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Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas: Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop

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The Mauricio Gastón Institute for
Latino Community Development
and Public Policy



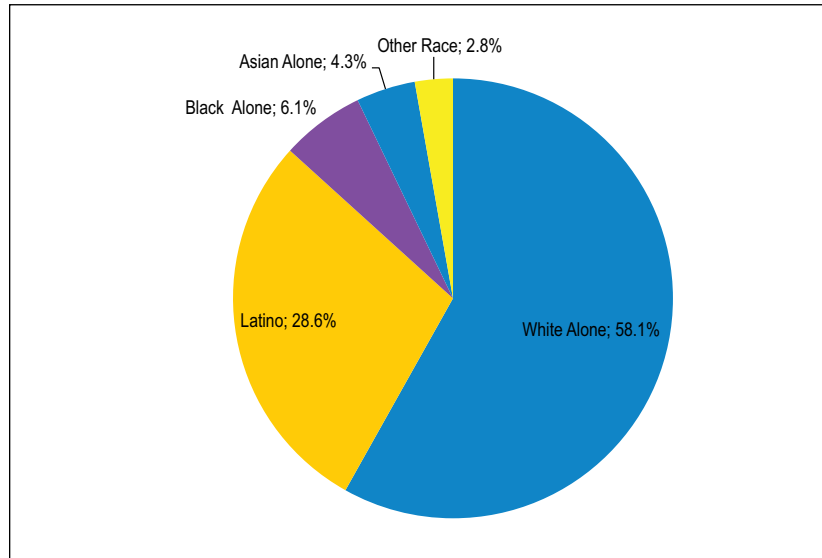
Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop

by Phillip Granberry, PhD and Sarah Rustan | September 17, 2010

INTRODUCTION

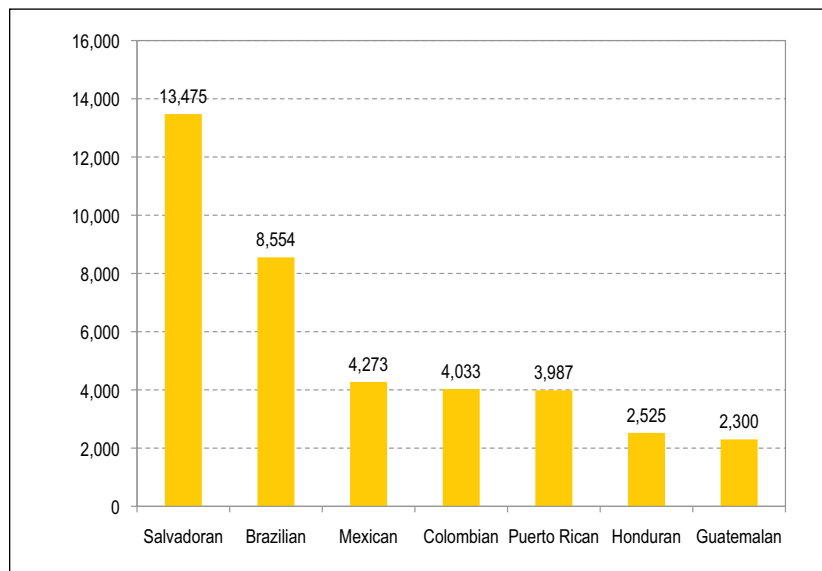
This report provides a descriptive snapshot of selected economic, social, educational, and demographic indicators pertaining to Latinos in the cities of Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop. This report is prepared for the 2010 Statewide Latino Public Policy Conference organized by UMass Boston's Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy. It is part of a larger series that covers fourteen cities, or clusters of cities, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Each report analyzes data from the 2008 American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. The ACS's smallest geographic area is a Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA) consisting of a minimum census population of 100,000. Revere is the PUMA's largest city accounting for 47.0% of its population in 2000, while Chelsea (34.8%) and Winthrop (18.2%) account for the remainder of the population. The majority of the Latino population live in Chelsea (76.6%), while 20.6% live in Revere and 2.8% in Winthrop. Thus, the Latino population in these cities will be referenced as the Chelsea-Revere area throughout this report, although the data referenced does include the smaller Latino population in Winthrop as well.

Figure 1: Population Percentages by Ethno-Racial Group in 2008



Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop are home to an estimated 34,086 Latinos, who make up 28.6% of these cities' population. Whites constitute the largest ethno-racial group (58.1%), while blacks account for 6.1% and Asians for 4.3% (Figure 1).

