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Latinos in Leominster

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.

Population changes in the city of Leominster partially reflected state-wide trends, with the absolute number and percentage of blacks, Latinos and Asians increasing between 1980 and 1990. During this period the total population of Leominster increased by 10.5% and its composition changed moderately. The total Latino population of Leominster grew from 1,347 in 1980 to 3,161 in 1990, for an intercensal increase of 134.7%. While Latinos represented 3.9% of the total population of Leominster in 1980, they represented 8.3% in 1990. Leominster had the sixteenth largest absolute number of Latinos in Massachusetts in 1990, and its Latino population as a proportion of the total population of the city ranked ninth in the Commonwealth. *(For more information about Latinos in Massachusetts see the back page.)* The number of non-Latino whites increased by 3.6% between 1980 and 1990 (unlike other Massachusetts cities with large Latino populations), and the number of non-Latino blacks and Asians increased by 51.5% and 269.6% respectively.

**Leominster: 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*	33,161	96.1	34,984	91.7	5.5
White	32,342	93.7	33,509	87.8	3.6
Black	513	1.5	777	2.0	51.5
Asian**	168	0.5	621	1.6	269.6
Other	138	0.4	77	0.2	-44.2
Latino population	1,347	3.9	3,161	8.3	134.7
Total	34,508	100.0	38,145	100.0	10.5

* 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.

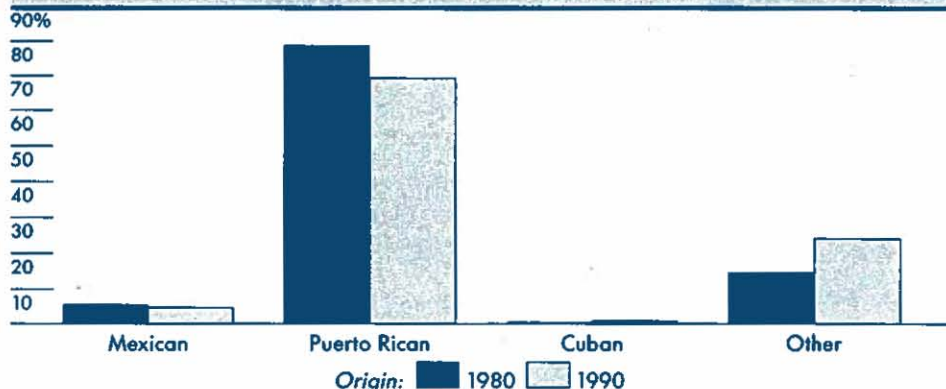
Puerto Ricans and "Other" Latinos were the largest Latino subgroups in the Leominster. Making up this "Other" category are Latinos from the Dominican Republic, Central and South America.² Although the number of Puerto Ricans roughly doubled between 1980 and 1990, their representation among Latinos declined due to the increase in the number of "Other" Latinos. The share of "Other" Latinos increased from 14.8% of the Latino population in 1980 to 24.3% in 1990, while the share of Puerto Ricans declined from 78.8% to 69.9%.

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

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Mexican	74	5.5	149	4.7	101.4
Puerto Rican	1,062	78.8	2,209	69.9	108.0
Cuban	12	0.9	34	1.1	183.3
Other	199	14.8	769	24.3	286.4
Total	1,347	100.0	3,161	100.0	134.7

