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The Mauricio Gastón Institute
for Latino Community Development
and Public Policy

Worcester

by Mandira Kala and Charles Jones | August 1, 2006

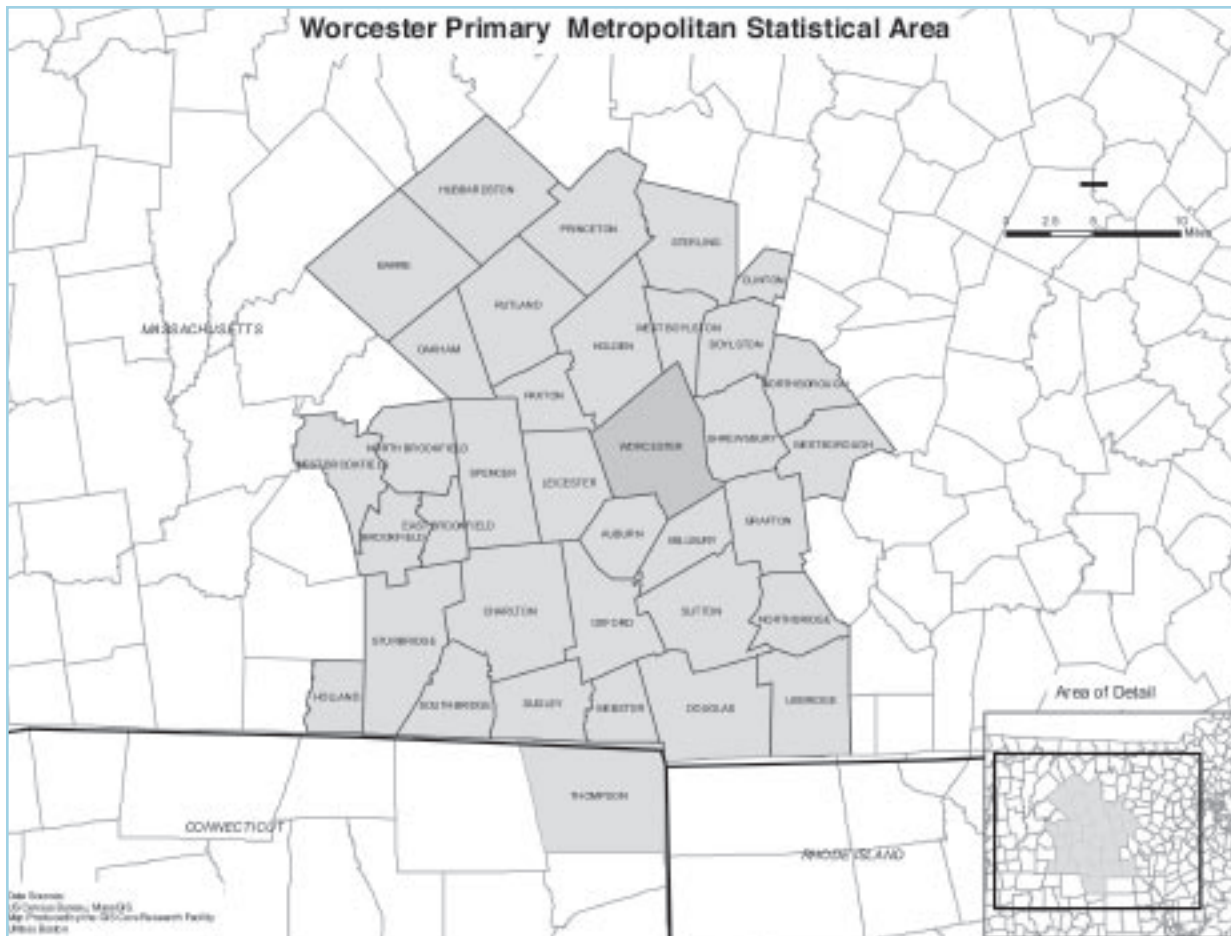
This fact sheet presents various economic, social, and demographic indicators pertaining to the Latino population in the Worcester Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA) and, when required, compares the Worcester PMSA with the state of Massachusetts overall and with the other main areas of large Latino concentration, namely, the Boston and Lawrence PMSAs and the Springfield Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).¹ In this fact sheet the term “Worcester” refers to the complete PMSA and not just the city of Worcester. The information for this fact sheet comes from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey of 2004.²

