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Latinos *in* Chelsea

Part 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

The Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy was established at the University of Massachusetts at 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 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 United States Census. These profiles are but one part of the Gastón Institute's broader initiative to disseminate the 1990 United States Census and to address other relevant aspects of the social and economic situation of Latinos in the Commonwealth.

General population changes in the city of Chelsea reflected statewide trends, with increases in the black, Latino, and in particular Asian populations, and Latinos growing in absolute number more than any other racial/ethnic group. Between 1980 and 1990 the total population of Chelsea increased by 12.9%, and its composition changed substantially. The total Latino population of Chelsea grew from 3,551 in 1980 to 9,018 in 1990, for an inter-censal increase of 154%. While in 1980 Latinos represented 14% of the total population of Chelsea, in 1990 they represented 31.4% of the total population. As of 1990, Chelsea had the seventh largest absolute number of Latinos in Massachusetts, and its Latino population as a proportion of the total population of the city ranked second in the Commonwealth. (For more information about Latinos in Massachusetts see the back page.) The number of non-Latino whites in Chelsea decreased by 19.6% between 1980 and 1990, and the number of non-Latino blacks and Asians increased by 113.1% and 724.7% respectively.

Chelsea: Total Population by Race and Ethnicity for 1980 and 1990

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number of persons	% of total population	Number of persons	% of total population	
Non-Latino population*	21,880	86.0	19,692	68.6	-10.0
White	21,047	82.8	16,930	59.0	-19.6
Black	535	2.1	1,140	4.0	113.1
Asian**	174	0.7	1,435	5.0	724.7
Other	124	0.5	187	0.7	50.8
Latino population	3,551	14.0	9,018	31.4	154.0
Total	25,431	100.0	28,710	100.0	12.9

*Mutually exclusive categories

** This count of Non-Latino Asians includes Latinos who are Asians.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 1980. Census of Population and Housing: Summary Population and Housing Characteristics: Massachusetts. Washington, D.C. U.S. Government Printing Office. U.S. Bureau of the Census 1990. Census of Population and Housing, Massachusetts. Massachusetts Summary Tape File 1A.

¹ Latino will be used throughout to refer to a person living in the United States of Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, or Mexican ancestry as well as other Spanish-speaking people from Central or South American countries.

Puerto Ricans and "Other" Latinos were the major Latino groups in the city, with "Other" Latinos almost reaching the size of the Puerto Rican population — traditionally the largest Latino subgroup in the Commonwealth. Making up this "Other" category are Latinos from the Dominican Republic, Central and South America.² The dramatic increase in this Latino subgroup was the most important change in the composition of the Latino population in Chelsea. The share of "Other" Latinos increased from 17.7% of the total Latino population in 1980 to 44% in 1990, while the share of Puerto Ricans for the same period decreased from 73% to 50.8%.

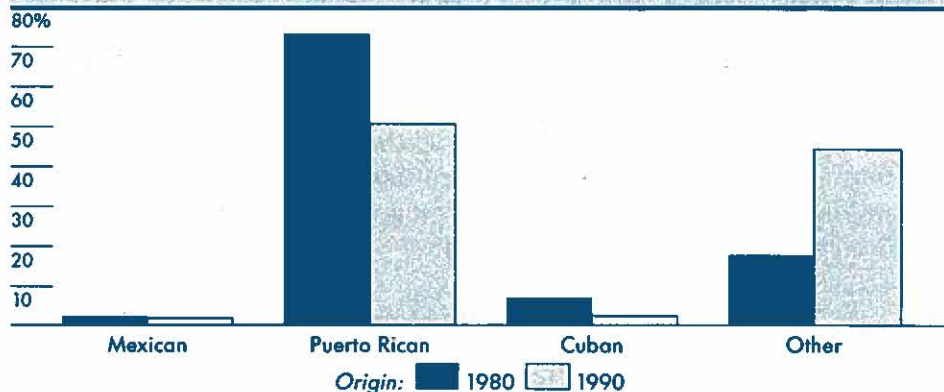
Chelsea: Composition of Latino Population by National Origin for 1980 and 1990

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Mexican	83	2.3	185	2.1	122.9
Puerto Rican	2,592	73.0	4,581	50.8	76.7
Cuban	247	7.0	250	2.8	1.2
Other	629	17.7	4,002	44.4	536.2
Total	3,551	100.0	9,018	100.0	154.0

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 1980 and 1990.

