

# Latinos in Rhode Island:

Growing population, a challenge to  
service delivery



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Miren Uriarte

University of Massachusetts Boston

College of Public and Community Service

and

Mauricio Gaston Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy



# Sources of Information

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- 2000 Census
- Interviews with Latino leaders and with providers in 2001-2
- Focus groups with members of the Latino community in 2001-2



# Key Facts

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1. The Latino population has experienced significant growth, fueling the growing diversity of the population of RI
2. Most RI Latinos are immigrants or migrants
3. The Latino population is very young
4. There is a high level of poverty among Latinos



# Fact 1

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**The Latino population has experienced significant growth, fueling the growing diversity of the population of RI**

# Race and ethnicity of the population. Rhode Island, 1980, 1990 and 2000.

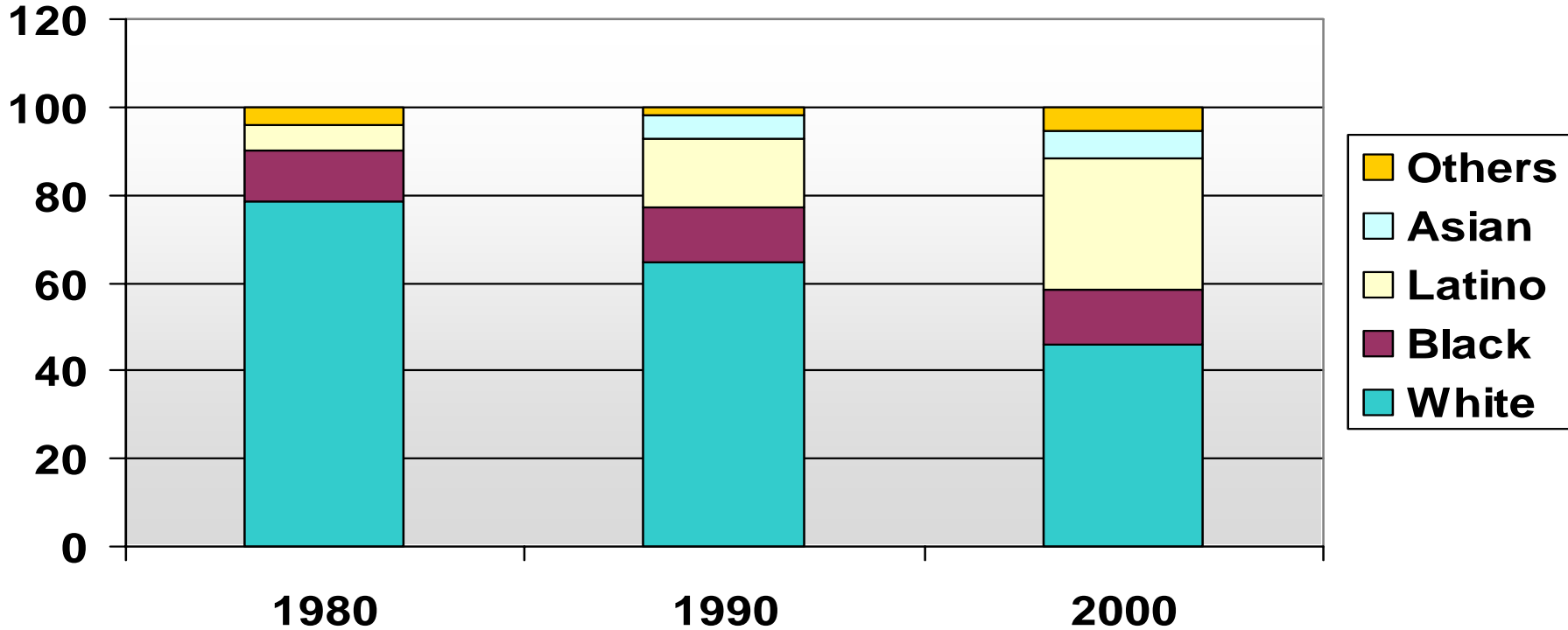
Race/Ethnic Group	1980	1990	2000
White	93.4	89.3	81.9
Black or African American	2.8	3.4	4.0
Hispanic or Latino	2.1	4.6	8.7
Asian / Pacific Islander	NA	1.8	2.3
Other Races	1.7	1.0	3.2

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1983; 1990 (a); 2000 (a)

# Latino population: Areas of highest concentration. Rhode Island, 2000

Place	Latino population	% total population	% Latino population
State	90,820	8.7	100
Providence	52,146	<b>30.0</b>	<b>57.4</b>
Pawtucket	10,141	13.9	11.2
Central Falls	9,041	<b>47.8</b>	10.0
Woonsocket	4,030	9.3	4.4
Cranston	3,613	4.6	4.0