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

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

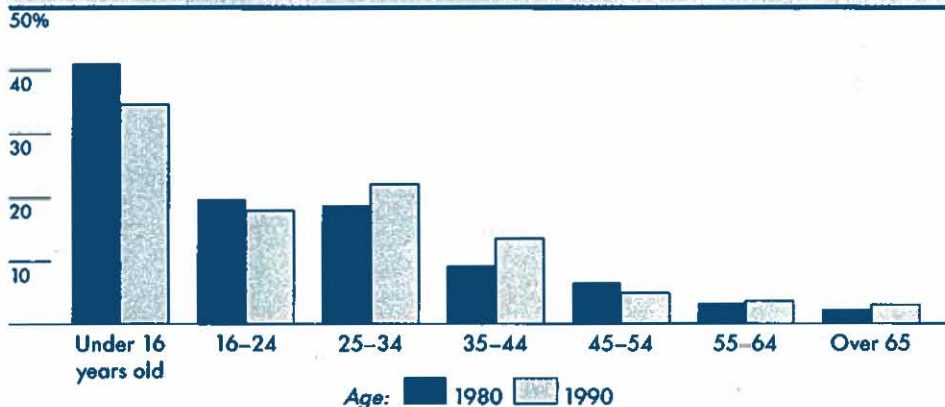


Leominster: Latino Population by Age for 1980 and 1990

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Under 16 years old	551	40.9	1,090	34.5	97.8
16-24	263	19.5	567	17.9	115.6
25-34	249	18.5	699	22.1	180.7
35-44	122	9.1	427	13.5	250.0
45-54	87	6.5	159	5.0	82.8
55-64	45	3.3	119	3.8	164.4
Over 65	30	2.2	100	3.2	233.3
Total	1,347	100.0	3,161	100.0	134.7
Median age	20.5		24.1		

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

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



The Latino population in the city of Leominster, while remaining relatively young, became older in general. Latino median age increased from 20.5 years in 1980 to 24.1 years in 1990. While the share of Latinos 24 years of age or younger was 60.4% of the total Latino population in 1980, it dropped to 52.4% in 1990. Conversely, for the same period, the share of Latinos between 25 and 54 years of age increased from 34.1% to 40.6%, and the share of Latinos 55 years of age and older increased from 5.5% to 7%.

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.

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

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Under 16 years old	297	43.4	534	34.4	79.8
16-24	115	16.8	270	17.4	134.8
25-34	126	18.4	346	22.3	174.6
35-44	64	9.3	228	14.7	256.3
45-54	48	7.0	85	5.5	77.1
55-64	21	3.1	53	3.4	152.4
Over 65	14	2.0	37	2.4	164.3
Total	685	100.0	1,553	100.0	126.7
Median age	19.9		24.4		

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

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

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Under 16 years old	254	38.4	556	34.6	118.9
16-24	148	22.4	297	18.5	100.7
25-34	123	18.6	353	22.0	187.0
35-44	58	8.8	199	12.4	243.1
45-54	39	5.9	74	4.6	89.7
55-64	24	3.6	66	4.1	175.0
Over 65	16	2.4	63	3.9	293.8
Total	662	100.0	1,608	100.0	142.9
Median age	20.8		23.8		

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

Between 1980 and 1990, the composition of the Latino population in Leominster by household type showed some evident but not dramatic changes. Among the most noteworthy changes were small declines in the share of married-couple households with and without related children and a small increase in the share of male-headed households. The percentage of householders living alone increased, as did the percentage of householders living with unrelated individuals. Contrary to commonly held views, the share of female-headed households with and without related children actually decreased by a small fraction between 1980 and 1990.

Leominster: Latino Population by Household Type for 1980 and 1990

	1980		1990		1980-1990 % change
	Number	%	Number	%	
Married-couple family with related children	157	38.7	359	36.9	128.7
Married-couple family, no related children	69	17.0	142	14.6	105.8
Male householder, no wife present, with or without related children	16	3.9	66	6.8	312.5
Female householder, no husband present, with related children	78	19.2	148	15.2	89.7
Female householder, no husband present, no related children	11	2.7	36	3.7	227.3
Householder living alone	61	15.0	164	16.8	168.9
Householder not living alone	14	3.4	59	6.1	321.4
Total	406	100.0	974	100.0	139.9

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

In general the median age of both Latino males and females increased in Leominster, but Latino males — in contrast to most cities in Massachusetts with high concentration of Latinos — had a higher median age than Latino females. Median age for Latino males increased from 19.9 years in 1980 to 24.4 years in 1990, while Latino females' median age increased from 20.8 years to 23.8 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.