Figure 2: Ancestry of the Top Latino Groups in 2008



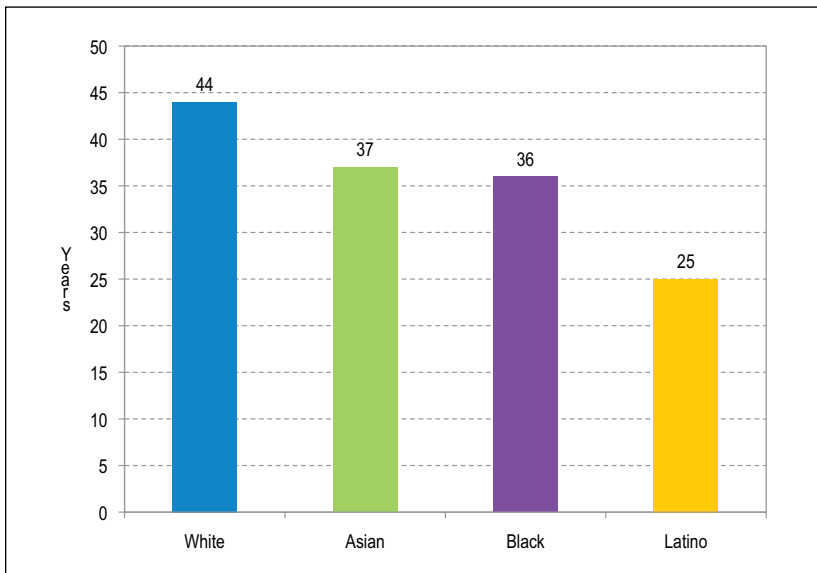
Chelsea and Revere are home to diverse Latino populations. This strong Latino presence is shaped by international migration, which gives this area a proportionately greater foreign-born population (35.8%) than the state as a whole (14.4%). Salvadorans (13,475) and Brazilians (8,554)¹ are the two largest Latino subpopulations in the area, followed by Mexicans, Colombians, Puerto Ricans, Hondurans, and Guatemalans (Figure 2).

The remainder of this report presents an overview that compares Latinos and their top subpopulations to whites, blacks, and Asians in these cities for selected demographic, economic, and social characteristics².

MEDIAN AGE AND MARITAL STATUS

Figure 3 highlighting differences in median age draws attention to the importance of Latinos in Chelsea and Revere. Latinos have a younger median age (25 years) than any other ethno-racial group. This suggests that they 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 2008



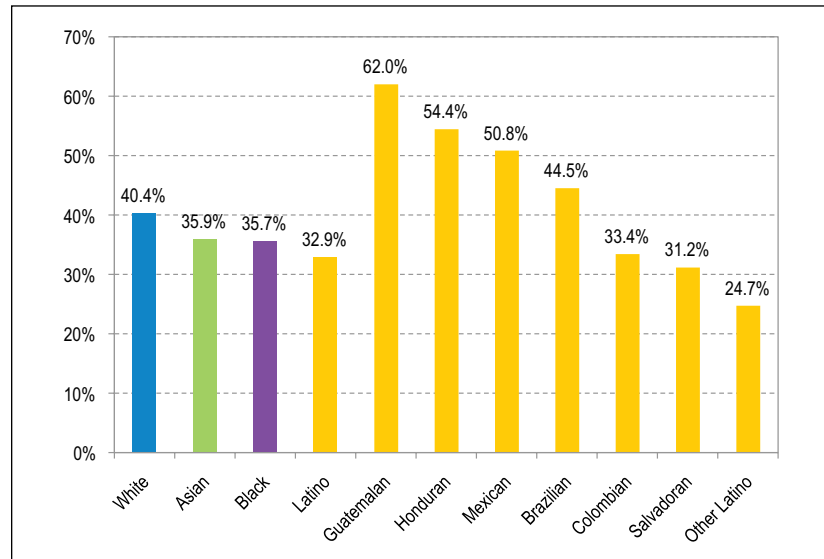
Notes

¹ Most Brazilians in the survey did not identify themselves as Latino. Whenever the category “Brazilian” appears in one of the figures, it includes all Brazilians, but the category “Latino” includes only those Brazilians who self-identified as Latino.

² Because of the smaller size of some ethno-racial groups and Latino subpopulations in the ACS data for Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop, some demographic and labor force participation estimates have too large of a standard error and have been dropped from this analysis.

The youthfulness of the area’s population may influence its marital status. The marriage rates shown in Figure 4, covering all persons age 16 and older, are lower for most ethno-racial groups in Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop than for the same groups overall in Massachusetts (all except blacks). Statewide, the Latino marriage rate is 33.6% in comparison to 32.9% in Chelsea and Revere. Latino subpopulations show wide variation in their marriage rates, with Guatemalans, Hondurans, Mexicans, and Brazilians having marriage rates significantly higher than the statewide average. A number of factors, including different age profiles among subpopulations, could be driving this variation.

