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Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas: Chelsea

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

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Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas
Chelsea

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

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Chelsea

This report provides a descriptive snapshot of selected economic, social, educational, and demographic indicators pertaining to Latinos in the cities of Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop. 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 Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop 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. According to the 2010 Census, Revere accounts for 49.6% of the population of the PUMA containing these cities, while Chelsea (33.7%) and Winthrop (16.8%) account for the remainder of the population. The majority of the Latino population live in Chelsea (61.5%), while 35.5% live in Revere and 3.0% in Winthrop.

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 series, 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. In this report, Latinos are compared to non-Latino whites due to small sample sizes for the other ethno-racial groups.

Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop are home to an estimated 42,315 Latinos, who make up 41.6% of these cities' population. Whites constitute the largest ethno-racial group (48.9%), while blacks account for 4.0% and Asians for 2.2% (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Population Percentages by Ethno–Racial Group in 2010
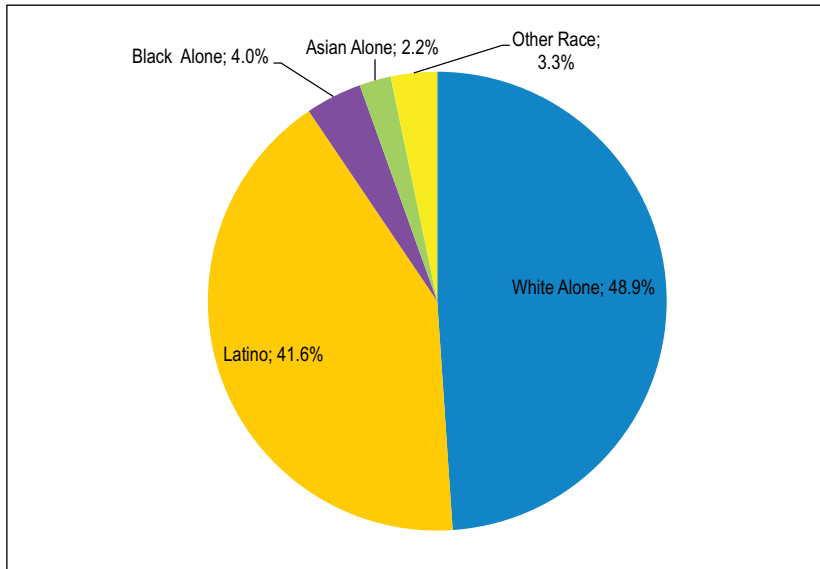
Chelsea and Revere are home to diverse Latino populations. This strong Latino presence is shaped by international migration, which gives this area a proportionately greater foreign-born population (32.2%) than the state as a whole (14.9%). Salvadorans (11,000), Puerto Ricans (7,157), and Colombians (2,473) are the largest Latino subpopulations in the area and represent approximately 48.8% of the Latino population.

**Figure 2: Ancestry of the Top Latino Groups in 2010**
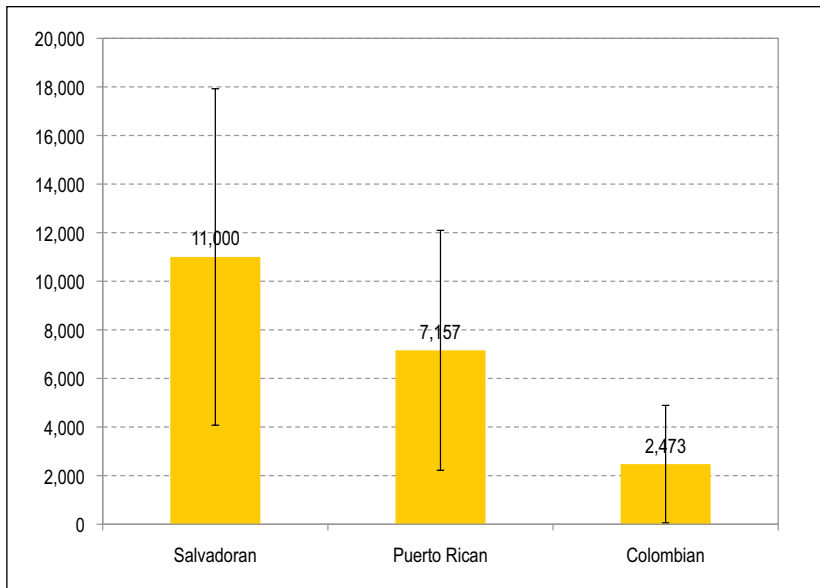
The rest of this report presents an overview that compares Latinos to whites, blacks, and Asians in this area for selected demographic, economic, and social characteristics.

