

University of Massachusetts Boston

ScholarWorks at UMass Boston

Gastón Institute Publications

Gastón Institute for Latino Community
Development and Public Policy Publications

1-1-2013

Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas: Brockton

Phillip Granberry

University of Massachusetts Boston, phillip.granberry@umb.edu

Sarah Rustan

University of Massachusetts Boston, sarah.rustan@umb.edu

Faye Karp

University of Massachusetts Boston, faye.karp@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umb.edu/gaston_pubs



Part of the [Demography, Population, and Ecology Commons](#), and the [Race and Ethnicity Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Granberry, Phillip; Rustan, Sarah; and Karp, Faye, "Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas: Brockton" (2013). *Gastón Institute Publications*. 164.

https://scholarworks.umb.edu/gaston_pubs/164

This Research Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy Publications at ScholarWorks at UMass Boston. It has been accepted for inclusion in Gastón Institute Publications by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at UMass Boston. For more information, please contact scholarworks@umb.edu.



Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas

Brockton

by Phillip Granberry, PhD, Sarah Rustan, MA, and Faye Karp, MS

January, 2013

**THE MAURICIO GASTON INSTITUTE
FOR LATINO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AND PUBLIC POLICY**



Brockton

This report provides a descriptive snapshot of selected economic, social, educational, and demographic indicators pertaining to Latinos in the Brockton–Abington area. It reflects a commitment by UMass Boston’s Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy to provide periodic updates on the growing Latino population in Massachusetts.

The report on the Brockton–Abington area is part of a larger series that covers fourteen other cities, or clusters of cities, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Each report analyzes data from the 2010 American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. Data are analyzed by Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA), which consists of a minimum population of 100,000 and is the smallest geographic area publically available for individual-level analysis. In the PUMA for the Brockton area, the vast majority of the Latino population lived in Brockton; thus, the Latino population in the Brockton–Abington area will be attributed to Brockton itself throughout this report.

Since ACS data is collected from a sample of the population, there is some variation associated with each population estimate. In the bar graphs in this report, the ‘I’ that accompanies each bar represents the confidence interval for that estimate; we expect that another sample would generate an estimate within this interval 95% of the time.

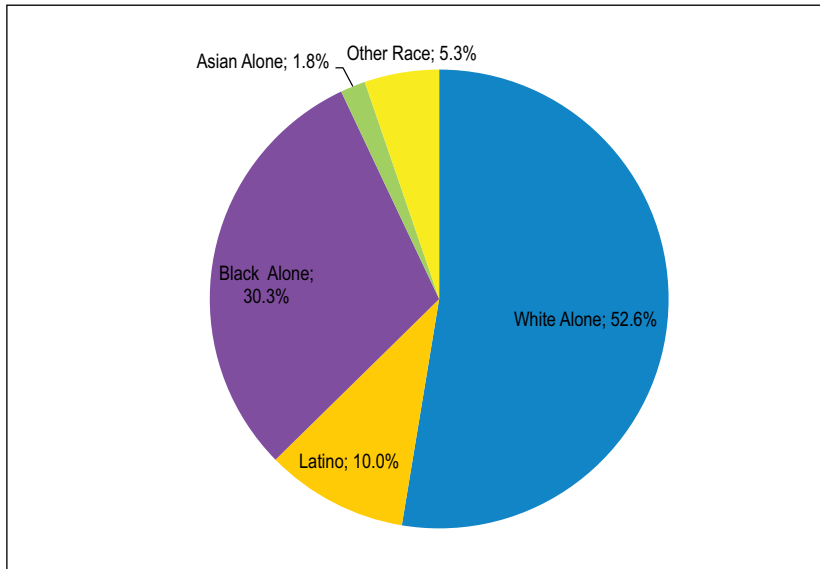
In this report, Latinos are compared to non-Latino whites, non-Latino blacks, and Asians for selected demographic, economic, and social characteristics. The number of ethno-racial groups included in a particular analysis may vary; each ethno-racial group is included in the analysis only when the observed sample size is large enough to produce reliable population estimates.

Brockton is home to an estimated 11,588 Latinos, who make up 10.0% of the area’s population. Whites constitute the largest ethno-racial group (52.6%), while the black population accounts for 30.3% and a smaller Asian population accounts for only 1.8% of the population (Figure 1). In addition, the Brockton area has a sizeable Other Race category that is made up mainly of individuals with Cape Verdean ancestry.