# Evolving racial diversity of Providence, Rhode Island, 1980-2000





## Fact 2

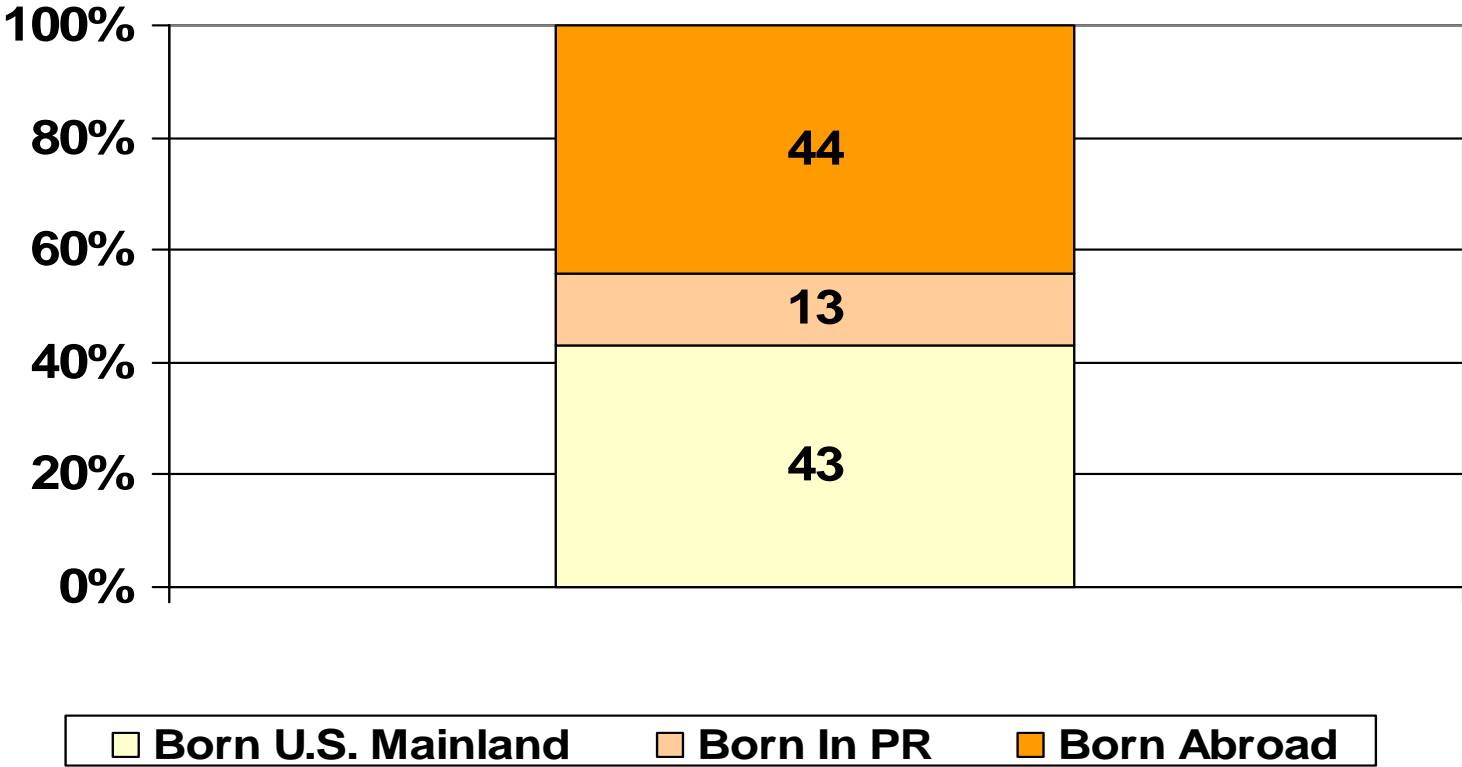
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**MOST RHODE ISLAND LATINOS ARE  
IMMIGRANTS OR MIGRANTS**