MEDIAN AGE AND MARITAL STATUS

Figure 3 highlights differences in median age between whites and Latinos, drawing attention to the importance of Latinos in Chelsea and Revere. Latinos have a much younger median age (27 years) than whites (48 years). This suggests that Latinos have more families with younger children and will require an investment in education of their youth; however, these younger Latinos will contribute economically, socially, and politically in later years as the older white population ages and retires. This older population will require younger residents to keep these cities' 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
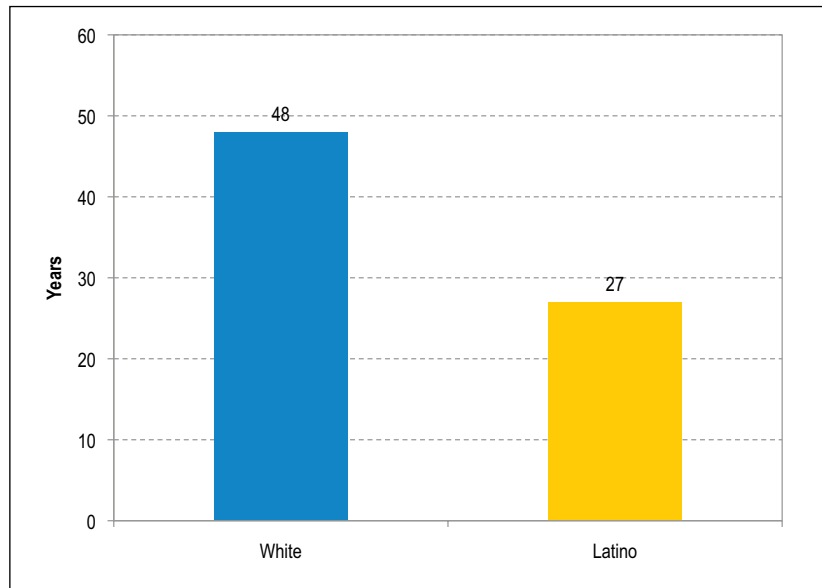
The youthfulness of the area's Latino population may influence its marital status. The Latino marriage rates shown in Figure 4, including all persons age 16 and older, are lower than whites' marriage rates. Statewide, the Latino marriage rate is 35.4% in comparison to 32.4% in Chelsea and Revere.
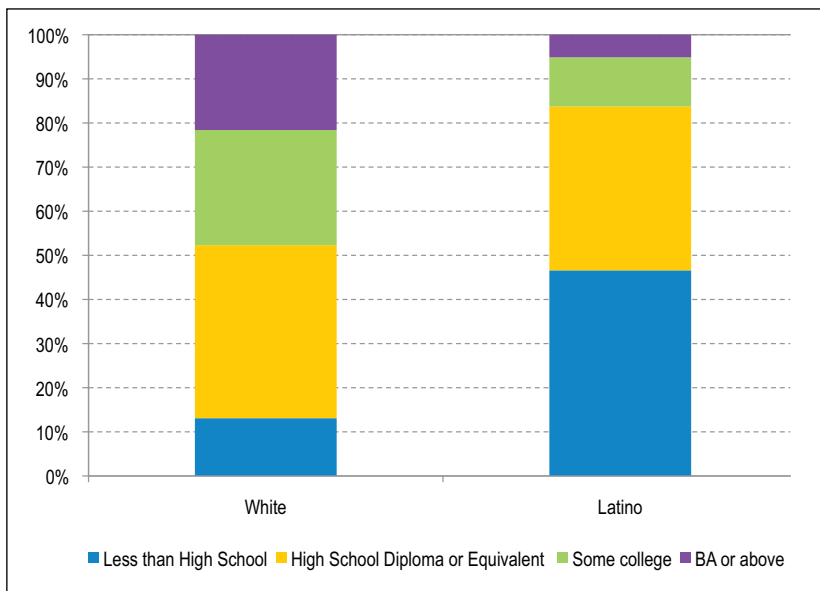
Figure 4: Marriage Rates by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010
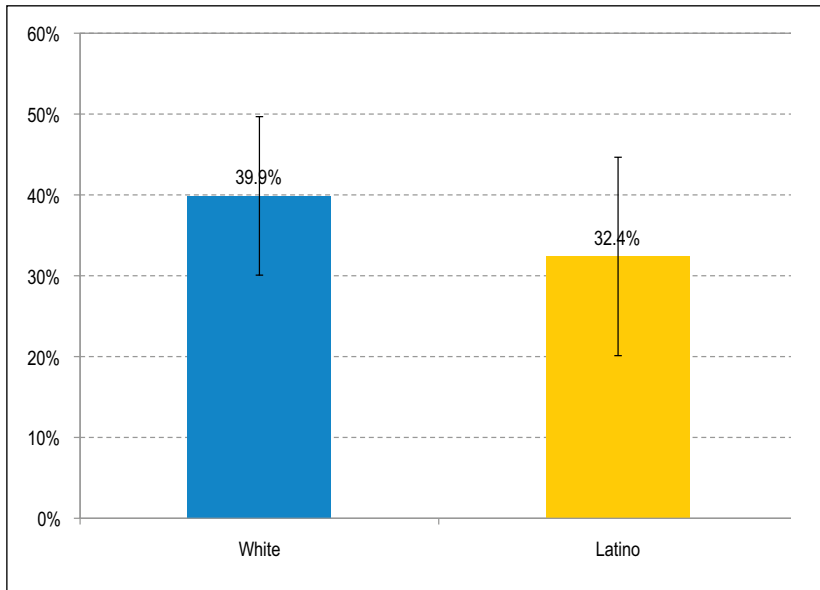
EDUCATION

