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Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas

Massachusetts

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

January, 2013

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



Massachusetts

This report provides a descriptive snapshot of selected economic, social, educational, and demographic indicators pertaining to Latinos in Massachusetts. 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 Massachusetts is part of a larger series that also covers fifteen cities, or clusters of cities, in the Commonwealth. Each report analyzes data from the American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau; this report uses 2011 data.

Since ACS data are 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.

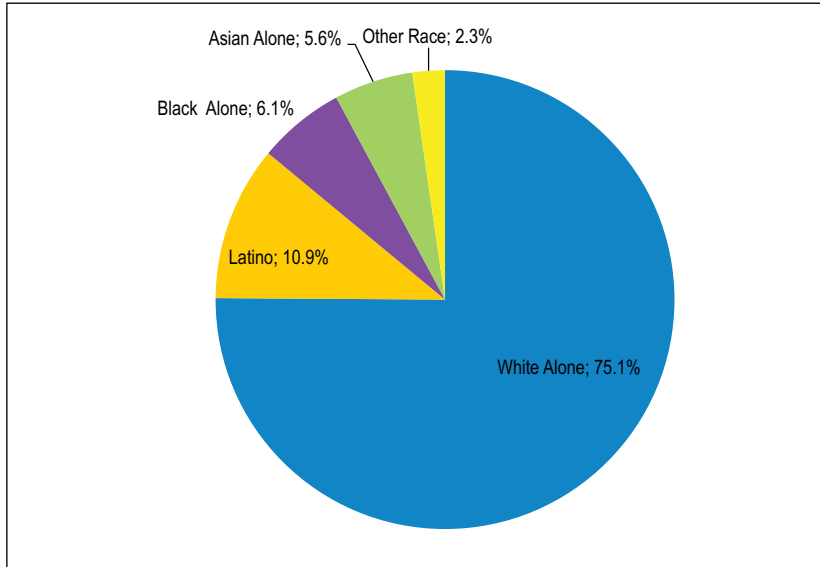
In this report, Latinos are compared to non-Latino whites, non-Latino blacks, and Asians for selected demographic, economic, and social characteristics. The number of ethno-racial groups included in a particular analysis may vary; each ethno-racial group is included in the analysis only when the observed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

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is home to an estimated 718,343 Latinos. They represent about one-tenth (10.9%) of the state population, a smaller share than for whites but greater than for blacks and Asians (Figure 1).

Notes

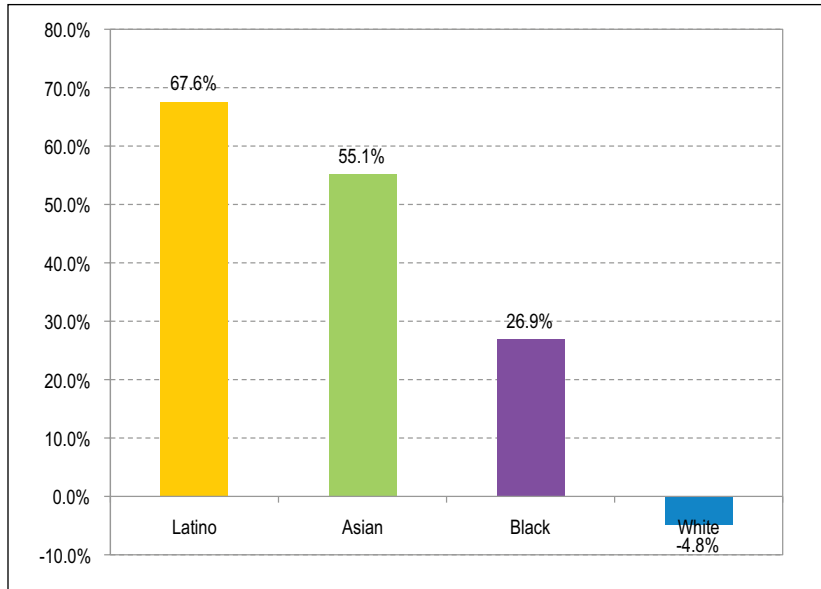
¹ This report uses the census designations of Hispanic or Latino origin and ancestry based on migration from Latin America to estimate the number of Latinos. Thus, Brazilians are included in the category "Latino," though most Brazilians self-report in the ACS using a racial category (e.g., white, black),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