Notes

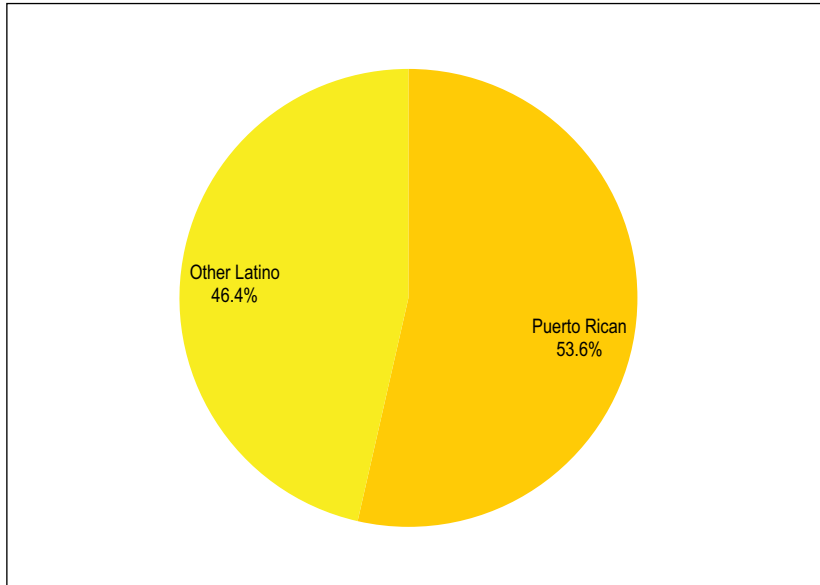
¹ This report uses the census designations of Hispanic or Latino origin and ancestry based on migration from Latin America to estimate the number of Latinos. Thus, Brazilians are included in the category “Latino,” though most Brazilians self-report in the ACS using a racial category (e.g., white, black), rather than identifying with the term “Latino.”

Figure 1: Population Percentages by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010



The Latino population in Brockton is dominated by Puerto Ricans, who are U.S. citizens and who number 6,207, or 53.6% of the Latino population. However, other Latino subpopulations, along with Cape Verdeans, help give the Brockton area a proportionately greater foreign-born population (20.4%) than the state as a whole (14.9%).

Figure 2: Ancestry of the Top Latino Groups in 2010

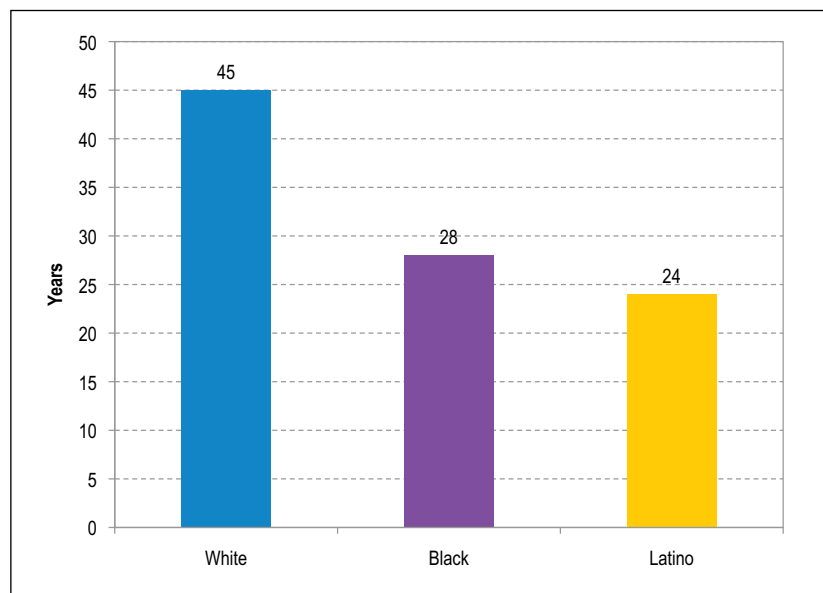


The rest of this report presents an overview that compares Latinos to whites, blacks, and Asians in this area for selected demographic, economic, and social characteristics.

