

POPULATION

New Bedford's population declined by a little more than 6 percent in the 1990s. This drop was more representative of the economic situation the City experienced during the early-1990s than any long-term population trend. Between 1970 and 2000, New Bedford's population declined by only 8 percent; significantly less than other large east coast cities.

There was a substantial shift in the number of young residents living in New Bedford during the 1990s. In 2000, the City had nearly 18 percent fewer residents between the ages of 18 and 34 than in 1990. This trend mirrored statewide demographic changes. In Massachusetts, the population age 18 to 34 dropped by 16 percent in the 1990s.

Like other cities nationwide, New Bedford saw a significant increase in Latino residents in the 1990s. The additional 3,000 new Latino residents helped maintain the vitality of New Bedford's neighborhoods.

One out of five residents of New Bedford was born abroad. Approximately 18 percent of the City's foreign-born residents entered the United States during the 1990s. Ancestry data show that over a third of the City's residents are of Portuguese decent. Over 7,000 Cape Verdean residents make up New Bedford's second largest ethnic group. Approximately 17 percent of residents reported that they do not speak English well.

Growth, 1970 - 2000

Year	Population	%Change
1970	101,777	-
1980	98,478	-3%
1990	99,922	1%
2000	93,768	-6%

Distribution by Age Group, 1990 & 2000

Age Group	1990	2000
Under 18	25%	25%
18 to 34	27%	24%
35 to 64	30%	35%
65 and over	17%	17%

Growth by Age Group, 1990 - 2000

Age Group	1990	2000	%Change
Under 18	24,953	23,327	-7%
18 to 34	27,141	22,351	-18%
35 to 64	30,453	32,442	7%
65 and over	17,375	15,648	-10%

Distribution by Race/Ethnicity, 1990 & 2000

Race/Ethnicity	1990	2000
Hispanic	7%	10%
White	84%	75%
Black	3%	4%
API	0%	1%
Other	5%	10%

Growth by Race/Ethnicity, 1990 - 2000

Race/Ethnicity	1990	2000	%Change
Hispanic	6,653	9,576	44%
White	84,286	70,520	-16%
Black	3,492	3,503	0%
API	393	634	61%
Other	5,098	9,535	87%

First Ancestry Reported, 2000

Ancestry	2000
Portuguese	33,308
Cape Verdean	7,156
French (except Basque)	5,692
French Canadian	4,947
English	4,349
Irish	4,267
Polish	1,992
Italian	1,778

Foreign-Born Population, 1990 & 2000

Year of Entry	1990	2000
1990 to 2000	-	3,381
1980 to 1989	-	4,091
1970 to 1974	-	5,514
Before 1965	-	5,406
Total	20,865	18,392
<i>% Foreign-born</i>	<i>21%</i>	<i>20%</i>

Language Spoken at Home, 2000

Proficiency	Number	Percent
Speak Only English	54,487	62%
Speak Other Language	33,105	38%
Don't Speak English Well	15,180	17%

INCOME

Median household income in New Bedford fell slightly during the 1990s to \$27,569. This trend can be attributed, at least partially, to smaller households with fewer workers contributing wages. New Bedford's real per capita income grew by 10 percent between 1989 and 1999.

Despite these improvements, New Bedford continues to struggle with poverty. The official poverty rate increased by 3 percentage points in the 1990s (from 17 percent in 1989 to 20 percent in 1999). Poverty rates are particularly high for the City's minority residents; over a third of African-American and nearly half of all Latino residents were living below the poverty level in 1999.

While a fifth of residents fall below poverty thresholds, a second fifth earn incomes that fall somewhere in the 100 to 200 percent of poverty range. These are people who are working but earning very low incomes. Often referred to as the "working poor", these families also rely on the essential services, such as childcare and healthcare, provided by social service agencies.

High school graduation rates grew by 8 % in the 1990s, with 58% of residents obtaining a high school diploma or GED equivalent. The proportion of residents with degrees from 4-year colleges has remained the same at 11 percent; this compares to over a third of Massachusetts residents statewide.

