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Latinos in Springfield

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Latinos in Springfield

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 Springfield 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. The total population of Springfield increased by 3.1%, and its composition changed substantially. The total Latino population of Springfield grew from 13,804 in 1980 to 26,528 in 1990, for an inter-censal increase of 92.2%. While in 1980 Latinos represented 9.1% of the total population of Springfield, they represented 16.9% in 1990. Springfield had the third largest absolute number of Latinos in Massachusetts in 1990, and its Latino population as a proportion of the total population of the city ranked fourth in the Commonwealth. (For more information about Latinos in Massachusetts see the back page.) The number of non-Latino whites in Springfield decreased by 11.2% between 1980 and 1990, and the number of non-Latino blacks and Asians increased by 15.3% and 216.4% respectively.

**Springfield: 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*	138,515	90.9	130,455	83.1	-5.8
White	112,467	73.8	99,869	63.6	-11.2
Black	24,705	16.2	28,484	18.1	15.3
Asian**	517	0.3	1,636	1.0	216.4
Other	826	0.5	466	0.3	-43.6
Latino population	13,804	9.1	26,528	16.9	92.2
Total	152,319	100.0	156,983	100.0	3.1

*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, accounting respectively for 89.4% and 8.6% of the total Latino population. Making up this "Other" category are Latinos from the Dominican Republic, Central and South America.² While the absolute number of both Puerto Ricans and "Other" Latinos almost doubled between 1980 and 1990, their representation among the Latino population remained almost the same, with Puerto Ricans by far continuing to be the largest Latino group in the city.

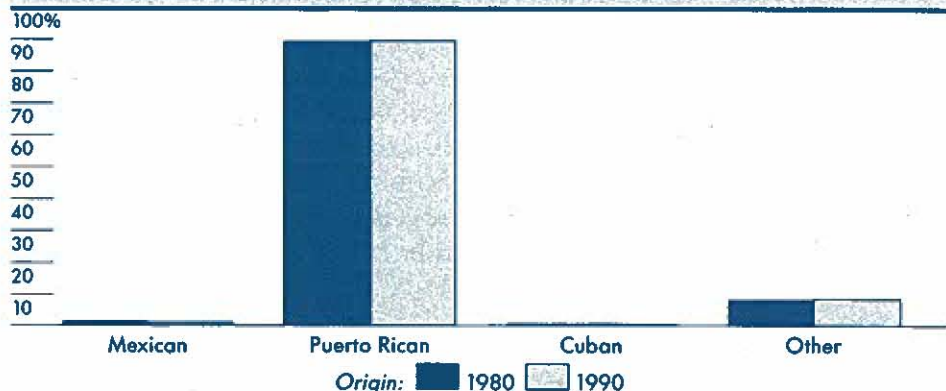
Springfield: Composition of Latino Population by National Origin for 1980 and 1990

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Mexican	253	1.8	306	1.2	20.9
Puerto Rican	12,298	89.1	23,729	89.4	93.0
Cuban	127	0.9	199	0.8	56.7
Other	1,126	8.2	2,294	8.6	103.7
Total	13,804	100.0	26,528	100.0	92.2

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

Springfield: Latino Population by Origin

(Percent of total Latinos in 1980-1990)



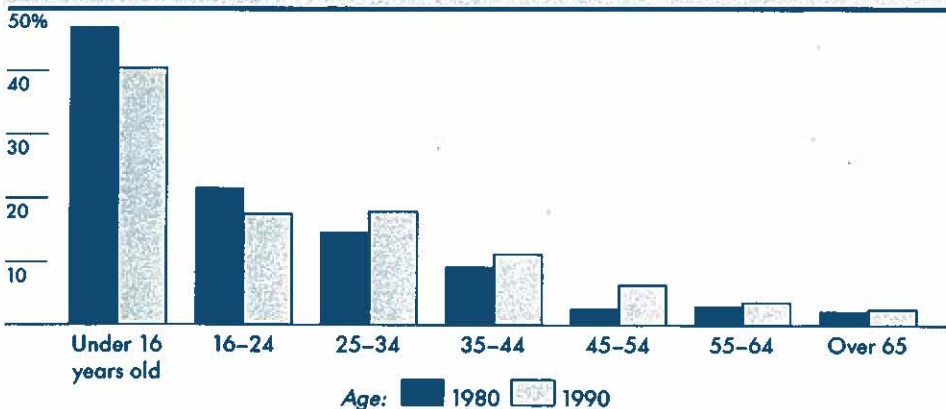
Springfield: Latino Population by Age for 1980 and 1990