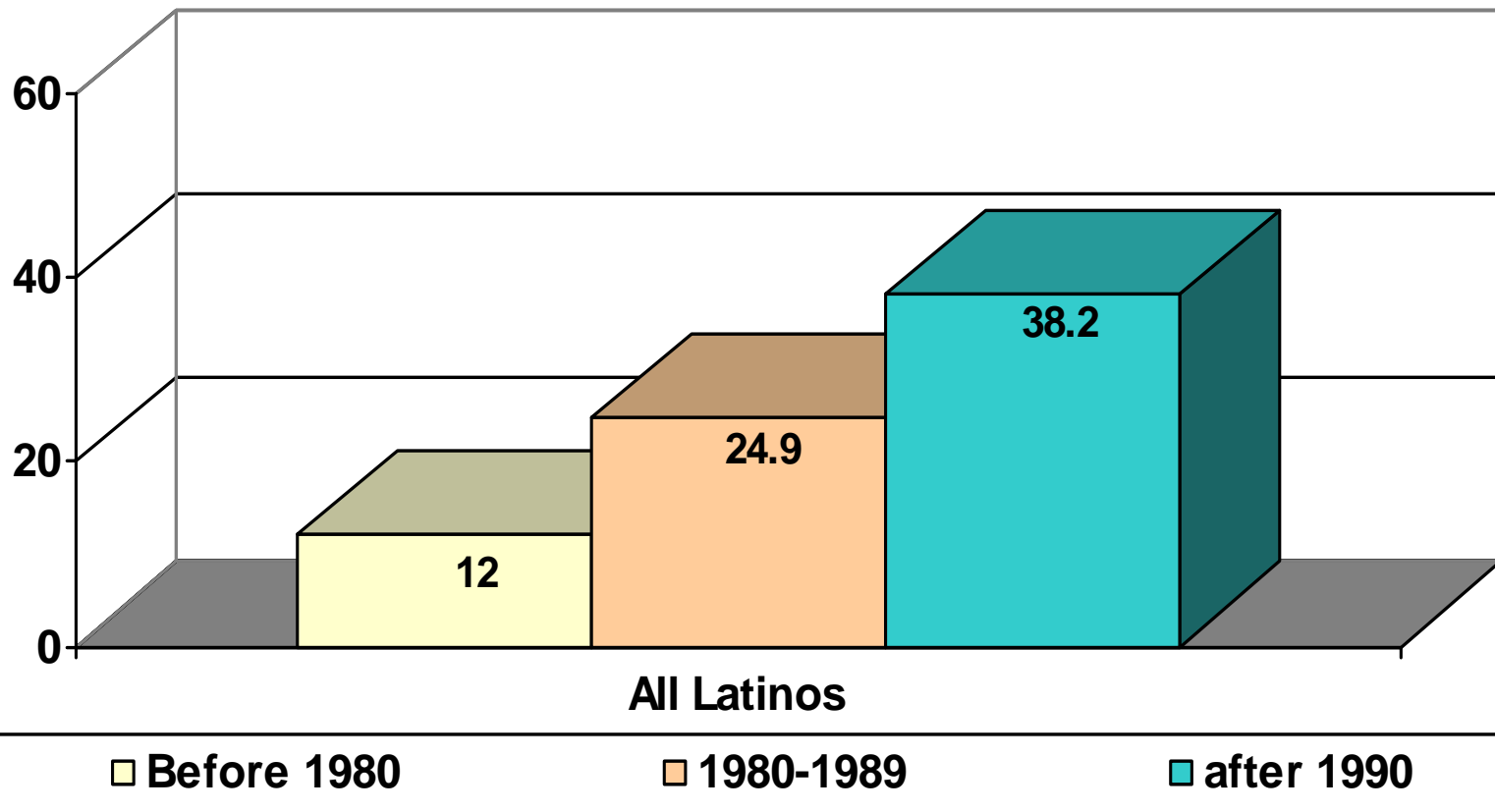
# National groups with largest representation, Latino population. Rhode Island, 2000

Group	Population	% of Latino Population
All Latinos or Hispanics	90, 820	
Puerto Rican	24,383	27.00
Dominican	18,874	20.9
Guatemalan	9,260	10.2
Colombian	6,375	7.0
Mexicans	5,916	6.5

