

University of Massachusetts Boston

ScholarWorks at UMass Boston

Gastón Institute Publications

Gastón Institute for Latino Community
Development and Public Policy Publications

12-2013

Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas: Fall River

Phillip Granberry

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

Mayara Fontes

University of Massachusetts Boston

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 and Fontes, Mayara, "Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas: Fall River" (2013).

Gastón Institute Publications. 187.

https://scholarworks.umb.edu/gaston_pubs/187

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

Fall River

by Phillip Granberry and Mayara Fontes

December, 2013

THE MAURICIO GASTON INSTITUTE
FOR LATINO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AND PUBLIC POLICY

Fall River

This report provides a descriptive snapshot of selected economic, social, educational, and demographic indicators pertaining to Latinos in Fall River. 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.

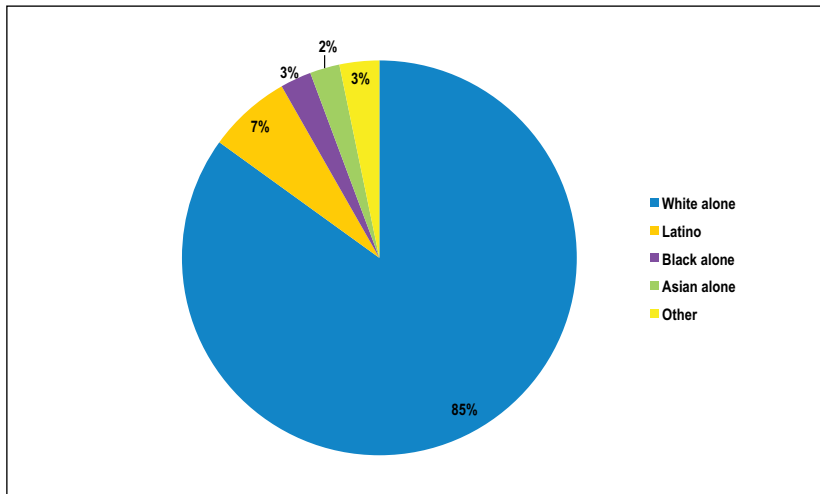
The report on Fall River is part of a larger series that covers cities and towns with a population between 35,000 and 100,000 residents in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with a significant number of Latinos. Fall River is considered a "Gateway City." These cities are midsized urban centers that were once industrial cities that helped anchored a region of the state, but have not transitioned economically as other parts of the state. Each report analyzes data from the American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. We obtained the data from the American Factfinder website in tabular form, and we transformed these data into figures presented in this report.

In this report, Latinos are compared to non-Latino whites, blacks, and Asians for selected characteristics. This report uses the designation of Latino for the universe of people who the Census identified as Hispanic or Latino. The US Census first identified individuals with an ethnicity category of Hispanic or Latino or not Hispanic or Latino. Then, the US Census allowed individuals to select a race. This analysis uses the term "Latino" to identify those that selected an ethnicity. The Census designation of black or African American alone is referenced as black. The category of Asian alone is referenced as Asian. A smaller other ethno-racial category is identified for the initial population estimate of Fall River, and this consists those who identified with multiple race categories or some other race. 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 LATINO POPULATION

As the tenth largest city of the Commonwealth, Fall River is home to an estimated 6,072 Latinos. They represent about one-fifteenth (7%) of the city's population, a smaller share than for whites but greater than for blacks and Asians (Figure 1).