Figure 5 highlights the fact that Latinos have the highest percentage of their adult population lacking a high school diploma: 46.6%, compared to 13.1% for whites. At the other end of the educational scale, Latinos in these cities have a low percentage of their population with at least a bachelor's degree: 5.1%, compared to 21.6% for whites.

Figure 5: Educational Attainment by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010 (Adults 25 Years and Older)

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Figures 6A and 6B, unlike the other figures in this report, pertain solely to the city of Chelsea. They provide information on Latinos in Chelsea Public Schools, using data from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Most (81.3%) students enrolled in Chelsea Public Schools during the 2010–2011 school year were Latino. Over the past decade, as total student enrollment has declined, the number of Latino students and their share of total student enrollment have increased.

Figure 6A: Spotlight on Chelsea Public Schools by Ethno–Racial Group, School Year 2010–2011
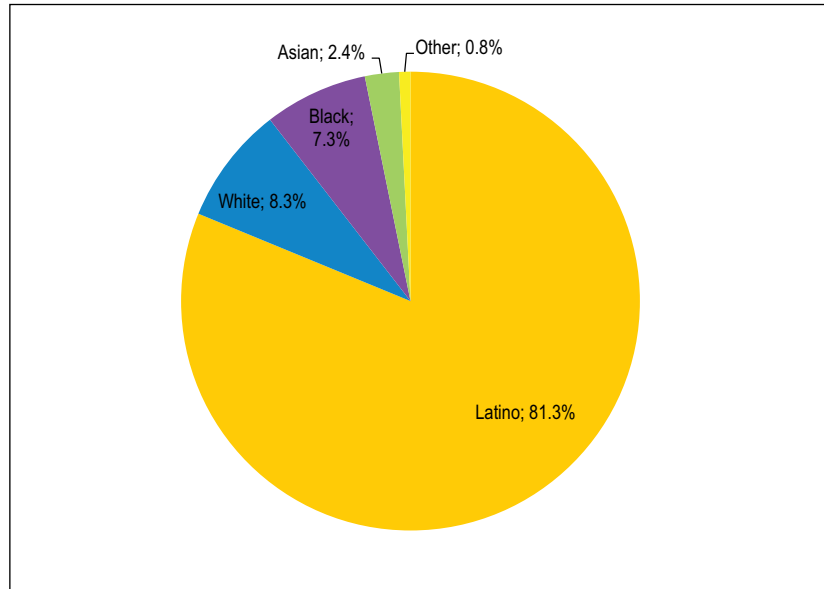
Latinos in Chelsea Public Schools fare comparably to the total population in their academic success, a finding that is not surprising as most students in the district are Latino. Just over half of Latino students (53.3%) graduated from high school in four years, a figure similar to that of the total student population (54.6%). Similarly, 23.7% 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 22.6% of the total population.

