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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

Somerville and Everett

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

January, 2013

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



Somerville and Everett

This report provides a descriptive snapshot of selected economic, social, educational, and demographic indicators pertaining to Latinos in the cities of Somerville and Everett. 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 Somerville and Everett 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, Somerville accounted for nearly two-thirds of the population in the PUMA consisting of these two cities, while Everett accounted for 35.5%. The majority of the Latino population, on the other hand, lived in Everett (52.3%), while 47.7% lived in Somerville.

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.

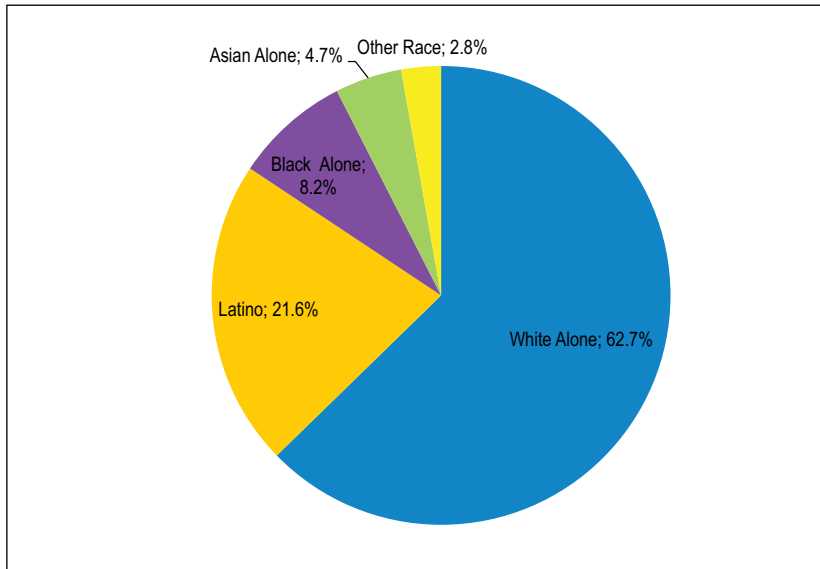
In this report, Latinos are compared to non-Latino whites, non-Latino blacks, and Asians for selected demographic, economic, and social characteristics. The number of ethno-racial groups included in a particular analysis may vary; each ethno-racial group is included in the analysis only when the observed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

Somerville and Everett are home to an estimated 25,422 Latinos, who make up 21.6% of the cities' combined population. Whites constitute the largest ethno-racial group (62.7%), while Asians account for 4.7% and blacks 8.2% (Figure 1).

Notes

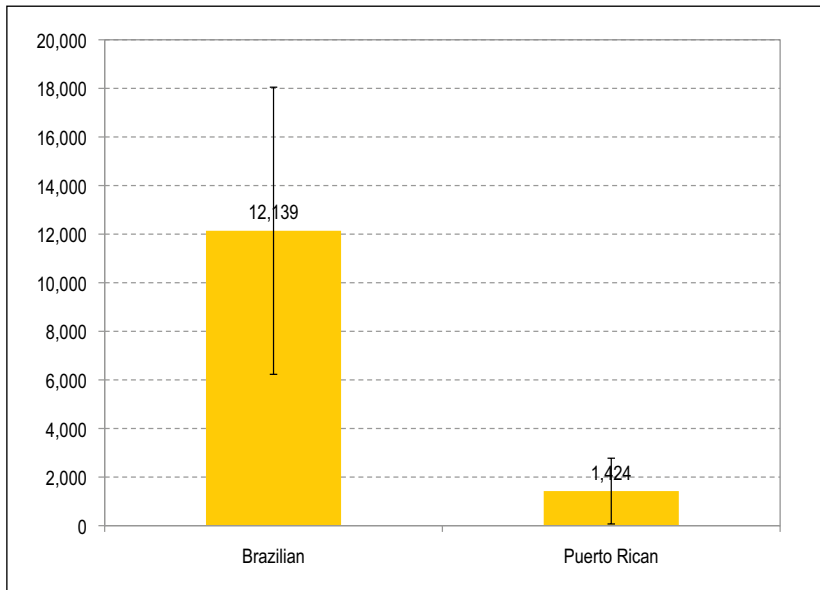
¹ This report uses the census designations of Hispanic or Latino origin and ancestry based on migration from Latin America to estimate the number of Latinos. Thus, Brazilians are included in the category "Latino," though most Brazilians self-report in the ACS using a racial category (e.g., white, black),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