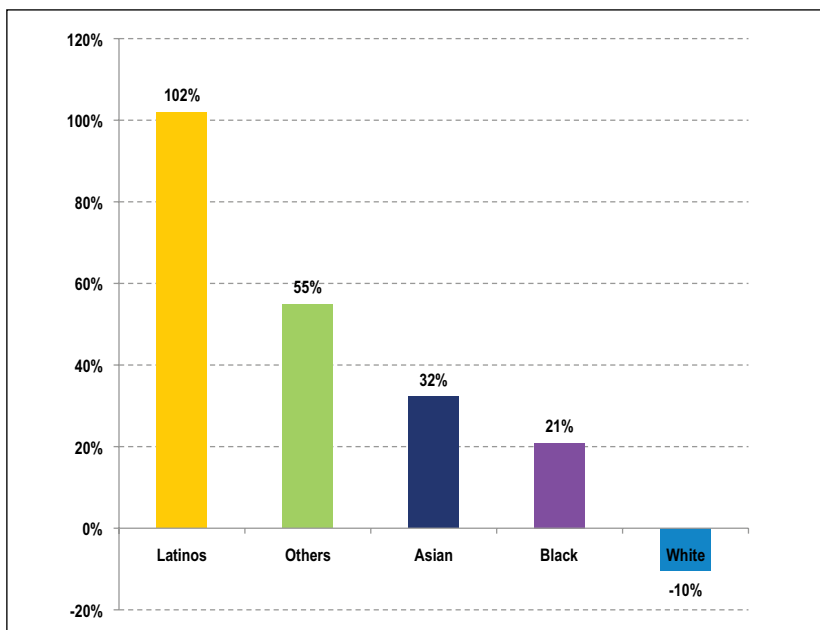
Figure 1: Population Percentages by Ethno-Racial Group in Fall River



ACS Data - DP05: Demographic and Housing Estimates (2007-2011)

While the overall population of Fall River decreased by 3% since 2000, Figure 2 shows a significant increase in the Latino population (102%), which is higher than the state's Latino average (51%). In addition, there was growth in its black (21%) and Asian (32%), populations. This is related to the small but significant decline in whites (10%), the city's largest ethno-racial group.

Figure 2: Population Change by Ethno-Racial Group from 2000 to 2011

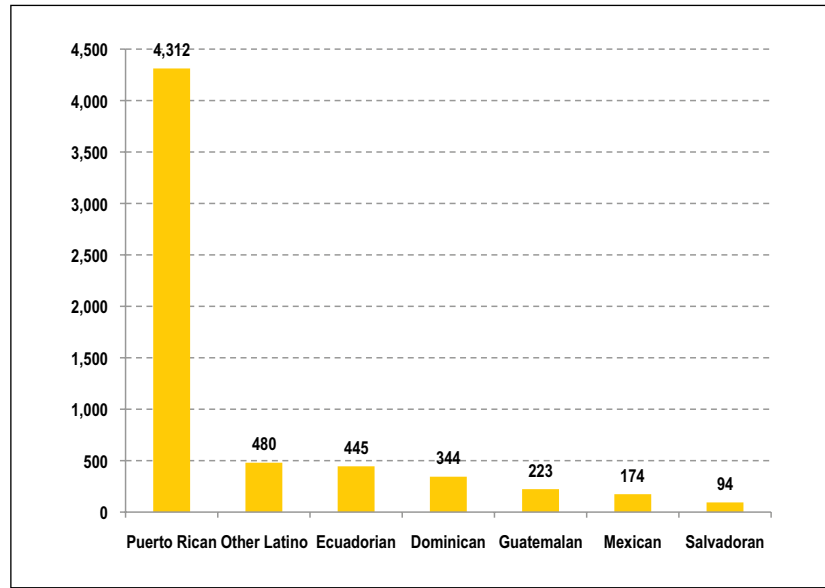


ACS Data - DP05: Demographic and Housing Estimates (2011) and 2000 Census Summary File 1

Fall River has long been a destination for international migrants, and today it has a greater concentration of foreign-born (19%) than the Commonwealth as a whole (15%). However, the influx of international migration was not enough to replace the decline in the population growth caused by whites.

When examining the origin of Latinos in the Fall River, it is important to note that Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens; they are not included in foreign-born estimates above. Figure 3 shows that Puerto Ricans, with a population of 4,312, constitute the largest Latino subpopulation in the city, followed by Ecuadorians (445), Dominicans (344), Guatemalans (223), and Mexicans (174). There are 480 Latinos whose origin is from another country or classified as other Latino.”