MEDIAN AGE AND MARITAL STATUS

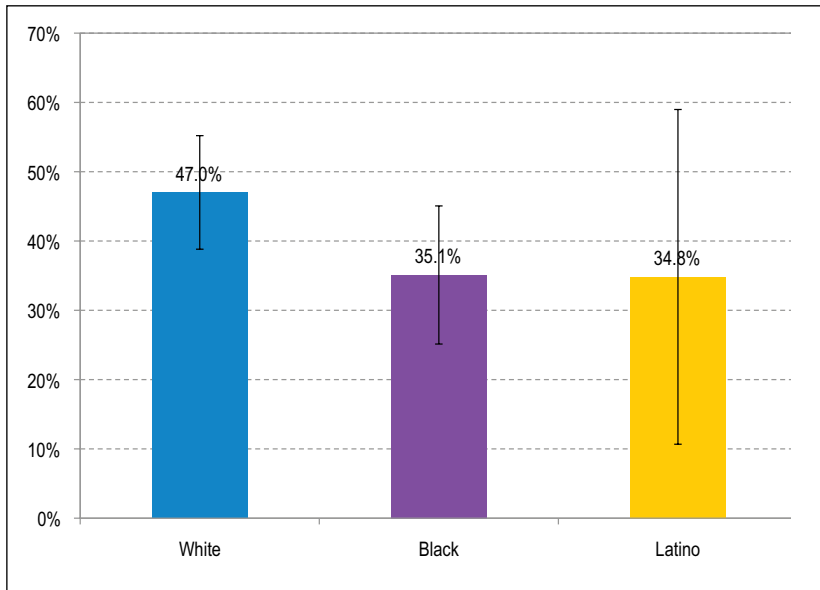
Figure 3 highlights differences in median age, drawing attention to the importance of Latinos in the Brockton area. Latinos' median age of 24 years is much younger than for the white majority (45 years) and also younger than the black median age of 28 years. This is also younger than the statewide Latino median age of 27 years). This age profile suggests that Latinos in Brockton have more families with young children than whites and will require an investment in the education of their youth; however, these younger Latinos and blacks will contribute economically, socially, and politically in later years as an older white population ages and retires. This older population will require younger residents to keep Brockton's neighborhoods vibrant and maintain a productive workforce, and Latinos are poised to make this contribution.

Figure 3: Median Age by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010



The youthfulness of the area's Latino population may influence its marital status. The marriage rates shown in Figure 4, covering all persons age 16 and older, are lower than for whites and blacks in Brockton. Statewide, the Latino marriage rate of 35.4% is similar to 34.8% in Brockton.

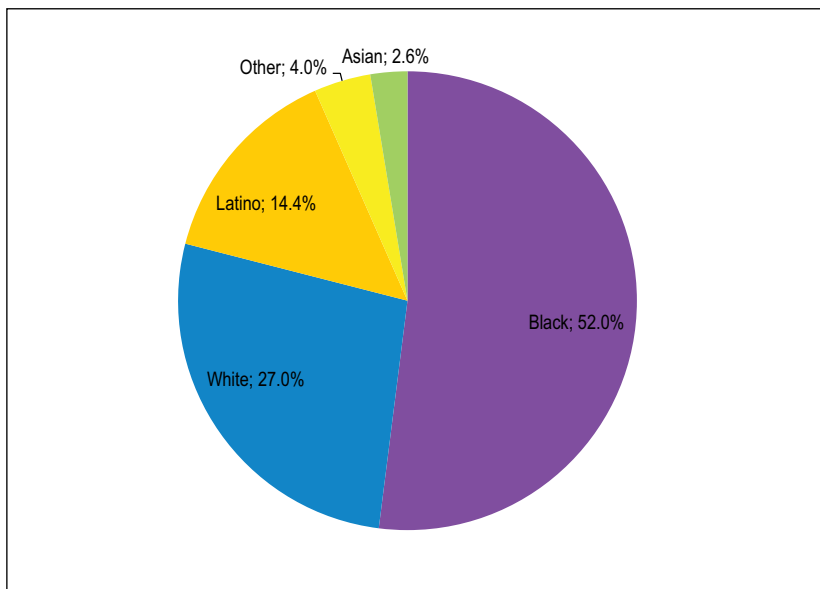
Figure 4: Marriage Rates by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010



EDUCATION

Figures 5A and 5B, unlike other figures in this report, pertain solely to the city of Brockton. They provide information on Latinos in Brockton Public Schools, using data from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Latinos represented 14.4% of total student enrollment during the 2010–2011 school year.

