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Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas

Lynn, Nahant, and Saugus

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

January, 2013

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



Lynn, Nahant, and Saugus

This report provides a descriptive snapshot of selected economic, social, educational, and demographic indicators pertaining to Latinos in the cities of Lynn, Nahant, and Saugus. 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 Lynn, Nahant, and Saugus 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, Lynn accounted for three-quarters of the population of the PUMA containing these cities (75.0%), while Nahant accounted for 2.8% and Saugus 22.1%. The great majority of the Latino population lived in Lynn (96.3%), while 3.5% lived in Saugus and 0.2% lived in Nahant. Thus, although the Latino population will be attributed to Lynn throughout this report, the data include the smaller Latino populations in Nahant and Saugus as well.

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.

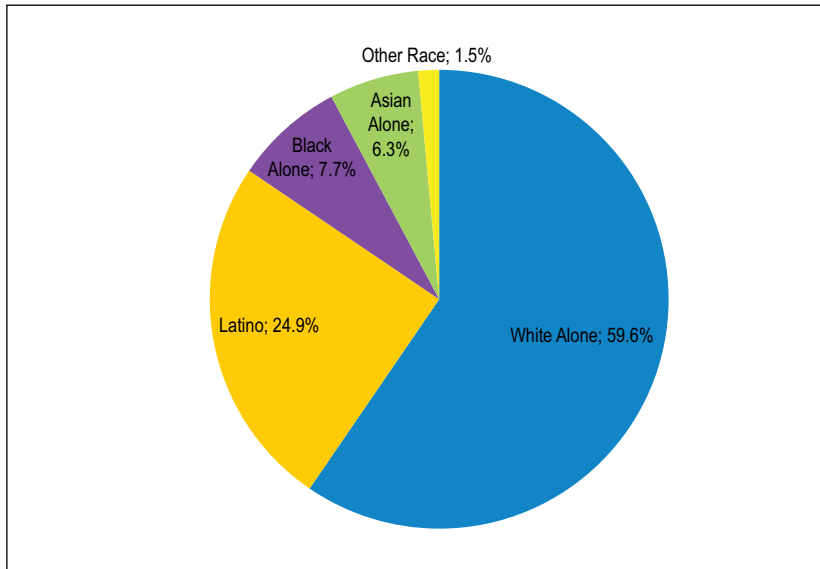
In this report, Latinos are compared to non-Latino whites, non-Latino blacks, and Asians for selected demographic, economic, and social characteristics. The number of ethno-racial groups included in a particular analysis may vary; each ethno-racial group is included in the analysis only when the observed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

Lynn, Nahant, and Saugus are home to an estimated 30,142 Latinos, who account for 24.9% of the area's population. Whites make up a larger percentage of the area's population (59.6%), while blacks represent 7.7% and Asians represent 6.3% (Figure 1).

Notes

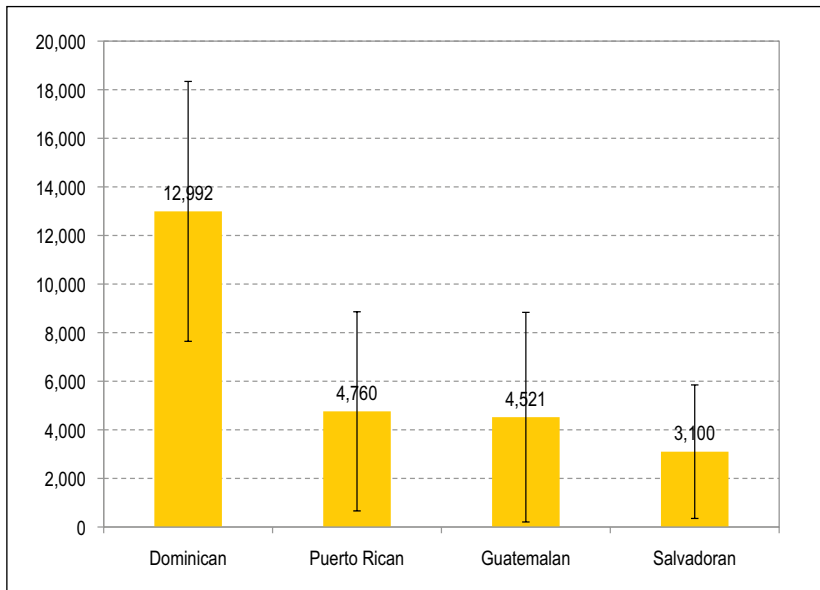
¹ This report uses the census designations of Hispanic or Latino origin and ancestry based on migration from Latin America to estimate the number of Latinos. Thus, Brazilians are included in the category "Latino," though most Brazilians self-report in the ACS using a racial category (e.g., white, black),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