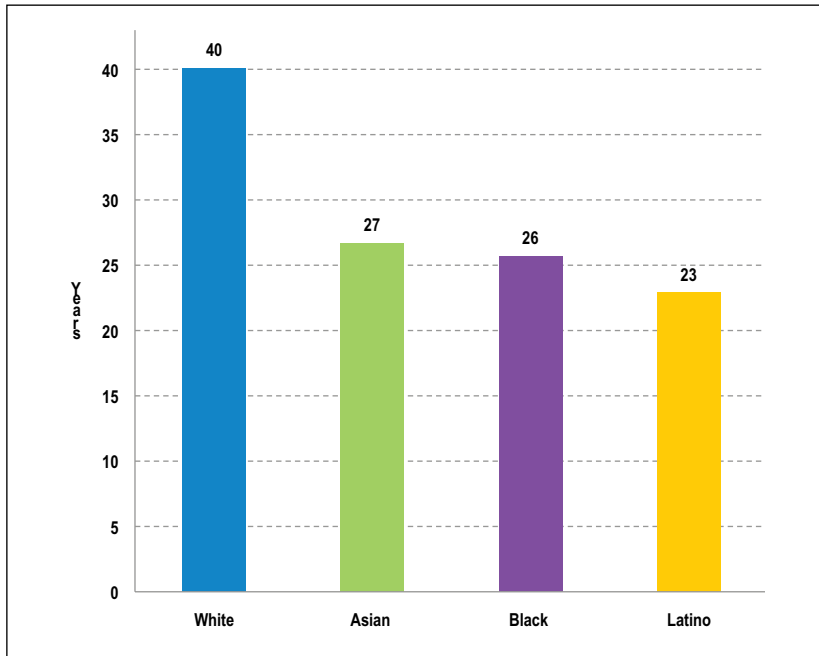
Figure 3: Ancestry of the Top Latino Subpopulations



ACS Data - B03001: Hispanic or Latino Origin by Specific Origin (2007-2011)

MEDIAN AGE AND MARITAL STATUS

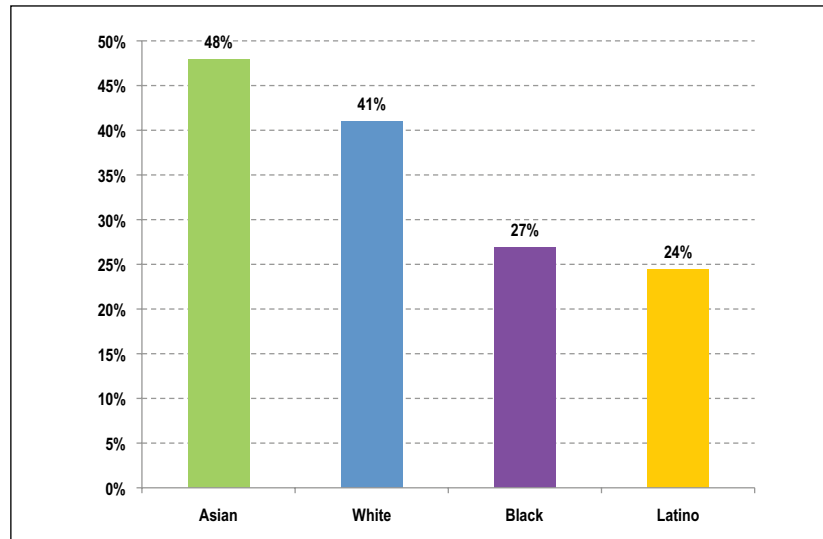
Figure 4: Median Age by Ethno-Racial Group



ACS Data - B01002: Median Age (2007-2011)

In Figure 4, Fall River's Latino population with a median age of 23 years is even younger than the statewide Latino median age of 26 years. Latinos are much younger compared to the larger white population 40 years, who are similar to the state median age of 39 years. As addressed in the Gastón Institute's educational report on Fall River, with over half of their population under the age 25, Latinos are disproportionately represented in the Fall River Public Schools compared to their overall population size (Figure 1). They are also an important population for higher educational institutions in the region like UMass Dartmouth and Massasoit and Bristol Community Colleges.

