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### Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas: Waltham

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# Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas

## Waltham

by Phillip Granberry and Priyanka Kabir

June, 2015

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THE MAURICIO GASTON INSTITUTE  
FOR LATINO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
AND PUBLIC POLICY

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# Waltham

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

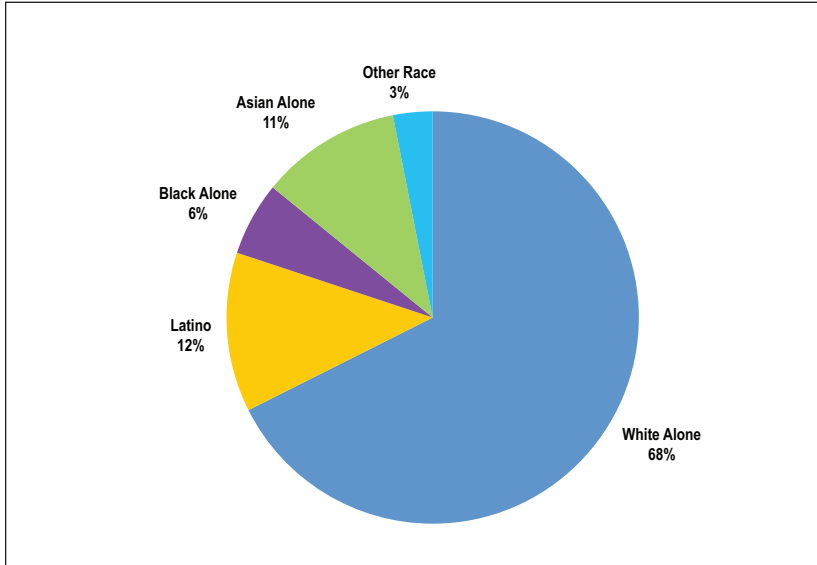
The report on Waltham is part of a larger series that covers cities and towns with a population between 35,000 and 100,000 residents in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with a significant number of Latinos. Each report analyzes data from the American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. We obtained 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 whom 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 who 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 Waltham, and this consists those who identified with multiple race categories or some other race (including the category of "American Indian and Alaska Native Alone"). 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

Waltham is home to an estimated 7,728 Latinos. They represent slightly more than one-tenth (12%) of the city's population, which is a smaller share than for whites but greater than for Asians and blacks (Figure 1).

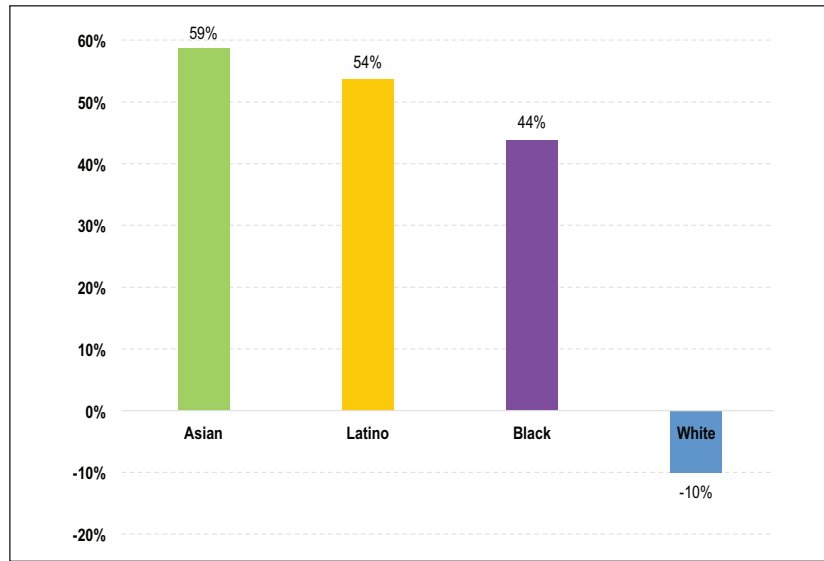
Figure 1: Population Percentages by Ethno-Racial Group in Waltham