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



Lynn is home to a diverse Latino population. Dominicans (12,992) make up the largest Latino subpopulation in the area, followed by Puerto Ricans, Guatemalans, and Salvadorans (Figure 2). These four groups make up 84.2% of the area's Latino population. Except for Puerto Ricans (who are U.S. citizens), this Latino presence is significantly shaped by international migration, and the Lynn area has a proportionately greater foreign-born population (24.9%) than the state as a whole (14.9%).

Figure 2: Ancestry of the Top Latino Groups in 2010

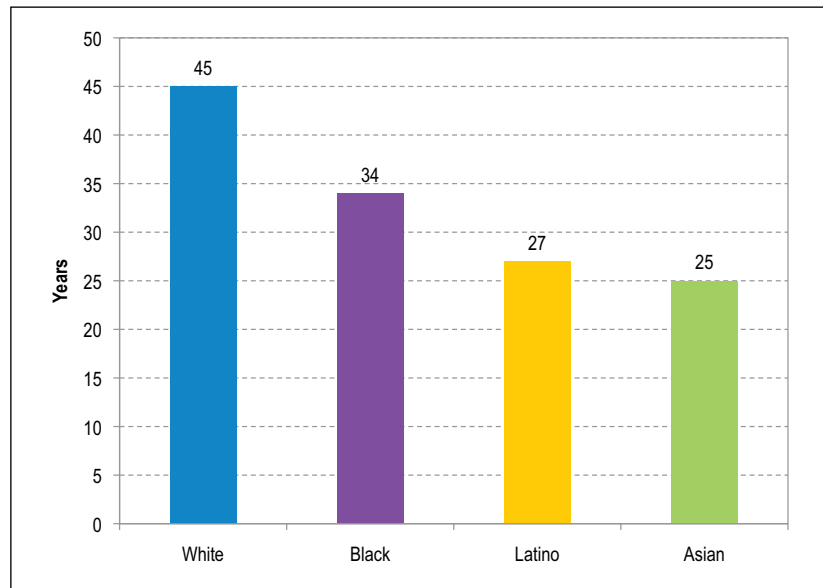


The rest of this report presents an overview that compares Latinos to whites, blacks, and Asians in these cities for selected demographic, economic, and social characteristics.

MEDIAN AGE AND MARITAL STATUS

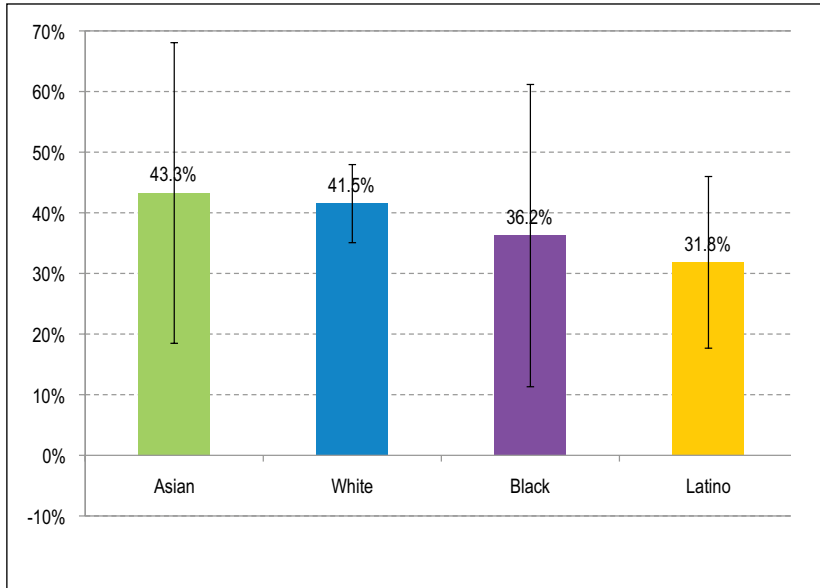
Figure 3 highlights differences in median age, thereby drawing attention to the importance of Latinos in Lynn. Latinos in Lynn have a median age of 27 years (the same as Latinos statewide); they are markedly younger than whites (45 years) and blacks (34 years), though slightly older than Asians (25 years). This age profile 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 an 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 Latino marriage rate shown in Figure 4, covering all persons age 16 and older, is lower than for other ethno-racial groups in Lynn. Statewide, the Latino marriage rate is 35.4% in comparison to 31.8% in Lynn. A number of issues, including different age profiles among subpopulations, could be driving this variation.