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Under 16 years old	6,449	46.7	10,725	40.4	66.3
16-24	2,968	21.5	4,677	17.6	57.6
25-34	2,018	14.6	4,742	17.9	135.0
35-44	1,250	9.1	2,964	11.2	137.1
45-54	390	2.8	1,703	6.4	336.7
55-64	431	3.1	973	3.7	125.8
Over 65	298	2.2	744	2.8	149.7
Total	13,804	100.0	26,528	100.0	92.2
Median age	17.2		20.7		

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

Springfield: Latino Population by Age

(Percent of total Latinos in 1980-1990)



The Latino population in the city of Springfield, while remaining relatively young, became older in general. Latino median age increased from 17.2 years in 1980 to 20.7 years in 1990. While Latinos 24 years of age or younger represented 68.2% of the total Latino population in 1980, they represented 58% of the population in 1990. Conversely, for the same period, the percentage of Latinos between 25 and 54 years of age increased from 26.5% to 35.5%, and the share of Latinos 55 years of age and older increased slightly from 5.3% to 6.5%.

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.

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

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Under 16 years old	3,316	50.6	5,520	43.6	66.5
16-24	1,527	23.3	2,207	17.4	44.5
25-34	828	12.6	2,093	16.5	152.8
35-44	550	8.4	1,328	10.5	141.5
45-54	28	0.4	789	6.2	2717.9
55-64	174	2.7	442	3.5	154.0
Over 65	130	2.0	290	2.3	123.1
Total	6,553	100.0	12,669	100.0	93.3
Median age	15.8		19.0		

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

The median age of both Latino males and females in Springfield increased in general, although Latino females continued to be relatively older than Latino males. Median age for Latino males increased from 15.8 years in 1980 to 19 years in 1990, and Latino females' median age increased from 18.9 years to 22.4 years.

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

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Under 16 years old	3,133	43.2	5,205	37.6	66.1
16-24	1,441	19.9	2,470	17.8	71.4
25-34	1,190	16.4	2,649	19.1	122.6
35-44	700	5.7	1,636	11.8	133.7
45-54	362	5.0	914	6.6	152.5
55-64	257	3.5	531	3.8	106.6
Over 65	168	2.3	454	3.3	170.2
Total	7,251	100.0	13,859	100.0	91.1
Median age	18.9		22.4		

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

Between 1980 and 1990, the composition of Springfield's Latino population by household type changed substantially. 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 with or without related children, and an increase in the share of householders living alone and with other unrelated individuals. The percentage of female-headed households with related children in Springfield also increased substantially between 1980 and 1990.

Springfield: Latino Population by Household Type for 1980 and 1990

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Married-couple family with related children	1,115	24.3	1,571	20.7	40.9
Married-couple family, no related children	1,305	28.4	669	8.8	-48.7
Male householder, no wife present, with or without related children	114	2.5	355	4.7	211.4
Female householder, no husband present, with related children	1,381	30.1	3,131	41.2	126.7
Female householder, no husband present, no related children	177	3.9	365	4.8	106.2
Householder living alone	420	9.1	1,226	16.1	191.9
Householder not living alone	81	1.8	285	3.7	251.9
Total	4,593	100.0	7,602	100.0	65.5

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)