Household and Per Capita Income, 1989 - 1999

Income Type	1989	1999	%Change
Median Household	29,441	27,569	-6%
Per Capita	14,200	15,602	10%

Per Capita Income by Race/Ethnicity, 1989 - 1999

Race/Ethnicity	1989	1999	%Change
White	14,782	16,749	-6%
African-American	11,579	11,713	10%
Hispanic or Latino	6,539	7,610	16%

Percent Below Poverty, 1989 & 1999

Age Group	1989	1999
All Ages	17%	20%
Under 5	31%	36%
5 to 17	25%	27%
18 to 64	13%	18%
Over 64	13%	16%

Percent Below Poverty by Race, 1989 - 1999

Income Type	1989	1999
White	14%	16%
African-American	36%	34%
Hispanic or Latino	52%	47%

Household Income Distribution, 1999

Income	Households	Percent
Less than \$10,000	7,144	19%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	4,105	11%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	6,411	17%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	4,606	12%
\$35,000 to \$44,999	4,251	11%
\$45,000 to \$59,999	4,805	13%
\$60,000 to \$74,999	3,017	8%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	2,284	6%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	1,235	3%
\$200,000 or more	382	1%

Educational Attainment, 1990 & 2000

Degree	1990	2000
High School	50%	58%
College	10%	11%
Graduate	3%	3%

Ratio of Income to Poverty, 1989 & 1999

% of Poverty Level	1989	1999
<50%	5%	8%
50 to 74%	7%	5%
75 to 99%	5%	7%
100 to 149%	11%	11%
150 to 199%	10%	11%
>200%	62%	58%

HOUSEHOLDS & HOUSING

The number of households in New Bedford dropped by 2 percent between 1990 and 2000. Family households declined at a faster rate; the City had 9 percent fewer after the 2000 Census. The ratio of family households to all households, however, remains (64 percent) comparable to the proportion statewide (65 percent). A more serious concern is the large number of children raised by single parents. In New Bedford, 40 percent of families with children are headed by single mothers.

The number of housing units in New Bedford fell by 0.6 percent in the 1990s. Among New Bedford residents, no gains in homeownership rates were made throughout the 1990s. Less than 44 percent of residents own their own homes, 18 percentage points below the statewide homeownership rate. The majority of residents rent their homes. These households are severely rent burdened - 39 percent spend over 30 percent of their income on rent - 20 percent spend more than half. What makes these figures particularly alarming is that they come from data collected before New Bedford experienced rapid appreciation. Recent evidence suggests that rents along with housing prices are escalating rapidly in the City.

Families as a percentage of Households, 1990 & 2000

Household Type	1990	2000	%Change
Households	38,788	38,178	-2%
Families	26,576	24,266	-9%
%Families	69%	64%	-

Families with Own Children under Age 18, 2000

Family Type	Number	Percent
Families with Children	11,897	100%
Married Couples	6,286	53%
Single Mothers	4,701	40%

Change in Housing Stock, 1990 - 2000

Unit Type	1990	2000	%Change
Housing Units	41,760	41,511	-0.6%
Single-Family	13,795	13,854	0.4%
Multi-Family	27,965	27,657	-1.1%

Average Household Size, 1990 & 2000

Households	1990	2000
All	2.58	2.46
White	-	2.34
African-American	-	2.50
Hispanic or Latino	-	3.15

Homeownership Rates, 1990 & 2000

Householder	1990	2000
All Households	44%	44%
White	46%	48%
African-American	25%	25%
Hispanic or Latino	14%	13%

Housing Costs as a percentage of Income, 1999

% of Income	Renters	Owners
Less than 10%	8%	15%
10 to 14%	14%	18%
15 to 19%	12%	18%
20 to 24%	11%	14%
25 to 29%	11%	11%
30 to 34%	7%	6%
35 to 39%	5%	4%
40 to 49%	7%	5%
50% or more	20%	9%

Change in Median Home Value and Rent, 1990 - 2000

Median	1990	2000	%Change
Home Value	149,370	113,500	-24%
Gross Rent	525	455	-13%