Figure 1: Population Percentages by Ethno-Racial Group in Massachusetts in 2011



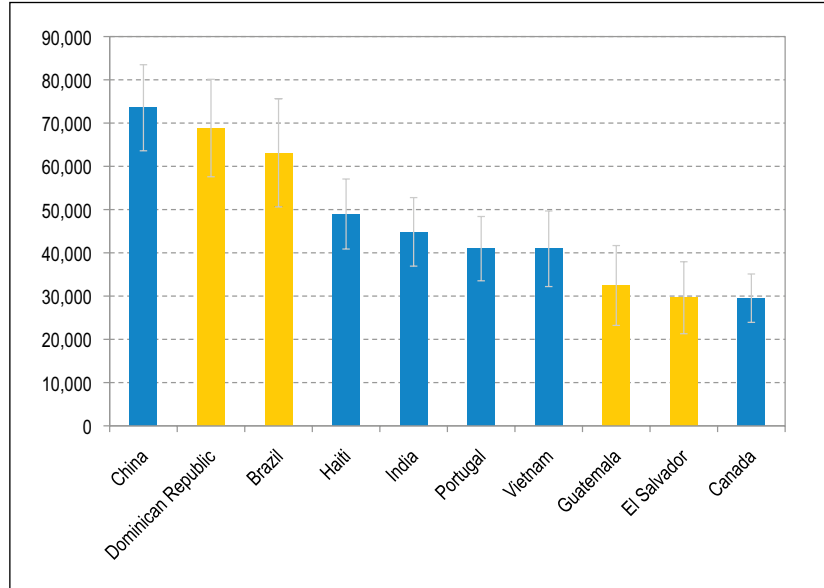
A striking feature of Massachusetts' Latino population is its recent growth (Figure 2). From 2000 to 2011, Latinos experienced the fastest population growth in the state (67.6%), followed by Asians (55.1%) and blacks (26.9%). The white population experienced a small decrease during the same time period (4.8%).

Figure 2: Population Growth by Ethno-Racial Group in Massachusetts from 2000 to 2011



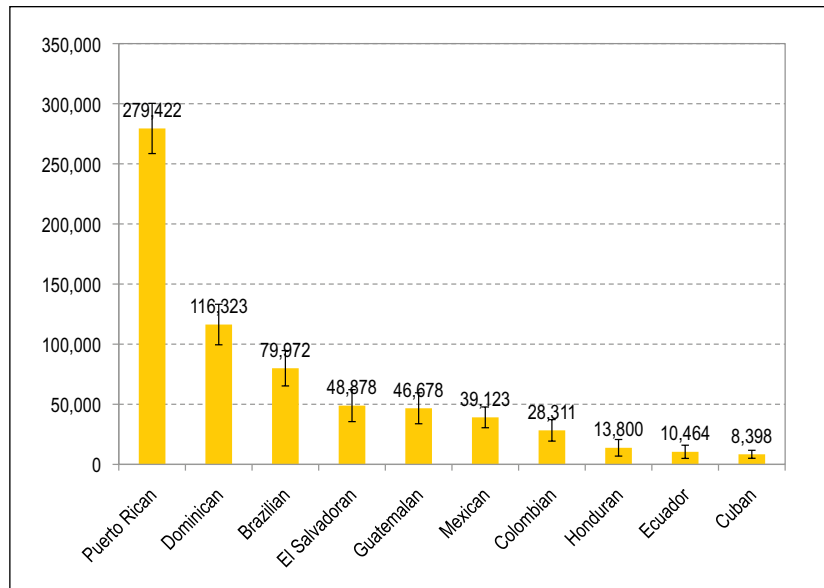
One of the explanations of this population growth is international migration. Massachusetts has long been a destination for international migrants, and today 14.9% of the population is foreign-born. Dominicans represent the largest foreign-born Latino population in the state, and Latino countries account for four of the top ten sending countries to the state (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Top 10 Sending Countries to Massachusetts in 2011



When examining the ancestry of Latinos in the state, it is important to note that Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens and included in Figure 4 but not in Figure 3, which represents the foreign-born population. Puerto Ricans constitute the largest Latino subpopulation in the state with a population of 279,422, followed by Dominicans with 116,323.

