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

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Latinos in Worcester

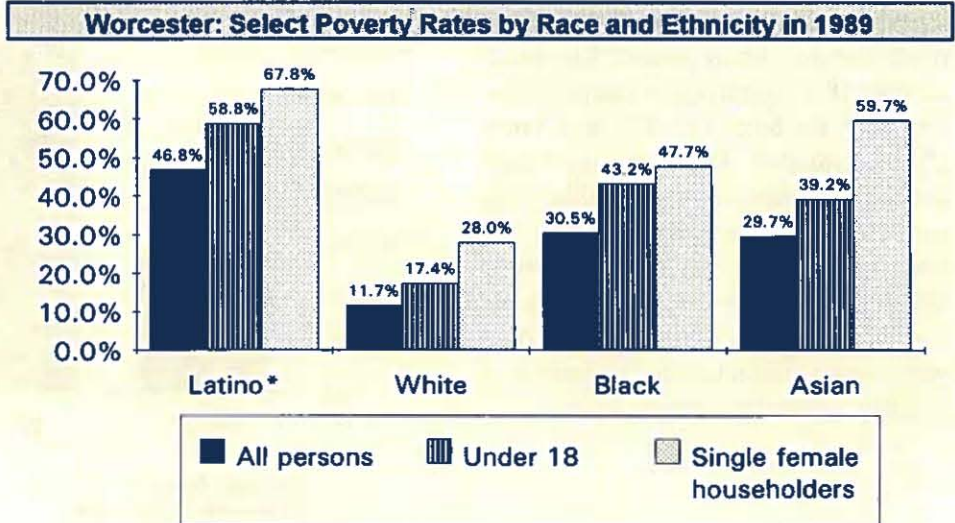
Poverty, Income, Education, Employment, and Housing

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, 46.8%. The poverty rate for Latinos in Worcester is four times that of whites (11.7%) and higher than the rate for blacks (30.5%) and Asians (29.7%). Of those Latinos under the age of 18, 58.8% had income below the poverty level. In particular, the rate of poverty was greatest among those Latino children under 11 years of age.



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

Worcester: 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	7,178	46.8%	24,228	15.3%	16,099	11.7%	2,237	30.5%	1,172	29.7%
Under 5 years	1,200	56.6%	3,135	26.2%	1,771	18.6%	450	52.4%	164	45.4%
5 years	256	64.6%	729	30.7%	423	23.5%	113	45.2%	27	43.5%
6 to 11 years	1,430	59.8%	3,262	26.6%	1,645	17.6%	482	52.8%	193	32.5%
12 to 17 years	1,126	58.9%	2,192	20.6%	1,208	14.4%	151	20.2%	122	44.5%
18 to 64 years	3,035	37.0%	11,816	12.3%	8,208	9.7%	959	22.5%	616	24.1%
65 to 74 years	93	41.2%	1,450	10.2%	1,324	9.6%	30	17.2%	23	37.7%
75 years and over	38	47.5%	1,644	15.6%	1,520	14.8%	52	38.8%	27	64.3%
Total	15,329		158,306		137,633		7,341		3,946	

Universe: Persons for whom poverty is determined
 *Latino may be of any race
 **Total includes Native Americans and Other Races

Worcester: 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	1,679	47.6%	4,939	12.2%	3,095	8.7%	447	25.9%	208	24.8%
Married-couple family:	273	20.8%	1,184	4.1%	886	3.3%	25	3.5%	81	14.5%
With related children under 18 years	208	21.3%	703	5.7%	444	4.1%	17	3.6%	81	20.8%
No related children under 18 years	65	19.3%	481	3.0%	442	2.8%	8	3.2%	0	--
Male householder, no wife present:	73	28.9%	198	9.6%	121	7.3%	0	--	16	16.7%
With related children under 18 years	59	29.4%	149	20.1%	86	17.5%	0	--	16	39.0%
No related children under 18 years	14	26.9%	49	3.7%	35	3.0%	0	--	0	--
Female householder, no husband present:	1,333	67.8%	3,557	36.3%	2,088	28.0%	422	47.7%	111	59.7%
With related children under 18 years	1,287	72.3%	3,301	51.9%	1,893	44.5%	416	51.3%	83	58.0%
No related children under 18 years	46	25.0%	256	7.5%	195	6.1%	6	8.2%	28	65.1%
Total Families	3,531		40,433		35,638		1,727		840	