Figure 5: Marriage Rates by Ethno-Racial Group (15 Years and Older)



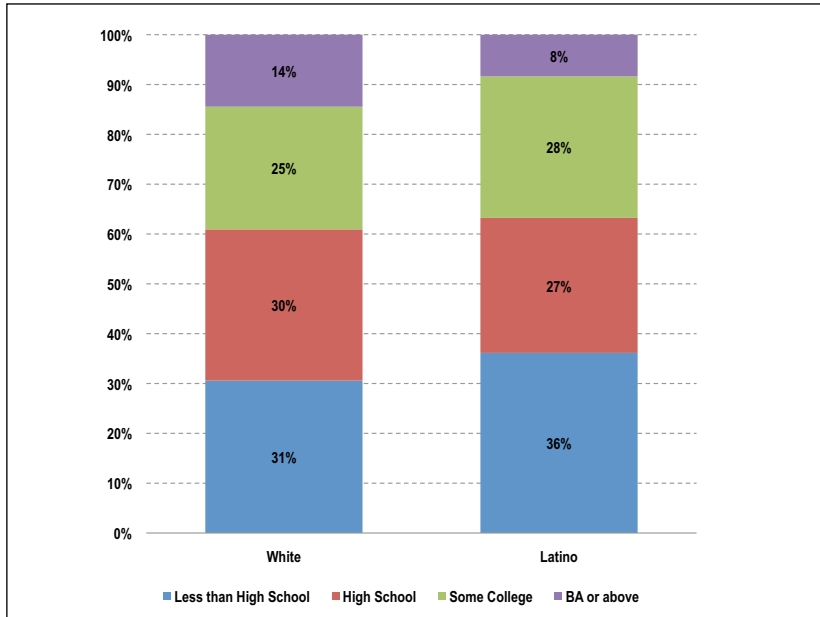
ACS Data - B12002: Marital Status (2007-2011)

The information in Figure 4 appears related to Figure 5. As the youthful Latino population of Fall River predicts, the Latino marriage rate of 24% (for persons age 15 years and older) is lower than all other ethno-racial groups in the city. This is similar to the statewide trend as the marriage rate for the entire population is 48% but 33% for Latinos.

EDUCATION

The educational attainment for all ethno-racial groups is low as only 10% have a bachelor's degree or higher compared 39% statewide. Recalling the median age in Figure 4, nearly half of the 6,072 Latinos are not accounted in this educational attainment estimate because their median age is 23 years. The other half are in a period of their life set aside for increasing educational attainment, and they can alter the troubling trend highlighted below. Figure 6 describes the fact that Latinos have the highest percentage of their adult population lacking a high school diploma: 36%, compared to 31% 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: 8%, compared to 14% for whites.

Figure 6: Educational Attainment by Ethno-Racial Group (Adults 25 Years and Older)