Figure 4: Ancestry of the Top 10 Latino Groups in Massachusetts in 2011



AGE DISTRIBUTION AND MARITAL STATUS

Figures 5A and 5B highlight Latino and non-Latino age distributions, drawing attention to the important contributions that Latinos are making in Massachusetts. With the majority of their population at the younger levels of Figure 5A, Latinos

will require an investment in education of their youth. Latino young people will contribute economically, socially, and politically in later years as the middle bulge of the non-Latino population in Figure 5B grows older and the state's population age becomes more top-heavy. An older population will require younger residents to keep the state's cities vibrant and maintain a productive workforce, and Latinos are poised to make this contribution.

Figure 5A: Age Distribution of the Latino Population in Massachusetts in 2011

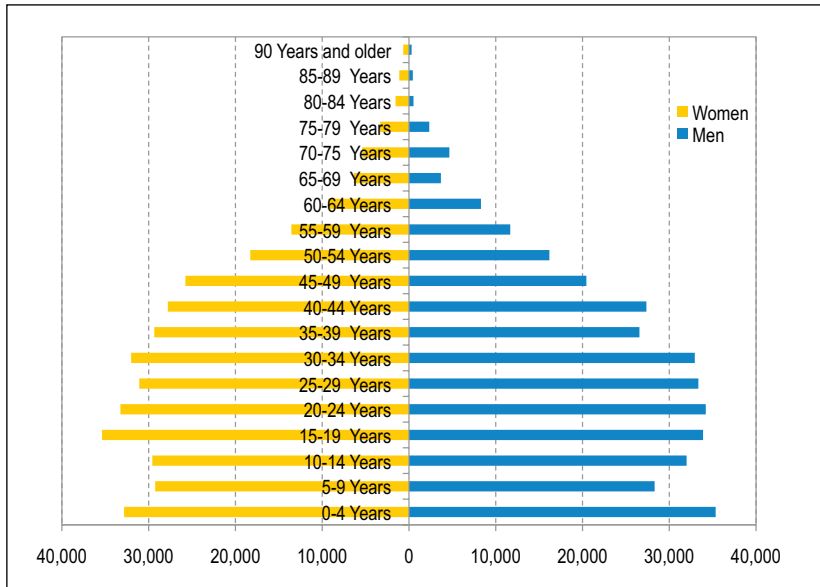
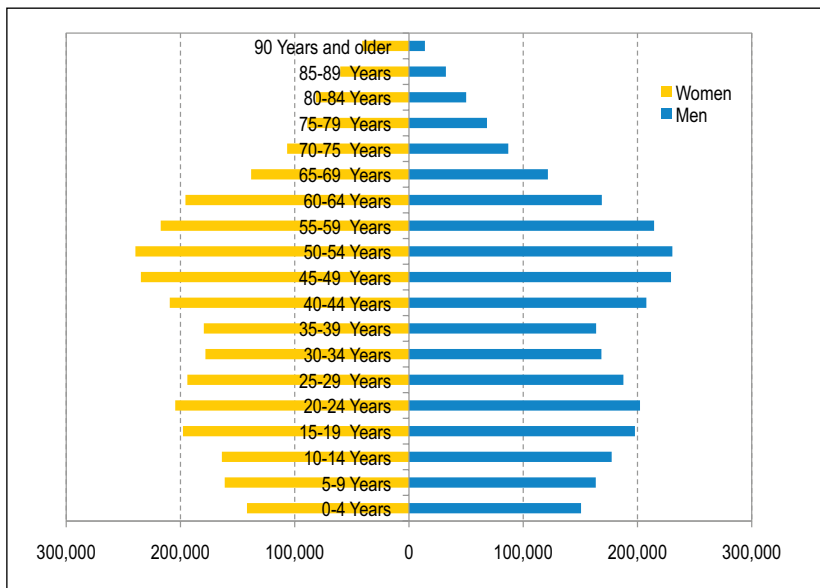
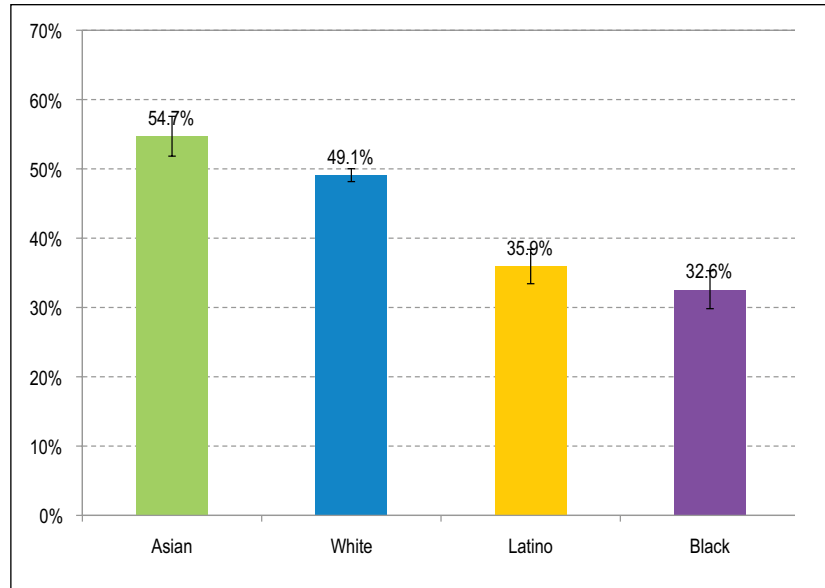