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



The Latino population in Somerville and Everett is dominated by Brazilians, who number 12,139; Puerto Ricans (1,424) are the other sizable Latino subpopulation. These two subpopulations make up 53.4% of the area's Latino population. Latinos (other than Puerto Ricans, who are U.S. citizens) help give Somerville and Everett a proportionately greater foreign-born population (30.3%) 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 draws attention to the importance of Latinos in Somerville and Everett. Latinos have a median age (31 years) similar to that of whites and Asians but higher than that of blacks. This area is one of the few in Massachusetts where the Latino age profile is similar to those of other ethno-racial groups. Latinos in Somerville also have a higher median age than Latinos statewide (31 years versus 27 years).

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

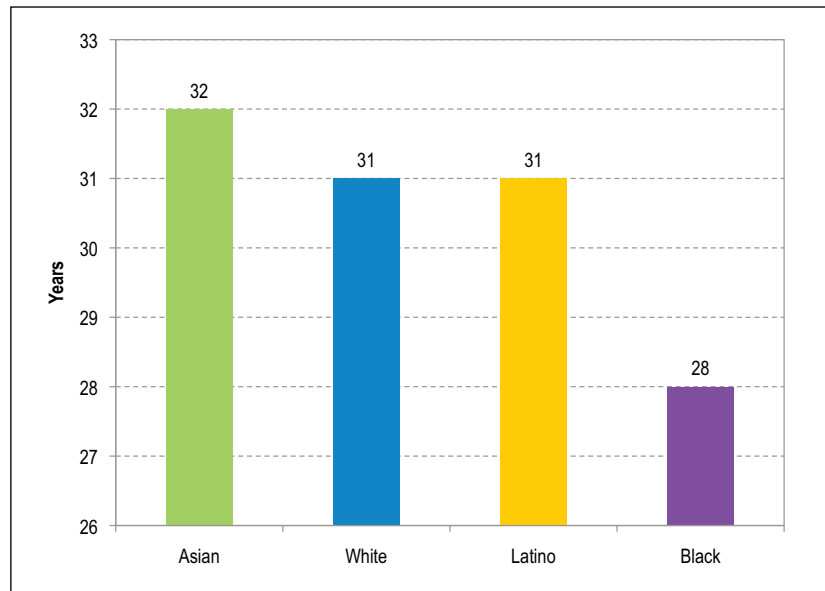
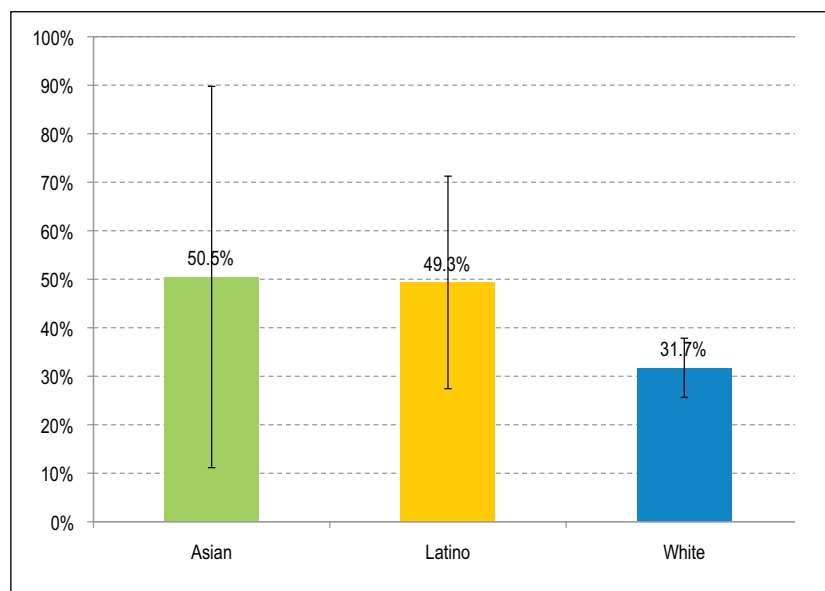


Figure 4 shows that the 49.3% marriage rate for Latinos (for persons age 16 and older) is higher than for whites, though slightly lower than for Asians. It is also notably higher than the statewide Latino marriage rate of 35.4%. In comparison to other cities in the Commonwealth, this older Latino population has a marriage rate closer to the larger population.

