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Latinos in Massachusetts: A Mid-Decade Status Report

by Jennifer Shea and Charles Jones | August 1, 2006



The Mauricio Gastón Institute
for Latino Community Development
and Public Policy

INTRODUCTION

This research report provides an updated socioeconomic profile of Latinos in Massachusetts. Using data from the 2000 Census, the 2004 American Community Survey, and the 2002 Economic Census and Survey of Business Owners, it provides a comprehensive, comparative overview of a variety of statistical indicators – including population, national origin, age, gender, education, employment, poverty, income, and household composition. This information should prove useful to a range of individuals and organizations concerned with issues that impact the Latino community: policy-makers, advocates, community-based organizations, businesses, and the media.

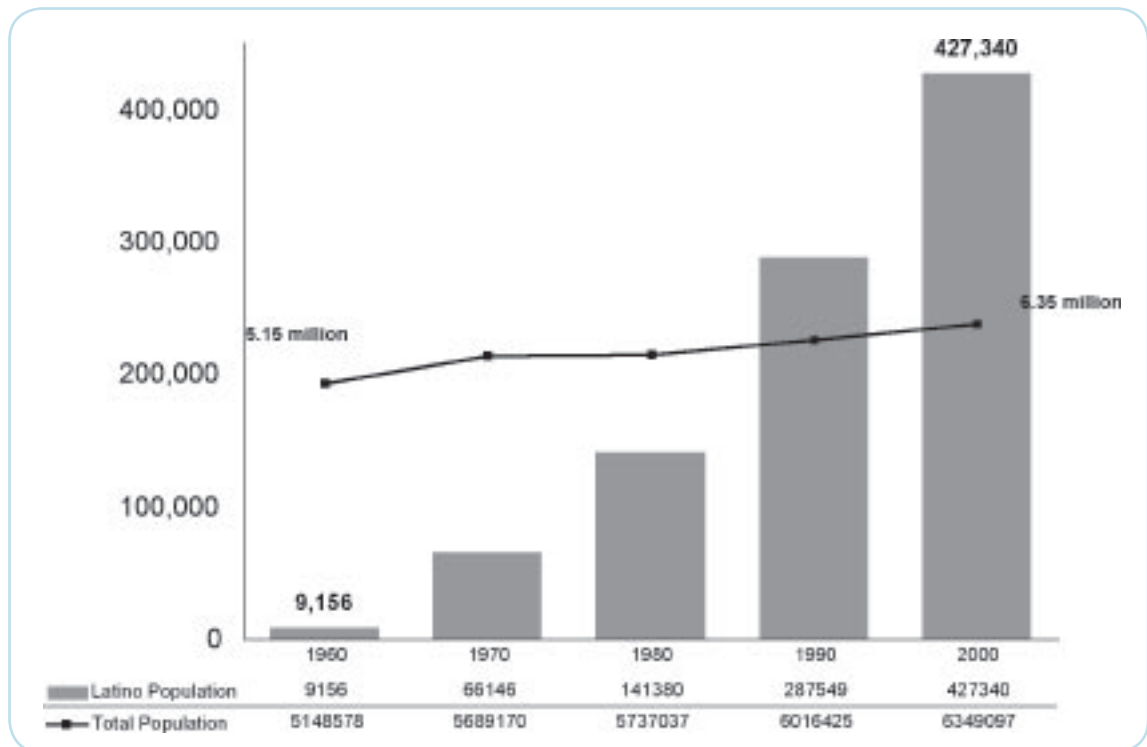
The report focuses primarily on Latinos as a group in Massachusetts, though where information is available, it also contains information on Latino subpopulations as well as the geographic areas in which they are concentrated. Some comparative historical figures are also provided. The report illustrates that the state's Latino population is growing and is becoming more diverse. At the same time, Latinos in general and those from particular countries of origin tend to be concentrated in a few geographic areas. While the economic situation for Latinos appears to be improving, it still lags behind the population as a whole.



Population: Growth, National Origin, and Geographic Distribution

Figure 1. The Latino population in Massachusetts has been growing consistently since 1960, but much of its growth has taken place since 1980. Between 1980 and 2000, the number of Latinos living in Massachusetts more than tripled, from 141,380 to 427,340. As Latinos have grown in absolute numbers, so has their share of the total population. In 1970, Latinos were just over 1% of the state's population. By 2000, they accounted for nearly 7%.

FIGURE 1: GROWTH OF LATINO POPULATION AND TOTAL POPULATION IN MASSACHUSETTS, 1960 - 2000



Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population 1960 vI p23, Characteristics of the Population: Massachusetts; U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population vI p23, Characteristics of the Population: Massachusetts; U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1980 Census of the Population vI p23, Characteristics of the Population: Massachusetts; U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population Social and Economic Characteristics: Massachusetts (1990 CP-2-23); U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000, Summary File 4.

Table 1. By 2004, Latinos constituted 7.7% of the population, having grown by nearly 12% between 2000 and 2004 alone. This trend paralleled that of the Black and Asian populations, which grew by 11% and 18.5% respectively during this period. The number of non-Latino Whites, by contrast, decreased by 4% between 2000 and 2004, though still representing 80% of the total population of the state.