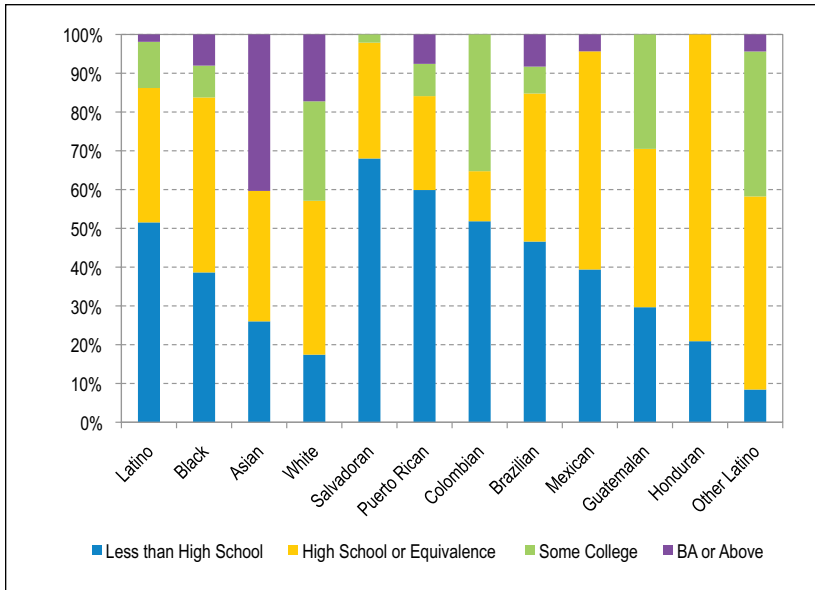
Figure 4: Marriage Rates by Ethno-Racial Group in 2008



EDUCATION

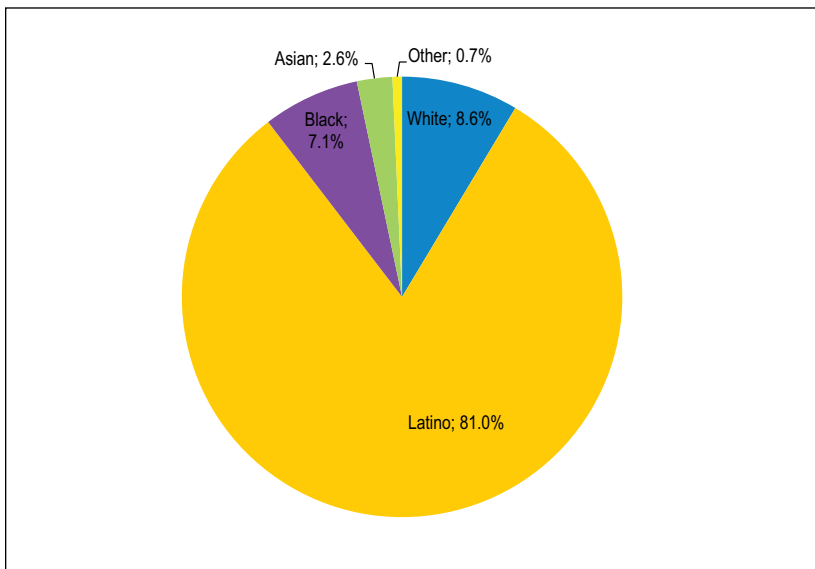
Figure 5 highlights the fact that Latinos have the highest percentage of their population with less than a high school diploma: 51.5%, compared to 38.6% for blacks, 26.0% for Asians, and 17.4% for whites. At the other end of the educational scale, Latinos in these cities have the lowest percentage of their population with at least a bachelor’s degree: 1.9%, compared to 40.3% for Asians, 17.2% for whites, and 8.0% for blacks.

Figure 5: Educational Attainment by Ethno-Racial Group in 2008 (Adults 25 Years and Older)



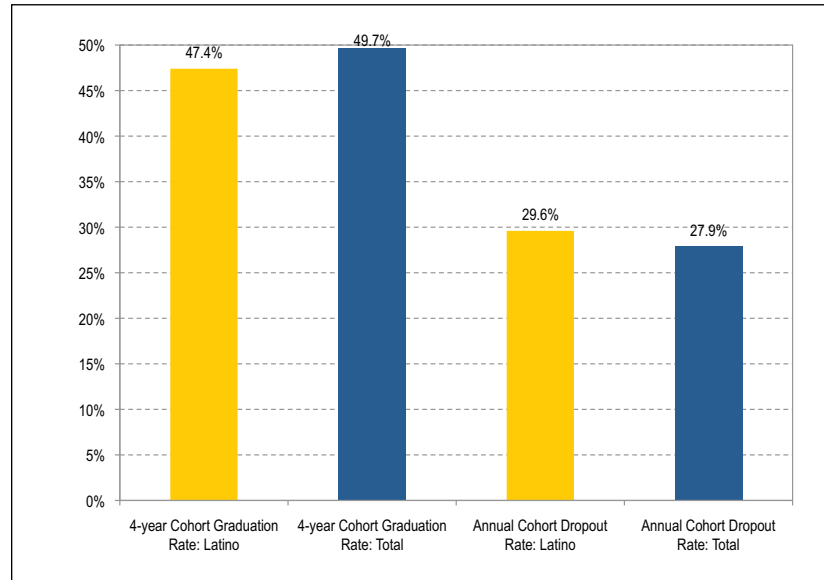
Figures 6A and 6B provide information regarding Latinos in the Chelsea Public Schools – using Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education data. After a 6.4% increase in the Latino student population during 2000s, they made up 81.0% of the student population in the 2008-2009 academic year.