Figure 6B: Snapshot of Chelsea Public Schools by Outcomes, School Year 2010–2011
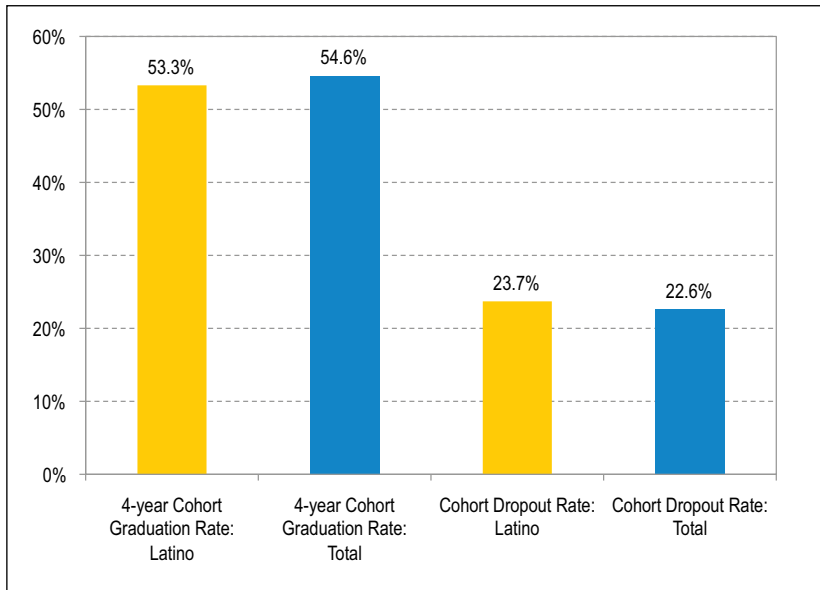
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

Figure 7 shows that Latinos have a high labor force participation rate in the area (73.7%), which is higher than the statewide Latino average of 68.1% and again suggests the importance of Latinos to the economic and social wellbeing of the region.

Figure 7: Labor Force Participation by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010
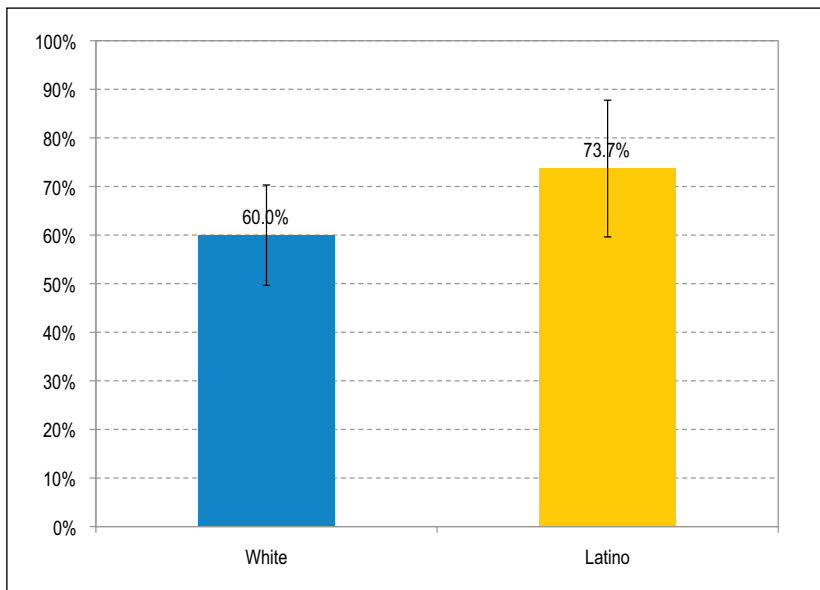
The previous labor force participation information suggests that Latinos in Chelsea and Revere have a strong motivation to participate in the local economy, but the Recession of 2008–2009 with its increased unemployment strongly affected Latinos (Figure 8). The unemployment rate among Latinos in 2010 was 18.8%, which was higher than for whites (13.1%). In comparison, the Latino statewide unemployment rate in 2010 was 15.2%.

