethnic group. Blacks and Asians had a higher per capita income, \$8,907 and \$7,949 respectively. Whites had the highest per capita income, \$11,371.

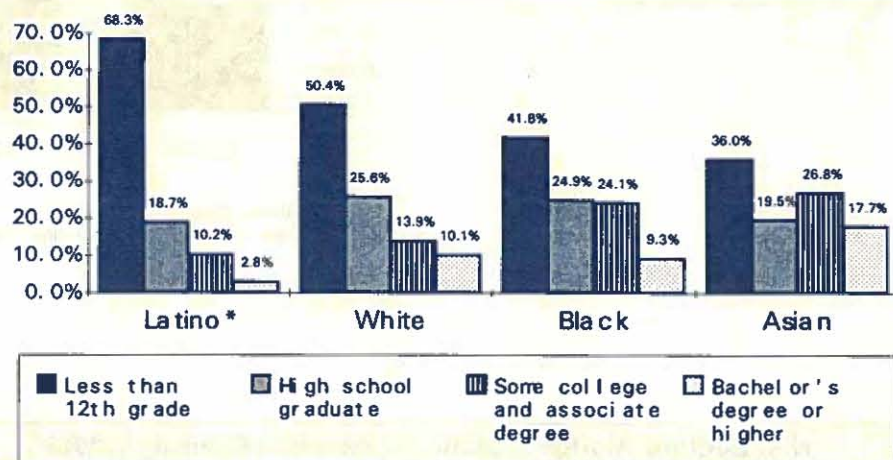


In 1990, 68.3% of the Latinos in the city of New Bedford had not received a high school diploma. This proportion was higher than any other race or ethnic group. At higher levels of education, 10.2% of Latinos attended some college or received an associate degree. However, only 2.8% received a bachelor's, professional, or graduate degree. Overall, the educational attainment of the Latino population lagged the other race or ethnic groups.



**New Bedford: Educational Attainment by Race and Ethnicity in 1990**

Educational Attainment	Latino*	Total**	White	Black	Asian
Less than 9th grade	989	20,046	18,367	374	27
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	572	12,451	10,888	520	32
High school graduate	428	16,492	14,892	532	32
Some college, no degree	174	6,719	5,830	386	38
Associate degree	58	2,569	2,226	130	6
Bachelor's degree	32	4,446	4,110	170	5
Graduate or professional	32	1,831	1,746	28	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,285</b>	<b>64,554</b>	<b>58,059</b>	<b>2,140</b>	<b>164</b>



Universe: Persons 25 years old and over  
 \*Latino may be of any race  
 \*\*Total includes Native Americans and Other Races

**New Bedford: Employment Status by Race and Ethnicity in 1990**

Persons	Latino*	Total**	White	Black	Asian
<b>Male</b>	<b>1,509</b>	<b>35,262</b>	<b>31,597</b>	<b>1,305</b>	<b>163</b>
Employed	728	20,997	19,050	696	95
Unemployed	185	3,008	2,557	175	13
Armed forces	4	217	192	13	12
Not in labor force	592	11,040	9,798	421	43
Participation Rate	60.5%	68.1%	68.4%	66.7%	66.3%
Unemployment Rate	20.2%	12.4%	11.7%	19.8%	10.8%
<b>Female</b>	<b>1,881</b>	<b>42,240</b>	<b>37,668</b>	<b>1,297</b>	<b>100</b>
Employed	498	19,188	17,360	541	39
Unemployed	164	2,584	2,083	181	12
Armed forces	0	4	0	0	0
Not in labor force	1,219	20,464	18,225	575	49
Participation Rate	35.2%	51.5%	51.6%	55.7%	51.0%
Unemployment Rate	24.8%	11.9%	10.7%	25.1%	23.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,390</b>	<b>77,502</b>	<b>69,265</b>	<b>2,602</b>	<b>263</b>
Employed	1,226	40,185	36,410	1,237	134
Unemployed	349	5,592	4,640	356	25
Armed forces	4	221	192	13	12
Not in labor force	1,811	31,504	28,023	996	92
Participation Rate	46.5%	59.1%	59.3%	61.2%	60.5%
Unemployment Rate	22.1%	12.2%	11.3%	22.2%	14.6%