Source: 2013 3-Year ACS Data – DP05

A striking feature of Waltham is its recent population change. From 2000 to 2013, Asians (59%), Latinos (54%), and blacks (44%) experienced population growth in the city, while whites experienced a 10% population decline (Figure 2). This decline in the white population is consistent with the statewide trend. The growth of the Latino population in Waltham is similar to that of Latinos statewide, who experienced an increase of 53%. Waltham has long been a destination for international migrants, and today it has a greater concentration of foreign-born (26%) than the Commonwealth as a whole (15%).

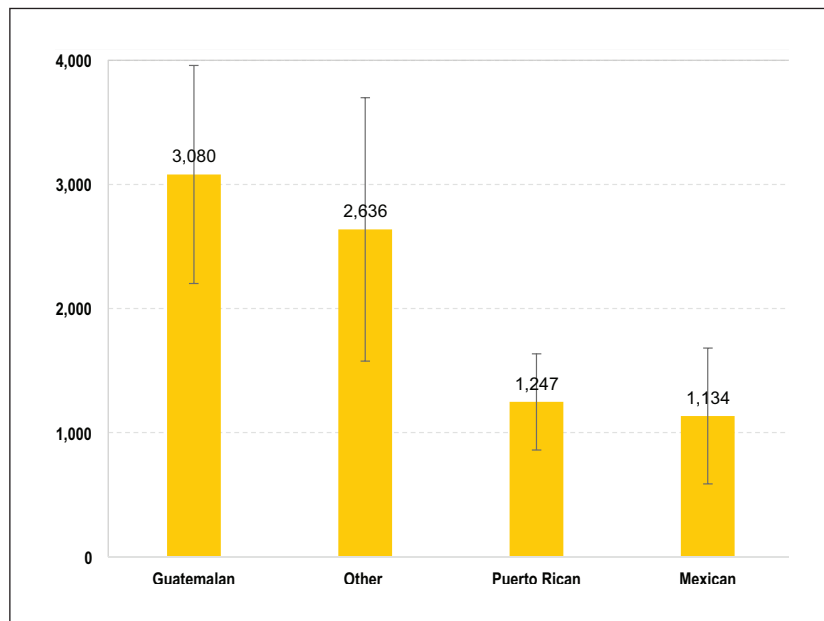
Figure 2: Population Change by Ethno-Racial Group from 2000 to 2013



Source: 2013 3-Year ACS - DP05 and 2000 Census Summary File 1 Data

When examining the ancestry of Latinos in the Waltham, it is important to note that Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens; they are not included in foreign-born estimates above. As Figure 3 shows, the largest Latino subpopulation in the city is Guatemalans (3,038), followed by Puerto Ricans (1,247) and Mexicans (1,134).

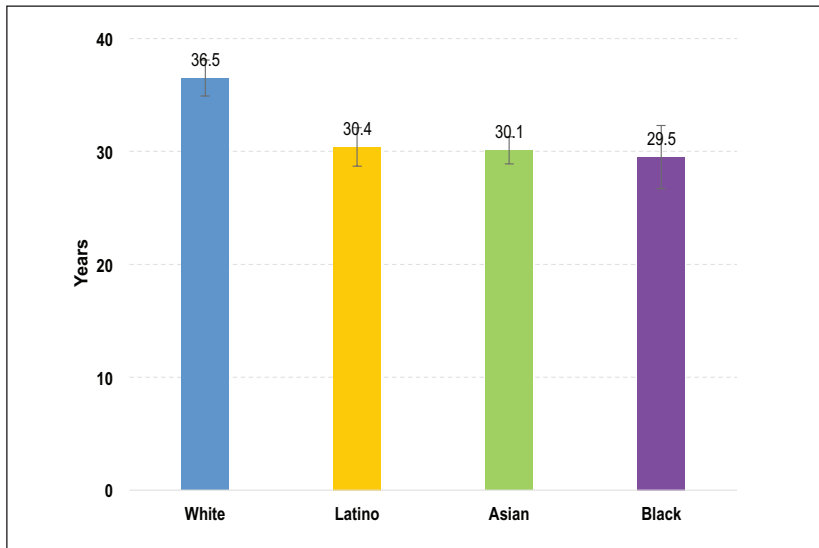
Figure 3: Ancestry of the Top Latino Subpopulations