Chelsea: Latino Population by Origin

(Percent of total Latinos in 1980-1990)



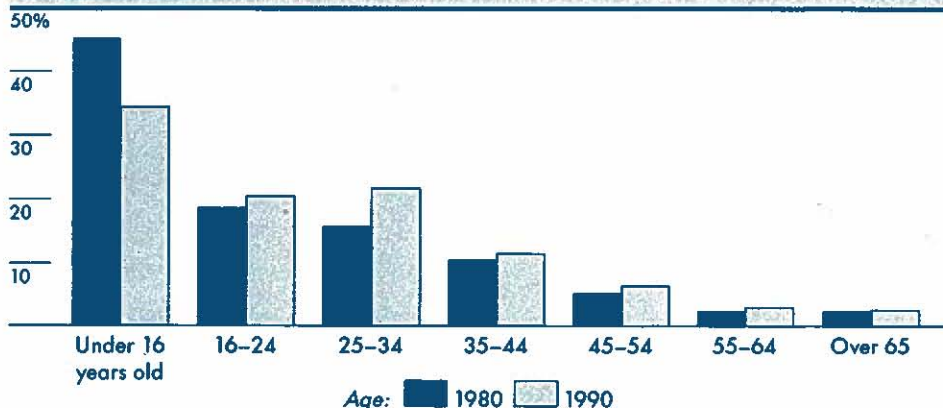
Chelsea: Latino Population by Age for 1980 and 1990

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Under 16 years old	1,602	45.1	3,089	34.3	92.8
16-24	657	18.5	1,841	20.4	180.2
25-34	557	15.7	1,945	21.6	249.2
35-44	373	10.5	1,033	11.5	176.9
45-54	183	5.2	588	6.5	221.3
55-64	89	2.5	286	3.2	221.3
Over 65	90	2.5	236	2.6	162.2
Total	3,551	100.0	9,018	100.0	154.0
Median age	18.2		23.2		

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 1980 and 1990.

Chelsea: Latino Population by Age

(Percent of total Latinos in 1980-1990)



The Latino population in the city of Chelsea, while remaining relatively young, became older in general. Latino median age increased from 18.2 years in 1980 to 23.2 years in 1990. While Latinos 24 years of age or younger represented 63.6% of the total Latino population in 1980, they represented 54.7% of the population in 1990. Conversely, for the same period, the percentage of Latinos between 25 and 54 years of age increased from 31.4% to 39.6%, and the percentage of Latinos 55 years of age and older increased slightly from 5% to 5.8%.

²It is not possible to disaggregate the "Other" Latino category so as to differentiate the share of those individuals from the Dominican Republic, South and Central American countries. Still unpublished 1990 U.S. Census data by nativity would further permit some degree of differentiation.

Chelsea: Composition of Male Latino Population by Age for 1980 and 1990

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Under 16 years old	809	47.7	1,540	34.0	90.4
16-24	315	18.6	1,002	22.1	218.1
25-34	257	15.1	975	21.5	279.4
35-44	149	8.8	511	11.3	243.0
45-54	96	5.7	270	6.0	181.3
55-64	39	2.3	132	2.9	238.5
Over 65	32	1.9	100	2.2	212.5
Total	1,697	100.0	4,530	100.0	166.9
Median age	16.9		22.9		

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 1980 and 1990.

The median age of both Latino males and females in Chelsea increased during this period, although Latino females continued to be relatively older than Latino males. Median age for Latino males increased from 16.9 years in 1980 to 22.9 years in 1990, and the median age of Latino females increased from 19.5 years to 23.7 years.

Chelsea: Composition of Female Latino Population by Age for 1980 and 1990

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Under 16 years old	793	42.8	1,549	34.5	95.3
16-24	342	18.4	839	18.7	145.3
25-34	300	16.2	970	21.6	223.3
35-44	224	12.1	522	11.6	133.0
45-54	87	4.7	318	7.1	265.5
55-64	50	2.7	154	3.4	208.0
Over 65	58	3.1	136	3.0	134.5
Total	1,854	100.0	4,488	100.0	142.1
Median age	19.5		23.7		

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 1980 and 1990.

Between 1980 and 1990, the composition of Chelsea's Latino population by household type changed moderately. Among the most evident changes were a decline in the share of married-couple households with and without related children, an increase in the share of male-headed households, and an increase in the share of householders living alone or with other unrelated individuals. Contrary to commonly held views, the share of female-headed households with and without related children did not increase, but actually decreased by a small percentage.

Chelsea: Latino Population by Household Type for 1980 and 1990

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Married-couple family with related children	331	35.5	644	26.9	94.6
Married-couple family, no related children	94	10.1	232	9.7	146.8
Male householder, no wife present, with or without related children	37	4.0	221	9.2	497.3
Female householder, no husband present, with related children	305	32.7	753	31.5	146.9
Female householder, no husband present, no related children	43	4.6	93	3.9	116.3
Householder living alone	94	10.1	272	11.4	189.4
Householder not living alone	29	3.1	175	7.3	503.4
Total	933	100.0	2,390	100.0	156.2

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 1980 and 1990.