Figure 6A: Spotlight on Chelsea Public Schools by Ethno-Racial Group, Academic Year 2008-2009



Less than half of Latino students (47.4%) graduate in four years and more than a quarter (29.6%) drop out of school. Because the public school population of Chelsea Public Schools is overwhelmingly Latino, the overall statistics (49.7% four-year graduation rate, 27.9% dropout rate) are very close to the figures for Latinos.

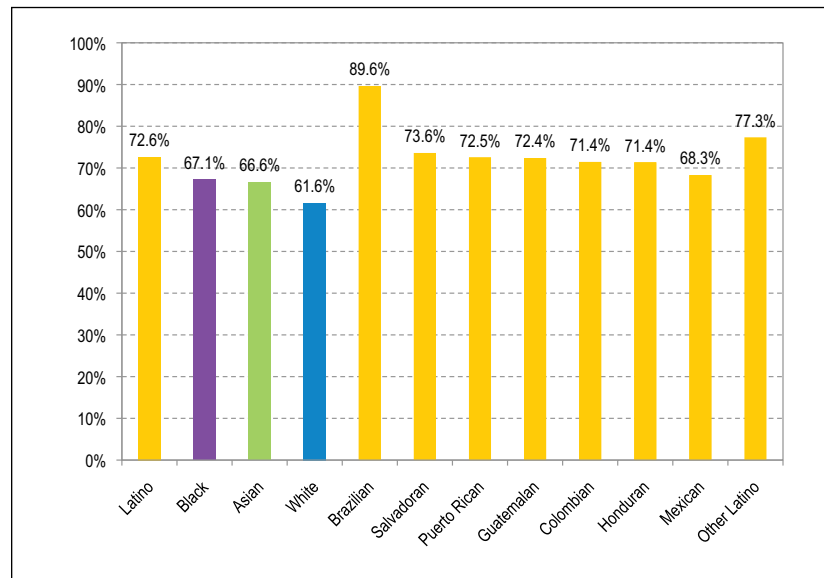
Figure 6B: Spotlight on Chelsea Public Schools by Outcomes, Academic Year 2008-2009



LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

Again suggesting the importance of Latinos to the economic and social wellbeing of Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop, Figure 7 shows that Latinos have the highest labor force participation rate (72.6%) in the area. This is despite the lower median age of Latinos shown by Figure 3, which suggests they have more families with young children. Larger numbers of families with young children often result in lower labor force participation rates due to child care needs.

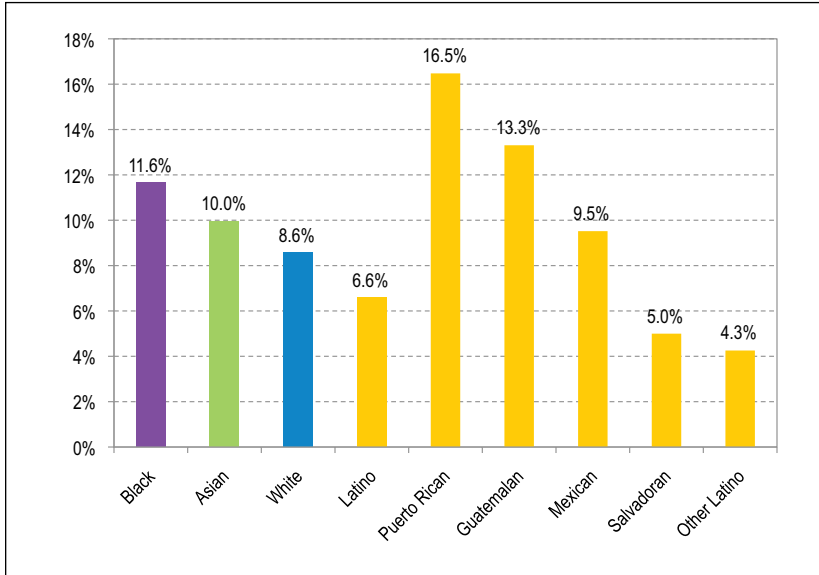
Figure 7: Labor Force Participation by Ethno-Racial Group in 2008



The previous labor force participation information suggests that Latinos in Chelsea and Revere have a strong motivation to participate in the local economy, which is reinforced by relatively low Latino unemployment rates (Figure 8). The unem-

ployment rate among Latinos in 2008 was 6.6%, which was lower than for blacks (11.6%), Asians (10.0%), and whites (8.6%).

