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Latinos in Somerville: Poverty, Income, Education, Employment, and Housing

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Latinos in Somerville

Poverty, Income, Education, Employment, and Housing

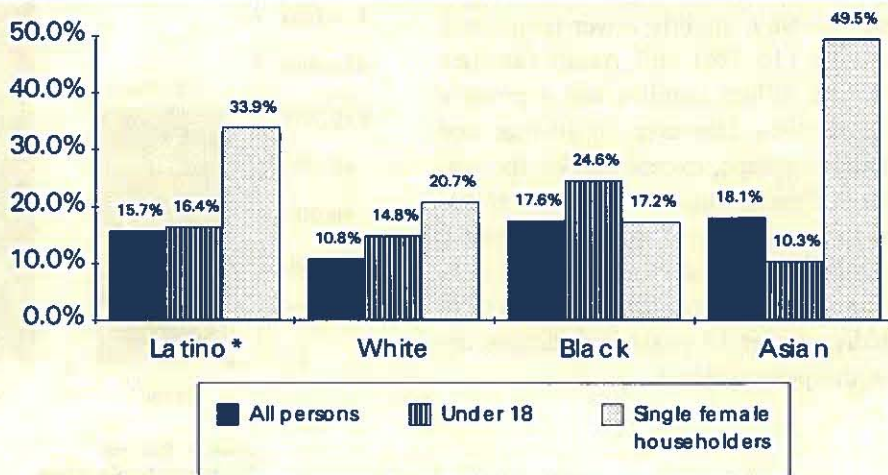
Part two of a series of profiles of Latinos in Massachusetts completed with support from The Boston Foundation

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 in Somerville had 15.7% of its population with income below the poverty level. This proportion is greater than that of whites (10.8%) but lower than blacks (17.6%) and Asians (18.1%). Of those Latinos under the age of 18, 16.4% had income below the poverty level. In particular, the rate of poverty was greatest among those Latino children under 5 years of age and between 12 and 17 years of age.

Somerville: 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

Somerville: 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 | 720 | 15.7% | 8,492 | 11.5% | 7,096 | 10.8% | 718 | 17.6% | 477 | 18.1% |
| Under 5 years | 43 | 11.2% | 482 | 12.9% | 381 | 12.3% | 70 | 24.6% | 21 | 9.7% |
| 5 years | 2 | 3.5% | 112 | 16.5% | 87 | 15.9% | 18 | 23.7% | 5 | 13.2% |
| 6 to 11 years | 41 | 13.6% | 604 | 17.4% | 546 | 18.1% | 27 | 10.9% | 15 | 21.7% |
| 12 to 17 years | 86 | 27.8% | 561 | 15.6% | 426 | 14.0% | 125 | 33.9% | 5 | 4.1% |
| 18 to 64 years | 517 | 14.8% | 5,755 | 10.8% | 4,709 | 10.0% | 466 | 15.6% | 431 | 19.8% |
| 65 to 74 years | 7 | 19.4% | 472 | 9.2% | 460 | 9.2% | 12 | 13.2% | 0 | -- |
| 75 years and over | 24 | 80.0% | 506 | 12.9% | 487 | 12.6% | 0 | -- | 0 | -- |
| Total | 4,600 | | 74,061 | | 65,778 | | 4,091 | | 2,639 | |

Universe: Persons for whom poverty is determined

*Latino may be of any race

**Total includes Native Americans and Other Races

Somerville: 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 | 149 | 14.7% | 1,221 | 7.6% | 992 | 6.9% | 118 | 15.7% | 85 | 15.1% |
| Married-couple family: | 51 | 8.2% | 440 | 3.9% | 328 | 3.2% | 61 | 15.5% | 33 | 7.7% |
| With related children under 18 years | 27 | 6.7% | 241 | 5.0% | 179 | 4.3% | 36 | 12.3% | 8 | 3.2% |
| No related children under 18 years | 24 | 10.9% | 199 | 3.0% | 149 | 2.4% | 25 | 25.0% | 25 | 14.2% |
| Male householder, no wife present: | 0 | -- | 15 | 1.4% | 9 | 1.0% | 0 | -- | 6 | 15.0% |
| With related children under 18 years | 0 | -- | 9 | 2.9% | 9 | 3.4% | 0 | -- | 0 | -- |
| No related children under 18 years | 0 | -- | 6 | 0.8% | 0 | -- | 0 | -- | 6 | 15.0% |
| Female householder, no husband present: | 98 | 33.9% | 766 | 20.7% | 655 | 20.6% | 57 | 17.2% | 46 | 49.5% |
| With related children under 18 years | 80 | 39.2% | 686 | 41.1% | 575 | 43.6% | 57 | 24.2% | 46 | 69.7% |
| No related children under 18 years | 18 | 21.2% | 80 | 4.0% | 80 | 4.3% | 0 | -- | 0 | -- |
| Total Families | 1,014 | | 16,097 | | 14,468 | | 751 | | 562 | |