Universe: Families

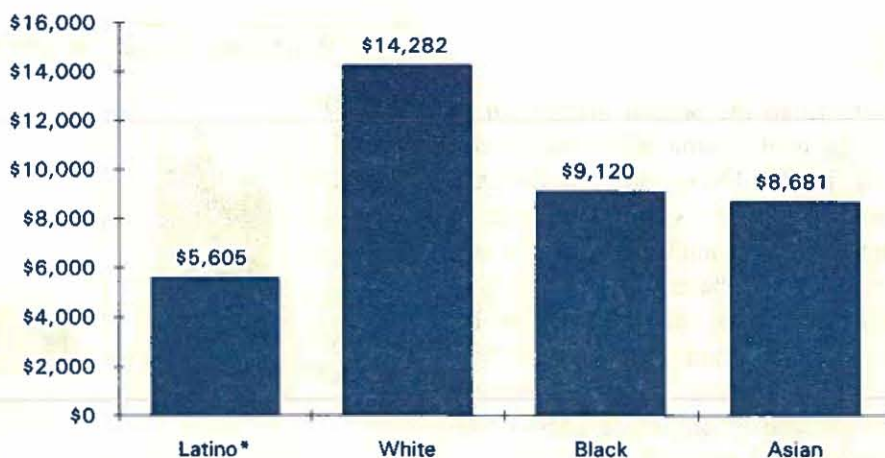
*Latino may be of any race

**Total includes Native Americans and Other Races



Among Latino families, 47.6% had incomes below the poverty level in 1989, more than five times greater than white families (8.7%) and higher than the poverty level for black (25.9%) and Asian (24.8%) families. However, in all race and ethnic groups, of those families with income below the poverty level, the majority of those families were single female householders. For Latino families, 72.3% of single female households with related children under 18 years had incomes below the poverty level.

Worcester: Per Capita Income by Race and Ethnicity in 1989



Universe: Persons

*Latino may be of any race

Worcester: Household Income by Race and Ethnicity in 1989

Household Income	Latino *	Total**	White	Black	Asian
Less than \$5,000	535	3,651	2,884	227	140
\$5,000 to \$9,999	1,073	8,708	7,304	507	166
\$10,000 to \$14,999	624	5,497	4,708	249	105
\$15,000 to \$24,999	758	9,955	8,807	555	211
\$25,000 to \$34,999	617	9,418	8,603	302	168
\$35,000 to \$49,999	464	11,850	11,020	343	218
\$50,000 to \$74,999	181	9,858	9,332	297	136
\$75,000 to \$99,999	31	3,005	2,887	64	37
\$100,000 and more	12	1,646	1,625	6	15
Total	4,295	63,588	57,170	2,550	1,196