Figure 8: Unemployment Rates by Ethno-Racial Group in 2008



Figures 9A and 9B suggest that Latinos serve as complements to other ethno-racial groups in the Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop labor market whose members have higher educational attainment. Latinos are overrepresented in what are traditionally considered blue-collar jobs (farming, construction, production, and transportation). All Latino subpopulations except Guatemalans have higher percentages than the total population (25.7%) in these blue-collar jobs (Figure 9B). Correspondingly, as Figure 9A shows, Latinos are underrepresented in what are traditionally considered white-collar jobs (professional and managerial). However, Guatemalans and Mexicans have greater percentages of their populations in these occupations than the total population (20.5%).

Figure 9A: Population Employed in Professional or Managerial Occupations by Ethno-Racial Group in 2008

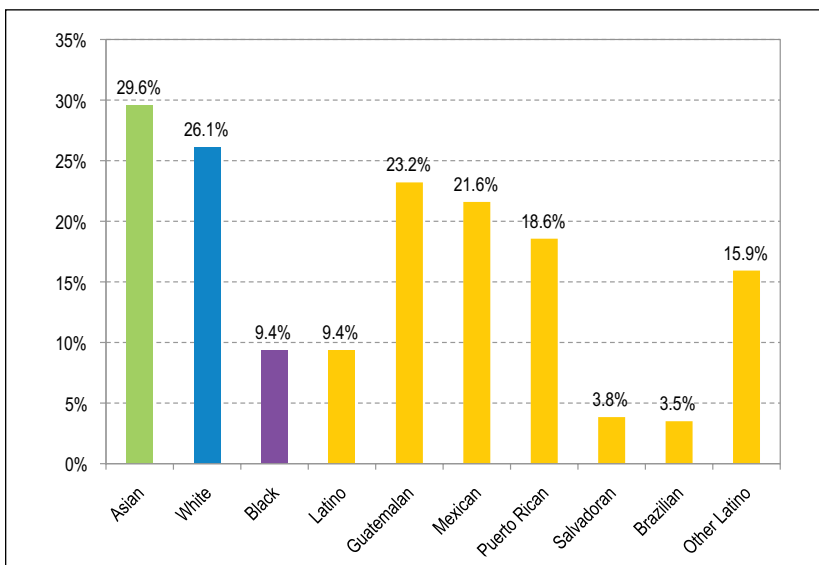
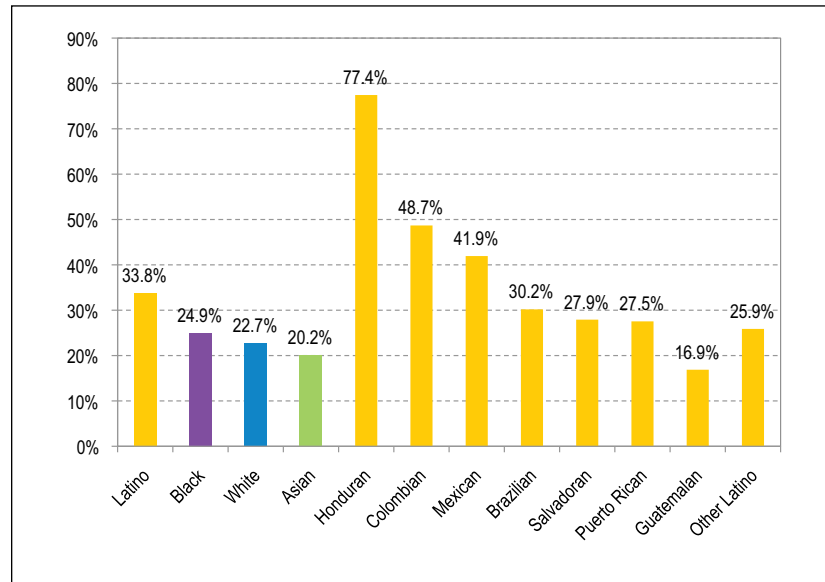


Figure 9B: Population Employed in Farming, Construction, Production, and Transportation Occupations by Ethno-Racial Group in 2008



EARNINGS

When examining the wage rates for these occupational categories, Latinos in Chelsea and Revere tend to receive wages below those of other ethno-racial groups. They earn less than all other ethno-racial groups for their white-collar (Figure 10A) and blue-collar (Figure 10C) employment. However, they earn higher wages than blacks and Asians for their service-sector employment (Figure 10B).