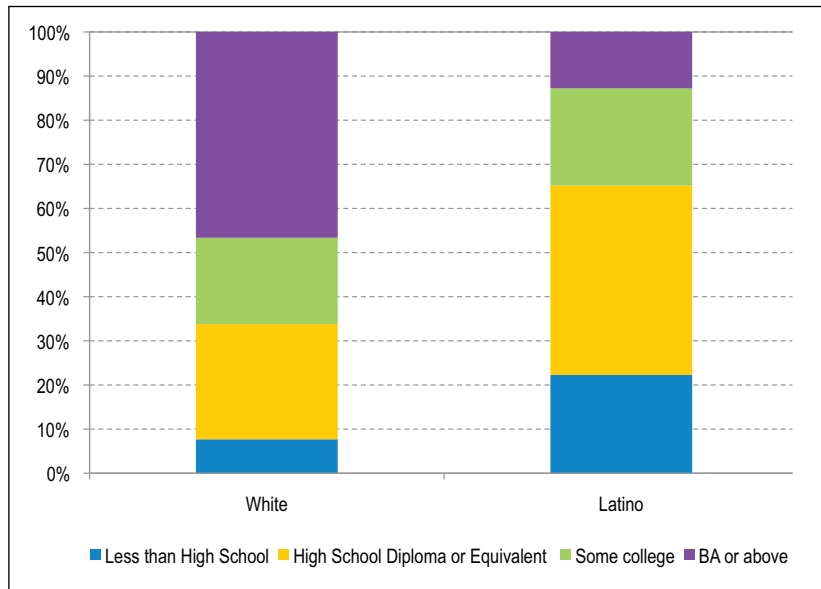
Figure 4: Marriage Rates by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010



EDUCATION

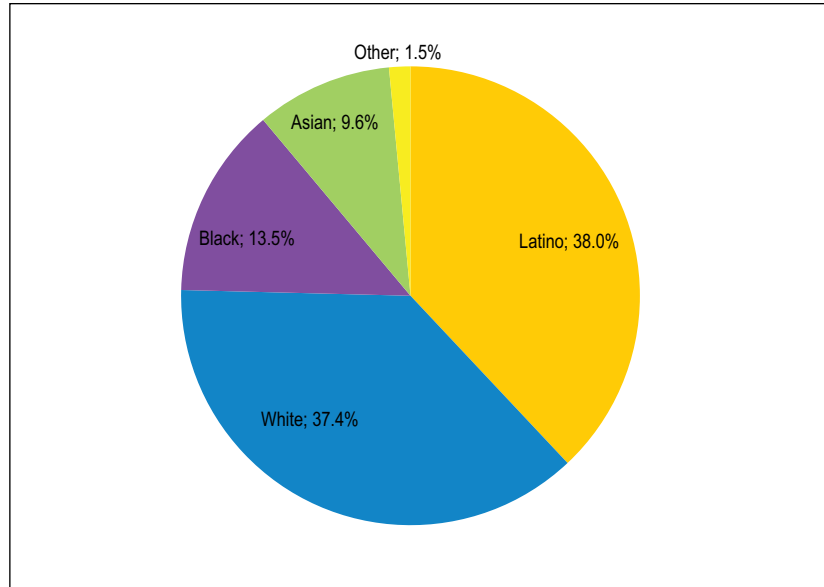
Figure 5 highlights the fact that Latinos have a much higher percentage of their adult population lacking a high school diploma than do whites: 22.3%, compared to 7.7% for whites. At the other end of the educational scale, Latinos in Somerville and Everett have a much lower percentage of their population with at least a bachelor's degree: 12.8%, compared to 46.6% for whites.