Source: 2013 ACS 5-Year Data B03001

## MEDIAN AGE AND MARITAL STATUS

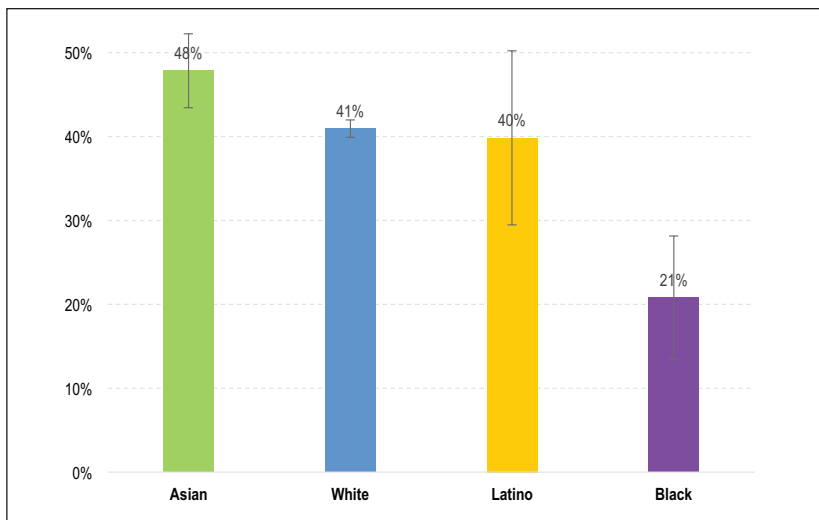
Figure 4: Median Age by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2013 ACS 3-Year Data - B01002

As Figure 4 shows, Waltham's Latino population, with a median age of 30.4 years, is older than the statewide Latino median age of 26.8 years. Latinos as a group are much younger than whites in Waltham (36.5 years), but slightly older than Asians and blacks.

Figure 5: Marriage Rates by Ethno-Racial Group



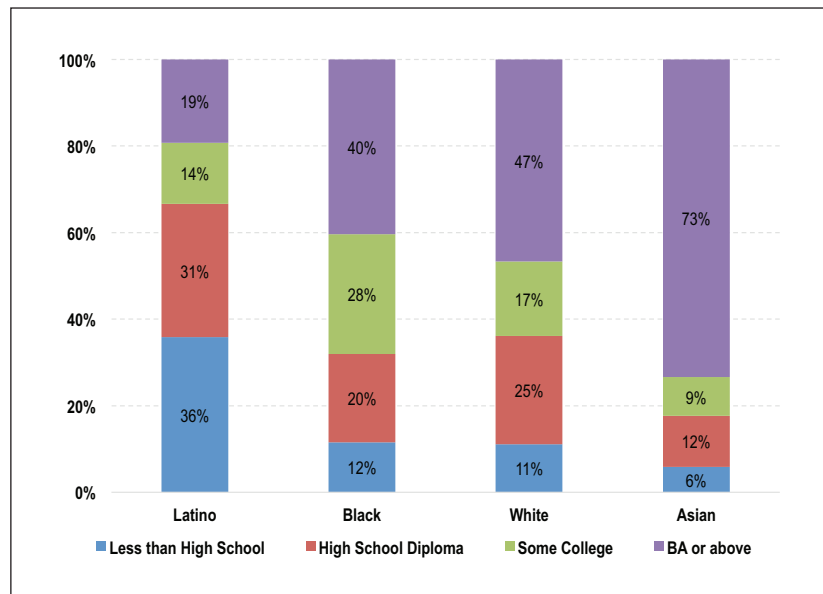
Source: 2013 ACS 5-Year Data - B12002

The marriage rate in Waltham for persons 15 and over is 41%. As shown in Figure 5, the marriage rate for Latinos (40%) is lower than for Asians (48%) and whites (41%). However, the Latino marriage rate in Waltham is higher than for Latinos statewide (32%).

