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Recommended Citation

Kala, Mandira and Jones, Charles, "Boston" (2006). *Gastón Institute Publications*. 54.
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The Mauricio Gastón Institute
for Latino Community Development
and Public Policy

Boston

by Mandira Kala and Charles Jones | August 1, 2006

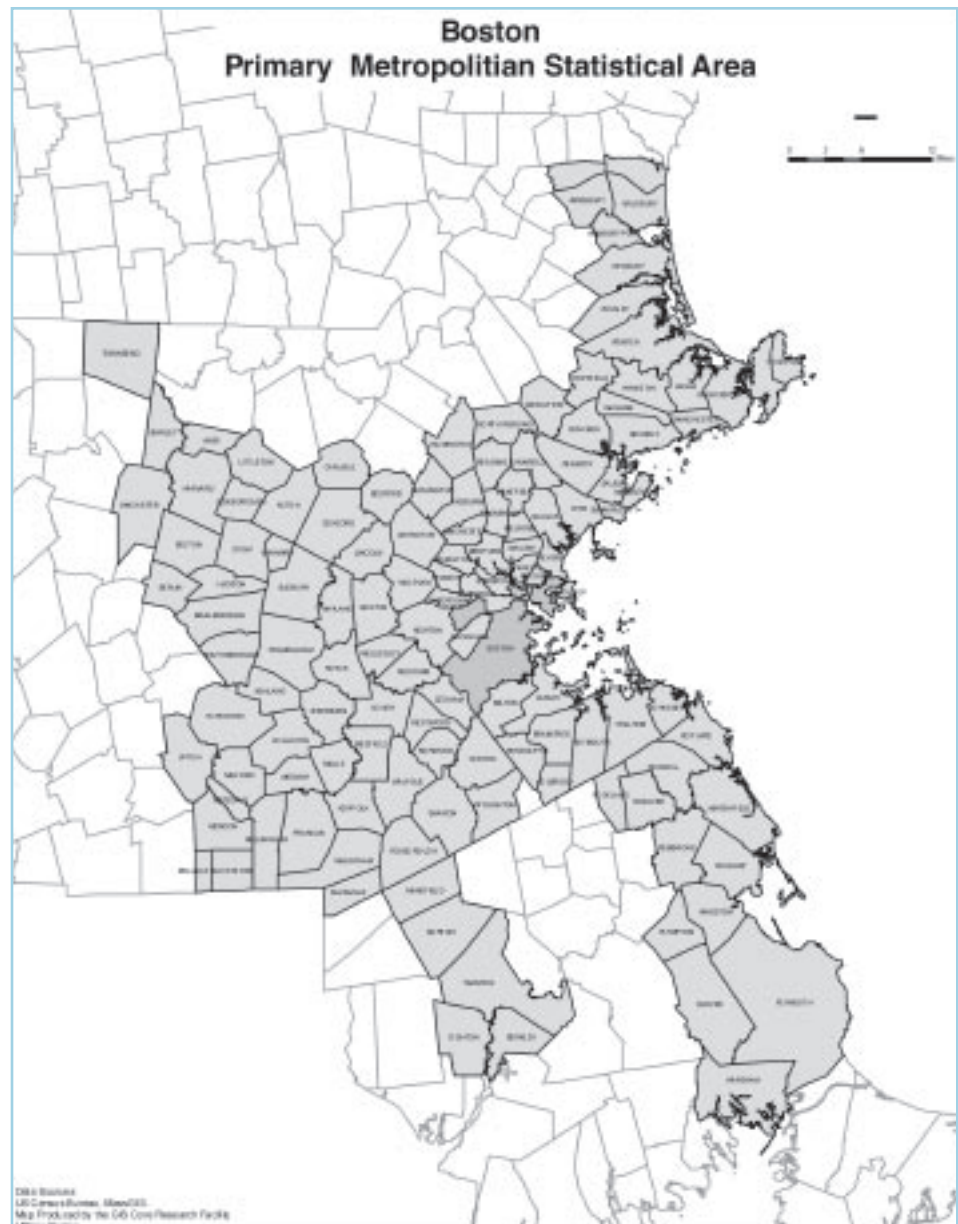
This fact sheet presents various economic, social, and demographic indicators pertaining to the Latino population in the Boston Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA) and, when required, compares the Boston PMSA with the state of Massachusetts overall and with the other main areas of large Latino concentration, namely, the Lawrence and Worcester PMSAs and the Springfield Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).¹ In this fact sheet the term “Boston” refers to the complete PMSA and not just the city of Boston. 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 Boston Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area:

In addition to the City of Boston, the PMSA of Boston comprises the cities and towns of Chelsea and Revere in Suffolk County; Mansfield in Bristol County; Andover, Beverly, Boxford, Essex, Gloucester, Hamilton, Ipswich, Lynnfield, Manchester by the Sea, Middleton, Newbury, Newburyport, Rockport, Rowley, Saugus, Topsfield, Wenham (in Essex County); Acton, Arlington, Ayer, Bedford, Belmont, Boxborough, Burlington, Cambridge, Carlisle, Concord, Everett, Groton, Lexington, Lincoln, Littleton, Malden, Maynard, Medford, Melrose, Newton, North Reading, Reading, Sherborn, Shirley, Somerville, Stoneham, Stow, Sudbury, Wakefield, Waltham, Watertown, Wayland, Weston, Wilmington, Winchester and Woburn in Middlesex County; Braintree, Brookline, Canton, Cohasset, Dedham, Dover, Foxborough, Franklin, Holbrook, Medfield, Medway, Millis, Milton, Needham, Norfolk, Norwood, Quincy, Randolph, Sharon, Stoughton, Walpole, Wellesley, Westwood, Weymouth and Wrentham in Norfolk County; Carver, Duxbury, Hanover, Hingham, Hull, Kingston, Marshfield, Norwell, Pembroke, Plymouth, Rockland, and Scituate in Plymouth County; and Bolton and Harvard in Worcester County.



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

Population: Race, National Origin, and Nativity

Race of the population: The Boston PMSA's Latino population is the largest in the state, more than two and half times larger than Springfield's, the second most populous Latino settlement in Massachusetts. But, accounting for only 6.6% of the population of the city, Boston's Latino population is not as dense as the Latino settlements in Lawrence and Springfield, where they account for 17.5% and 14%, respectively. Boston is more racially diverse than the state as a whole, with the largest African American and Asian populations in the state, but the diversity in the capital city is less than that found in the Lawrence and Springfield areas.

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%

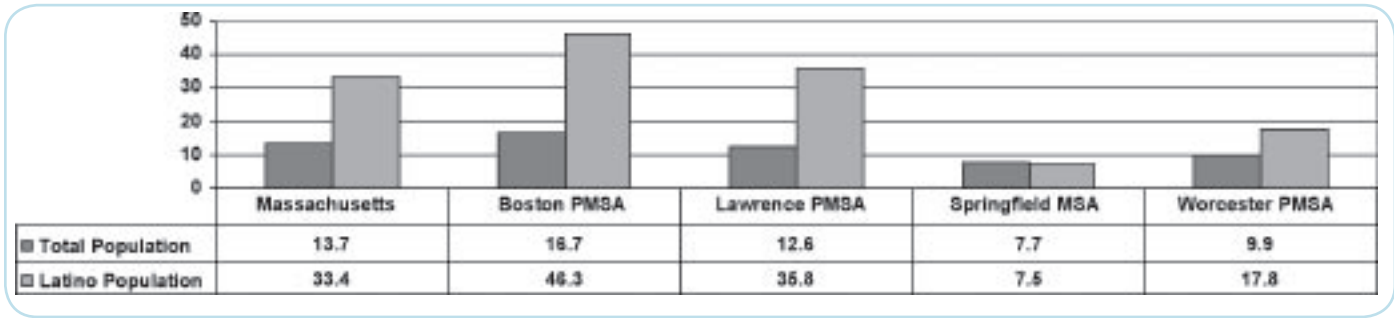
National origin of the Latino population: Boston's diversity is also reflected in the national origin of its Latino population. Boston's Latino population is the most diverse of all the regions considered, with no group being truly dominant in its numbers. In Boston, Puerto Ricans account for 26.3% of the Latino population, well below the state average of 45.7%. Dominicans (13.8%), and Salvadorans (11.3%), Guatemalans (10.4%), and Colombians (9.1%) also have significant representations.