Figure 5B: Age Distribution of the Non-Latino Population in Massachusetts in 2011



The youthfulness of the area's Latino population may influence its marital status. The marriage rates of Latinos shown in Figure 6, covering all persons age 16 and older, are lower than for whites and Asians.

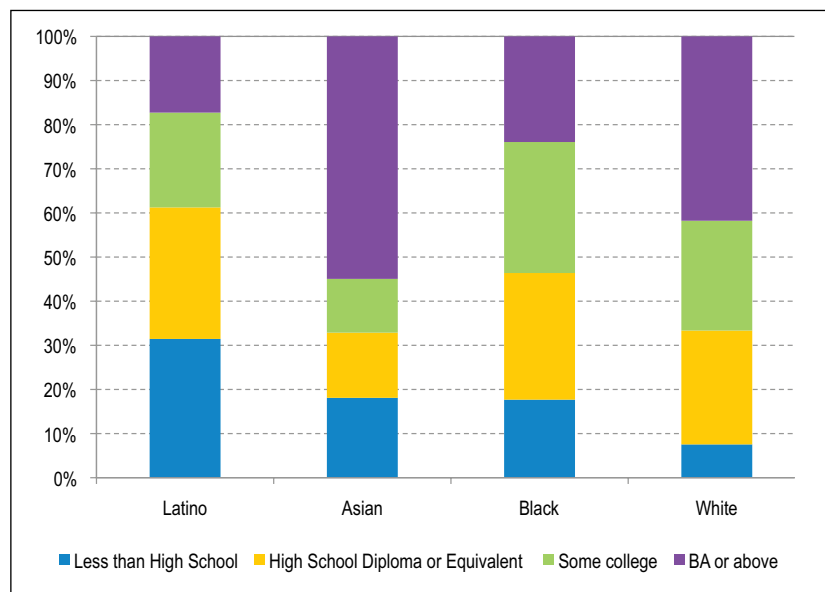
Figure 6: Marriage Rates by Ethno-Racial Group in 2011



EDUCATION

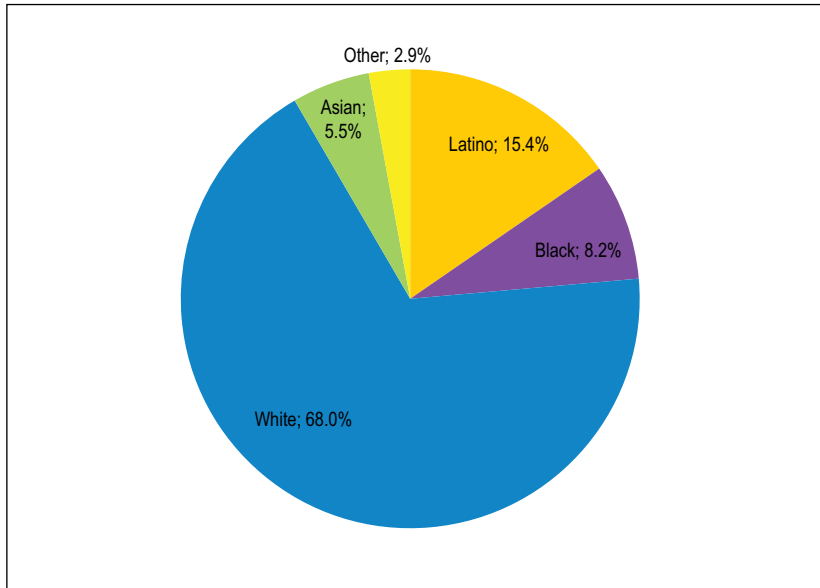
Figure 7 highlights the fact that Latinos have the highest percentage of their population with less than a high school diploma: 31.4%, compared to 18.1% for Asians, 17.7% for blacks, and 7.5% for whites. At the other end of the educational scale, Latinos have the lowest percentage of their population with at least a bachelor's degree: 17.3%, compared to 54.9% for Asians, 41.8% for whites, and 23.9% for blacks.