## EDUCATION

The overall educational attainment in Waltham is high, with 48% of residents age 25 and older having a bachelor's degree or higher compared to 40% statewide. As Figure 6 shows, Latinos have the lowest percentage of their population with at least a bachelor's degree: 19%, compared to 40% for blacks, 47% for whites, and 73% for Asians. At the other end of the educational scale, Latinos have the highest percentage of their adult population lacking a high school diploma: 36%, compared to 12% for blacks, 11% for whites, and 6% for Asians.

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

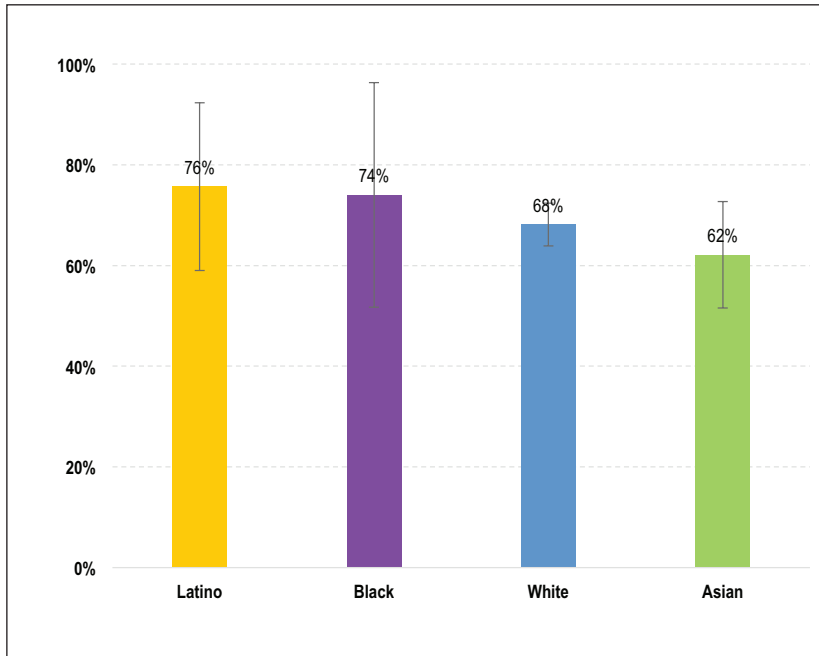


Source: 2013 3-Year ACS Data - B15002

## LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

Latinos have a higher labor force participation rate in Waltham (76%) than Latinos statewide (66%). As Figure 7 shows, they also have the highest rate in the city, followed by blacks (74%), whites (68%), and Asians (62%).

