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Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas: Malden and Medford

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Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas

Malden and Medford

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

January, 2013

THE MAURICIO GASTON INSTITUTE
FOR LATINO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AND PUBLIC POLICY



Malden and Medford

This report provides a descriptive snapshot of selected economic, social, educational, and demographic indicators pertaining to Latinos in the cities of Malden and Medford. 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 Malden and Medford 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. In the PUMA that combines these two similar-sized cities, the majority of the Latino population live in Malden (67.1%), while 32.9% live in Medford according to the 2010 Census.

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.

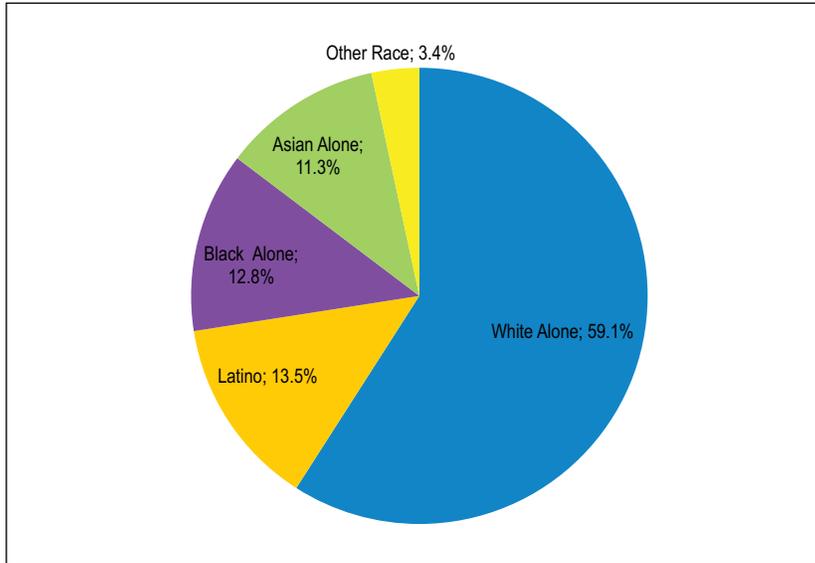
In this report, Latinos are compared to non-Latino whites, non-Latino blacks, and Asians for selected demographic, economic, and social characteristics. The number of ethno-racial groups included in a particular analysis may vary; each ethno-racial group is included in the analysis only when the observed sample size is large enough to produce reliable population estimates. In contrast to Latinos in other cities, this report finds that Latinos in Malden and Medford have a demographic profile similar to whites in many of these categories.

Malden and Medford are home to an estimated 15,597 Latinos, who make up 13.5% of the cities' population. Whites constitute the largest ethno-racial group (59.1%), while blacks account for 12.8% and Asians 11.3% (Figure 1).

Notes

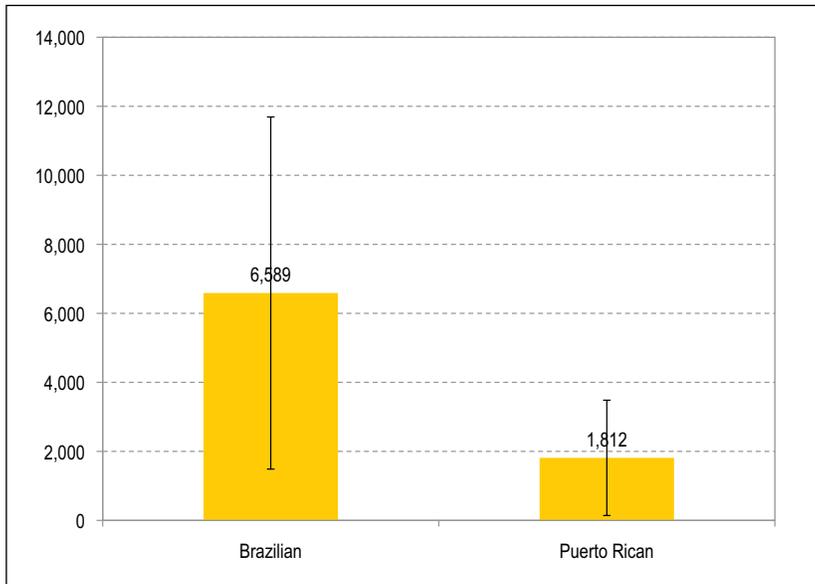
¹ This report uses the census designations of Hispanic or Latino origin and ancestry based on migration from Latin America to estimate the number of Latinos. Thus, Brazilians are included in the category "Latino," though most Brazilians self-report in the ACS using a racial category (e.g., white, black),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