¹ A Metropolitan Statistical Area is a unit used by the U.S. Census but which is determined by the Office of Management and Budget. It is an area associated with at least one urbanized center with a population of at least 50,000 and which comprises a central county or counties (core) plus adjacent counties having a high degree of social and economic integration. The Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas (PMSAs) are the same as MSAs except that they are near (and economically/socially linked to) other PMSAs to form larger “CMSAs” – Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Areas that have a population of 1 million or more.

² U.S. Census Bureau 2005. American Community Survey 2004. Core Tables <http://www2.census.gov/acs2004/Core_Tables/> Published 27 Aug 2005.

The Worcester Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area:

The PMSA of Worcester comprises the cities and towns of Holland (in Hampden County) and Auburn, Barre, Boylston, Brookfield, Charlton, Clinton, Douglas, Dudley, East Brookfield, Grafton, Holden, Leicester, Millbury, Northborough, Northbridge, North Brookfield, Oakham, Oxford, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Shrewsbury, Southbridge, Spencer, Sterling, Sturbridge, Sutton, Uxbridge, Webster, Westborough, West Boylston, West Brookfield, and Worcester, all in Worcester County. It also includes the town of Thompson in Connecticut.



December 2005 (OMB Bulletin No. 06-01) <http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/metro-def.html>

Population: Race, National Origin, and Nativity

Race of the population: The PMSA of Worcester comprises the cities and towns of Holland (in Hampden County) and Auburn, Barre, Boylston, Brookfield, Charlton, Clinton, Douglas, Dudley, East Brookfield, Grafton, Holden, Leicester, Millbury, Northborough, Northbridge, North Brookfield, Oakham, Oxford, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Shrewsbury, Southbridge, Spencer, Sterling, Sturbridge, Sutton, Uxbridge, Webster, Westborough, West Boylston, West Brookfield, and Worcester, all in Worcester County. It also includes the town of Thompson in Connecticut.

TABLE 1: POPULATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY. 2004 (%)

	Massachusetts	Boston PMSA	Lawrence PMSA	Springfield MSA	Worcester PMSA
Total Population	6,201,416	3,274,585	422,228	560,472	523,569
Hispanic or Latino	7.7	6.6	17.5	14.1	7.9
White	80.3	79.0	75.6	75.7	83.7
Black or African American	5.6	6.6	2.2	6.7	3.1
American Indian and Alaska Native	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Asian	4.6	6.1	3.5	2.2	3.9
Some other race	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Two or more races	1.0	1.1	1.0	<1%	<1%

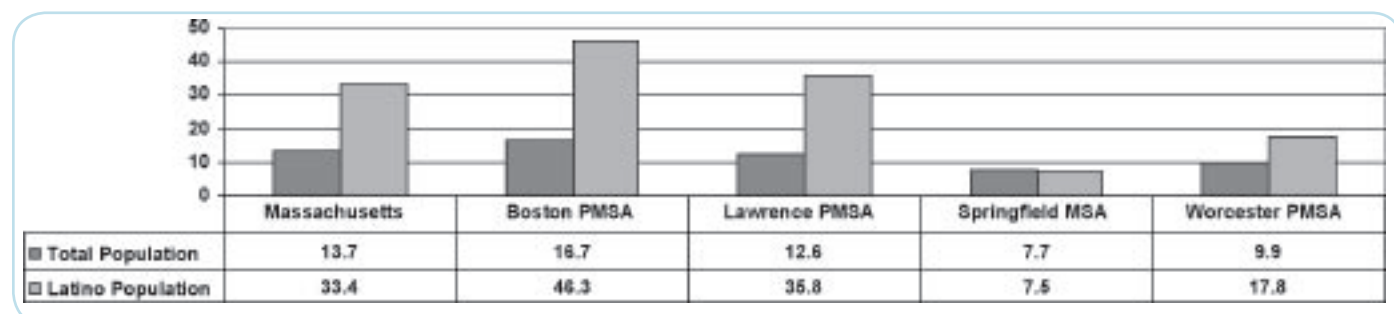
National origin of the Latino population: In Worcester, as in Springfield, Puerto Ricans are the largest Latino national group, accounting for 70% of the Latino population of the PMSA. Representation of other national groups is very small.