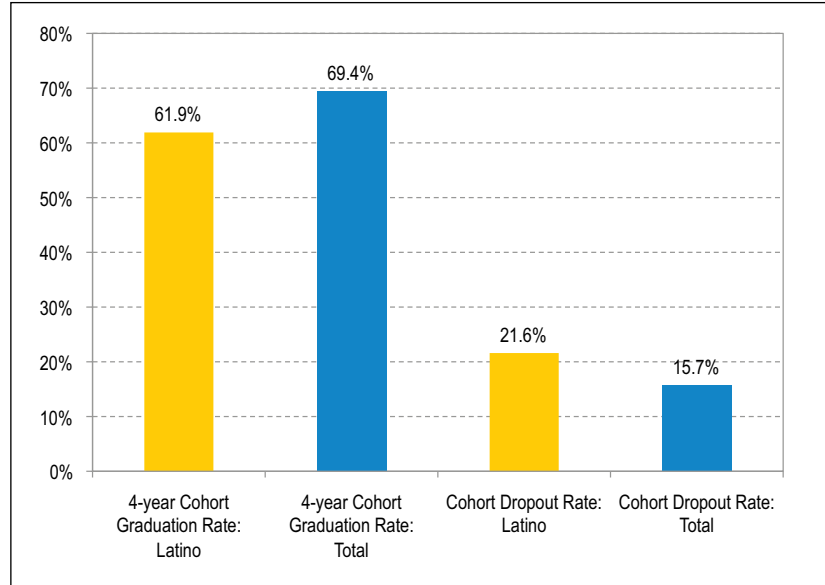
Figure 5A: Spotlight on Brockton Public Schools by Ethno-Racial Group, Academic Year 2010–2011



Latinos in Brockton Public Schools lag behind the total population in academic success. Just over three-fifths of Latino students (61.9%) graduated from high

school in four years compared to 69.4% for the total student population. Similarly, 21.6% of Latinos who entered their freshman year in the 2006–2007 school year dropped out of high school and did not return or get a GED, compared to 15.7% of the total population.

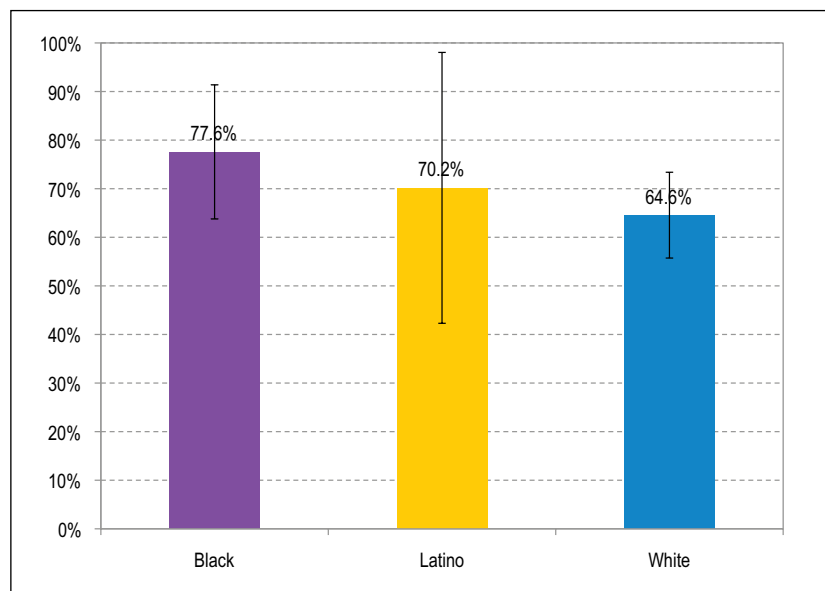
Figure 5B: Spotlight on Brockton Public Schools by Outcomes, Academic Year 2010–2011



LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

Again suggesting the importance of Latinos to the economic and social wellbeing of the region, Figure 6 shows that Latinos in the Brockton area have a high labor force participation rate (70.2%, slightly higher than the statewide Latino average of 68.1%). This is despite the younger median age of Latinos in Brockton than statewide, suggesting they have more families with young children; typically, this aligns with lower labor force participation rates due to caretaking needs.

Figure 6: Labor Force Participation by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010



The previous labor force participation information suggests that Latinos in Brockton have a strong motivation to participate in the local economy, but the Recession of 2008–2009 with its increased unemployment strongly affected Latinos (Figure 7). The unemployment rate among Latinos in 2010 was 22.5%, which was the highest of any ethno-racial group. In comparison, the Latino statewide unemployment rate in 2010 was 15.2%.