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



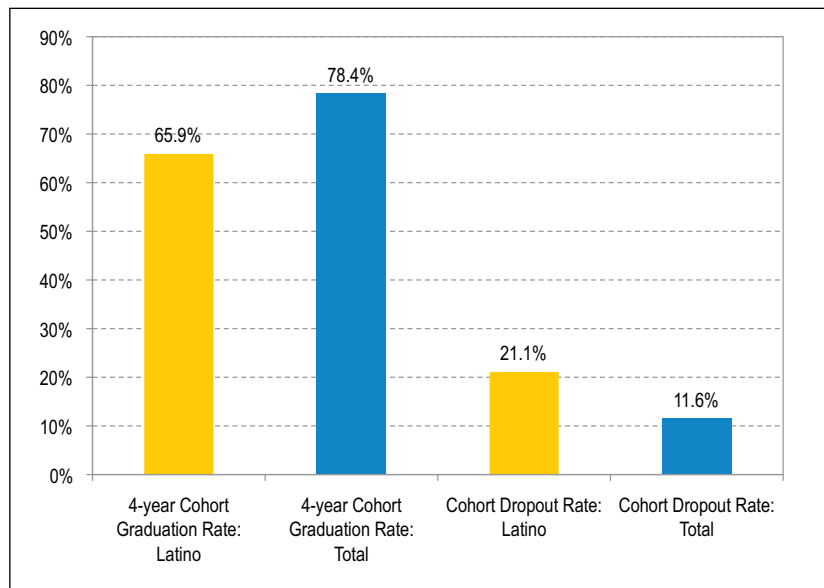
Figures 6A and 6B, unlike other figures in this report, pertain solely to the city of Somerville, not Somerville and Everett together. They provide information on Latinos in Somerville Public Schools, using data from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Latinos, representing 38.0% of total student enrollment in the 2010–2011 school year, are the largest ethno-racial group in the district. Over the past decade, as total student enrollment has declined, the number of Latinos and their share of total student enrollment have increased.

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



Latinos in Somerville Public Schools lag behind the total population in academic success. Not quite two-thirds of Latino students (65.9%) graduated from high school in four years compared to 78.4% for the total student population. Similarly, 21.1% 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 11.6% of the total population.

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



LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

Figure 7 shows that Latinos have a higher labor force participation rate (87.1%) than do whites (75.2%) and Asians (68.0%). The Latino labor force participation rate for Somerville and Everett is significantly higher than among Latinos across the state, whose overall participation rate is 68.1%. This increased labor force participation is closely related to the higher median age shown by Figure 3. Latino households in Somerville and Everett tend to have fewer young children than Latinos statewide and thus can participate in the labor force at a higher rate due to fewer childcare needs.