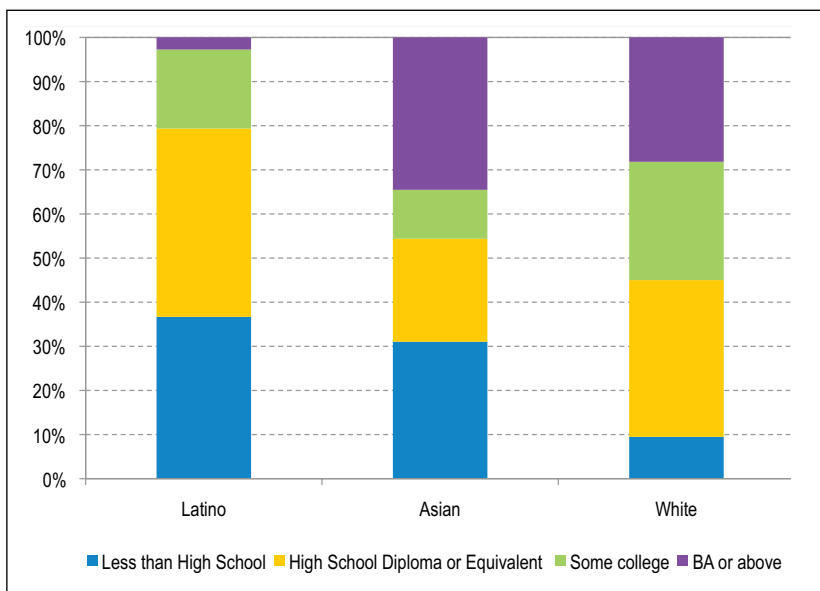
Figure 4: Marriage Rates by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010



EDUCATION

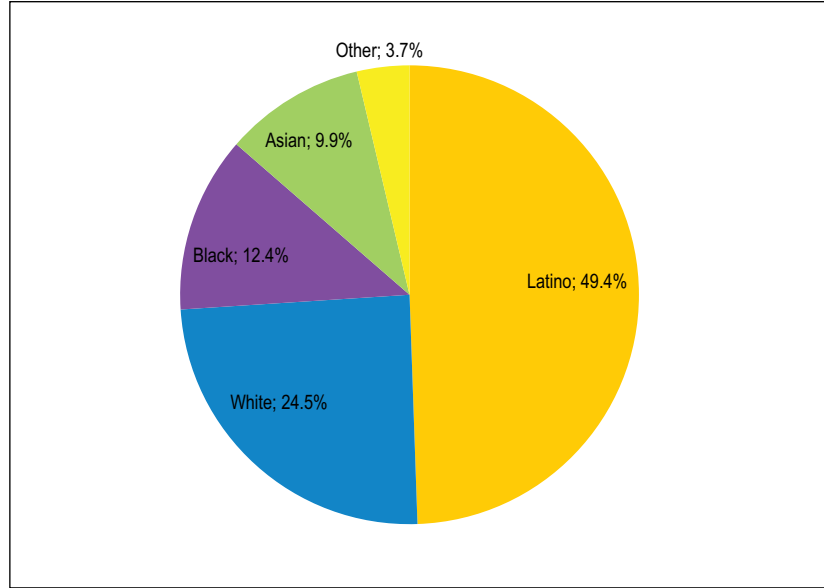
Figure 5 highlights the fact that Latinos have the highest percentage of their adult population lacking a high school diploma: 36.7%, compared to 31.0% for Asians and 9.5% for whites. At the other end of the educational scale, Latinos in Lynn have the lowest percentage of their population with at least a bachelor's degree: 2.7%, compared to 35.4% for Asians and 28.2% for whites.