TABLE 2: NATIONAL ORIGIN OF LATINO POPULATION (%)

	Massachusetts	Boston PMSA	Lawrence PMSA	Springfield MSA	Worcester PMSA
Total Latino	478,929	214,447	73,965	78,801	41,075
Puerto Rican	45.7	26.3	31.3	89.3	69.7
Dominican	15.6	13.9	50.2	1.8	2.9
Guatemalan	6.5	10.4	2.4	1.3	4.6
Salvadoran	6.0	11.3	<1%	<1%	<1%
Colombian	5.8	9.2	3.8	<1%	<1%
Mexican	3.9	4.6	<1%	3.6	6.6
Other Central American	5.0	9.0	2.0	<1%	<1%
Other South American	4.7	6.0	3.5	<1%	12.1
Other Hispanic or Latino	10.8	14.0	6.7	5.2	10.2

Nativity of population Almost 10% of the overall population in Worcester is foreign born, as is 17.8 percent of its Latino population.

FIGURE 1: FOREIGN BORN AS A % OF TOTAL AND LATINO POPULATIONS



Age and Gender

Age. Almost 10% of the overall population in Worcester is foreign born, as is 17.8 percent of its Latino population.

TABLE 3: MEDIAN AGE (IN YEARS) AND AGE DISTRIBUTION (IN %) OF TOTAL POPULATION AND LATINO POPULATION

	Massachusetts		Boston PMSA		Lawrence PMSA		Springfield MSA		Worcester PMSA	
	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino
Median Age	38.1	26.5	38.0	28.2	37.3	23.3	37.4	24.7	37.5	25.7
Under 5 years	6	11	7	10	8	14	6	10	6	10
5 to 19 years	19	27	18	25	23	28	20	31	19	25
20 to 24 years	6	9	6	7	7	12	7	9	7	13
25 to 64 years	56	50	57	56	53	44	53	46	57	52
65 and older	13	2	13	2	9	2	13	3	11	0

Gender: The gender distribution among the Latino population in Worcester is very distinct, with females in a significant majority of 55% compared to 45% of Latino men. The trend in the gender distribution of the overall population is similar to the state with females (51%) being marginally higher than males (49%).

TABLE 4: GENDER OF TOTAL POPULATION AND LATINO POPULATION (%)

	Massachusetts		Boston PMSA		Lawrence PMSA		Springfield MSA		Worcester PMSA	
	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino
Total Population	6,201,416	478,929	3,274,585	214,447	422,228	73,965	560,472	78,801	523,569	41,075
% Female	52	51	52	49	52	49	52	52	51	55

