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Latinos *in* New Bedford

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 New Bedford reflected statewide trends, with the black, Latino and Asian populations growing faster than the non-Latino white population, and Latinos growing in absolute number more than any other racial/ethnic group. Between 1980 and 1990 the total population of New Bedford increased by 1.5%, and its composition changed substantially. The total Latino population of New Bedford grew from 4,497 in 1980 to 6,653 in 1990, for an inter-censal increase of 47.9%. While in 1980 Latinos represented 4.6% of the total population of New Bedford, in 1990 they represented 6.7%. As of 1990, New Bedford had the ninth largest absolute number of Latinos in Massachusetts, and its Latino population as a proportion of the total population of the city ranked thirteenth in the Commonwealth. (For more information about Latinos in Massachusetts see the back page.) The number of non-Latino whites decreased by 1.5% between 1980 and 1990, and the number of non-Latino blacks and Asians increased by 38.8% and 71.9% respectively.

New Bedford: 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*	93,981	95.4	93,269	93.3	-0.8
White	85,599	86.9	84,286	84.4	-1.5
Black	2,516	2.6	3,492	3.5	38.8
Asian**	235	0.2	404	0.4	71.9
Other	5,631	5.7	5,087	5.1	-9.7
Latino population	4,497	4.6	6,653	6.7	47.9
Total	98,478	100.0	99,922	100.0	1.5

* 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 New Bedford. Making up this "Other" category are Latinos from the Dominican Republic, Central and South America.² During this period the size of the Puerto Rican population more than doubled, remaining the largest Latino subgroup in the city. And contrary to almost any other city in the Commonwealth, the share of "Other" Latinos in New Bedford declined. While the share of Puerto Ricans increased from 46.7% of the total Latino population in 1980 to 73.1% in 1990, the share of "Other" Latinos decreased from 49.6% to 23.8%.

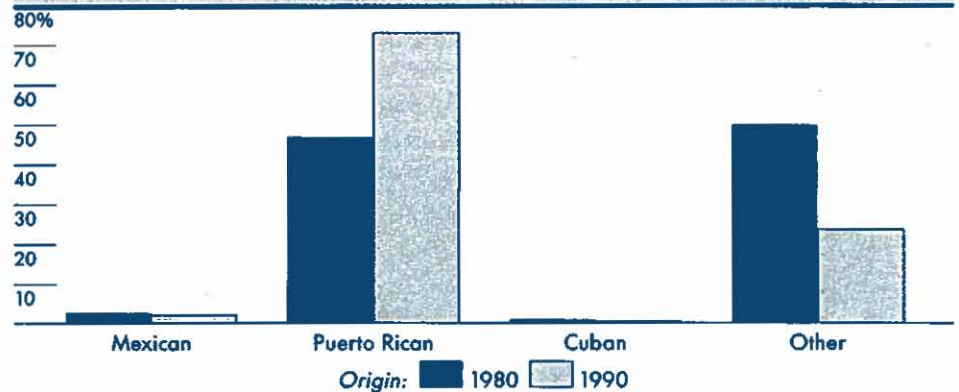
New Bedford: Composition of Latino Population by National Origin for 1980 and 1990

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Mexican	125	2.8	164	2.5	31.2
Puerto Rican	2,099	46.7	4,864	73.1	131.7
Cuban	43	1.0	39	0.6	-9.3
Other	2,230	49.6	1,586	23.8	-28.9
Total	4,497	100.0	6,653	100.0	47.9

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

New Bedford: Latino Population by Origin

(Percent of total Latinos in 1980-1990)