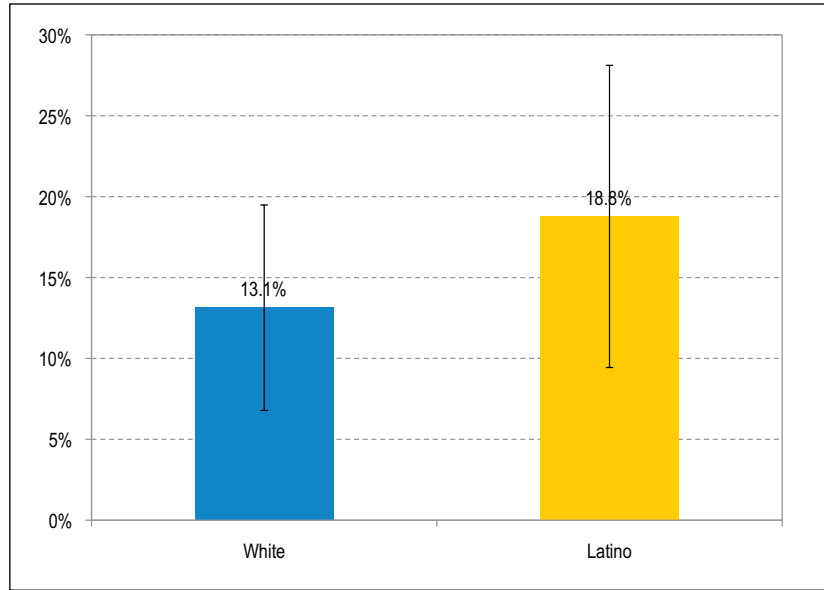**Figure 8: Unemployment Rates by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010**

Figure 9 suggests that Latinos serve as complements to whites who have higher educational attainment in Chelsea and Revere. Latinos are overrepresented in what are traditionally considered blue-collar jobs (farming, construction, production, and transportation) and service occupations. Correspondingly, Latinos are underrepresented in what are traditionally considered white-collar jobs (professional and managerial).

Figure 9: Population Employed by Occupational Category by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010
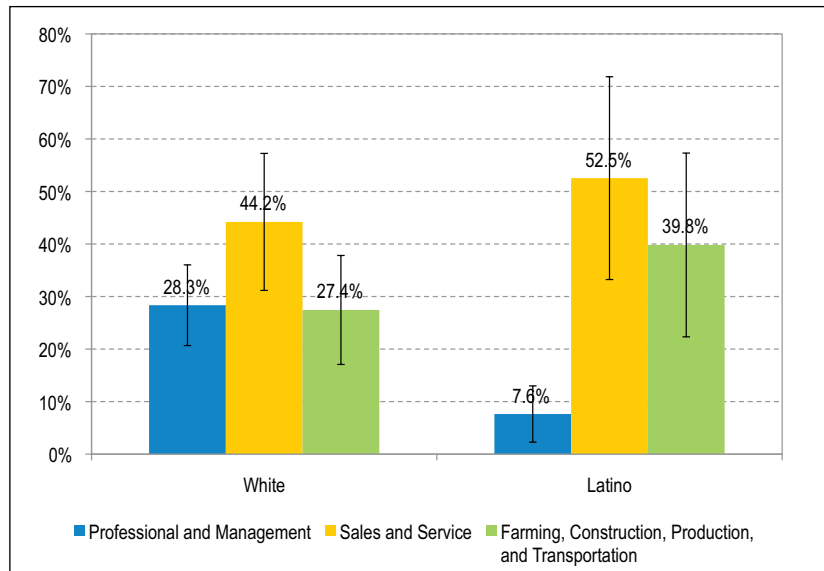
EARNINGS