Figure 10A: Hourly Wages in Professional or Managerial Occupations by Ethno-Racial Group in 2008

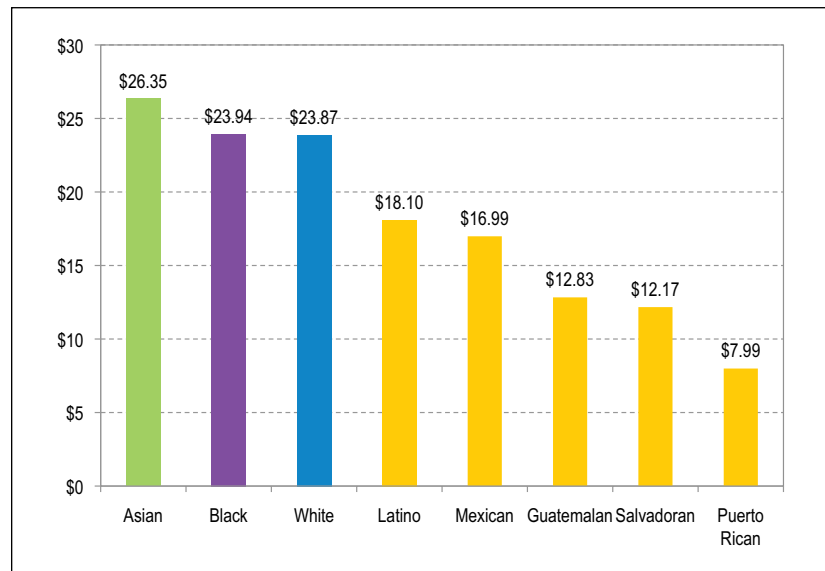


Figure 10B: Hourly Wages in Sales and Service Occupations by Ethno-Racial Group in 2008

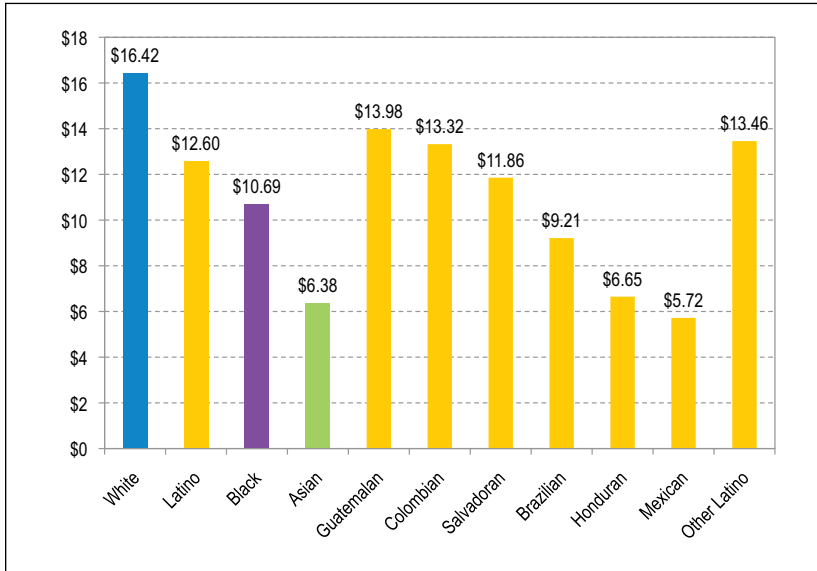
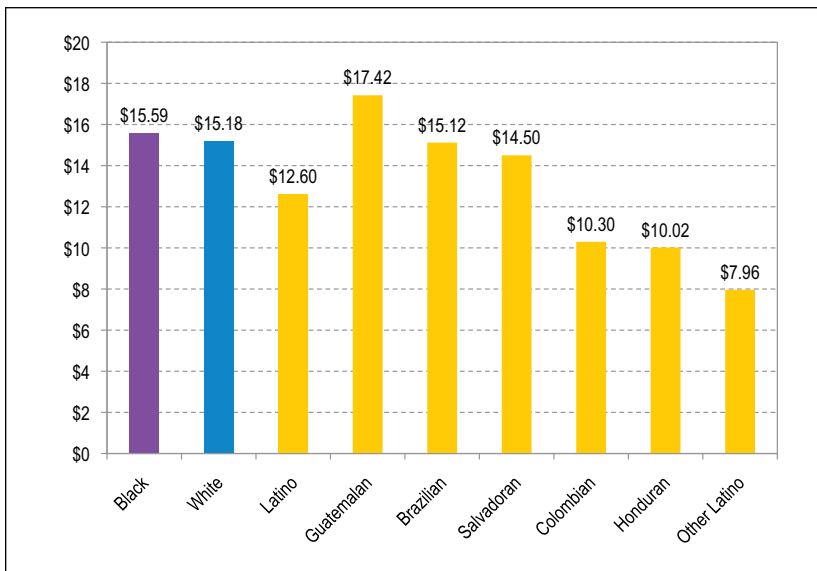