Universe: Families

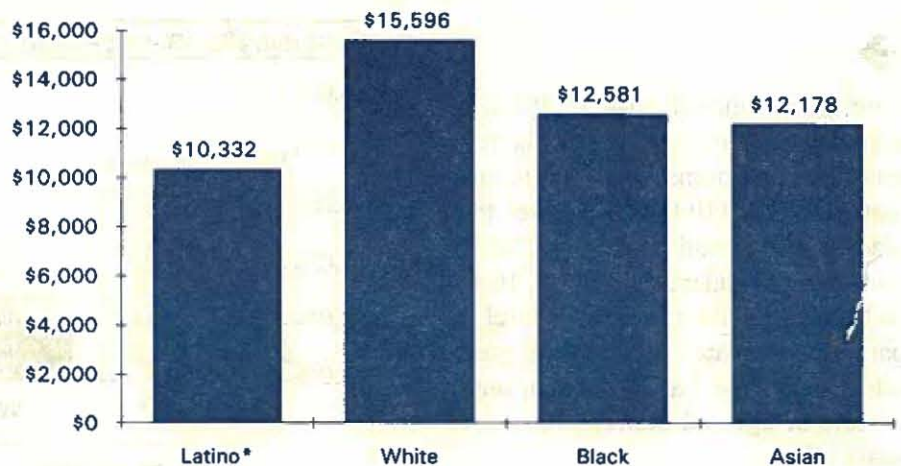
*Latino may be of any race

**Total includes Native Americans and Other Races



Among Latino families in Somerville, 14.7% had incomes below the poverty level in 1989, slightly lower than black families (15.7%) and Asian families (15.1%). White families had a poverty rate of 6.9%. However, in all race and ethnicity groups, except blacks, the majority of these families with income below the poverty level were single female households. For Latino families, 39.2% of single female households with related children under 18 years had income below the poverty level.

Somerville: Per Capita Income by Race and Ethnicity in 1989



Universe: Persons

*Latino may be of any race

Somerville: Household Income by Race and Ethnicity in 1989

| Household Income | Latino * | Total** | White | Black | Asian |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|------------|
| Less than \$5,000 | 96 | 1,403 | 1,204 | 84 | 67 |
| \$5,000 to \$9,999 | 116 | 2,824 | 2,673 | 72 | 57 |
| \$10,000 to \$14,999 | 59 | 2,222 | 2,060 | 135 | 27 |
| \$15,000 to \$24,999 | 260 | 4,690 | 4,174 | 298 | 178 |
| \$25,000 to \$34,999 | 257 | 4,945 | 4,477 | 270 | 104 |
| \$35,000 to \$49,999 | 361 | 6,229 | 5,592 | 269 | 247 |
| \$50,000 to \$74,999 | 286 | 5,350 | 4,944 | 197 | 109 |
| \$75,000 to \$99,999 | 29 | 1,679 | 1,560 | 68 | 51 |
| \$100,000 and more | 8 | 977 | 927 | 17 | 25 |
| Total | 1,472 | 30,319 | 27,611 | 1,410 | 865 |