Figure 7: Educational Attainment by Ethno-Racial Group in 2011 (Adults 25 Years and Older)



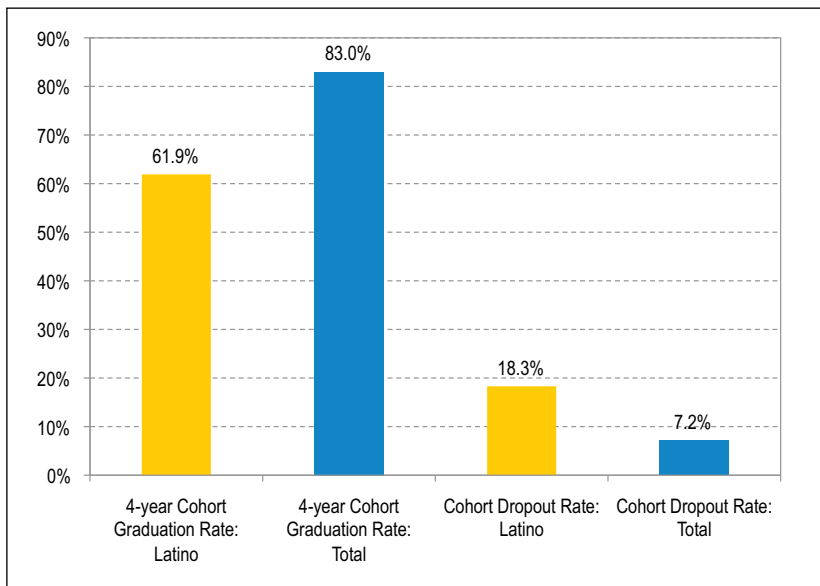
Figures 8A and 8B provide information on Latinos in Massachusetts public schools, using data from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Latinos, representing 15.4% of total student enrollment in the 2010-2011 school year, are the second largest ethno-racial group in the state after whites, who represent 68.0% of the student population.

Figure 8A: Spotlight on Massachusetts Public Schools by Ethno-Racial Group, Academic Year 2010-2011



Latinos in Massachusetts public schools lag behind the total population in academic success. Over three-fifths of Latino students (61.9%) graduated from high school in four years compared to 83.0% for the total student population. Similarly, 18.3% of Latinos who entered as freshman in the 2006-2007 school year dropped out of high school and did not return or get a GED, compared to 7.2% of the total population.

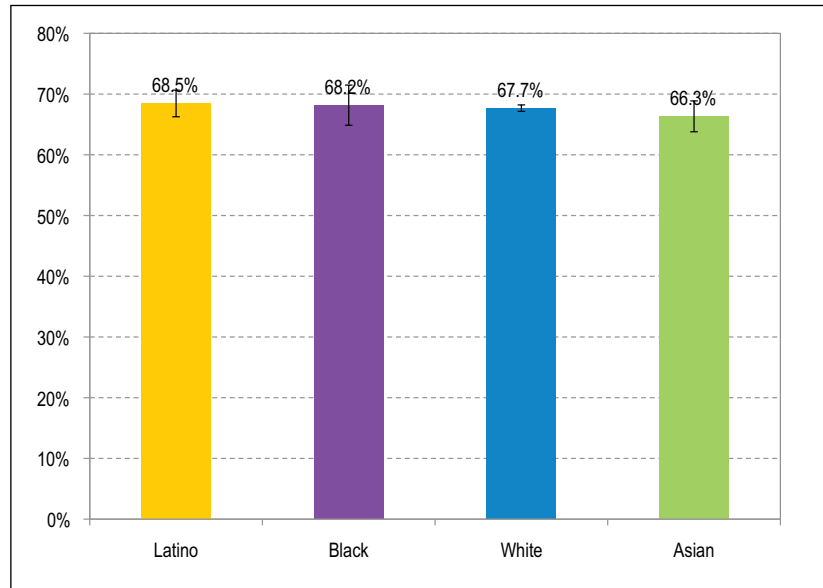
Figure 8B: Spotlight on Massachusetts Public Schools by Outcomes, Academic Year 2010-2011



LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

Again suggesting the importance of Latinos to Massachusetts' economic and social wellbeing, Figure 9 identifies Latinos as having the highest labor force participation rate of any ethno-racial group (68.5%) in the state. This is related to the large proportion of their population under 25 years of age (Figure 5A) when individuals are expected to have completed their education and have fully entered the labor force. This may be due in part to Latinos' lack of K-12 educational success (Figure 7), which encourages early labor force participation rather than post-secondary education.

Figure 9: Labor Force Participation by Ethno-Racial Group in 2011



The previous labor force participation information suggests that Latinos in Massachusetts have a strong motivation to participate in the state economy. However, Figure 10 tells a different and slightly less positive story. The unemployment rate among Latinos in 2011 was 13.9%, which was substantially higher than for whites (8.5%) or Asians (8.3%), although lower than for blacks (16.0%). This suggests that Latinos have suffered a disproportionate effect from the present economic downturn.

Figure 10: Unemployment Rates by Ethno-Racial Group in 2011

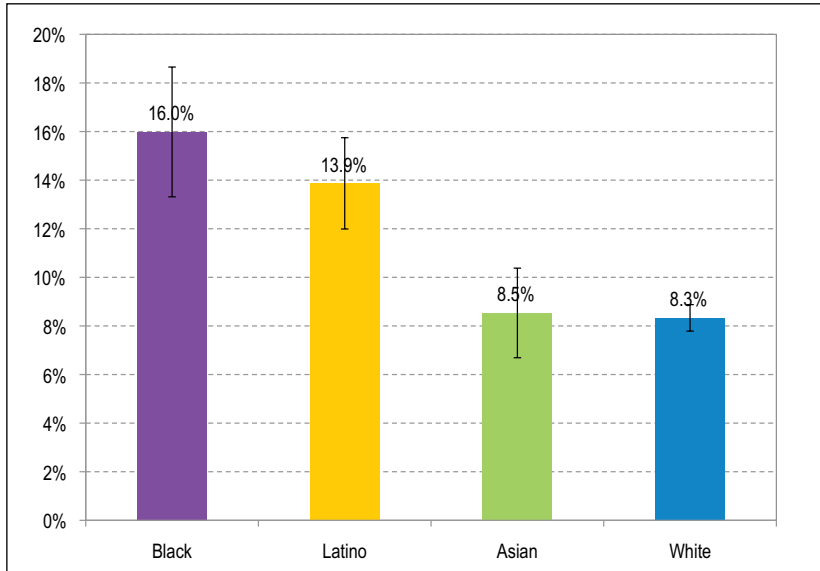
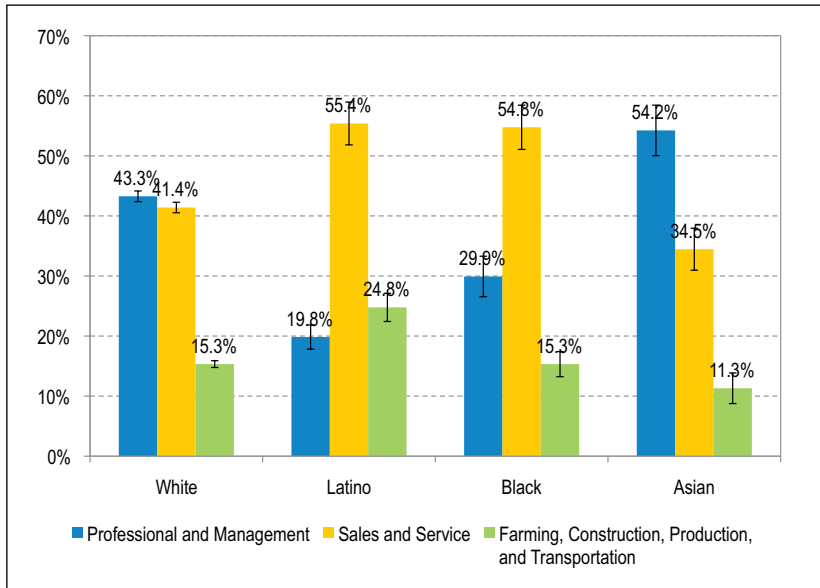


Figure 11 suggests that Latinos serve as complements to other ethno-racial groups in the Massachusetts labor market whose members have higher educational attainment. Latinos are overrepresented in what are traditionally considered blue-collar jobs (farming, construction, production, and transportation). In contrast, Latinos are underrepresented in what are traditionally considered white-collar jobs (professional and managerial).