Economic Wellbeing

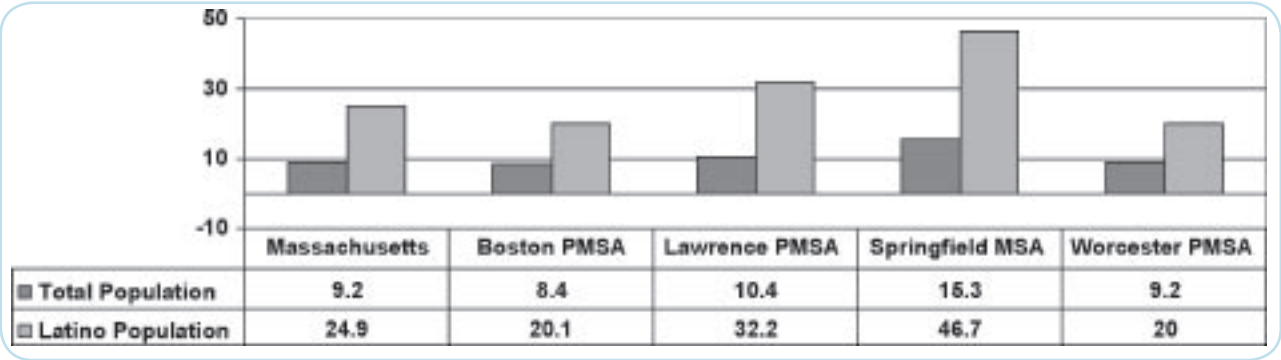
Family Income: The median family income for Latinos in Worcester is \$26,700, which is barely half (50.7%) of the family income of the overall population of the PMSA.

TABLE 5: MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME OF TOTAL POPULATION AND LATINO POPULATION

	Massachusetts		Boston PMSA		Lawrence PMSA		Springfield MSA		Worcester PMSA	
	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino
Median family income (in \$)	55,658	36,258	61,333	42,294	63,715	29,917	42,977	19,924	52,600	26,700
Latino median family income as a % of median family income of total population	65.1%		69.0%		47.0%		46.4%		50.8%	

Poverty: In the Worcester PMSA, Latinos show a poverty rate of 20%, more than twice that of the overall population of the region. As is the case in Boston, the poverty rate for Latinos in Worcester is below that for Latinos statewide.

FIGURE 2: POVERTY RATES FOR TOTAL POPULATION AND LATINO POPULATION (%)



Composition of Families

The composition of families. In the Worcester PMSA, Latinos show a poverty rate of 20%, more than twice that of the overall population of the region. As is the case in Boston, the poverty rate for Latinos in Worcester is below that for Latinos statewide.

TABLE 6: FAMILY COMPOSITION OF TOTAL POPULATION AND LATINO POPULATION (% OF HOUSEHOLDS)

	Massachusetts		Boston PMSA		Lawrence PMSA		Springfield MSA		Worcester PMSA	
	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino
Married-couple family	48.3	34.7	47.9	39.0	54.8	33.9	42.3	17.9	47.2	33.1
Male householder, no wife present	3.9	9.4	3.9	12.4	4.1	7.7	5.0	6.9	3.7	4.5
Female householder, no husband present	12.1	32.7	11.4	26.8	12.6	32.0	15.2	42.2	10.7	30.1
Non-family households	35.7	23.1	36.8	21.8	28.5	26.4	37.4	32.9	38.3	32.3

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment of Latino adults. About one fifth (20.4%) of Latinos in the Worcester PMSA have less than nine years of schooling, which is more than the state average among Latinos. On the other hand, 29.6% have had at least some college, and 6.4% have graduate or professional degrees, higher than the state average.

TABLE 7: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF POPULATION OVER 25, OF TOTAL POPULATION AND LATINO POPULATION (%)

	Massachusetts		Boston PMSA		Lawrence PMSA		Springfield MSA		Worcester PMSA	
	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino	Total	Latino
Less than 9th grade	4.6	17.7	3.7	16.1	4.6	16.6	6.0	27.1	4.4	20.4
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	7.2	15.9	6.2	16.7	7.3	9.2	10.0	18.1	8.0	15.1
High school graduate	27.9	31.3	25.6	30.2	26.6	28.6	31.1	29.3	28.7	35.0
Some college, no degree	15.3	13.9	13.9	11.6	17.9	21.2	17.1	13.4	16.3	13.1
Associate's degree	7.7	5.7	6.7	5.2	8.6	4.3	8.5	3.2	7.7	6.1
Bachelor's degree	21.8	10.2	24.2	12.5	22.0	14.3	15.1	7.1	22.2	4.0
Graduate or professional degree	15.6	5.3	19.2	7.8	13.1	5.8	12.4	1.8	12.8	6.4