TABLE 1: POPULATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY IN MASSACHUSETTS, 2000 - 2004

	2000		2004		Percent Change 2000 - 2004
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Latino	427,340	6.7%	478,929	7.7%	12.1%
Non-Latino White	5,197,124	81.9%	4,980,234	80.3%	-4.2%
Non-Latino Black	314,472	5.0%	349,254	5.6%	11.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native	11,981	0.2%	7,943	0.1%	-33.7%
Asian and Pacific Islander	238,334	3.8%	282,483	4.6%	18.5%
Other	41,925	0.7%	43,113	0.7%	2.8%
2 or more	117,921	1.9%	59,460	1.0%	-49.6%
Total Population	6,349,097	100.0%	6,201,416	100.0%	-2.3%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000, Summary File 4; U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2004, B03002.

Table 2. In Massachusetts, the Latino population is growing in large part because it is also becoming more diverse in terms of national origin.

Puerto Ricans have historically been the most populous Latino group in Massachusetts; they remained so in 2004, but their share of the overall Latino population in Massachusetts is slowly declining. In 2000, the 199,207 Puerto Ricans living in Massachusetts represented nearly 47% of the Latino population. By 2004, their numbers had grown to 218,763, but they represented only 46% of the Latino population. While no other national origin group is close in numbers to Puerto Ricans, their decreasing share of the state's Latino population signals increasing shares for other groups.

Dominicans are the next most populous group, representing almost 16% of the Latino population, with 74,499 people in 2004.

Salvadorans, Colombians, Guatemalans, and Hondurans are among the other most populous groups, but together they represent less than 25% of the Latino population in Massachusetts. Nevertheless, these four groups are populations to watch, as their growth rates neared or exceeded 100% between 2000 and 2004. The rate of growth among Dominicans was smaller, but still significant at almost 40% between 2000 and 2004, while the Puerto Rican population grew by slightly less than 10%.

Among the eight most represented nationalities, only Mexicans and Cubans experienced negative growth rates between 2000 and 2004, declining in absolute numbers as well as in their respective shares of the Latino population.¹

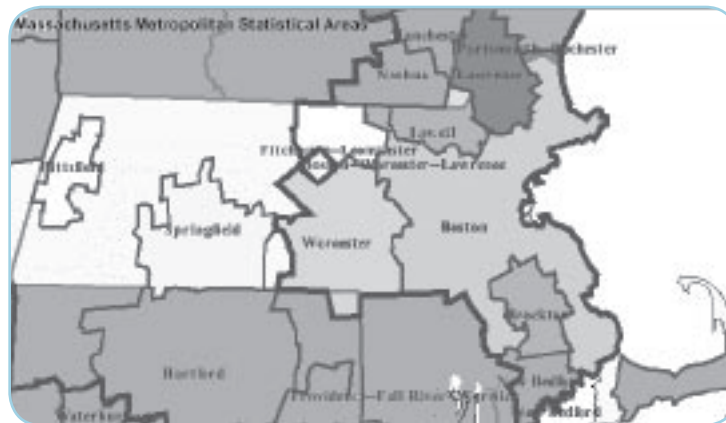
TABLE 2: NATIONAL ORIGIN OF LATINO POPULATION IN MASSACHUSETTS, 2000 - 2004

	2000		2004		
	Population	Percent of Latino Population	Population	Percent of Latino Population	Percent Change, 2000-2004
Total population	6,349,097		6,201,416		
Hispanic or Latino	427,340	100.0%	478,929	100.0%	12.1%
Puerto Rican	200,001	46.8%	218,763	45.7%	9.4%
Dominican	53,350	12.5%	74,499	15.6%	39.6%
Mexican	21,201	5.0%	18,614	3.9%	-12.2%
Salvadoran	17,235	4.0%	28,585	6.0%	65.9%
Colombian	14,157	3.3%	27,685	5.8%	95.6%
Guatemalan	12,020	2.8%	31,171	6.5%	159.3%
Cuban	8,551	2.0%	6,198	1.3%	-27.5%
Honduran	5,689	1.3%	13,365	2.8%	134.9%
Top nationalities	332,204	77.7%	418,880	87.5%	26.1%

Sources: US Bureau of the Census, Census 2000, Summary File 4; U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2004, B03001.

Figure 2. The six metropolitan areas with the largest Latino populations are: Boston, Brockton, Lawrence, Lowell, Springfield, and Worcester. Defined by the U.S. Census, in some cases these metropolitan areas span several cities, towns, and counties, and even include parts of New Hampshire and Connecticut. For example, the Boston PMSA includes the cities of Boston, Cambridge, and Chelsea, as well as some towns in Plymouth and Worcester counties, and two southern New Hampshire towns. The Springfield MSA includes mostly towns from Hampden and Hampshire Counties, including the city of Holyoke, which has a large Latino population.²

FIGURE 2. MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Factfinder, <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Table 3. The Lawrence and Springfield metropolitan areas have the highest concentration of Latinos, who make up 17.5% and 14.1% of the overall populations, respectively. In the Boston metropolitan area, Latinos are 6.5% of the total population. Nonetheless, nearly half of Massachusetts Latinos (44.8%) live in the Boston area, while only 15.4% live in Lawrence and 16.5% live in Springfield.

