The BPDA Research Division strives to understand the current environment of the city to produce quality research and targeted information that will inform and benefit the residents and businesses of Boston. The Division conducts research on Boston's economy, population, and commercial markets for all departments of the BPDA, the City of Boston, and related organizations. The information provided in this report is the best available at the time of its publication.

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Boston Planning & Development Agency Research Division, July 2023

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Research Publications

Research requests can be made through the BPDA Research Division's Research Inquiries.
1. Population
Puerto Ricans make up the largest share of Latinos in Massachusetts.

- In 2021 there were 5.8 million Puerto Ricans living in the United States and 3.26 million living in Puerto Rico.
- Of the Puerto Ricans living in the United States, 327,595 live in Massachusetts and 32,412 live in Boston.
- Massachusetts has the fifth largest Puerto Rican population after Florida, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.
- Puerto Ricans make up 37% of Massachusetts's Latino population while making up 9.4% of the United States’ Latino population.

Source: 2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis
From 2010 to 2019, more people moved from Boston to Puerto than the reverse.

Source: 2010-2019 American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis
Puerto Ricans make up 24% of the Latino population in Boston, and 5% of Boston’s population.

Source: 2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis
Puerto Rican Share of Neighborhood Population

- Hyde Park - 13.1%
- Mission Hill - 9.7%
- Roxbury - 8.9%
- Jamaica Plain - 6.1%
- South End - 5.9%
- Roslindale - 5.8%
- Dorchester - 5.6%
- Charlestown - 5.0%
Most Puerto Ricans living in Boston were born in the 50 states or DC. A sizeable share, however, moved from Puerto Rico.

Source: 2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis
Nearly half of Boston’s Puerto Ricans born in the 50 states are under 18. Most Puerto Ricans born in Puerto Rico are 45 and older.

Source: 2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis
55% of Boston’s Puerto Ricans born in Puerto Rico are male.

Source: 2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis
2. Education & Literacy
More than half of Boston’s Puerto Ricans born in the 50 states speak only English. More than a third of those born in Puerto Rico speak English very well.

Source: 2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis
Nearly all households in Boston headed by Puerto Ricans born in Puerto Rico speak Spanish at home.

Source: 2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis.
More than half of Boston’s Puerto Ricans born in Puerto Rico do not have a high school diploma or equivalent.

Source: 2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis
Boston’s Puerto Rican women born in the 50 states are more likely than men to have some college experience or a higher degree.

Source: 2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

![Some College Education or Above by Sex (Age 25+)](chart)

Source: 2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis
Boston’s Puerto Rican young adults are less likely to be enrolled in higher education compared to all Boston young adults.

Source: 2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis
2. Household Characteristics & Housing
Over half of Boston’s households headed by Puerto Ricans born in the 50 states are headed by female householders with no spouse present.

Source: 2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis
The citywide homeownership rate is five times the Puerto Rican homeownership rate. Boston’s Puerto Ricans born on the island are even less likely to own their home.

Source: 2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis
Most Puerto Ricans in Boston have a household income of less than $50k per year, while nearly a third of all Boston households have a household income of at least $125k per year.

Source: 2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis
Two-thirds of Puerto Rican renting households in Boston spend more than 30% of their household income in rent, compared to about half of all Boston renting households.

Source: 2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis
Boston households headed by those born in Puerto Rico are least likely to have access to a car.

**Households by Vehicles Available**

- **No vehicles**
  - Puerto Rican Born in the 50 States: 33.8%
  - Puerto Rican Born in Puerto Rico: 57.6%
  - All Boston Residents: 33.5%

- **One vehicle**
  - Puerto Rican Born in the 50 States: 30.6%
  - Puerto Rican Born in Puerto Rico: 47.8%
  - All Boston Residents: 43.1%

- **Two or more vehicles**
  - Puerto Rican Born in the 50 States: 18.4%
  - Puerto Rican Born in Puerto Rico: 11.8%
  - All Boston Residents: 23.4%

Source: 2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis
3. Employment & Commuting
About 41% of Boston’s Puerto Ricans work full time, compared to over half of all Boston residents.

Source: 2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis
Boston’s Puerto Ricans are more likely to work in office and healthcare support and service roles. Those born on the island are even more likely to work construction and maintenance jobs.

Source: 2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis
Boston’s Puerto Ricans born in the 50 states are more likely to work in government, and those born in Puerto Rico are more likely to be self-employed.

### Class of Work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of Work</th>
<th>Puerto Ricans Born in the 50 States</th>
<th>Puerto Ricans Born in Puerto Rico</th>
<th>All Boston Residents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
<td>62.4%</td>
<td>63.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-profit</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-employed</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis
Boston workers born in Puerto Rico are more likely to commute to work by walking, biking, or taking transit. Puerto Rican workers are half as likely to work from home compared to all Boston residents.

Source: 2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis
4. Economic Security
Full-time, year-round Puerto Rican workers in Boston generally earn less than non-Puerto Rican full-time, year-round workers.

![Earnings of Full-Time, Year-Round Workers (Age 16+)](image)

Source: 2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis
Boston’s Puerto Ricans earn less than other city residents. Full-time, year-round Puerto Rican women earn more than men.

**Median Earnings for Full-Time, Year-Round Workers (Age 16+)**

- **Puerto Ricans Born in the 50 States**
  - Male: $46,347
  - Female: $65,915

- **Puerto Ricans Born in Puerto Rico**
  - Male: $45,420
  - Female: $50,775

- **All Boston Residents**
  - Male: $74,155
  - Female: $67,975

Source: 2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis
12% of Boston’s Puerto Ricans born in Puerto Rico lack health insurance, more than four times the citywide rate. Puerto Ricans with coverage are more likely to have public insurance than other Boston residents.

Source: 2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis
Boston’s Puerto Ricans, especially children, are more than twice as likely to live in poverty than other Boston residents.

Source: 2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis
Boston’s Puerto Rican households are less likely to have retirement income than non-Puerto Rican households in Boston.

Source: 2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis
Summary

- Puerto Ricans make up 5% of Boston’s population. However, Puerto Rican population growth has declined in recent years.
- Differences exist between Puerto Ricans born on the island and in the 50 states.
  - Those born on the island are older and have lower levels of educational attainment.
- Puerto Ricans have lower-levels of homeownership.
  - Puerto Ricans are more likely to be rent-cost burdened than other renters in Boston.