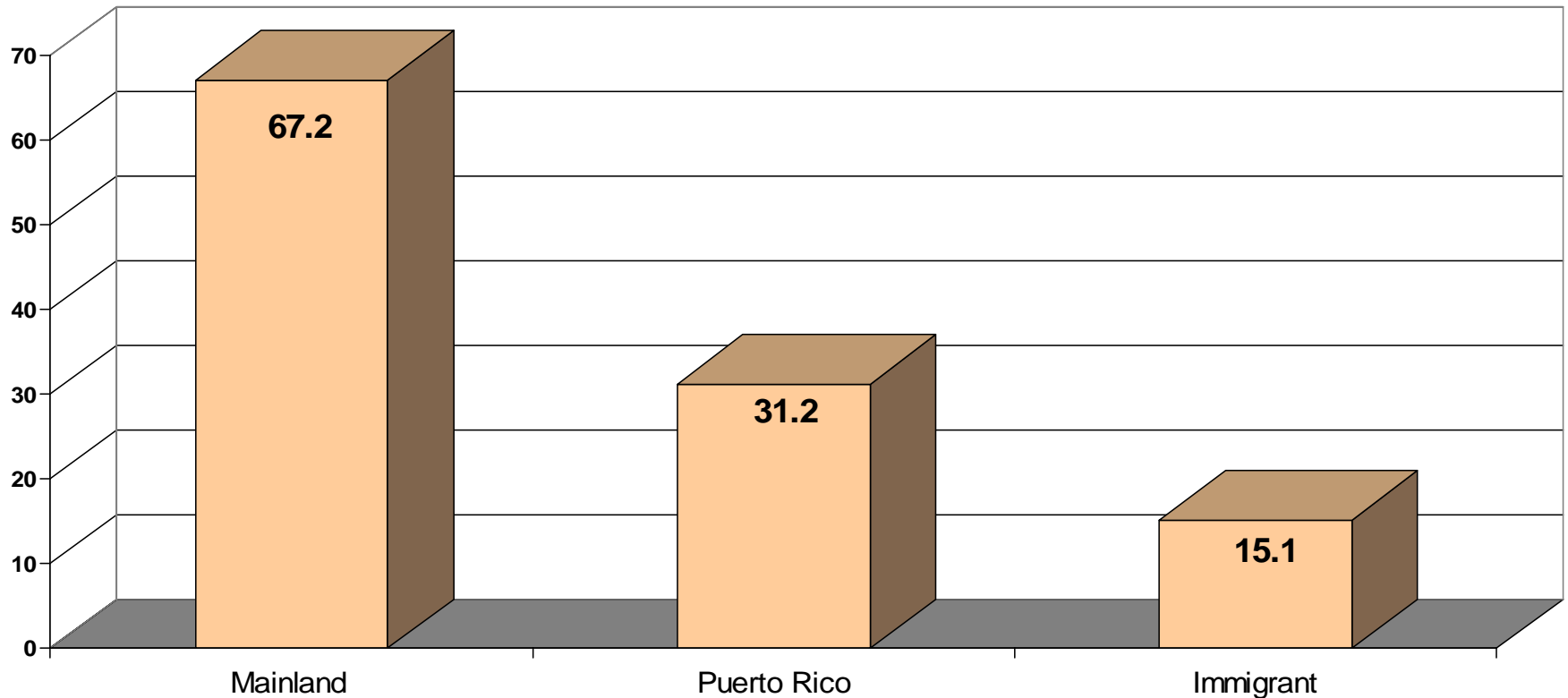
# Nativity of Latino Population Rhode Island, 2000 (%)



# Time in U.S. Latino Immigrants. 2000. (%)



# Persons 19 and younger. % of those born in US mainland and in Puerto Rico and of immigrants. Rhode Island, 2000 (%)





# Issues

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- **Internal diversity**
- **Going through process of adaptation**
  - Language barriers
  - Lack of knowledge of systems
- **Special needs of the undocumented**
  - Mixed status families



## Fact 3

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**As a group, Latinos are younger than any other group in Rhode Island**

# Median Age. Population by race. Rhode Island and selected cities, 2000.

	White	Black	Latino
Rhode Island	38.8	27.8	23.4
Providence	32.1	26.5	22.9
Pawtucket	38.9	26.5	25.7
Central Falls	35.6	22.6	25.7