TABLE 3. GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF LATINO POPULATION IN MASSACHUSETTS, 2004

	Boston PMSA	Brockton PMSA	Lawrence PMSA	Lowell PMSA	Springfield MSA	Worcester PMSA
Total population	3,274,585	266,120	422,228	283,711	560,472	523,569
Latino population	214,447	9,792	73,965	16,557	78,801	41,075
Percent of total population that is Latino	6.5%	3.7%	17.5%	5.8%	14.1%	7.8%
Percent of state's Latino population	44.8%	2.0%	15.4%	3.5%	16.5%	8.6%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2004, B04003.

Table 4. Within these six metropolitan areas, some national groups are more concentrated than others. The Boston area, for example, has the most even distribution among national origin groups, though Puerto Ricans are still the largest group, representing 26.3% of the area's Latino population.

In Lawrence, the Latino population consists primarily of two groups, Dominicans (50.2%) and Puerto Ricans (31.3%). In all of the other state's major Latino metropolitan areas, Puerto Ricans represent at least 50% of the Latino population, ranging from 52.9% in Brockton to 89.3% in Springfield. Dominicans are also highly concentrated in Brockton, representing 31% of that area's Latino community.

Other groups are scattered among these and other areas, sometimes so sparsely as not to register in the census data (and are represented by zeros in Table 4).

TABLE 4: GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF LATINO NATIONAL GROUPS IN MASSACHUSETTS, 2004

	Boston PMSA	Brockton PMSA	Lawrence PMSA	Lowell PMSA	Springfield MSA	Worcester PMSA
Hispanic or Latino:	214,447	9,792	73,965	16,557	78,801	41,075
Puerto Rican	56,373	5,184	23,164	10,313	70,371	28,635
Percent of Latino population	26.3%	52.9%	31.3%	62.3%	89.3%	69.7%
Dominican	29,767	3,054	37,136	944	1,408	1,201
Percent of Latino population	13.9%	31.2%	50.2%	5.7%	1.8%	2.9%
Mexican	9,906	0	439	2,430	2,844	2,700
Percent of Latino population	4.6%	0.0%	0.6%	14.7%	3.6%	6.6%
Salvadoran	24,296	0	0	0	156	0
Percent of Latino population	11.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%
Colombian	19,656	0	2,801	2,407	604	175
Percent of Latino population	9.2%	0.0%	3.8%	14.5%	0.8%	0.4%
Guatemalan	22,328	0	1,797	0	1,034	1,878
Percent of Latino population	10.4%	0.0%	2.4%	0.0%	1.3%	4.6%
Cuban	2,438	0	2,427	191	334	1,075
Percent of Latino population	1.1%	0.0%	3.3%	1.2%	0.4%	2.6%
Honduran	11,580	0	1,511	0	0	0
Percent of Latino population	5.4%	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2004, B04003.

Table 5. Most of the Latino population in Massachusetts was born in the U.S. and Puerto Rico, that is, most are American citizens by birthright. In 2000, 31% of the state's Latino population was foreign born³; this proportion increased only slightly in 2004, to 33%. Nonetheless, these numbers are significantly higher than for the population as whole: in Massachusetts overall, foreign born persons composed just 14% of the population in 2004, up from 12% in 2000.

TABLE 5: FOREIGN BORN POPULATION IN MASSACHUSETTS, 2000-2004

	2000	2004
Total population	6,349,097	6,201,416
Percent of total population that is foreign born	12.2%	13.7%
Latino population	427,340	478,929
Percent of Latino population that is foreign born	31.2%	33.4%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000, Summary File 4; U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2004, B06003 & B06004I.

Table 6. Statewide, Latinos who are foreign born make up about 33% of the total Latino population, with the highest concentration of foreign born Latinos, 46%, residing in the Boston metropolitan area. Both Brockton and Lawrence are close to the statewide average, with approximately 35% of the Latino population in both cities being foreign born. Springfield has the lowest level of foreign born Latinos, at 7.5%.

TABLE 6: FOREIGN BORN AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE LATINO POPULATION OF MASSACHUSETTS AND SELECTED METROPOLITAN AREAS, 2004

	Massachu- setts	Boston PMSA	Brockton PMSA	Lawrence PMSA	Lowell PMSA	Springfield MSA	Worcester PMSA
Total Latino population	478,929	214,447	9,792	73,965	16,557	78,801	41,075
Total foreign born Latinos	159,885	99,322	3,464	26,453	3,609	5,903	7,315
Foreign born Latinos as % of Latino population	33.3%	46.2%	35.4%	35.8%	21.8%	7.5%	17.8%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2004, B06004I.

Age and Gender

Table 7. Latinos are significantly younger than the overall population. The median age for Latinos is 26.5 compared to 38 years for the total population of Massachusetts. This pattern holds for both men and women.