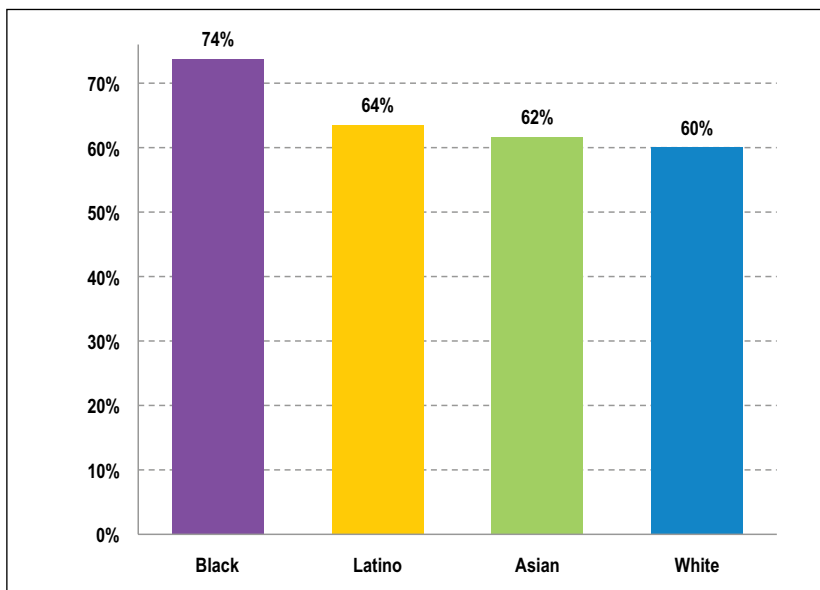


ACS Data - B15002: Educational Attainment (2009-2011)

LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

Latinos in Fall River have a lower labor force participation rate (64%) than Latinos statewide (70%). Blacks have the highest labor force participation in the city, but Latinos have higher labor force participation than Asians and whites. Again, this low participation may be related to previously identified characteristics of a youthful population (Figure 4) with lower levels of educational attainment (Figure 6).

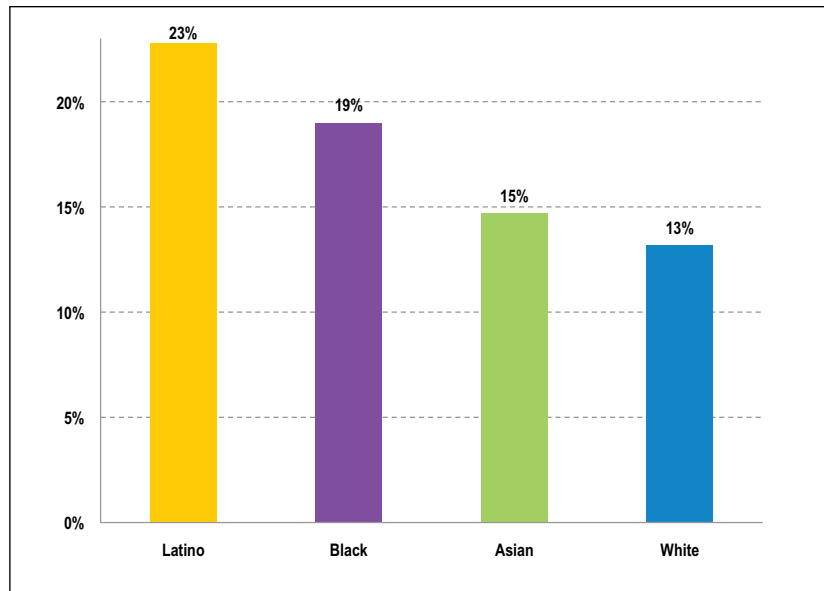
Figure 7: Labor Force Participation among Individuals 16 to 64 Years of Age by Ethno-Racial Group



ACS Data - C23002: Employment Status (2007-2011)

The overall unemployment rate in Fall River during this period was high 14% compared to the statewide unemployment rate of 8%. The high unemployment in the city is consistent with that of other Gateway Cities in the Commonwealth. When Latinos in Fall River participate in the labor force, they do not have the success similar to Latinos statewide who during this period experienced a 13% unemployment rate. The Latino unemployment rate in Fall River of 23% is the highest followed by blacks (19%), Asians (15%) and whites who had unemployment rate of 13%.