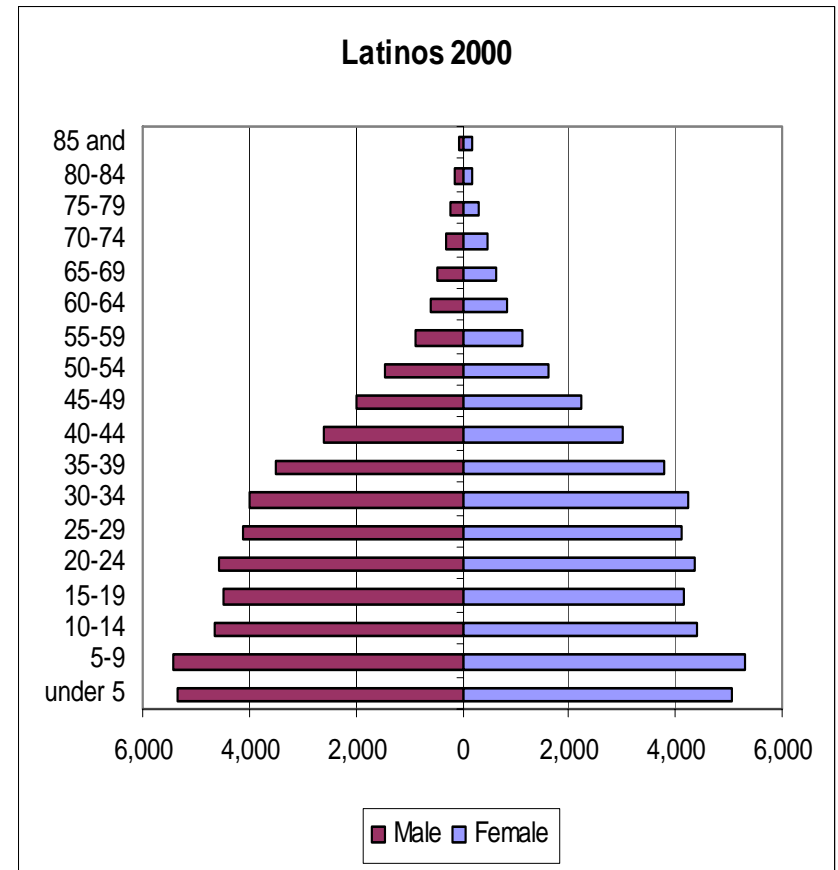
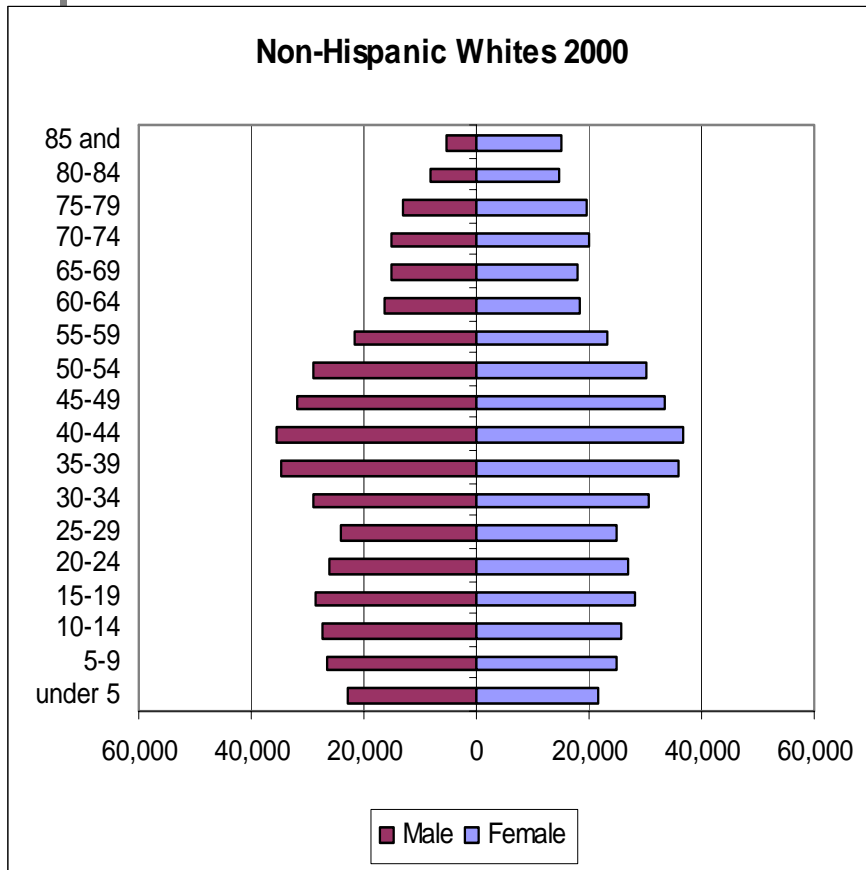


## Latino children account for

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- **13.9%** of the child population of RI
- **42.9%** of the child population of Providence
- **57.2%** of the child population of Central Falls

# Age Structure of white and Latino populations, Rhode Island, 2000.





# Issue:

## Different Service Priorities

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- **General population**
  - **services along the life cycle,**
  - **growing priority for attention to elderly**
  
- **Latino population**
  - **education**
  - **support for young families**
  - **services for children**