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 In the Boston PMSA, 46.3% of Latinos are foreign born, the largest concentration of foreign born of the regions considered here. Boston also has the highest proportion of foreign born in its general population (13.7%). In both cases, the rate of foreign born surpasses that of the state overall.

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



Age and Gender

Age. In all regions of the state, the Latino population is younger than the average population; this is also the case in Boston. The median age of the total population in Boston is 38 years as compared to 28.2 years for the Latino population. Fifty seven percent of Latinos in Boston fall in the age group of 25–64 years and only 2% are 65 or older, compared to 13% in the overall 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: Unlike the situation in the state and in most areas of high Latino concentration, males outnumber females among Latinos in Boston. Forty nine percent of Boston’s Latinos are females compared to 51% of the state’s and 52% of Springfield’s Latino population.

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

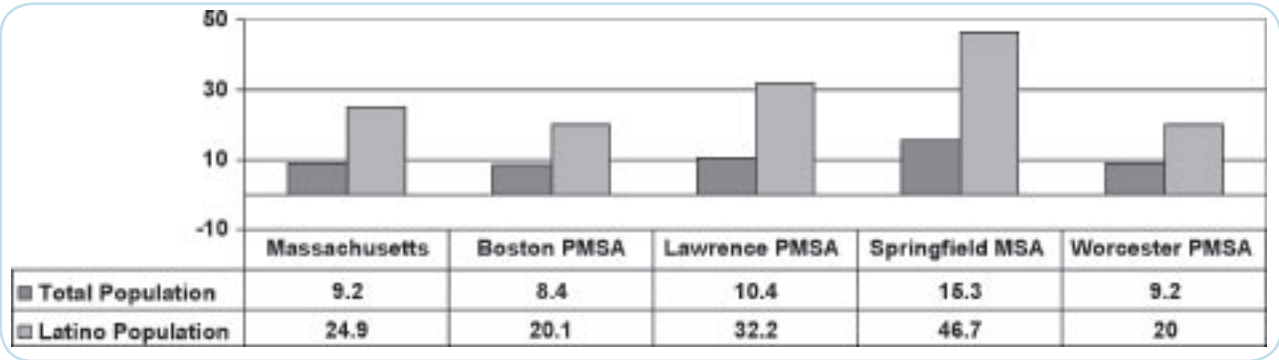
Family Income: The median family income of Latinos in Boston is \$42,294, the highest of any region considered and higher of that of Latino families in the state as a whole. However, even in Boston, the median family income of Latinos amounts to only 69% of the income of families in overall population.

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: The disparity in income between the general population and the Latino population of Boston is best understood in terms of the poverty rates in the Boston PMSA. Among Latinos, 20.1% of individuals are poor, almost two and a half times the rate of the general population. Poverty in both the general and the Latino population is below the state's rates.

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



Composition of Families

The composition of families. The prevalence of married couple households is stronger in Boston (39%) than among Latinos statewide and in the other regions considered here. Nevertheless, the prevalence of families headed by a single male or female is more than twice that of the general population of the region.

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. In Boston, the percentage of the Latino population with less than a 9th grade education is 16%, and a total of 63% have no education beyond high school. At the same time, the Boston region has the highest percentage of Latinos with graduate or professional degrees (7.8%), though Lawrence surpasses Boston's rate of Latinos with Bachelor's degrees.

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