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

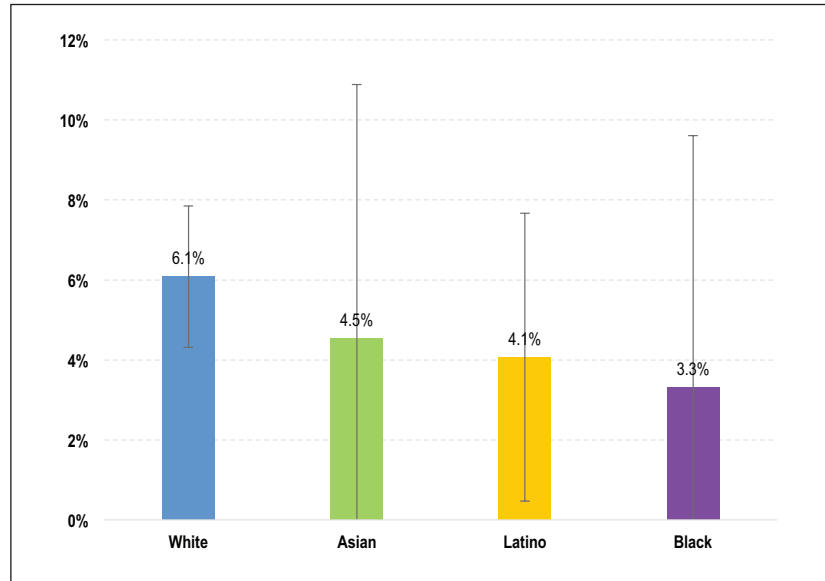


Source: 2013 ACS 5-Year Data - C23002

The overall unemployment rate in Waltham during this period was a low 6.1% compared to the statewide unemployment rate of 7.8%. The Latino unemployment rate in Waltham of 4.1% is the second lowest of any ethno-racial group in the city. When Latinos in Waltham participate in the labor force, they do much better than Latinos statewide, who during this period experienced a 13.9% unemployment rate.



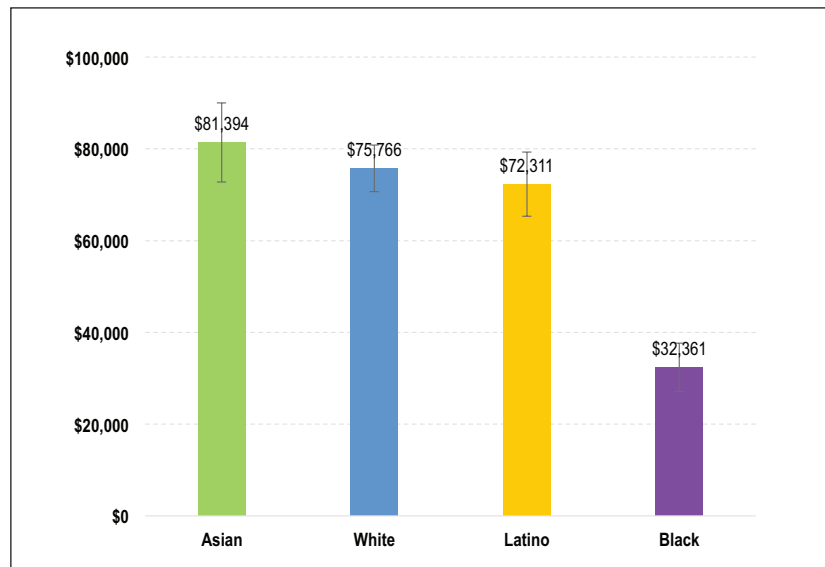
Figure 8: Unemployment Rates by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2013 ACS 5-Year Data - C23002