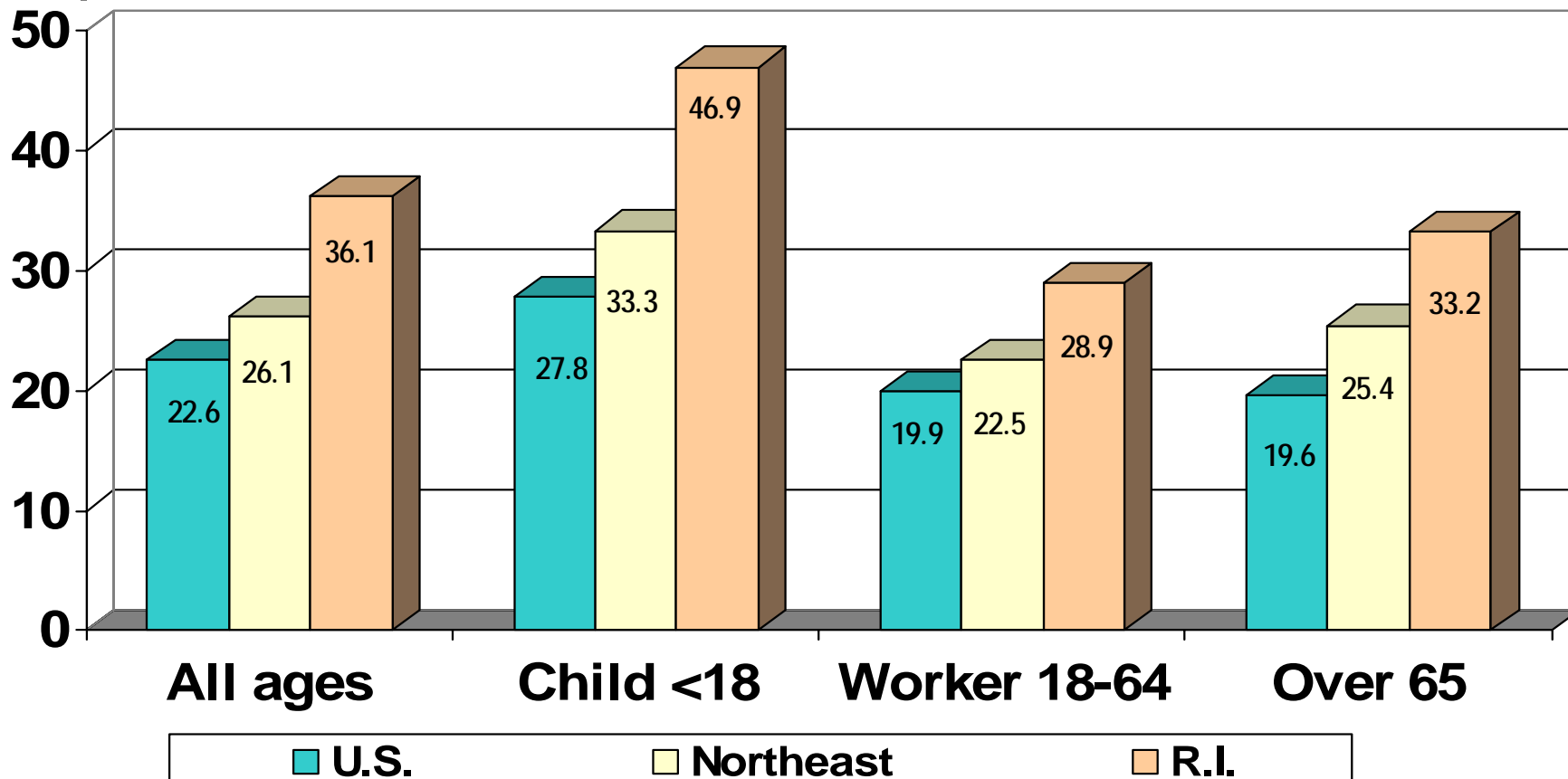
## Fact 4

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### **The rate of poverty among Latinos in Rhode Island**

- **is higher than that of Latinos nationally and regionally**
- **is higher than that of other groups in Rhode Island**