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

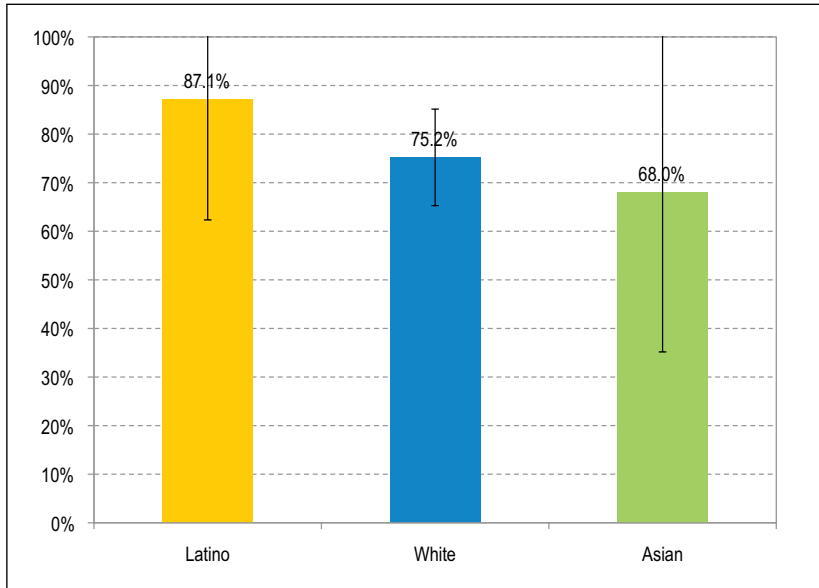
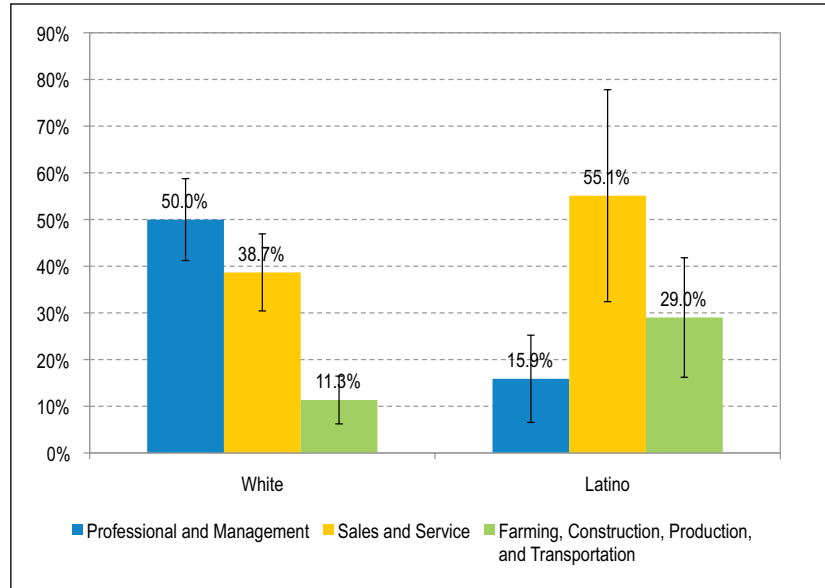


Figure 8 suggests that in Somerville and Everett's labor market Latinos serve as complements to whites whose members have higher educational attainment. As Figure 8 shows, Latinos are underrepresented in what are traditionally considered white-collar jobs (professional and managerial). Correspondingly,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

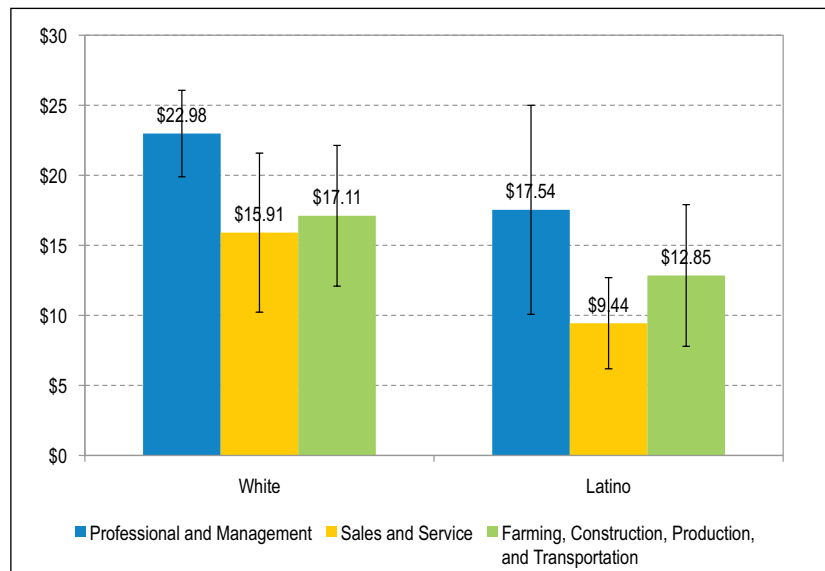
Figure 8: Population Employed by Occupational Category by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010



EARNINGS

When examining the wage rates for these occupational categories, Latinos appear to be receiving lower wages than whites for all occupational categories (Figure 9). They earn \$5.44 less for their white-collar employment than whites, \$6.47 less than whites for service-sector employment, and \$4.26 less than whites for their blue-collar employment.