Universe: Households

Median household income in Worcester: \$28,955

*Latino may be of any race

**Total includes Native Americans and Other Races



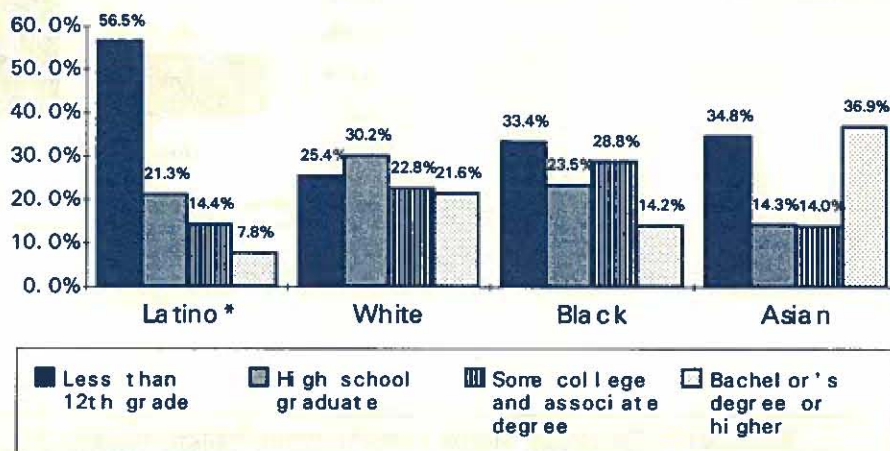
While Massachusetts median household income in 1989 was \$36,952, the median income in Worcester was \$28,955. In 1989, the per capita income of Latinos in Worcester was \$5,605, lower than any other race or ethnic group. Blacks and Asians had a higher per capita income, \$9,120 and \$8,681 respectively. Whites had the highest per capita income, \$14,282.

In 1990, 56.5% of the Latinos in the city of Worcester had not received a high school diploma. This proportion was higher than any other race or ethnic group. At higher levels of education, 14.4% of Latinos attended some college or received an associate degree; and 7.8% received a bachelor's, a professional, or graduate degree. Overall, the educational attainment of the Latino population lagged the other race or ethnic groups.



Worcester: Educational Attainment by Race and Ethnicity in 1990

Educational Attainment	Latino*	Total**	White	Black	Asian
Less than 9th grade	1,954	11,700	9,600	338	542
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	1,622	17,228	15,109	931	208
High school graduate	1,347	31,414	29,363	893	308
Some college, no degree	688	16,791	15,433	818	181
Associate degree	221	7,183	6,681	278	122
Bachelor's degree	323	13,720	12,810	386	406
Graduate or professional	170	8,764	8,151	155	391
Total	6,325	106,800	97,147	3,799	2,158



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

Worcester: Employment Status by Race and Ethnicity in 1990

Persons	Latino*	Total**	White	Black	Asian
Male	4,311	63,469	56,673	2,470	1,751
Employed	2,160	40,042	36,140	1,423	1,127
Unemployed	744	4,271	3,350	350	66
Armed forces	18	102	93	9	0
Not in labor force	1,389	19,054	17,090	688	558
Participation Rate	67.4%	69.8%	69.7%	71.8%	68.1%
Unemployment Rate	25.5%	9.6%	8.5%	19.6%	5.5%
Female	5,168	72,139	65,055	2,549	1,411
Employed	1,808	35,794	32,906	1,309	608
Unemployed	382	2,577	2,068	194	99
Armed forces	0	0	0	0	0
Not in labor force	2,978	33,768	30,081	1,046	704
Participation Rate	42.4%	53.2%	53.8%	59.0%	50.1%
Unemployment Rate	17.4%	6.7%	5.9%	12.9%	14.0%
Total	9,479	135,608	121,728	5,019	3,162
Employed	3,968	75,836	69,046	2,732	1,735
Unemployed	1,126	6,848	5,418	544	165
Armed forces	18	102	93	9	0
Not in labor force	4,367	52,822	47,171	1,734	1,262
Participation Rate	53.7%	61.0%	61.2%	65.3%	60.1%
Unemployment Rate	22.0%	8.3%	7.3%	16.6%	8.7%