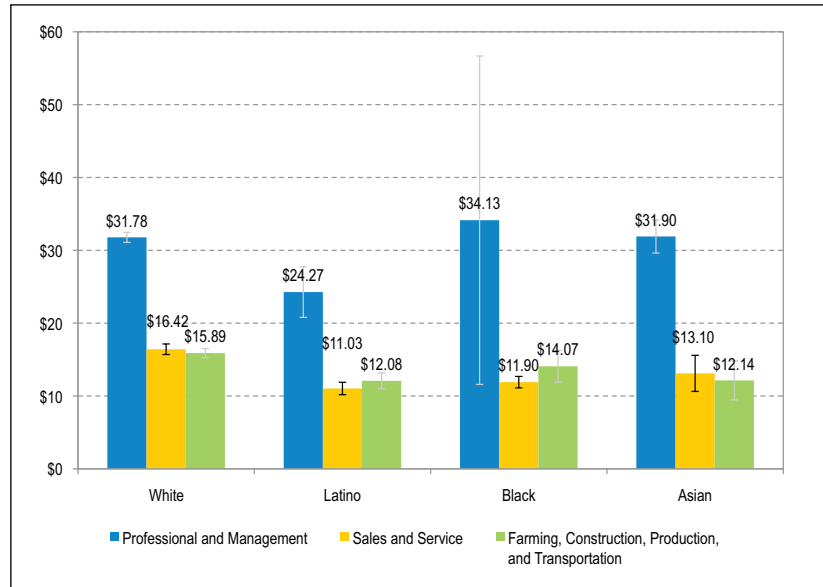
Figure 11: Population Employed by Occupation by Ethno-Racial Group in 2011



EARNINGS

When examining the wage rates for these occupational categories, Latinos in Massachusetts appear to be receiving wages below those of other ethno-racial groups. They earn lower wages than all other ethno-racial groups in all occupational categories (Figure 12).

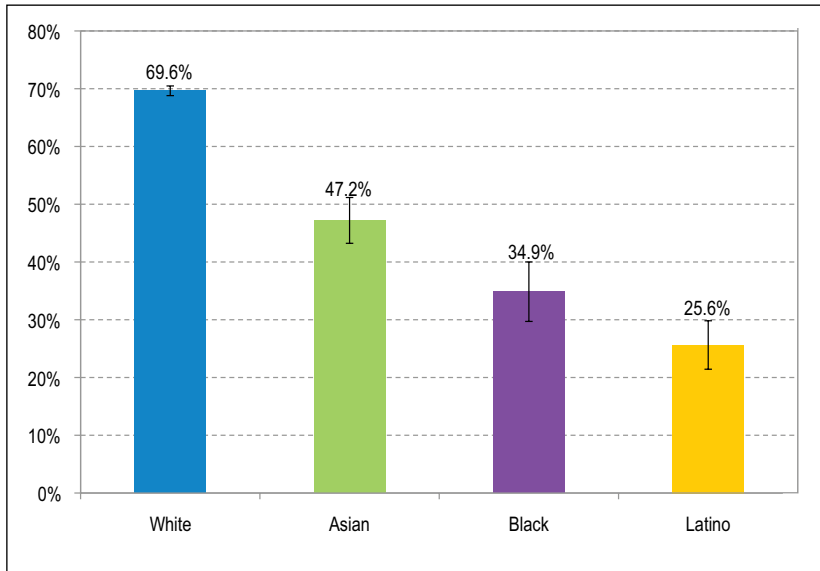
Figure 12: Hourly Wages by Occupation by Ethno-Racial Group in 2011