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

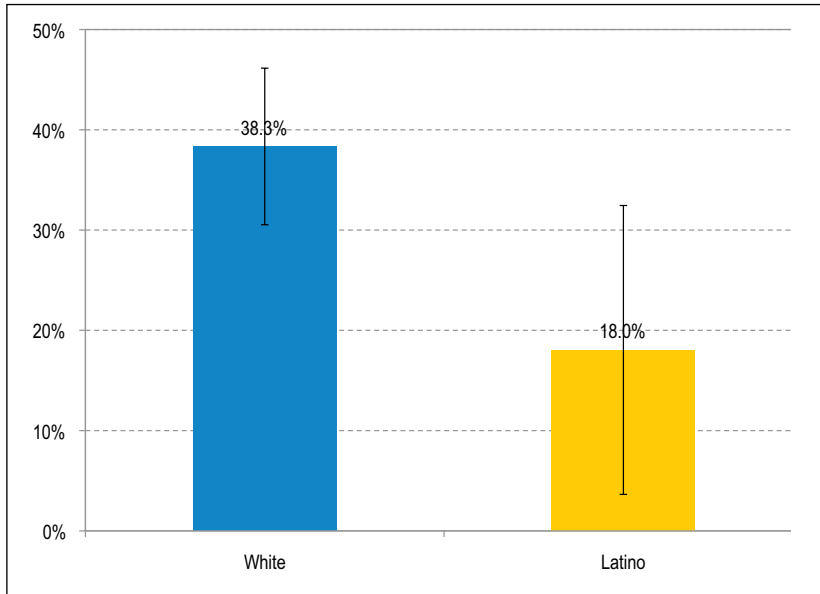


HOUSING STATUS AND MEDICAL INSURANCE

The final measures of Latino participation in Somerville and Everett are intended to identify how well Latinos in these two cities are being rewarded for their economic,

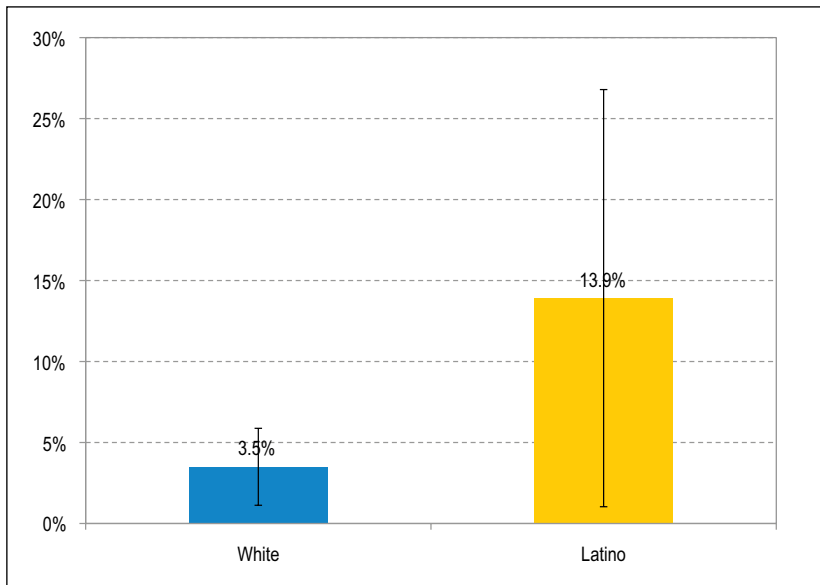
social, and political participation. Latinos traditionally have low homeownership rates across the country. In these cities, the 18.0% Latino homeownership rate is even lower than the statewide Latino average of 25.7%. White homeownership is also markedly lower in these densely populated cities than statewide, although still higher than Latino homeownership (38.3% versus 18.0%). As a complement to these percentages in Figure 10, it is evident that 82.0% of Latinos in Somerville and Everett are renters.

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



The percentage of Latinos in Somerville and Everett who lack medical insurance (13.9%) is higher than the statewide average for Latinos (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. In contrast, only 3.5% of white residents do not have access to medical insurance.

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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