When examining the wage rates for these occupational categories, we see that Latinos in Chelsea and Revere receive wages below those of whites. As Figure 10 shows, they earn $4.11 less than whites for their white–collar employment, $3.44 for their service employment, and $5.21 for their blue–collar employment.
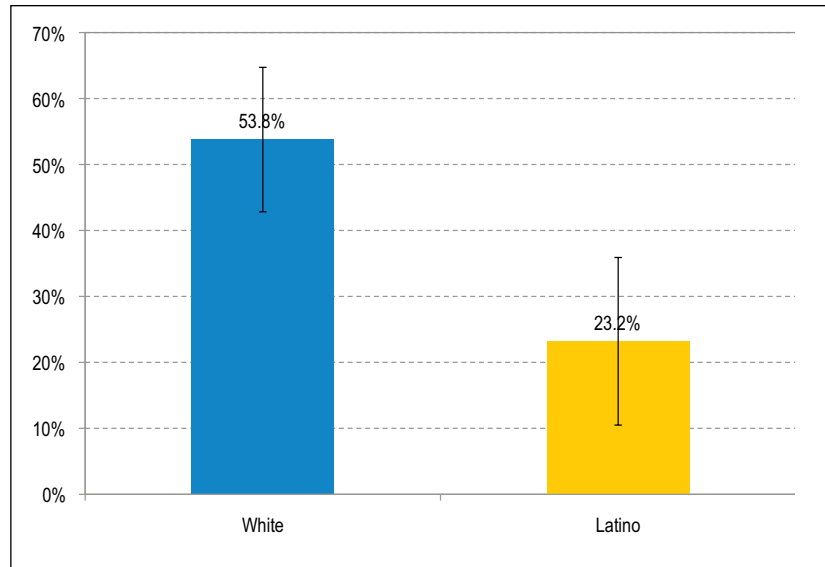
Figure 10: Hourly Wages by Occupational Category by Ethno–Racial Group in 2010
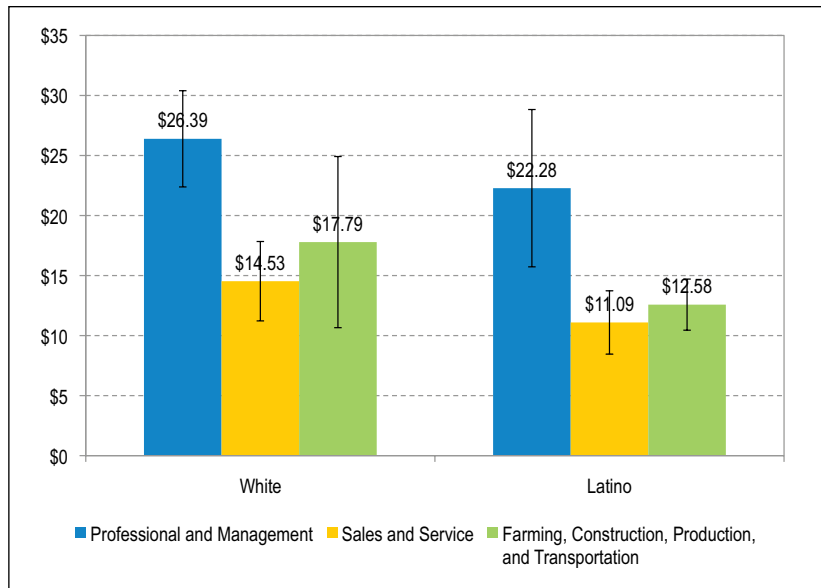
HOUSING STATUS AND MEDICAL INSURANCE

The final measures of Latino participation in Chelsea and Revere are intended to identify how well Latinos are being rewarded for their economic, social, and political participation. Latinos traditionally have low homeownership rates across the country. Figure 11 shows that this trend holds true for these cities, where Latinos have a low homeownership rate of 23.2%. This is lower than the statewide Latino rate of 25.7%. As a complement to these percentages in Figure 11, it is evident that 76.8% of Latinos in these cities are renters.

