

University of Massachusetts Boston

## ScholarWorks at UMass Boston

---

Gastón Institute Publications

Gastón Institute for Latino Community  
Development and Public Policy Publications

---

1992

### Latinos in Holyoke

Gaston Institute, University of Massachusetts Boston

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarworks.umb.edu/gaston\\_pubs](https://scholarworks.umb.edu/gaston_pubs)



Part of the [Demography, Population, and Ecology Commons](#), and the [Race and Ethnicity Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Gaston Institute, University of Massachusetts Boston, "Latinos in Holyoke" (1992). *Gastón Institute Publications*. 24.

[https://scholarworks.umb.edu/gaston\\_pubs/24](https://scholarworks.umb.edu/gaston_pubs/24)

This Research Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy Publications at ScholarWorks at UMass Boston. It has been accepted for inclusion in Gastón Institute Publications by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at UMass Boston. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@umb.edu](mailto:scholarworks@umb.edu).

# Latinos *in* Holyoke

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**

**T**he 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 Holyoke partially reflected state-wide trends, with increases in the black, Latino and Asian populations, and Latinos growing in absolute number more than any other racial/ethnic group. Between 1980 and 1990 the total population of Holyoke decreased by 2.2%, and its composition changed substantially. The total Latino population of Holyoke grew from 6,165 in 1980 to 13,573 in 1990, for an intercensal increase of 120.2%. As of 1990, Holyoke had the fifth largest absolute number of Latinos in Massachusetts, and its Latino population as a proportion of the total population of the city ranked third in the Commonwealth.

*(For more information on Latinos in Massachusetts see the back page.)*

The number of non-Latino whites decreased by 23.3% between 1980 and 1990, and the number of non-Latino blacks and Asians increased by 14.4% and 189.4% respectively.

**Holyoke: 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*	38,513	86.2	30,131	68.9	-21.8
White	37,184	83.2	28,519	65.3	-23.3
Black	1,001	2.2	1,145	2.6	14.4
Asian**	123	0.3	356	0.8	189.4
Other	205	0.5	111	0.3	-45.9
Latino population	6,165	13.8	13,573	31.1	120.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,678</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>43,704</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-2.2</b>

\* 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.

<sup>1</sup> 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.



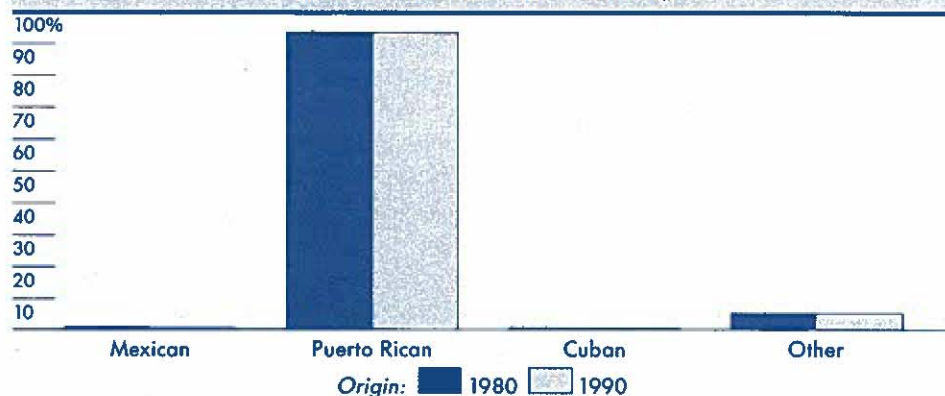
Puerto Ricans were by far the largest Latino group in Holyoke, accounting for 93.5% of the total Latino population. Mexicans, Cubans, and in particular "Other" Latinos accounted for the remaining 6.5% of the total Latino population. Latinos making up this "Other" category are from the Dominican Republic, Central and South America.<sup>2</sup>

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

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Mexican	48	0.8	84	0.6	75.0
Puerto Rican	5,764	93.5	12,687	93.5	120.1
Cuban	14	0.2	60	0.4	328.6
Other	339	5.5	742	5.5	118.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,165</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>13,573</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>120.2</b>