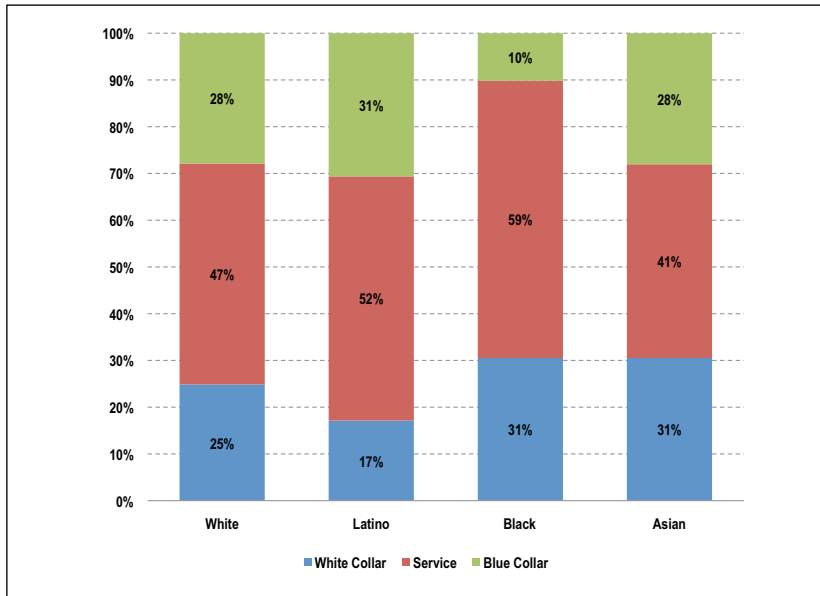
Figure 8: Unemployment Rates by Ethno-Racial Group



ACS Data - C23002: Employment Status (2007-2011)

Figure 9 highlights that Latinos work in traditionally low-wage jobs. Latinos are underrepresented in what are traditionally considered white-collar jobs with only 17% working in these management, business, science, and arts occupations but overrepresented in the service sector with 52% working in services and sales occupations and 31% working in what are traditionally considered blue-collar jobs (natural resources, construction, maintenance, production, transportation, and material moving occupations).

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

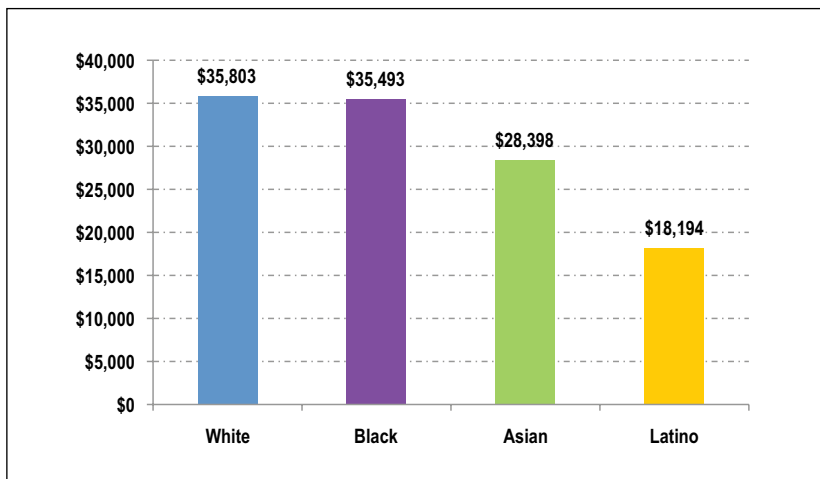


ACS Data - C24010: Occupation for the Civilian Labor Force (2007-2009)

EARNINGS

Highlighting the economic problems that Fall River has experience as a Gateway City in Massachusetts over the last several decades, the median income in Fall River is \$34,789, which is significantly lower than the statewide median income of \$65,981. As the previous occupational distribution suggested, Latinos in Figure 9 have the lowest median income \$18,194 of any ethno-racial group. This is much lower than the statewide Latino median income of \$33,723.