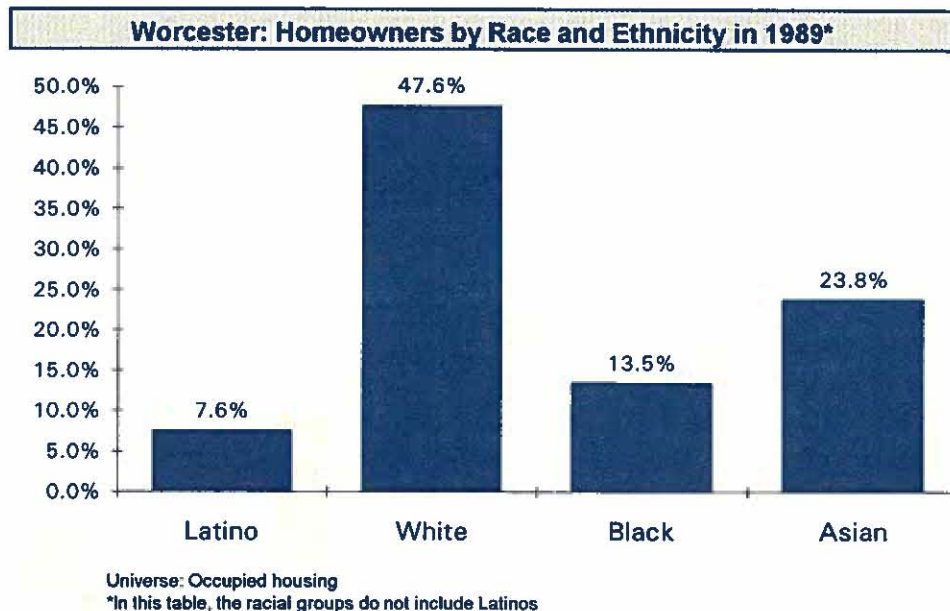
Universe: Persons 16 years and over
 *Latino may be of any race
 **Total includes Native Americans and Other Races



In 1990, Latinos constituted 6.2% of the Worcester labor force (employed plus unemployed). Of the 5,094 Latinos in the labor force, 2,190 were females and 2,904 were males. The labor force participation rate for Latino men in 1990 was 67.4%, lower than any other group. Their unemployment rate was 25.5%, higher than any other group. Similarly, Latino women had the lowest participation rate (42.4%) and the highest unemployment rate (17.4%) of all women.



In 1989, only 7.6% of Latino owner-occupied households were homeowners compared to 47.6% of whites, 13.5% of blacks, and 23.8% of Asians. The majority of Latino households, 92.4%, rented their dwelling. This rate was higher than the rate for Latinos in Massachusetts where 82.6% of Latino households are renters.



Worcester: Mortgage Status by Race and Ethnicity in 1989

Mortgage Payments	Latino*	Total**	White	Black	Asian
Less than \$300	0	229	229	0	0
\$300 to \$499	7	1,920	1,905	15	0
\$500 to \$999	37	5,250	5,124	44	60
\$1,000 or more	125	4,548	4,335	101	74
Not mortgaged:	19	7,731	7,696	24	7
Total	188	19,678	19,289	184	141

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 householders with a mortgage, 66.5% of Latinos had a mortgage of over \$1,000; 22.5% of whites, 54.9% of blacks, and 52.5% of Asians had a mortgage over \$1,000.



Of those renter-occupied housing units, 48.7% of the Latino population paid less than \$500 monthly compared to 43.5% of whites, 38.8% of blacks, and 36.4% of Asians. The majority of Latino renters (1,902) paid a gross rent of \$500 to \$999 a month; 1.1% of Latinos paid a monthly rent of over \$1,000, while 1.5% of whites, 1.8% of blacks and 1.4% of Asians paid over \$1,000.

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

Gross Rent per Month	Latino	Total*	White	Black	Asian
Less than \$300	1,200	6,643	5,324	353	136
\$300 to \$499	686	9,118	8,081	457	154
\$500 to \$999	1,902	19,113	16,282	1,239	482
\$1,000 or more	44	544	467	38	11
No cash rent	39	680	644	0	13
Total	3,871	36,098	30,798	2,087	796

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