## EARNINGS

Figure 9: Median Income by Ethno-Racial Group in 2013



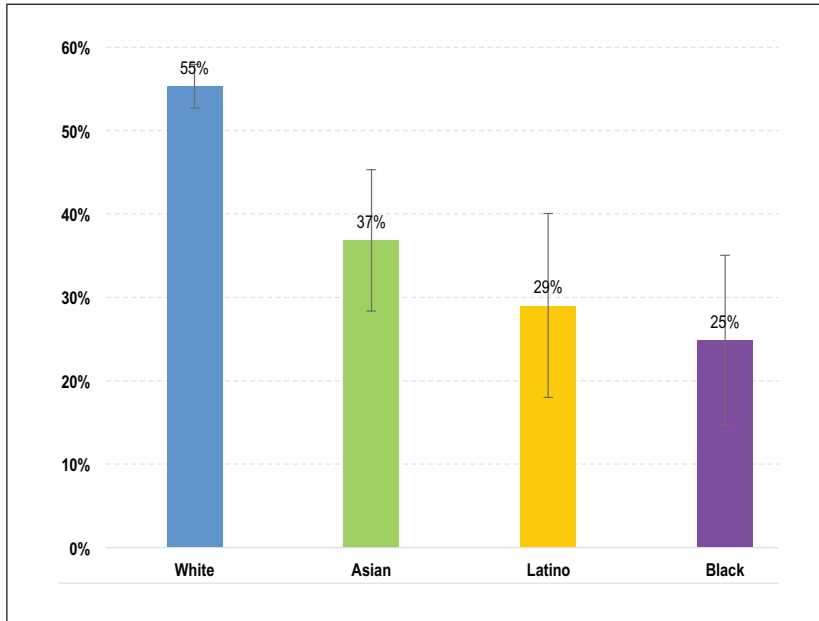
Source: 2013 ACS 5-Year Data - S1903

Waltham's median income is \$75,612, which is greater than the statewide median income of \$66,135. Latinos in Figure 9 have the second lowest median income (\$72,311) of any ethno-racial group in the city. However, Latinos in Waltham are much more economically successful than Latinos in other parts of the Commonwealth, as the statewide Latino median income is \$34,726.

## HOUSING STATUS AND MEDICAL UNINSURANCE

The final measures of Latino participation in Waltham are intended to identify how well Latinos are being rewarded for their economic, social, and political participation. Waltham has a lower homeownership rate (50%) than the statewide rate (66%) as measured by occupied housing units. Latinos have a 29% homeownership rate, compared to 24% for Latinos statewide. However, Latino homeownership in the city is lower than for whites and Asians. As a complement to these percentages in Figure 10, it is evident that 71% of Latinos in Waltham are renters.

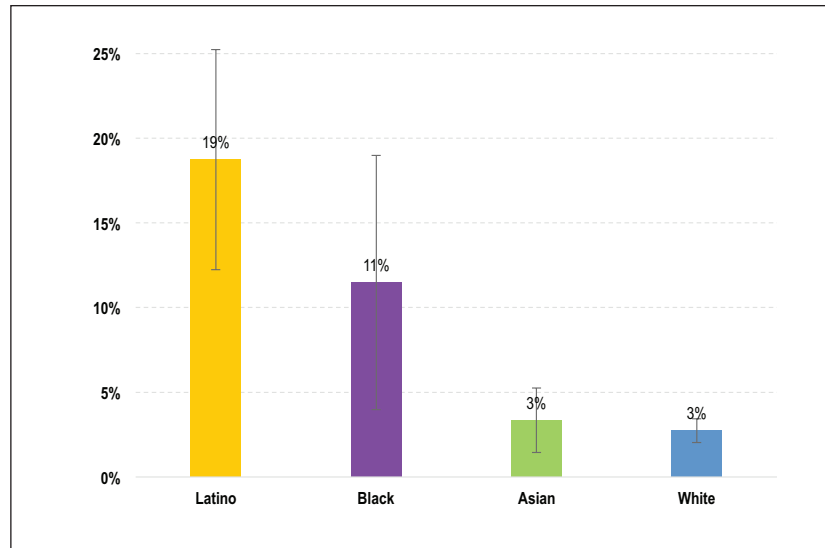
Figure 10: Homeownership Rates by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2013 ACS 3-Year Data - B25003

Waltham's overall rate of medical uninsurance (4%) mirrors that of the state. However, Figure 12 shows that Waltham's Latinos have by far the city's highest rate, at 19%. The Latino statewide rate of medical uninsurance is 8%. Foreign-born residents have higher rates of uninsurance, and the higher rate of foreign-born in Waltham could account for this rate.

Figure 11: Medical Uninsurance by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2013 ACS 5-Year Data - B27001

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 2020 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.

**Priyanka Kabir** is a doctoral candidate in Public Policy at UMass Boston’s McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies. Her research focuses on public perception of democracy - how people’s perception vary across socio-economic classes and how that impacts public policy.

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