HOUSING STATUS AND MEDICAL INSURANCE

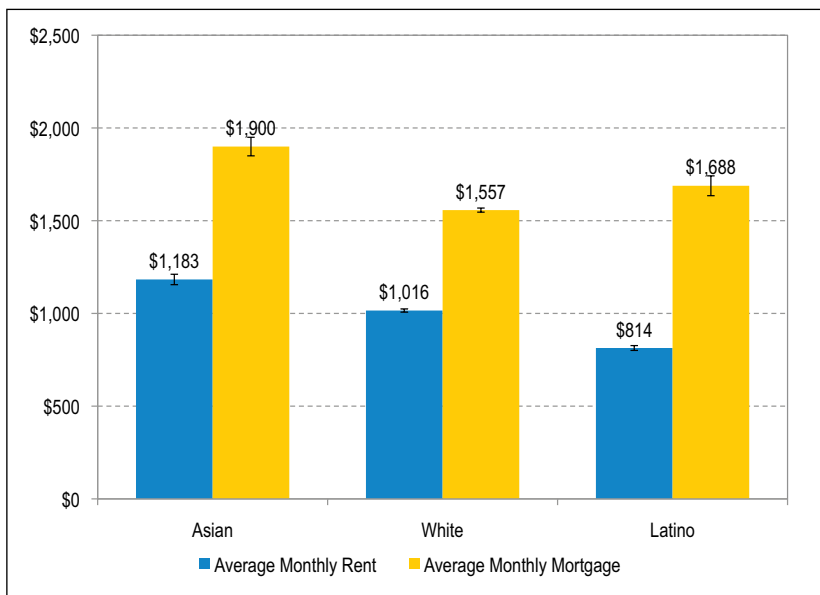
The final measures of Latino participation in Massachusetts are intended to identify how well Latinos are being rewarded for their economic, social, and political participation. Latinos have the lowest homeownership level of any ethno-racial group in the state at 25.6%. As a complement to these percentages in Figure 13, it is evident that 74.4% of Latinos in Massachusetts are renters.

Figure 13: Homeownership Rates by Ethno-Racial Group



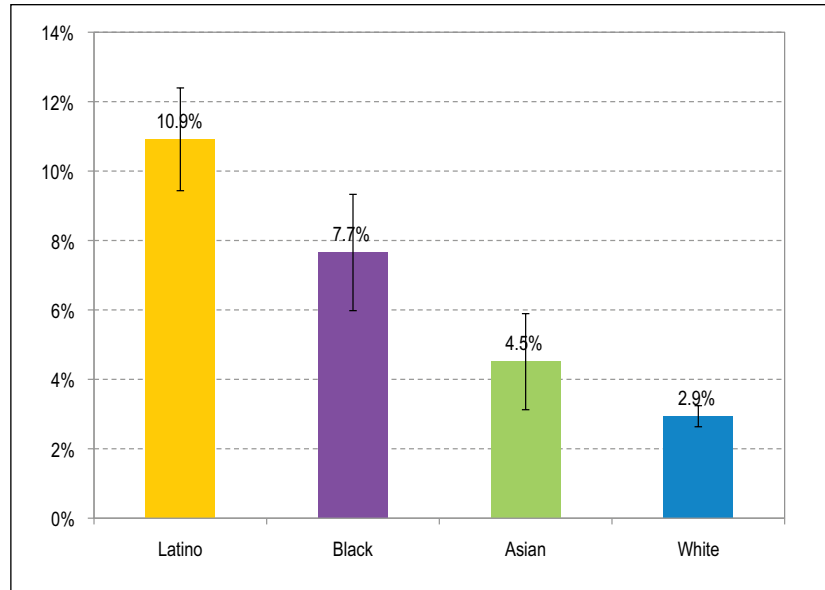
With low levels of homeownership, Latinos in Massachusetts are more dependent on the local rental markets. Monthly rents paid by Latino renters (\$814) are lower than for any other ethno-racial group. Mortgage payments of Latino homeowners are higher than those paid by white homeowners, although not higher than mortgage payments of Asian homeowners.

Figure 14: Housing Costs by Ethno-Racial Group in 2011



Latinos in Massachusetts have the highest percentage without medical insurance (10.9%) of any ethno-racial group (Figure 15). The higher Latino uninsurance rate may be related to the greater percentage of Latinos who are foreign born in comparison to statewide.

Figure 15: Medical Uninsurance by Ethno-Racial Group in 2011



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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