Among Latinos, women have a higher median age than do men. This mirrors the overall population and reflects the longer life expectancy for women across racial/ethnic groups.

TABLE 7: MEDIAN AGE, IN YEARS, BY SEX, TOTAL POPULATION AND LATINO POPULATION FOR MASSACHUSETTS, 2004

	All	Male	Female
Total Population	38.1	37.0	39.0
Latino Population	26.5	25.5	27.6

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2004, B01002 & B01002I

Table 8. Mirroring the overall population of Massachusetts, there are more females than males among Latinos in the state. But, there is some variance among national groups. For example, according to the 2000 US Census, women were more numerous among Puerto Ricans and Dominicans but were the minority among Guatemalans and Salvadorans, showing the strong presence of males among the new immigrant groups.⁴

TABLE 8. GENDER, TOTAL POPULATION AND LATINO POPULATION FOR MASSACHUSETTS, 2004

	Percent Female
Overall Population	51.6%
Latino Population	50.6%

Table 9. Children make up a greater percentage of the Latino population than of the population overall: about 38% of the Latino population is 19 or younger, as compared with just 25.4% in the overall population. Among children younger than 5, the difference is even sharper, with almost twice as high a proportion of Latinos as of the general population being under the age of 5 (10.8% as compared to 6.3 %).

By contrast, fewer Latinos are 65 or older (2.4%) as compared with the overall population (12.8%). Approximately half (50.4%) of the Latino population are in their prime working years, between 25 and 64 years old, while that percentage is slightly higher for the population overall (55.9%).

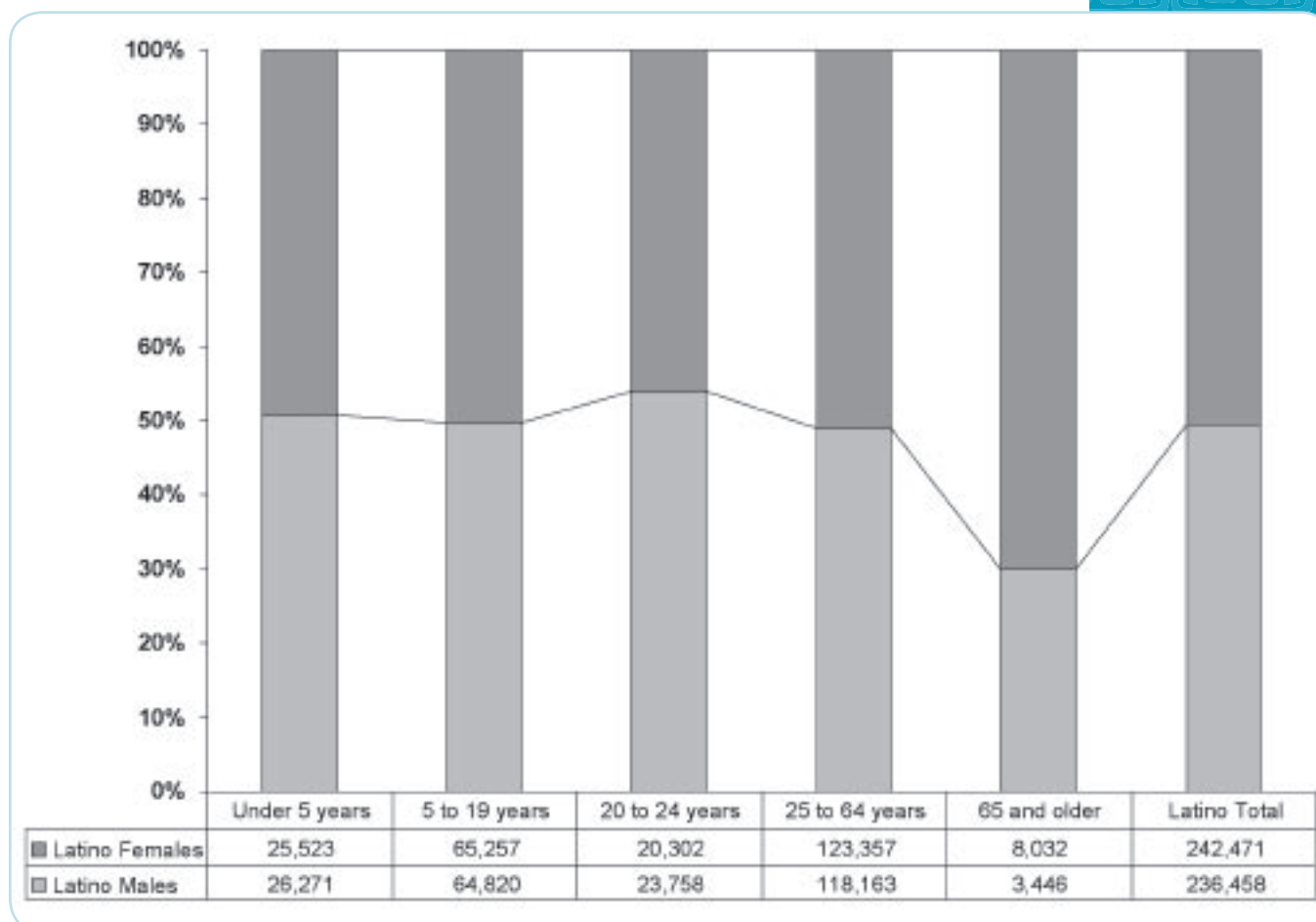
TABLE 9: AGE DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL POPULATION AND LATINO POPULATION IN MASSACHUSETTS 2004