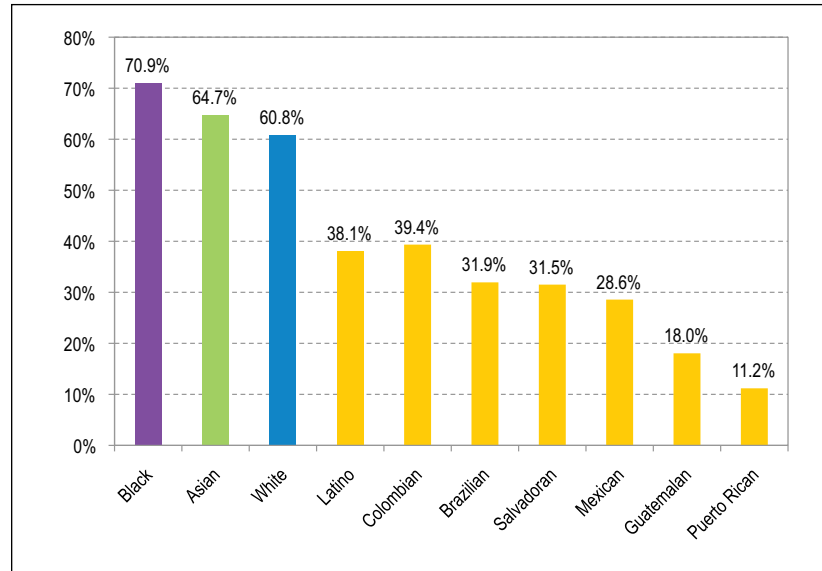
Figure 10C: Hourly Wages in Farming, Construction, Production, and Transportation Occupations by Ethno-Racial Group in 2008



HOUSING STATUS AND MEDICAL INSURANCE

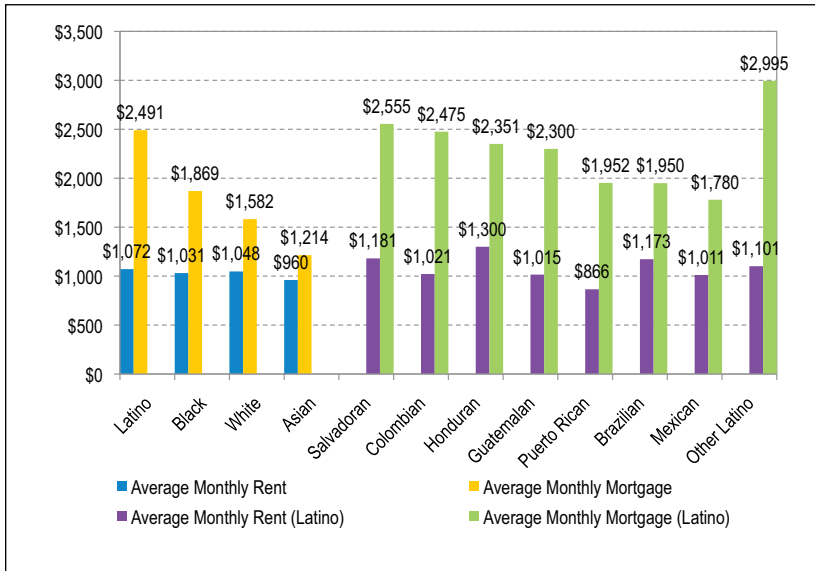
The final measures of Latino participation in Chelsea and Revere are intended to identify how well Latinos are being rewarded for their economic, social, and political participation. Latinos traditionally have low homeownership rates across the country. Figure 11 shows that this trend holds true for these cities, where Latinos have the lowest homeownership level of any ethno-racial group. However, Latinos in Chelsea and Revere have a higher level of homeownership than in the state, 38.1% compared to 33.2%. As a complement to these percentages in Figure 11, it is evident that 61.9% of Latinos in these cities are renters.