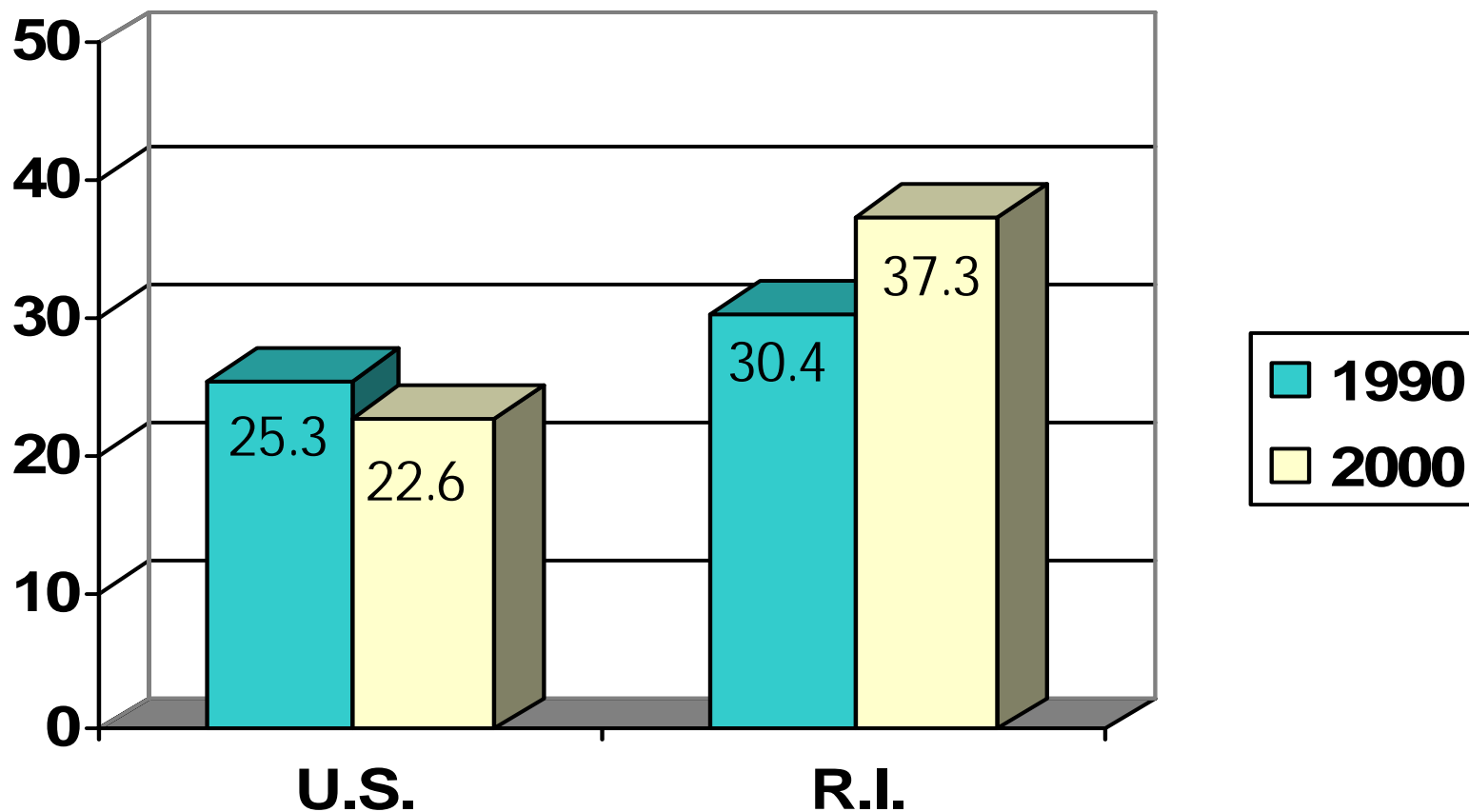
# Latino population below the poverty rate, U.S., Northeast and Rhode Island, 2000 (%)