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



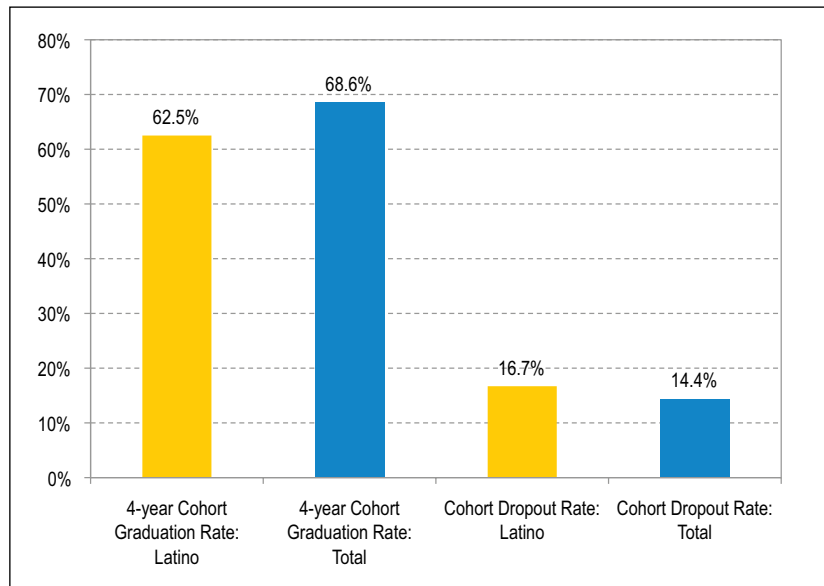
Figures 6A and 6B, unlike other figures in this report, pertain solely to the city of Lynn. They provide information on Latinos in Lynn Public Schools, using data from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Latinos, representing 49.4% of total student enrollment in the 2010–2011 school year, are the largest ethno-racial group in the district.

Figure 6A: Spotlight on Lynn Public Schools by Ethno-Racial Group, Academic Year 2010–2011



Latinos in Lynn Public Schools lag behind the total population in academic success. The proportion of Latino students who graduated from high school in four years (62.5%) was lower than the corresponding figure for the total student population (68.6%). Similarly, 16.7% 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 14.4% of the total population.

Figure 6B: Spotlight on Lynn Public Schools by Outcomes, Academic Year 2010–2011



LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

Figure 7 shows that Latinos have a high labor force participation rate (69.7%) that is second only to that of Asians, again suggesting the importance of Latinos to the economic and social wellbeing of Lynn. This is slightly higher than the statewide Latino rate of 68.1%. This high level of participation is despite the lower median age of Latinos in the Lynn area shown by Figure 3. However, Latino unemployment was 20.2%, higher than the statewide Latino average of 15.2%.

Figure 7: Labor Force Participation by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010