Figure 11: Homeownership Rates by Ethno-Racial Group in 2008



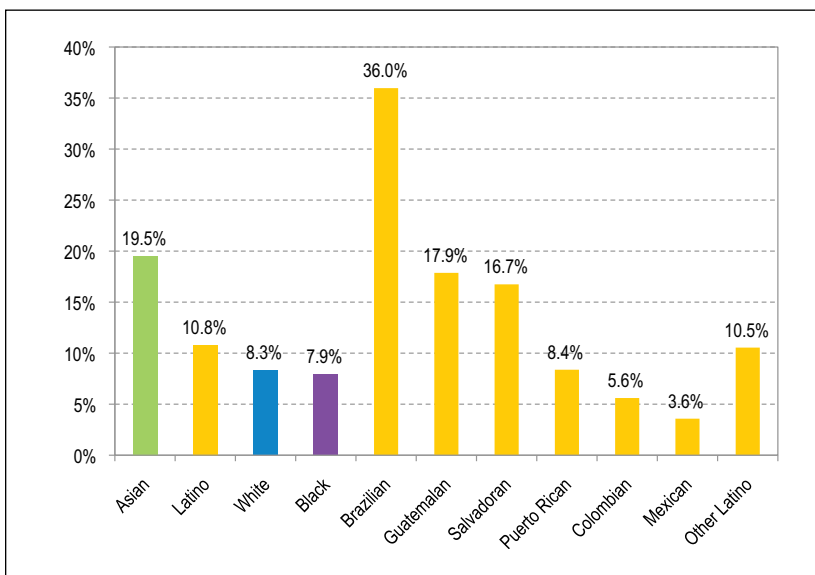
Homeownership is seen in a different light when its cost is analyzed. Having largely become homeowners during the housing bubble of the last decade, Latinos on average make mortgage payments of \$2,491 a month – substantially higher than any other ethno-racial group (Figure 12). At the same time, monthly rents paid by Latino renters are roughly comparable to other ethno-racial groups. The combination of high mortgage payments and average rents underlines the fact that Latino homebuyers were disadvantaged by the earlier housing bubble.

Figure 12: Housing Costs by Ethno-Racial Group in 2008



The percentage of Latinos in this area who lack medical insurance (10.8%) is higher than the statewide average for Latinos (9.2%). Latinos have higher rates of uninsurance than both blacks and whites, although lower rates than Asians. Brazilians, who are a newly arriving subpopulation, have the highest rate of uninsurance (36.0%), which is similar to their statewide rate of 31.2%.

Figure 13: Medical Uninsurance Rates by Ethno-Racial Group in 2008





The Mauricio Gastón Institute for
Latino Community Development
and Public Policy

The Mauricio Gastón Institute of 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 Massachusetts and selected areas based on an analysis of 2008 American Community Survey data.

The 2008 American Community Survey allowed people to choose their ethnicity and race. Ethnicity identifies a person as Latino or Hispanic. We use the term “Latino” for all of those who self-identify as Latino in response to the ethnicity question. The racial categories are assigned to those who do not identify as Latino. Technically, their designation is non-Latino white, non-Latino black, and non-Latino Asian, though they are often referenced as white, black, and Asian in these profiles.

About the Authors

Phillip Granberry is a social demographer who specializes in unauthorized migrants in the United States. He worked with various community based organizations assisting recently arrived U.S. migrants before earning a PhD in Public Policy from the University of Massachusetts Boston in 2007. His past research has focused on Latinos in the United States. One part of this research has addressed the formation and use of social capital among Mexican migrants in Los Angeles County, and another part of this research has addressed demographic trends of Latinos in New England. His current research focuses on Brazilian and Dominican migrants in the Metropolitan Boston area. He currently teaches in the Economics Department and is a research associate of the Gastón Institute.

Our descriptive analysis uses both household- and individual-level ACS data to estimate population size and percentages, to compare Latinos to other ethno-racial groups (e.g., whites, blacks, and Asians), and to compare the top ten Latino subpopulations in Massachusetts by ancestry. These are Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Brazilians, Salvadorans, Mexicans, Guatemalans, Colombians, Hondurans, Peruvians, and Cubans. We use ancestry, based on migration from Latin America, rather than language: a self-identified Latino born in Massachusetts may have ancestors from a Latin American country but speak only English only. Whenever the category “Brazilian” appears in one of the figures, it includes all Brazilians, but the category “Latino” includes only those Brazilians who self-identified as Latino.

After the dissemination of the 2010 United States Census, the Gastón Institute will be updating these demographic profiles. These updates will allow for a better analysis of the Massachusetts Latino populations. We also plan to expand this series by adding analyses of the other New England states and by covering more cities.

Sarah Rustan is a PhD candidate in Law, Policy, and Society at Northeastern University with degrees in cultural management and architecture. Her professional background includes broad experiences in the nonprofit sector, including research as well as nonprofit and cultural management. Her past research has examined diverse topics ranging from charitable giving to women in the workforce. At present she is working on a dissertation exploring the role that nonprofit organizations play in promoting the development of social capital. She currently serves as a Research Associate and Data Analyst for the Gastón Institute and as a Doctoral Fellow at Northeastern University. Sarah’s research interests include demography, community change, and public policy.

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