	Total Population	Percent of Total Population	Latino Population	Percent of Latino Population
Under 5 years	392,028	6.3%	51,794	10.8%
5 to 19 years	1,183,562	19.1%	130,077	27.2%
20 to 24 years	371,448	6.0%	44,060	9.2%
25 to 64 years	3,463,294	55.9%	241,520	50.4%
65 and older	791,084	12.8%	11,478	2.4%
Total	6,201,416	100.0%	478,929	100.0%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2004, B01001 & B01001I.

Figure 3. In 2004, Latino women accounted for 51% of the total Latino population (478,929) in Massachusetts. Women and men in the Latino population are relatively evenly distributed across all age groups, except for 65 years and older; men make up only 30% of all Latinos who are 65 or older. This pattern is similar to that found among the general population.

FIGURE 3: AGE AND GENDER DISTRIBUTION OF LATINO POPULATION IN MASSACHUSETTS, 2004



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2004, B01001I.

Households and Families

The U.S. Census Bureau defines household and family differently. Households are units that can contain families and can also contain unrelated individuals. Families contain only individuals related by birth, marriage or adoption.⁵

Table 10. Latino households account for 5.8% of all Massachusetts households and 6.9% of the state's family households. A high percentage of Latino households (76.9%) are composed of families, that is by persons related to one another; only 23.1% of Latino households are made up of unrelated individuals. This mirrors the general population, although the percentage of family households among Latinos is greater than in the general population.

TABLE 10: HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION, MASSACHUSETTS, 2004

	All Households		Latino Households		Percent of All Households that are Latino
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
All family households	1,565,568	64.3%	108,041	76.9%	6.9%
Non-family households	869,853	35.7%	32,447	23.1%	3.7%
Total Households	2,435,421		140,488		5.8%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2004, B11001 & B11002I.

Table 11. Latino households are larger than those of the population as a whole for all types of households. With 3.8 members, Latino family households are more than twice the size of nonfamily households (which have 1.46 members). This pattern is similar to that of the general population.

TABLE 11: AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE, TOTAL POPULATION AND LATINO POPULATION, MASSACHUSETTS, 2004

	Total Population	Latino Population
Size of all household types	2.55	3.26
Size of family households	3.24	3.80
Size of non-family households	1.30	1.46

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2004, B11002, B11001, B11002I and B11001I.

Table 12. Families are made up of persons related to each other by birth, marriage, or adoption. The census describes three types of families: married-couple families and families headed by a man or by a woman with no spouse present.

Among Latinos, the largest percentage of families are married-couple families (45.17%), followed by families headed by a woman (42.5%). This pattern differs markedly from that of the general population: 75% of families overall are married-couple families. Latino families headed by a woman account for 15.6% of all families of this type in Massachusetts.

TABLE 12: COMPOSITION OF ALL FAMILIES AND LATINO FAMILIES, MASSACHUSETTS, 2004

	All Families		Latino Families		Percent of All Families that are Latino
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total number of families	1,565,568	100.0%	108,041	100.0%	6.9%
Married couple families	1,176,009	75.1%	48,803	45.2	4.1%
Family with male householder, no wife present	94,089	6.0%	13,256	12.3%	14.1%
Family with female householder, no husband present	295,470	18.9%	45,982	42.5%	15.6%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2004, B11001 & B11002I.

Table 13. While all Latino families are larger on average than those in the general population, the difference is greatest for married-couple families. Married-couple Latino families have, on average, 4.31 persons, as compared to 3.31 for the population as a whole. Female-headed families with no husband present are only slightly larger for the Latino population as compared to the population as a whole (3.28 and 2.98, respectively).

TABLE 13: AVERAGE FAMILY SIZE, ALL FAMILIES AND LATINO FAMILIES, MASSACHUSETTS 2004

	All Families	Latino Families
Married-couple family	3.31	4.31
Family with male householder, no wife present	3.09	3.69
Family with female householder, no husband present	2.98	3.28

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2004, B11002, B11001, B11002I and B11001I.

Economic Well-being

Table 14. Unemployment rates were low in 2004 in Massachusetts, at 4.2% for the population overall and slightly higher, 6.2%, for the Latino population.⁶

TABLE 14: LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION OF PERSONS 16 AND OVER, TOTAL POPULATION AND LATINO POPULATION, MASSACHUSETTS 2004

	Overall Population		Latino Population	
Population 16 years and over	4,901,701		323,707	
Employed	3,149,724	64.3%	205,586	63.5%
Unemployed	204,739	4.2%	20,044	6.2%
Not in labor force	1,542,149	31.5%	97,771	30.2%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2004, B23001 & B23001I.