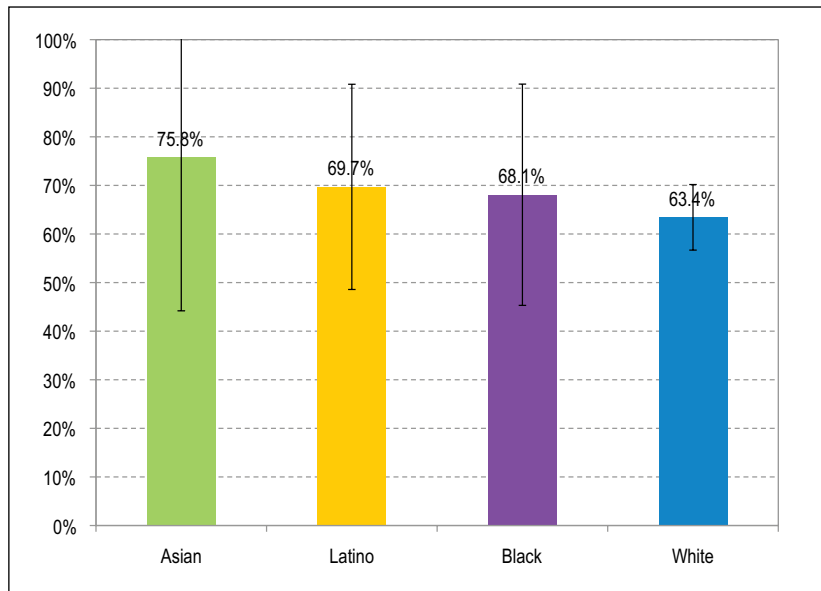
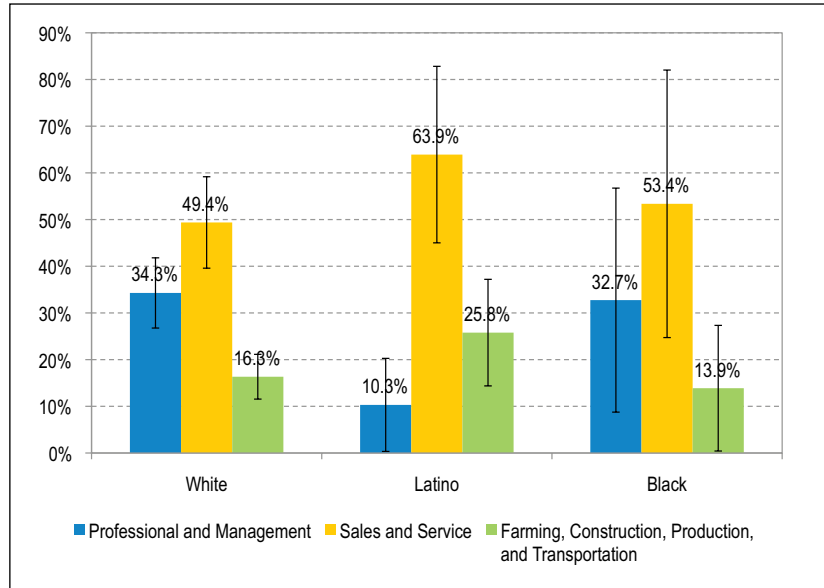


Figure 8 suggests that Latinos serve as complements to other ethno-racial groups in the area's labor market whose members have higher educational attainment. As Figure 8 shows, Latinos are underrepresented in what are traditionally considered white-collar jobs (professional and managerial). Correspondingly,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

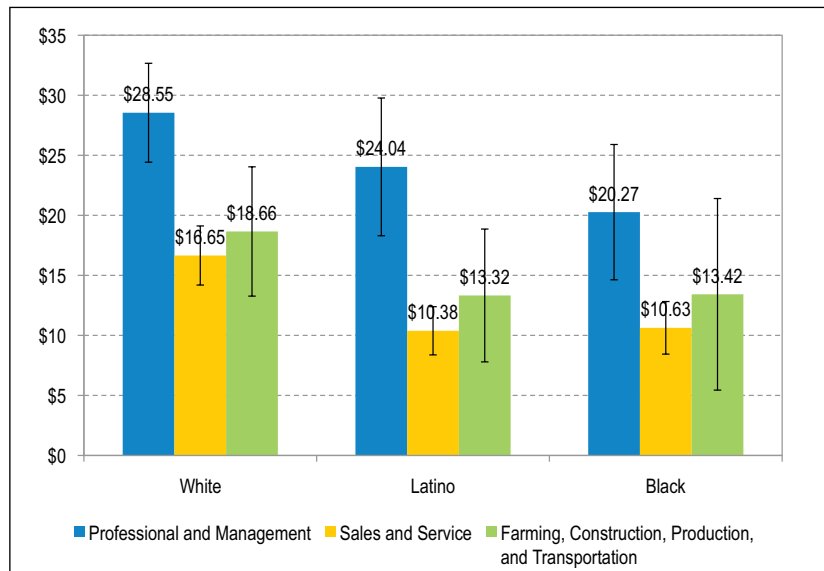
Figure 8: Population Employed by Occupational Category by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010



EARNINGS

When examining the wage rates for these occupational categories, we see that Latinos received lower wages than whites in all categories. Compared to blacks, however, they received higher wages in white-collar occupations and similar wages in service-sector and blue-collar occupations.