Latinos in Massachusetts

The following charts correspond directly to those on the previous pages and offer a quick reference to the population, age and household status of Latinos in Massachusetts. In brief:

- The total population of Massachusetts increased from 5,737,037 in 1980 to 6,016,425, with Latinos growing in absolute number more than any other racial/ethnic group, becoming the largest minority group in the Commonwealth.
- Puerto Ricans and "Other" Latinos were the largest Latino subgroups in the state, accounting respectively for 2.5% and 1.9% of the total population. (Latinos in the "Other" category are from the Dominican Republic, Central and South America.)
- The Latino population, while remaining relatively young, became older in general, with the Latino median age increasing from 21.2 years in 1980 to 23.7 years in 1990.
- The median age of both Latino males and females increased between 1980 and 1990, with the median age for Latino males increasing from 20.3 years in 1980 to 23.1 years in 1990, and Latino females' median age increasing from 22.2 years to 24.3 years.

Massachusetts: Composition of Total Population by Racial/Ethnic Group and Latino Population by National Origin for 1980 and 1990

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Non-Latino — white	5,305,963	92.5	5,280,292	87.8	-0.5
Non-Latino — black	212,608	3.7	274,464	4.6	29.1
Non-Latino — Asian	49,501	0.9	143,392	2.4 ^a	189.7
Latino origin	141,043	2.5	287,549	4.8	103.9
Mexican	7,385	0.1	12,703	0.2	72.0
Puerto Rican	76,450	1.3	151,193	2.5	97.8
Cuban	6,617	0.1	8,106	0.1	22.5
Other	50,591	0.9	115,547	1.9	128.4
Total Population	5,737,037	100.0^b	6,016,425	100.0^c	4.9

^a This count of Non-Latino Asians includes Latinos who are Asians. In 1980, 892 Latinos (0.6% of all Latinos) identified their race as Asian in Massachusetts.

^b The 1980 total population includes 27,922 persons who are of other races and not of Latino origin.

^c The 1990 total population includes 30,728 persons who are of other races and not of Latino origin.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 1980. Census of Population and Housing: Summary Population and Housing Characteristics: Massachusetts. Washington, D.C. U.S. Government Printing Office. U.S. Bureau of the Census 1990. Census of Population and Housing, Massachusetts. Massachusetts Summary Tape File 1A.

Massachusetts: Latino Population by Age for 1980 and 1990

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Under 16 years old	53,503	37.9	97,135	33.8	181.6
16-24	28,477	20.2	55,042	19.1	193.3
25-34	24,655	17.5	59,333	20.6	140.7
35-44	14,531	10.3	35,774	12.4	146.2
45-54	8,809	6.2	19,081	6.6	116.6
55-64	5,915	4.2	10,731	3.7	81.4
Over 65	5,153	3.7	10,453	3.6	102.9
Total	141,043	100.0	287,549	100.0	103.9
Median age	21.2		23.7		

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 1980 and 1990.

Massachusetts: Composition of Male Latino Population by Age for 1980 and 1990

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Under 16 years old	27,378	40.0	49,663	34.9	81.4
16-24	13,801	20.2	27,685	19.4	100.6
25-34	11,610	17.0	29,633	20.8	155.2
35-44	6,687	9.8	17,460	12.3	161.1
45-54	4,117	6.0	9,000	6.3	118.6
55-64	2,660	3.9	4,885	3.4	83.6
Over 65	2,133	3.1	4,137	2.9	94.0
Total	68,386	100.0	142,463	100.0	108.3
Median age	20.3		23.1		

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 1980 and 1990.

Massachusetts: Composition of Female Latino Population by Age for 1980 and 1990

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Under 16 years old	26,125	36.0	47,472	32.7	81.7
16-24	14,676	20.2	27,357	18.9	86.4
25-34	13,045	18.0	29,700	20.5	127.7
35-44	7,844	10.8	18,314	12.6	133.5
45-54	4,692	6.5	10,081	6.9	114.9
55-64	3,255	4.5	5,846	4.0	79.6
Over 65	3,020	4.2	6,316	4.4	109.1
Total	72,657	100.0	145,086	100.0	99.7
Median age	22.2		24.3		

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 1980 and 1990.

Massachusetts: Latino Population by Household Type for 1980 and 1990

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Married-couple family with related children	12,648	31.5	20,371	24.9	70.2
Married-couple family, no related children	5,995	14.9	10,201	12.5	222.9
Male householder, no wife present, with or without related children	1,600	4.0	5,166	6.3	145.0
Female householder, no husband present, with related children	9,449	23.6	23,150	28.4	115.9
Female householder, no husband present, no related children	1,725	4.3	3,725	4.6	53.4
Householder living alone*	8,689	21.7	13,330	16.3	53.4
Householder not living alone			5,706	7.0	
Total	40,106	100.0	81,649	100.0	103.6

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census 1980 and 1990.

*In 1980, this category includes non-family householders (living alone or not)