Universe: Households

Median household income in Somerville: \$32,455

*Latino may be of any race

**Total includes Native Americans and Other Races

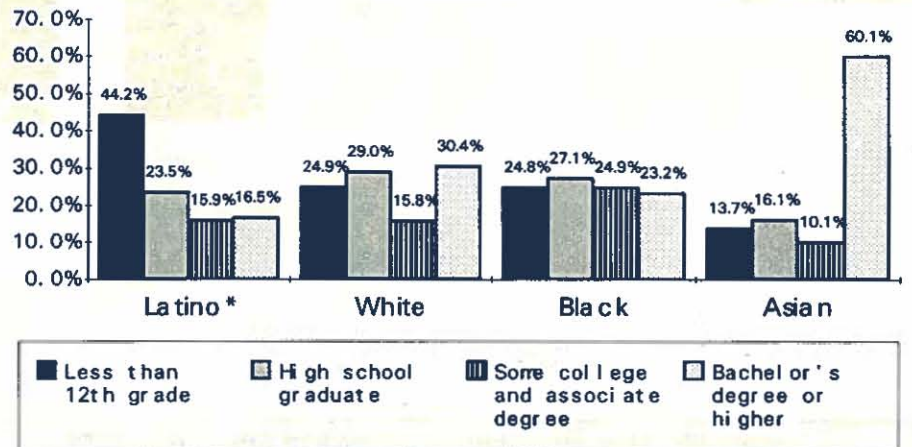


While Massachusetts median household income in 1989 was \$36,952, the median income in Somerville was \$32,455. In 1989, the per capita income of Latinos in Lynn was \$10,332, lower than any other race or ethnic group. Blacks and Asians had a slightly higher per capita income, \$12,581 and \$12,178 respectively. Whites had the highest per capita income, \$15,596.

In 1990, 44.2% of the Latinos in the city of Somerville had not received a high school diploma. This proportion was higher than any other race or ethnic group. At higher levels of education, 15.9% of Latinos attended some college or received an associate degree, and 16.5% received a bachelor's, professional, or graduate degree. Overall, the educational attainment of the Latino population lagged the other race or ethnic groups.



| Somerville: Educational Attainment by Race and Ethnicity in 1990 | | | | | |
|--|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Educational Attainment | Latino* | Total** | White | Black | Asian |
| Less than 9th grade | 787 | 5,739 | 5,037 | 351 | 127 |
| 9th to 12th grade, no diploma | 381 | 7,112 | 6,538 | 278 | 116 |
| High school graduate | 620 | 14,617 | 13,484 | 688 | 284 |
| Some college, no degree | 293 | 6,149 | 5,469 | 426 | 143 |
| Associate degree | 126 | 2,168 | 1,866 | 205 | 36 |
| Bachelor's degree | 251 | 9,060 | 8,165 | 323 | 483 |
| Graduate or professional | 185 | 6,931 | 6,006 | 267 | 580 |
| Total | 2,643 | 51,776 | 46,565 | 2,538 | 1,769 |



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

Somerville: Employment Status by Race and Ethnicity in 1990

| Persons | Latino* | Total** | White | Black | Asian |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Male | 2,045 | 30,896 | 27,402 | 1,564 | 1,218 |
| Employed | 1,616 | 21,497 | 19,507 | 1,064 | 915 |
| Unemployed | 204 | 1,690 | 1,418 | 248 | 24 |
| Armed forces | 0 | 68 | 68 | 0 | 0 |
| Not in labor force | 225 | 7,018 | 6,409 | 252 | 279 |
| Participation Rate | 89.0% | 77.1% | 76.4% | 83.9% | 77.1% |
| Unemployment Rate | 11.2% | 7.3% | 6.8% | 18.9% | 2.6% |
| Female | 1,670 | 34,935 | 31,412 | 1,856 | 1,148 |
| Employed | 1,046 | 21,309 | 19,321 | 1,287 | 666 |
| Unemployed | 179 | 1,108 | 940 | 134 | 34 |
| Armed forces | 0 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Not in labor force | 445 | 12,103 | 11,143 | 435 | 448 |
| Participation Rate | 73.4% | 65.3% | 64.5% | 76.6% | 61.0% |
| Unemployment Rate | 14.6% | 4.9% | 4.6% | 9.4% | 4.9% |
| Total | 3,715 | 65,831 | 58,814 | 3,420 | 2,366 |
| Employed | 2,662 | 42,806 | 38,828 | 2,351 | 1,581 |
| Unemployed | 383 | 2,798 | 2,358 | 382 | 58 |
| Armed forces | 0 | 76 | 76 | 0 | 0 |
| Not in labor force | 670 | 19,121 | 17,552 | 687 | 727 |
| Participation Rate | 82.0% | 70.8% | 70.0% | 79.9% | 69.3% |
| Unemployment Rate | 12.6% | 6.1% | 5.7% | 14.0% | 3.5% |