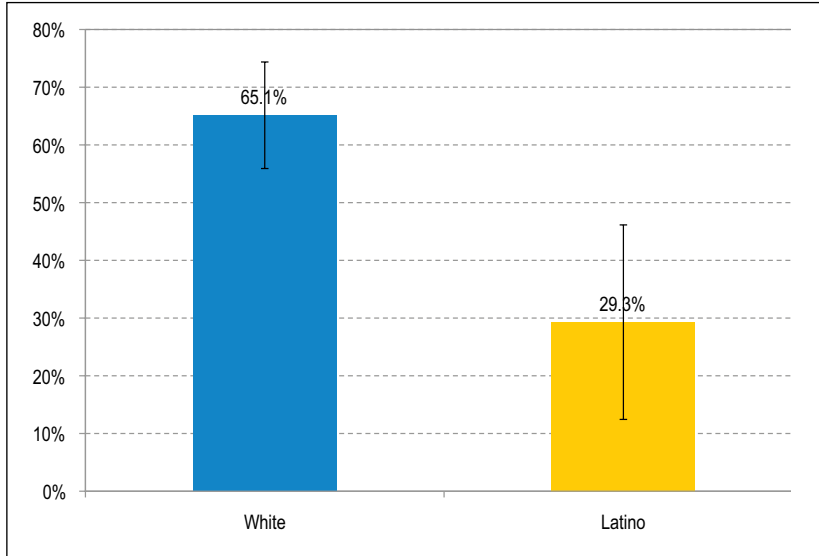
Figure 9: Hourly Wages by Occupational Category by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010



HOUSING STATUS AND MEDICAL INSURANCE

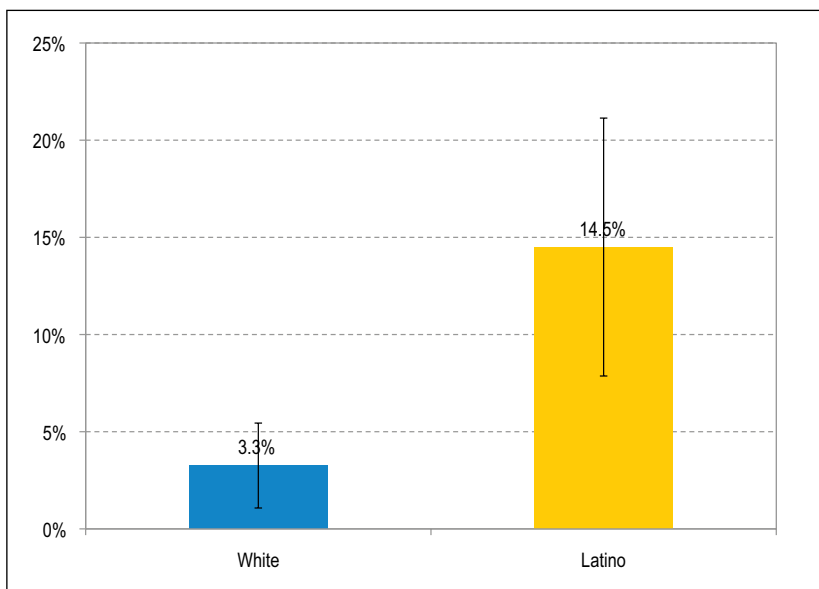
The final measures of Latino participation in Lynn are intended to identify how well Latinos in the area are being rewarded for their economic, social, and political participation. Latinos traditionally have low homeownership rates across the country. Figure 10 shows that this trend holds true in Lynn, where the Latino homeownership rate of 29.3% is less than half the rate for whites (65.1%). Still, it is higher than the state's Latino average of 25.7%. As a complement to these percentages in Figure 10, it is evident that 70.7% of Latinos in the area are renters.

Figure 10: Homeownership Rates by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010



The percentage of Latinos in this area who lack medical insurance (14.5%) is significantly higher than for whites (3.3%). It is also higher than the statewide average for Latinos (11.6%). 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 11: 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.

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