Figure 7: Unemployment Rates by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010

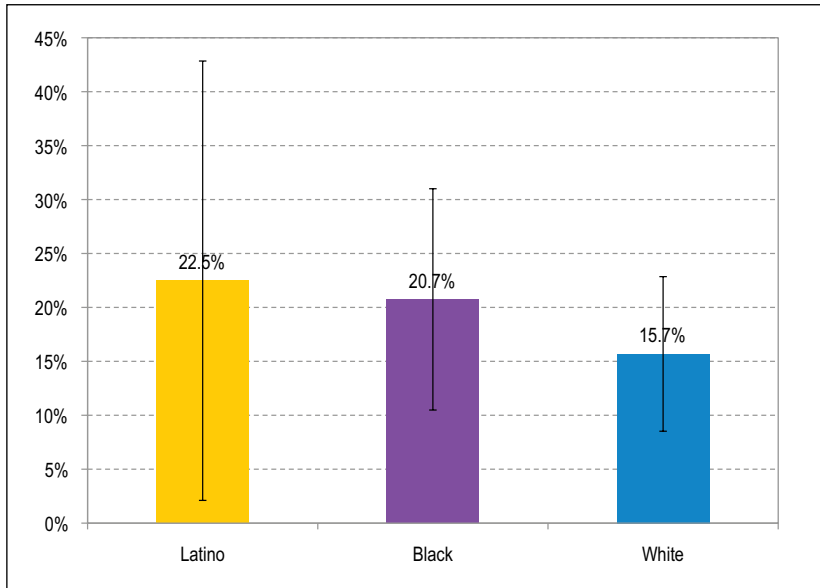
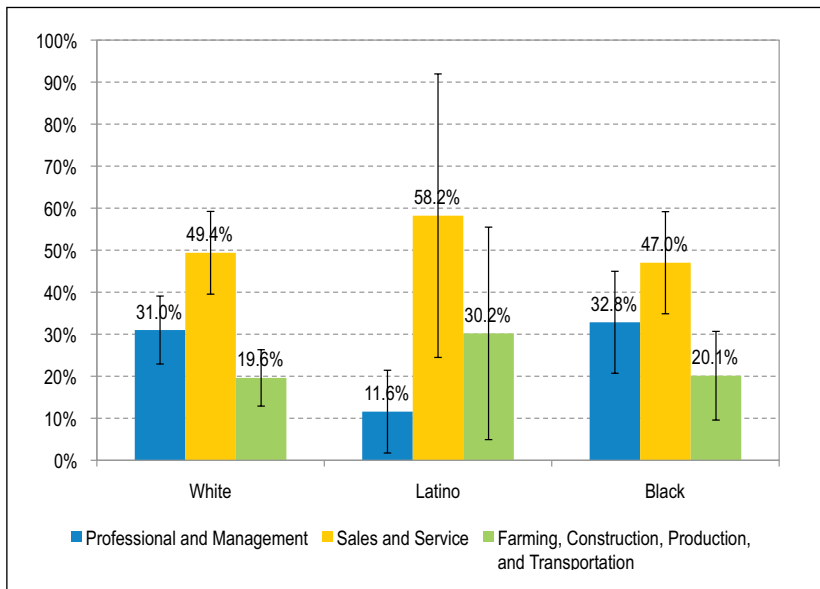


Figure 8 suggests that Latinos serve as complements to other ethno-racial groups in the area’s labor market whose members have higher educational attainment. As Figure 8 shows, Latinos are underrepresented in what are traditionally considered white-collar jobs (professional and managerial). Correspondingly, Latinos are overrepresented in sales and service jobs and in what are traditionally considered blue-collar jobs (farming, construction, production, and transportation).

Figure 8: Population Employed by Occupational Category by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010



EARNINGS

When examining the wage rates for these occupational categories, we see that Latinos appear to be receiving wages below those of other ethno-racial groups (Figure 9). They earn less than blacks and whites for both their white-collar employment and their service-sector employment.