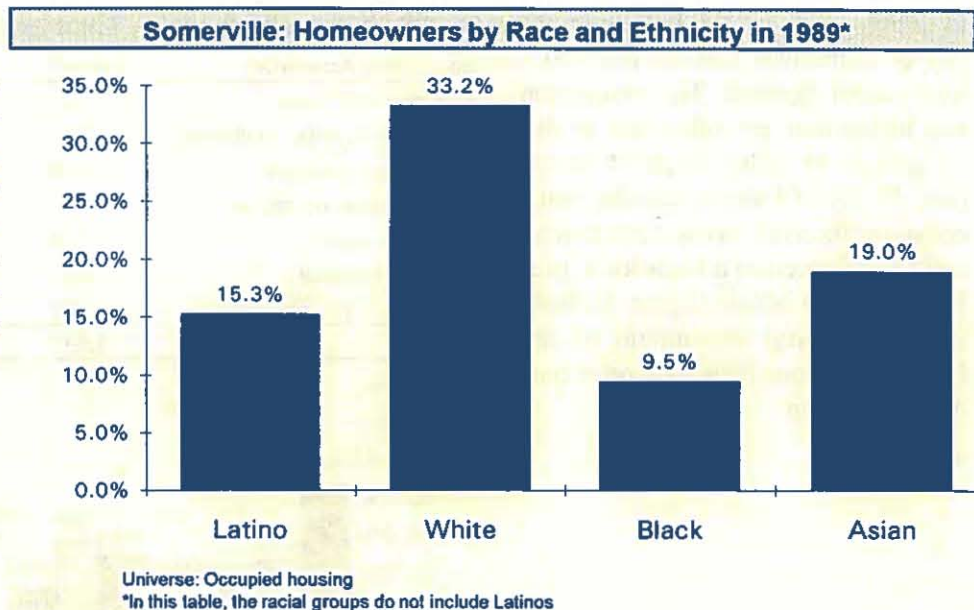
Universe: Persons 16 years and over
 *Latino may be of any race
 **Total includes Native Americans and Other Races



In 1990, Latinos constituted 6.7% of the Somerville labor force. Of the 3,045 Latinos in the labor force (employed plus unemployed), 1,225 were females and 1,820 were males. The labor force participation rate for Latino men in 1990 was 89.0%, higher than any other group. Their unemployment rate was 11.2%, higher than any other group except black men (18.9%). The participation rate for Latina women, 73.4%, was higher than white (64.5%) or Asian (61.0%) women, but lower than black women (76.6%). Latina women had the highest unemployment rate, 14.6%, almost three times higher than white women (4.6%).



In 1989, 15.3% of Latino households in Somerville were homeowners, compared to 33.2% of white, 9.5% of black, and 19.0% of Asian householders. The majority of Latino households, 84.7%, rented their dwelling. This rate was higher than the rate for Latinos in Massachusetts where 82.6% of Latino households are renters.



Somerville: Mortgage Status by Race and Ethnicity in 1989

| Mortgage Payments | Latino* | Total** | White | Black | Asian |
|-------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| Less than \$300 | 0 | 12 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| \$300 to \$499 | 7 | 211 | 196 | 0 | 7 |
| \$500 to \$999 | 24 | 569 | 569 | 0 | 0 |
| \$1,000 or more | 55 | 672 | 564 | 24 | 61 |
| Not mortgaged: | 11 | 972 | 942 | 20 | 10 |
| Total | 97 | 2,436 | 2,283 | 44 | 78 |

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, 56.7% of Latinos had a mortgage of over \$1,000; 24.7% of whites, 54.5% of blacks, and 78.2% of Asians had a mortgage over \$1,000.



Of those renter-occupied housing units, 19.4% of the Latino population paid less than \$500 monthly compared to 26.8% of whites, 16.2% of blacks, and 7.4% of Asians. The majority of Latino renters (757) paid a gross rent of \$500 to \$999 a month; 17.2% of Latinos paid a monthly rent of over \$1,000, while 11.6% of whites, 14.3% of blacks, and 15.5% of Asians paid over \$1,000.

Somerville: Amount of Gross Rent by Race and Ethnicity for 1989

| Gross Rent per Month | Latino | Total* | White | Black | Asian |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|------------|
| Less than \$300 | 73 | 2,064 | 1,969 | 55 | 23 |
| \$300 to \$499 | 159 | 3,241 | 3,027 | 129 | 33 |
| \$500 to \$999 | 757 | 12,846 | 11,226 | 792 | 580 |
| \$1,000 or more | 205 | 2,510 | 2,155 | 163 | 117 |
| No cash rent | 0 | 260 | 260 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 1,194 | 20,921 | 18,637 | 1,139 | 753 |

Universe: Specified renter-occupied housing

*Total includes Native Americans and Other Races