New Bedford: Latino Population by Age for 1980 and 1990

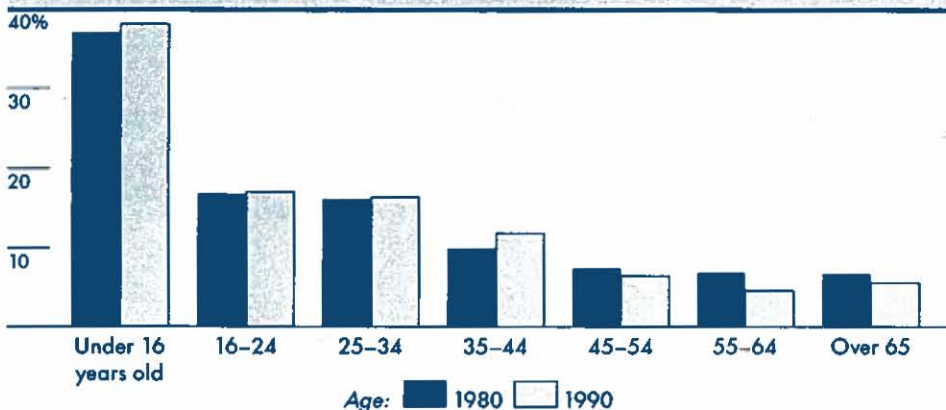
	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Under 16 years old	1,657	36.8	2,529	38.0	52.6
16-24	750	16.7	1,133	17.0	51.1
25-34	719	16.0	1,092	16.4	51.9
35-44	442	9.8	787	11.8	78.1
45-54	328	7.3	434	6.5	32.3
55-64	304	6.8	304	4.6	0.0
Over 65	297	6.6	374	5.6	25.9
Total	4,497	100.0	6,653	100.0	47.9

Median age 22.9 22.0

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

New Bedford: Latino Population by Age

(Percent of total Latinos in 1980-1990)



The Latino population in the city of New Bedford, contrary to almost any other city in the Commonwealth, became younger in general. Latino median age decreased from 22.9 years in 1980 to 22 years in 1990. While Latinos 24 years of age or younger represented 53.5% of the total Latino population in 1980, they represented 55% in 1990. For the same period, the share of Latinos between 25 and 54 years of age increased marginally from 33.1% to 34.7%, and the share of Latinos 55 years of age and older decreased from 13.4% to 10.2%.

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.

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

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Under 16 years old	863	39.6	1,300	40.8	50.6
16-24	352	16.2	547	17.2	55.4
25-34	351	16.1	488	15.3	39.0
35-44	204	9.4	368	11.6	80.4
45-54	151	6.9	199	6.2	31.8
55-64	127	5.8	131	4.1	3.1
Over 65	131	6.0	153	4.8	16.8
Total	2,179	100.0	3,186	100.0	46.2
Median age	21.4		20.4		

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

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

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Under 16 years old	794	34.3	1,229	35.4	54.8
16-24	398	17.2	586	16.9	47.2
25-34	368	15.9	604	17.4	64.1
35-44	238	10.3	419	12.1	76.1
45-54	177	7.6	235	6.8	32.8
55-64	177	7.6	173	5.0	-2.3
Over 65	166	7.2	221	6.4	33.1
Total	2,318	100.0	3,467	100.0	49.6
Median age	24.3		23.6		

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

Between 1980 and 1990, the composition of the Latino population by household type changed considerably in New Bedford. Among the most evident changes were substantial declines in the share of married-couple households with and without related children, an increase in the share of male-headed households, and increases in the share of householders living alone or with other unrelated individuals. The percentage of single female-headed households with related children increased dramatically between 1980 and 1990, and the percentage of single female-headed households without related children increased by a smaller fraction.

New Bedford: Latino Population by Household Type for 1980 and 1990

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Married-couple family with related children	482	36.5	451	22.4	-6.4
Married-couple family, no related children	259	19.6	253	12.6	-2.3
Male householder, no wife present, with or without related children	35	2.7	100	5.0	185.7
Female householder, no husband present, with related children	254	19.2	674	33.5	165.4
Female householder, no husband present, no related children	55	4.2	105	5.2	90.9
Householder living alone	213	16.1	355	17.7	66.7
Householder not living alone	22	1.7	72	3.6	227.3
Total	1,320	100.0	2,010	100.0	52.3

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

The median age of both Latino males and females in the city of New Bedford decreased in general, while Latino females continued to be relatively older than Latino males. Median age for Latino males decreased from 21.4 years in 1980 to 20.4 years in 1990, and Latino females' median age decreased from 24.3 years to 23.6 years.

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 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)

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.