Tables 15a & 15b. Latino men and women both had slightly higher unemployment rates than their counterparts in the overall population (6.4% as compared with 4.8% for men and 6.0% as compared with 3.6% for women). Women are more likely not to be in the labor force than are men. For example, roughly 38% of all women are not in the labor force, a figure that holds for Latinas as well, while less than a quarter of all men (24.9%) are not in the labor force

TABLE 15A: LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION FOR MALES OVER 16 YEARS, TOTAL POPULATION AND LATINO POPULATION

Male Population		
	Overall	Latino
Employed	70.1%	71.4%
Unemployed	4.8%	6.4%
Not in labor force	24.9%	22.4%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2004, B23001 & B23001I.

TABLE 15B: LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION FOR FEMALES OVER 16 YEARS, TOTAL POPULATION AND LATINA POPULATION

Female Population		
	Overall	Latina
Employed	59.0%	56.0%
Unemployed	3.6%	6.0%
Not in labor force	37.4%	38.0%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2004, B23001 & B23001I.

Table 16. Latinos remain concentrated in low-paying and low-skill professions and are underrepresented in high-wage and professional positions. Latino workers are primarily concentrated in service jobs, with 36.6% of Latino workers holding service jobs, more than double the percentage of the overall population of workers (16.1%) in that sector. A relatively large percentage of Latino workers are employed in production occupations (14.3%) as compared with the rest of the workforce (5.6%). By contrast, only 6.0% of Latino workers are employed in management, business, and financial occupations compared to 15.7% of the overall population. Similarly, only 11.5% of Latino workers hold professional occupations, compared to 26.1% of the total population of workers.

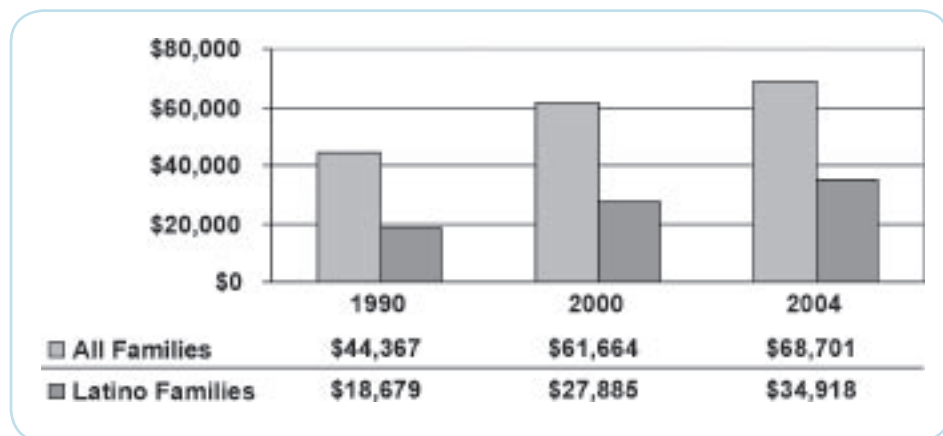
TABLE 16: OCCUPATION TYPES FOR INDIVIDUALS IN MASSACHUSETTS, 2004

	Total Population		Latino Population	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	3,149,724	100.0%	205,586	100.0%
Management, business, and financial occupations	494,061	15.7%	12,239	6.0%
Professional and related occupations	820,458	26.1%	23,648	11.5%
Service occupations	507,024	16.1%	69,072	33.6%
Sales and office occupations	756,598	24.0%	37,541	18.3%
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	11,084	0.4%	3,034	1.5%
Construction, extraction, maintenance, and repair occupations	250,437	8.0%	13,177	6.4%
Production occupations	177,316	5.6%	29,457	14.3%
Transportation and material moving occupations	132,746	4.2%	17,418	8.5%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2004, B24010 & B24010I.

Figure 4. The concentration of Latinos in low-paying and low-skill professions has significant implications for the economic wellbeing of Latino families, as evidenced by the fact that the median income for Latino families in Massachusetts (\$34,918) was roughly half that of families in the overall population (\$68,701) in 2004. Moreover, this income gap is a trend: despite growing incomes, Latino families are consistently lagging behind the state median in terms of income. Because these figures are presented in inflation-adjusted dollars, the situation appears to be steadily improving for Latino families in the state. Taken together with larger than average family sizes, however, these lower incomes contribute to the 25% poverty rate for Latinos in Massachusetts (see Figure 4 and Table 17).