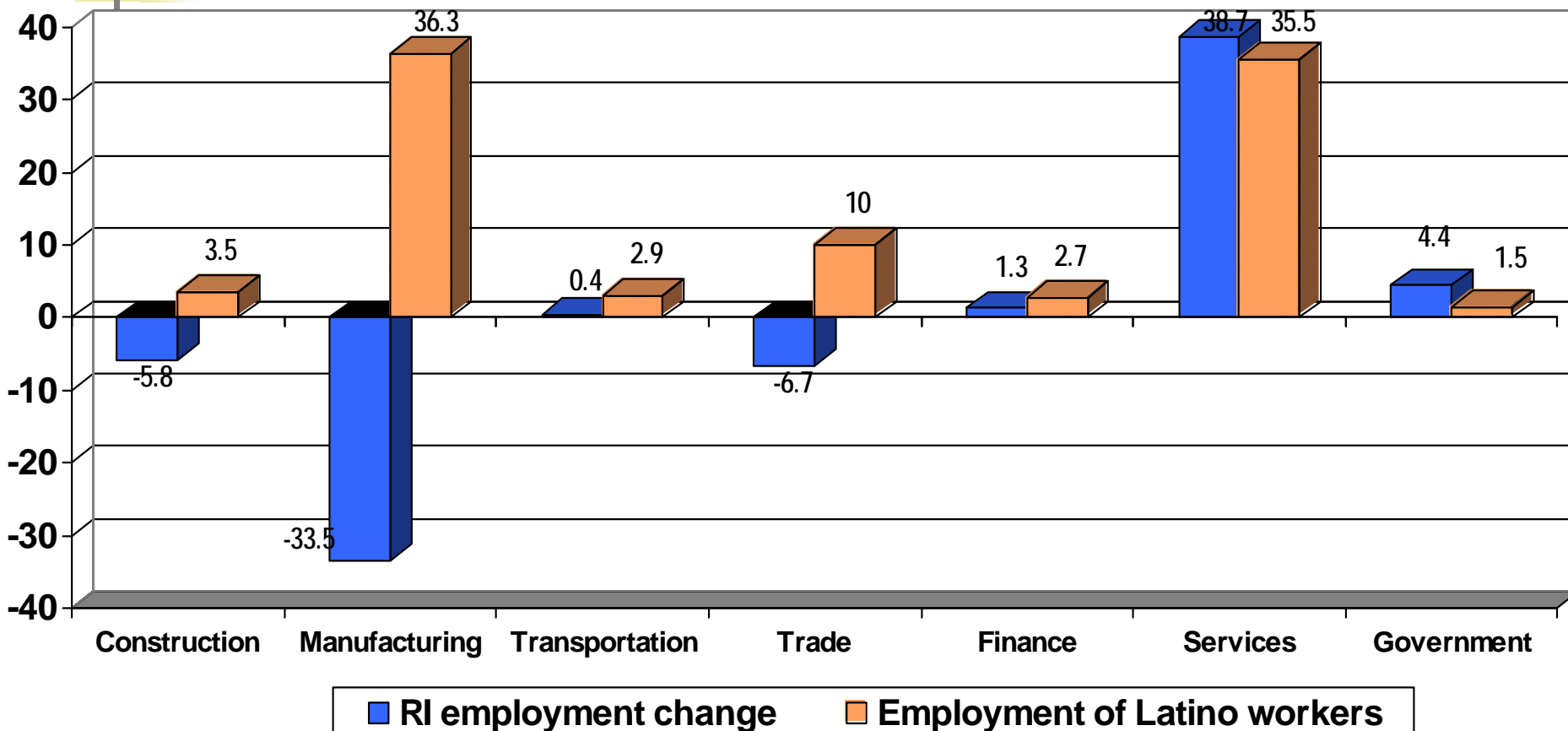
# Poverty in households by race. Rhode Island, 2001 (%)

	White	Black	Asian / Pac Is	Latino	Total
<b>Poverty or less</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>36.1</b>	<b>11.9</b>
<b>100-125%</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>3.6</b>
<b>125-150%</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>3.9</b>

# Changes in poverty in U.S. and RI Latino population, 1990 and 2000



# Employment change by industry in RI, 1988 to 1998 and Employment by industry of Latino workers in 2000. (%)



Gaston Institute, RIEDC, 1999  
and 2000 Census SF4

# Years of school completed by population 25 yrs and over by race and ethnicity. Rhode Island, 2000. (%)

	Total	White	Black	Latino
<b>12<sup>th</sup> grade or less</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>29.0</b>	<b>49.6</b>
<b>High school graduate</b>	<b>27.8</b>	<b>28.2</b>	<b>28.8</b>	<b>24.5</b>
<b>Some college, no degree or AA degree</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>17.3</b>
<b>B.A. degree or higher</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>26.8</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>8.6</b>



# Implications

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- Increased vulnerability
- Problems with access to services



# Increased vulnerability

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- Immigration
  - Trauma, Status
- Youth
- Poverty



# Issue:

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## **High levels of poverty are associated with:**

- negative health outcomes
- less self sufficiency and stability for families
- increased vulnerability in many areas of life



# Access to Services in RI: Individual Barriers to services

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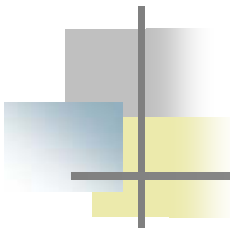
- Financial
- Status
- Education
- English proficiency



# Access to Services in RI: Institutional barriers to mainstream services

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- Lack of linguistically accessible information
- Language barriers at point of service
- Cultural competence of services



# Access to Services in RI: Institutional barriers to Latino community based services

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- Limited array of services
  - funding
  - organizational capacity
  
- Geographic barriers