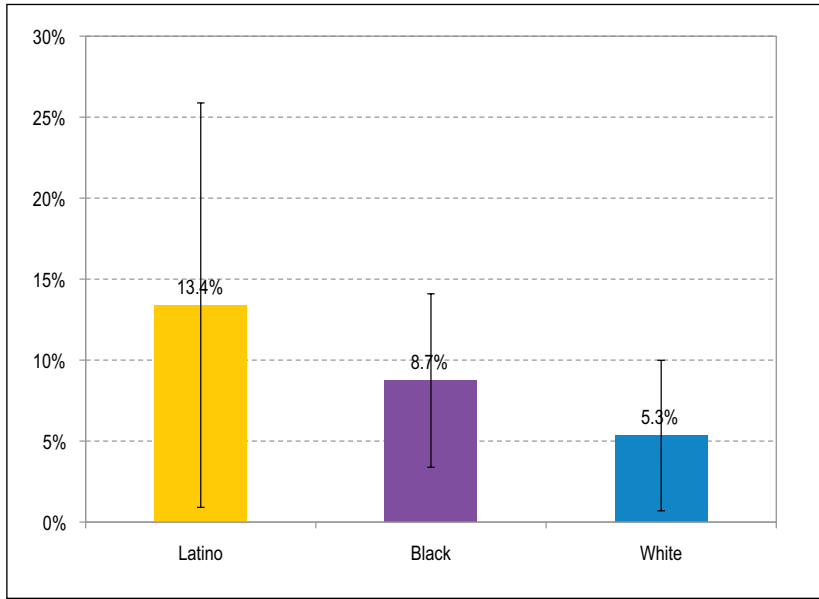
Figure 9: Hourly Wages by Occupational Category by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010



MEDICAL INSURANCE

The percentage of Latinos in this area who lack medical insurance (13.4%) is higher than 8.7% of blacks and 5.3% of uninsured whites. The state-wide Latino uninsurance rate is 11.6%, and the higher Latino uninsurance rate in these cities may be related to the greater percentage of Latinos who are foreign-born in comparison to statewide.

Figure 10: Medical Uninsurance Rates by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010



The **Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy at the University of Massachusetts Boston** conducts research on and for the Latino population in New England. Our goal is to generate the information and analysis necessary to develop more inclusive public policy and to improve Latino participation in the policy making process. In an effort to present vital information about Latinos to diverse audiences, the Gastón Institute has produced this series of demographic profiles for selected Massachusetts areas based on an analysis of 2010 American Community Survey (ACS) data.

Our descriptive analysis uses both household- and individual-level ACS data to estimate population size and characteristics in order to compare Latinos to other ethno-racial groups. Technically, these groups are designated as non-Latino whites, non-Latino blacks, and non-Latino Asians though they are often referenced simply as “white,” “black,” and

“Asian” in these profiles. Although many Brazilians do not self-identify as Latino or Hispanic, the ‘Latino’ category does include the Brazilian population in this report series.

The Gastón Institute plans to update this series of demographic profiles for selected Massachusetts areas every five years upon release of American Community Survey data. A similar report series examining Latino populations at the city level is planned for the 2015 Gastón Institute public policy conference. In addition, demographic profiles highlighting Latino sub-groups will be produced on an ongoing basis.

One of the goals of the Gastón Institute is to be responsive to the needs of the Latino and policy communities through the research we undertake. Please feel free to contact us with suggestions or requests for specific information.

About the Authors

Phillip Granberry is a social demographer who specializes in immigrants in the US. He worked with various community-based organizations assisting recently arrived U.S. immigrants before earning a PhD in Public Policy from the University of Massachusetts Boston. He has published several articles on the accumulation and use of social capital among Mexican migrants and the impact of welfare and immigration policy reform on Latinos in Massachusetts. Currently a Research Associate for the Gastón Institute, he also teaches courses on international migration and urban affairs for the UMass Boston Economics Department.

Faye Karp specializes in conducting research that helps organizations improve programs serving low-income, Latino, and English Language Learner youth. She holds an MS in Public Policy from the University of Massachusetts Boston. As a Research Associate and Project Manager at the Gastón Institute, she worked with the Boston Public Schools Office of English Language Learners to develop policy guidelines for the district’s Two-Way Bilingual programs.

Sarah Rustan is a PhD candidate in Law and Public Policy at Northeastern University, with previous degrees in architecture (BA) and cultural management (MA). Her professional background includes broad experience in the nonprofit sector including research, development, and management, and her dissertation explores the role that nonprofit arts organizations play in community development and social organization. She currently serves as a Research Associate and Data Analyst for the Gastón Institute.

www.umb.edu/gastoninstitute |

@GastonInstitute

gastoninstitute@umb.edu |

Find Us on Facebook