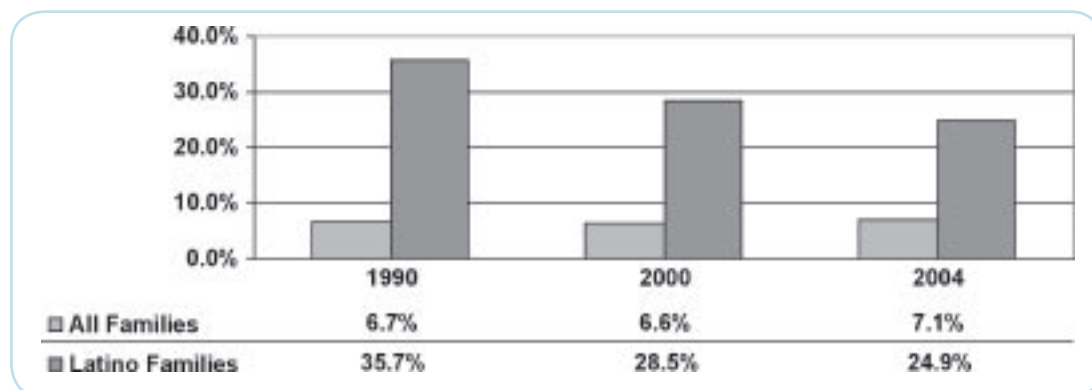
FIGURE 4: MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME FOR ALL FAMILIES AND LATINO FAMILIES IN MASSACHUSETTS, 1990, 2000, AND 2004 (IN INFLATION ADJUSTED DOLLARS)



Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 1990 Census of Population Social and Economic Characteristics: Massachusetts (1990 CP-2-23); U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000, Summary File 4; U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2004.

Figure 5. Poverty rates for Latino families are much higher than those for the overall population, with one quarter (24.9%) of Latino families living in poverty in 2004, as compared with 7.1% of all families. Despite the huge gap this represents, it is an improvement from 1990, when more than one-third of Latino families were living in poverty. At the same time, poverty rates for families overall have remained fairly consistent, ranging between 6.6% and 7.1% between 1990 and 2004.

FIGURE 5: FAMILIES LIVING IN POVERTY, TOTAL POPULATION AND LATINO POPULATION, MASSACHUSETTS, 1990, 2000 AND 2004



Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 1990 Census of Population Social and Economic Characteristics: Massachusetts (1990 CP-2-23); U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000, Summary File 4; U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2004.

Table 17. The figures in Table 17 reflect longstanding patterns of family poverty in the United States. Female-headed households have much higher poverty rates than male-headed or two-parent families. Overall, female-headed households make up about two-thirds of all families living in poverty. This pattern is particularly stark for Latina householders, who account for 83% of the Latino family poverty rate (as compared with 65.9% for all female-headed families). In all cases, families with children are much more likely than those without them to experience poverty.

TABLE 17: PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES WITH INCOME BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, MASSACHUSETTS, 2004

	All Families	Latino Families
Total number of poor families	111,668	26,858
Married-couple family	25.1%	12.3%
With related children under 18 years:	51.5%	84.4%
Male householder, no wife present:	9.1%	4.6%
With related children under 18 years:	71.6%	97.0%
Female householder, no husband present:	65.9%	83.0%
With related children under 18 years:	90.6%	85.9%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2004, B17010 & B17010I.

Table 18. The poverty rate for individual Latinos in 2004 was similar to that for Latino families (24.2%), whereas it is slightly higher for individuals than families in the overall population, at 9.2%. Almost one-third (31.2%) of Latinos under the age of 18 are living in poverty, which represents a slight decrease from 2000, when the rate was 37.2%. While a higher percentage of all children live in poverty than any other group, rates are much higher for Latino children than those in the general population. Poverty for elderly Latinos has increased slightly, with nearly 30% of the Latino elderly population living in poverty (up from 23.4% in 1990 and 28.1% in 2000). In contrast, just 8.6% of the overall elderly population lived in poverty in 2004, a percentage that is rather consistent over this time period.

TABLE 18: POVERTY RATES FOR ALL INDIVIDUALS AND LATINO INDIVIDUALS IN MASSACHUSETTS, 1990, 2000 AND 2004

	1990		2000		2004	
	All Individuals	Latino Individuals	All Individuals	Latino Individuals	All Individuals	Latino Individuals
All ages	8.9%	36.7%	9.3%	29.8%	9.2%	24.9%
Under 18 years	13.2%	49.1%	12.0%	37.2%	12.4%	31.2%
65 years and over	9.1%	23.4%	8.9%	28.1%	8.6%	30.0%

Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 1990 Census of Population Social and Economic Characteristics: Massachusetts (1990 CP-2-23); U.S. Bureau of the Census 2000, Summary File 4; U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2004, B17020 & B17020I.

Table 19. The Latino population is contributing to the economy, and to their own economic wellbeing, through entrepreneurial activities. **In 2002, 2.8% of all Firms in Massachusetts were owned by Latinos, yet they represented only 0.3% of the total sales and receipts for all firms in the state. The five top revenue-generating industries for Latinos were retail trade, wholesale trade, construction, manufacturing, and professional, scientific, and technical services.** Together these industries accounted for 31.6% of all businesses owned by Latinos, and they generated a majority of sales and receipts (57.7%).