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

### Holyoke: Latino Population by Origin (Percent of total Latinos in 1980-1990)

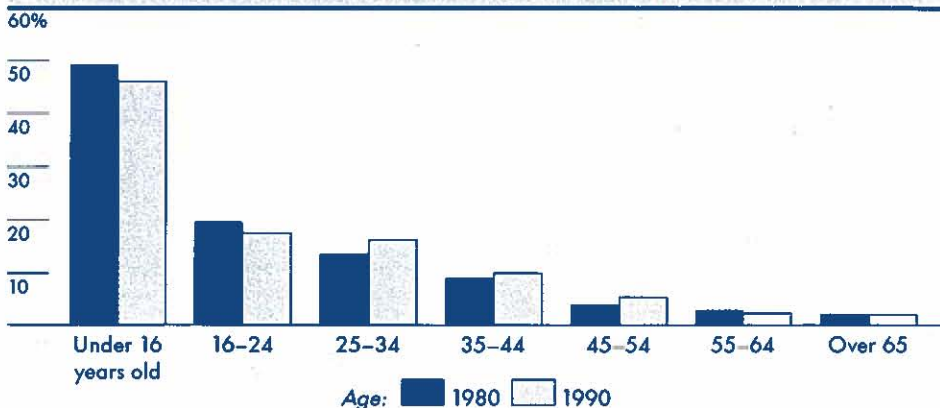


### Holyoke: Latino Population by Age for 1980 and 1990

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Under 16 years old	3,019	49.0	6,241	46.0	106.7
16-24	1,194	19.4	2,387	17.6	99.9
25-34	827	13.4	2,211	16.3	167.4
35-44	552	9.0	1,347	9.9	144.0
45-54	255	4.1	746	5.5	192.5
55-64	176	2.9	336	2.5	90.9
Over 65	142	2.3	305	2.2	114.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,165</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>13,573</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>120.2</b>
<b>Median age</b>	<b>16.4</b>		<b>18.0</b>		

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

### Holyoke: Latino Population by Age (Percent of total Latinos in 1980-1990)



The Latino population in the city of Holyoke, while remaining very young in relative terms, became a little older in general. Latino median age increased from 16.4 years in 1980 to 18 years in 1990. While the number of Latinos 24 years of age or younger represented 68.4% of the total Latino population in 1980, they represented 63.6% in 1990. Conversely, for the same period, the share of Latinos between 25 and 54 years of age increased from 26.5% to 31.7%. However, the share of Latinos 55 years of age and older decreased from 5.2% to 4.7%.

<sup>2</sup>It 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.



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

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Under 16 years old	1,534	52.4	3,222	50.1	110.0
16-24	548	18.7	1,068	16.6	94.9
25-34	364	12.4	923	14.4	153.6
35-44	227	7.8	598	9.3	163.4
45-54	120	4.1	333	5.2	177.5
55-64	79	2.7	157	2.4	98.7
Over 65	54	1.8	130	2.0	140.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,926</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6,431</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>119.8</b>
Median age	15.2		16.0		

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

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

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Under 16 years old	1,485	45.8	3,019	42.3	103.3
16-24	646	19.9	1,319	18.5	104.2
25-34	463	14.3	1,288	18.0	178.2
35-44	325	10.0	749	10.5	130.5
45-54	135	4.2	413	5.8	205.9
55-64	97	3.0	179	2.5	84.5
Over 65	88	2.7	175	2.5	98.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,239</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7,142</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>120.5</b>
Median age	17.6		20.0		

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

The median age of both Latino males and females increased in Holyoke, although females continued to be relatively older than Latino males. Median age for Latino males increased from 15.2 years in 1980 to 16 years in 1990, and for Latino females it increased from 17.6 years to 20 years.

Between 1980 and 1990, the composition of the Latino population by household type changed substantially. Among the most evident changes were declines in the share of married-couple households with and without related children and increases in the share of householders living alone or with other unrelated individuals. The share of male-headed households remained virtually unchanged, as did the share of female-headed households without related children. The share of female-headed households with related children increased substantially in Holyoke between 1980 and 1990.

### Holyoke: Latino Population by Household Type for 1980 and 1990

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Married-couple family, with related children	527	33.1	764	20.6	45.0
Married-couple family, no related children	135	8.5	207	5.6	53.3
Male householder, no wife present, with or without related children	87	5.5	196	5.3	125.3
Female householder, no husband present, with related children	580	36.4	1,792	48.3	209.0
Female householder, no husband present, no related children	62	3.9	153	4.1	146.8
Householder living alone	175	11.0	508	13.7	190.3
Householder not living alone	27	1.7	91	2.5	237.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,593</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,711</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>133.0</b>

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 <sup>a</sup>	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
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>5,737,037</b>	<b>100.0<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>6,016,425</b>	<b>100.0<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>4.9</b>

<sup>a</sup> 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.

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

<sup>c</sup> 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>141,043</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>287,549</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>103.9</b>
<b>Median age</b>	<b>21.2</b>		<b>23.7</b>		

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
<b>Total</b>	<b>68,386</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>142,463</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>108.3</b>
<b>Median age</b>	<b>20.3</b>		<b>23.1</b>		

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
<b>Total</b>	<b>72,657</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>145,086</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>99.7</b>
<b>Median age</b>	<b>22.2</b>		<b>24.3</b>		

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	
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,106</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>81,649</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>103.6</b>

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

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