Figure 10: Median Household Income by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010

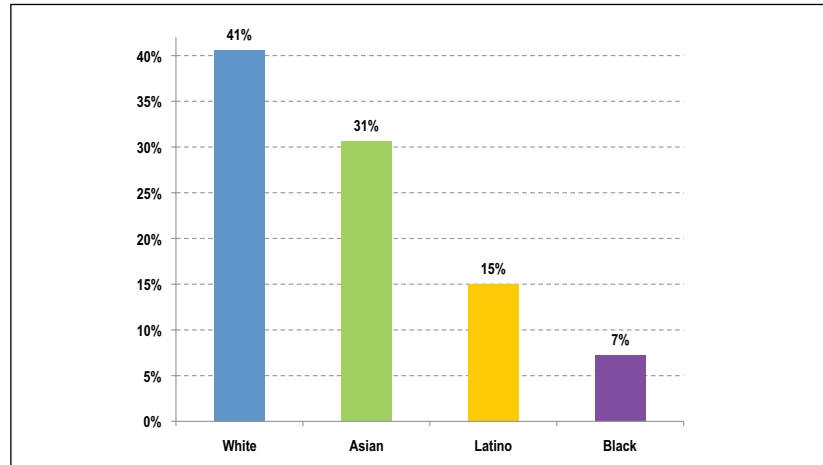


ACS Data - S1903: Median Income in the Past 12 Months (2007-2011)

HOUSING STATUS AND MEDICAL UNINSURANCE

The final measures of Latino participation in Fall River are intended to identify how well Latinos are being rewarded for their economic, social, and political participation. Fall River traditionally has lower homeownership rates (38%) than the state as a whole (64%), as measured by occupied housing units. Latinos in Figure 11 have the second lowest homeownership level of ethno-racial groups in the city at 15%. In comparison, 26% of Latinos statewide are homeowners. As a complement to these percentages in Figure 11, it is evident that 85% of Latinos in Fall River are renters.

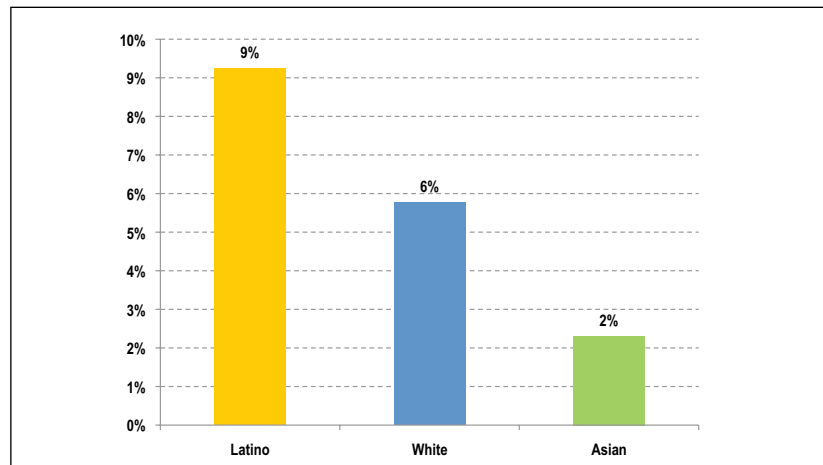
Figure 11: Homeownership Rates by Ethno-Racial Group



ACS Data - B25003: Tenure (2007-2011)

Fall River has higher rates of medical uninsurance (6%) than the statewide average of 4%. Some of this might be attributed to its high concentration of foreign-born residents. Of this group, non-citizens have higher rates of uninsurance. No matter what the explanation is, Fall River has not benefitted from the 2006 Massachusetts health care reform law as other cities in Massachusetts. In particular in Fall River, Latinos have the similar rates of medical uninsurance 9% compared to Latinos statewide who have an uninsurance rate of 9.5%.

Figure 12: Medical Uninsurance by Ethno-Racial Group



ACS Data - S2701: Health Insurance Coverage Status (2009-2011)

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 American Community Survey (ACS) data.

Our descriptive analysis uses 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.

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.

Mayara Fontes is a graduate research assistant at the Gastón Institute and a student in Applied Economics. Her research interests include migration and public health.

www.umb.edu/gastoninstitute

gastoninstitute@umb.edu

| [@GastonInstitute](https://twitter.com/GastonInstitute)

| [Find Us on Facebook](#)