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Figure 11: Homeownership Rates by Ethno–Racial Group in 2010

With low levels of homeownership, Latinos in Chelsea and Revere are more dependent on the local rental markets. Monthly rents paid by Latino renters ($973) are higher than those of whites ($910).

Figure 12: Rental Costs by Ethno–Racial Group in 2010
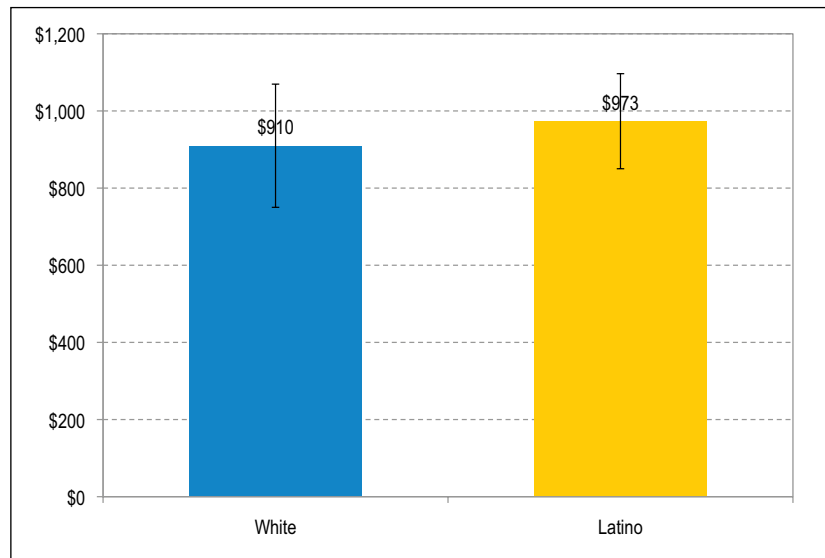
The percentage of Latinos in this area who lack medical insurance (17.4%) is higher than the percentage of uninsured whites (5.2%). The statewide Latino uninsurance rate is 11.6%, and the difference may be related to the greater percentage of Latinos in these three cities who are foreign–born.

Figure 13: Medical Uninsurance Rates by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010
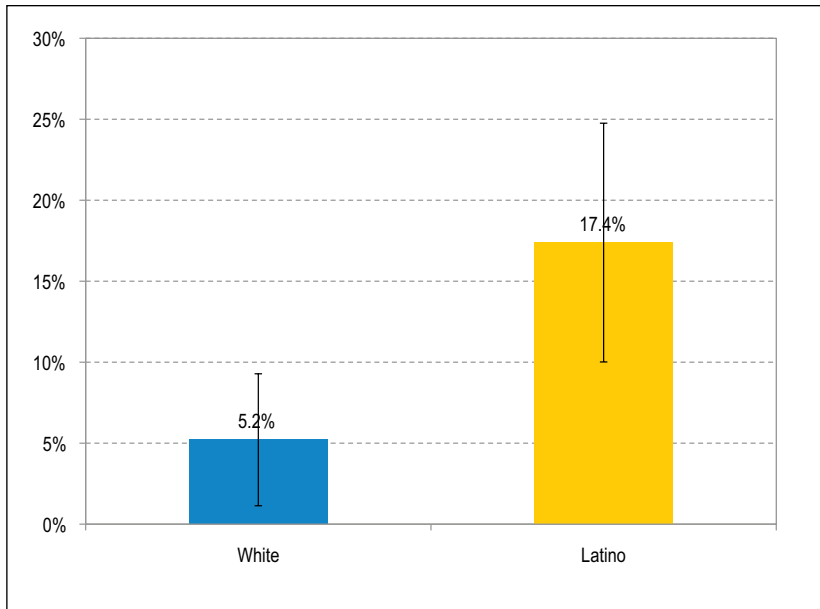
The Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy at the University of Massachusetts Boston conducts research on and for the Latino population in New England. Our goal is to generate the information and analysis necessary to develop more inclusive public policy and to improve 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 subgroups 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.

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