Universe: Persons 16 years and over  
 \*Latino may be of any race  
 \*\*Total includes Native Americans and Other Races

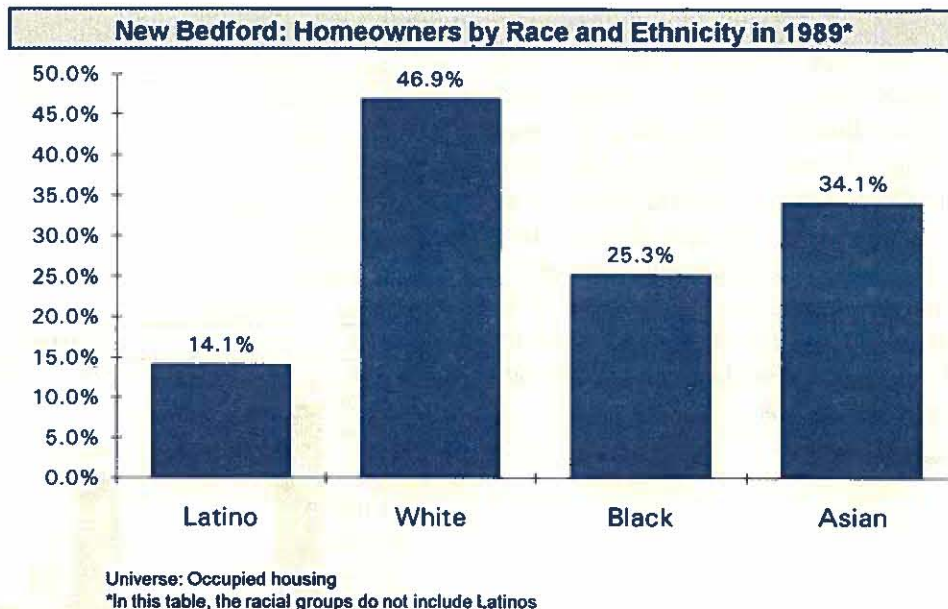


In 1990, Latinos constituted 3.4% of the New Bedford labor force (employed plus unemployed). Of the 1,575 Latinos in the labor force, 662 were females and 913 were males. The labor force participation rate for Latino men in 1990 was 60.5%, lower than any other group. Their unemployment rate was 20.2%; this proportion is higher than any other group. Similarly, Latina women had the lowest participation rate, 35.2%, and the highest unemployment rate, 24.8%, except for black women.





In 1989 only 14.1% of Latino households in New Bedford were homeowners, compared to 46.9% of white, 25.3% of black, and 34.1% of Asian households. The majority of Latino households, 85.9%, rented their dwelling. This rate was higher than the rate for Latinos in Massachusetts where 82.6% of Latino households are renters.



**New Bedford: Mortgage Status by Race and Ethnicity in 1989**

Mortgage Payments	Latino*	Total**	White	Black	Asian
Less than \$300	10	268	223	8	0
\$300 to \$499	11	1,358	1,175	63	0
\$500 to \$999	45	3,067	2,824	56	18
\$1,000 or more	19	1,341	1,230	44	7
Not mortgaged:	22	4,773	4,636	62	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>10,807</b>	<b>10,088</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>31</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, 59.8% of Latinos paid \$500 or more; 40.2% of whites, 42.9% of blacks, and 80.6% of Asians had a mortgage over \$500.



Of those renter-occupied housing units in New Bedford, 74.4% of the Latino population paid less than \$500 monthly compared to 71.3% of whites, 61.6% of blacks, and 55.0% of Asians. In 1989, less than 2.0% of any race or ethnic group paid a monthly rent of over \$1,000.

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

Gross Rent per Month	Latino	Total*	White	Black	Asian
Less than \$300	573	6,737	5,519	371	7
\$300 to \$499	490	8,661	7,703	265	26
\$500 to \$999	348	5,898	4,889	381	27
\$1,000 or more	0	76	61	15	0
No cash rent	17	379	369	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,428</b>	<b>21,751</b>	<b>18,541</b>	<b>1,032</b>	<b>60</b>

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