TABLE 19: LATINO-OWNED FIRMS IN MASSACHUSETTS, 2002

FIRMS	Number of Firms	Sales and Receipts
All firms	563,540	\$649,462,336
Latino-owned firms	15,922	\$2,067,954.00
Latino-owned firms as percentage of total	2.8%	0.3%
Industries Accounting for Largest Receipts for Latino-Owned Firms		
Retail trade	1,347	\$229,298.00
Wholesale trade	118	\$312,010.00
Construction	1,458	\$270,758.00
Manufacturing	237	\$168,256.00
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,868	\$212,232.00
Top Industries as percentage of total Latino-owned firms	31.6%	57.7%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2002 Economic Census, Survey of Business Owners. "SBO: GAS: Economy-Wide Estimates of Business Ownership: 2002" and "SBO: Hisp: State by KOB: 2002," http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/FindEconDatasetsServlet?_caller=geoselect&_ts=172514443532 (accessed August 1, 2006).

Education and English Language Attainment

Table 20. On average, Latinos have achieved less formal education than the population as a whole. For example, one-third (33.5%) of Latinos lack a high school diploma or equivalency degree – that compares with just 11.8% of the population as a whole. By contrast, more than one-third (37.4%) of the general population has at least a Bachelor's degree, while only 15.6% of the Latino population does.

TABLE 20: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR TOTAL POPULATION AND LATINO POPULATION, PERSONS OVER 25 YEARS OLD IN MASSACHUSETTS, 2004

	Percent of Total Population	Percent of Latino Population
No schooling completed	0.9%	Not available
Less than 9th grade	3.7%	17.7%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	7.2%	15.9%
High school graduate	28.0%	31.3%
Some college, no degree	15.3%	13.9%
Associate's degree	7.7%	5.7%
Bachelor's degree	21.8%	10.2%
Graduate or professional degree	15.6%	5.3%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2004, B15002 & B15002I.

Tables 21a & 21b. English and Spanish language abilities for Latinos in Massachusetts were rather consistent between 2000 and 2004. Of all Latinos living in Massachusetts, nearly 17% speak only English; most of the remainder speak at least some Spanish.⁷ For Latinos who speak Spanish, very few (less than 8%) speak no English at all. More than 50% of those who speak Spanish also speak English very well.

TABLE 21A: ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH AND SPANISH FOR ALL LATINOS IN MASSACHUSETTS, 2000-2004

	2000	2004
Speak only English	16.9%	16.8%
Speak Spanish	81.6%	82.1%

TABLE 21B: ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH FOR SPANISH-SPEAKING LATINOS IN MASSACHUSETTS, 2000-2004

	2000	2004
Speak English “very well”	52.8%	50.2%
Speak English “well”	23.1%	22.9%
Speak English “not well”	16.3%	19.4%
Speak English “not at all”	7.7%	7.5%

Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census 2000, Summary File 4; U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2004, B16005 & B16005I.

¹ In 1990, Puerto Ricans comprised 53% of the Latino population, while Dominicans made up 11%, Mexicans were 4% and Cubans were 3%. See: Andrés Torres and Lisa Chavez, *Latinos in Massachusetts: An Update*. A Report Prepared for the Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy at UMASS Boston, November 1998, 2.

² Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas (PMSAs) and Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), defined by the United States Office of Management and Budget (OMB), are core areas that have substantial populations and are closely connected to nearby communities through social and economic ties. For more detailed information, see: U.S. Census Bureau, “About Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas,” <http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/aboutmetro.html> (accessed July 21, 2006). For a complete list of cities and towns included in each of these areas, see: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau, “Metropolitan Areas and Components, 1999, with FIPS Codes,”

<http://www.census.gov/population/estimates/metro-city/99mfips.txt>, January 28, 2002.

³ The foreign born population includes any U.S. resident born outside of the United States or one of its territories (e.g. Puerto Rico), unless they were born outside of the U.S. and at least one parent was an American citizen. See: Campbell Gibson and Kay Jung, “Historical Census Statistics on the Foreign-Born Population of the United States: 1850-2000,” Population Division, U.S. Census, Working Paper 81, February 2006.

⁴ U.S. Bureau of the Census 2000, Summary File 4

⁵ U.S. Census, American FactFinder Glossary, http://www.factfinder.census.gov/home/en/epss/glossary_h.html (accessed July 31, 2006).

⁶ As defined by the U.S. Census, employed persons include anyone over the age of 16 who did any work as paid employees or worked more than 15 hours in the previous week at their own (or a family owned) business farm; also included are people who have jobs but were on vacation, sick leave, etc. Excluded are people who do unpaid housework or volunteer work, and members of the U.S. military. Unemployed persons include all persons over the age of 16 who did not perform paid work in the week previous to the survey, were actively looking for a job and were available to work. Persons categorized as “not in the labor force” are those over the age of 16 who are not looking for work, primarily students and housewives, institutionalized people and those who do only incidental unpaid family work. For more detailed explanations, see: U.S. Census, American FactFinder Glossary, http://www.factfinder.census.gov/home/en/epss/glossary_a.html (accessed July 31, 2006).

⁷ The percentages for all Latinos who speak English and/or Spanish total approximately 99% for both 2000 and 2004. Presumably, the remaining 1% is Latinos who claim to speak neither English nor Spanish, for example Guatemalan native people who speak different Mayan languages.