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



The Latino population in Malden and Medford is dominated by Brazilians, who number 6,589. Puerto Ricans (1,812) are the other sizable Latino subpopulation; these two groups make up 53.9% of the Latino population. Latinos help give Malden and Medford a proportionately greater foreign-born population (27.4%) 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 highlighting differences in median age draws attention to the importance of Latinos in Malden and Medford. Latinos' median age of 33 years is somewhat higher than that of Asians (31 years) and blacks (27 years) but significantly lower than that of the white majority (44 years). This suggests that Latinos have more families with young children than do whites. These Latino families will continue to 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 2010

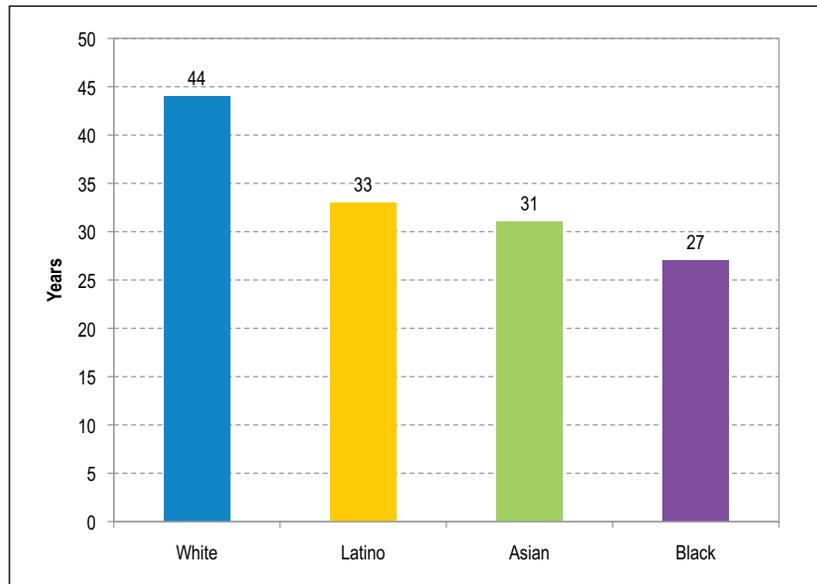
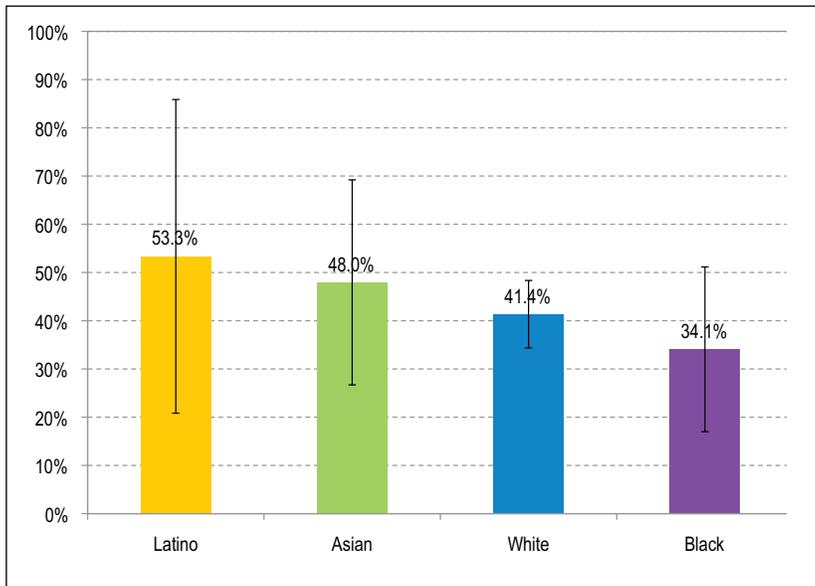


Figure 4 shows that the 53.3% marriage rate for Latinos (for persons age 16 and older) is greater than for all other ethno-racial groups. It is also significantly higher than the statewide Latino marriage rate of 35.4%. The fact that the median age of Latinos in Malden and Medford (33 years, as shown in Figure 3) is six years older than the statewide Latino average of 27 could be contributing to this higher marriage rate.

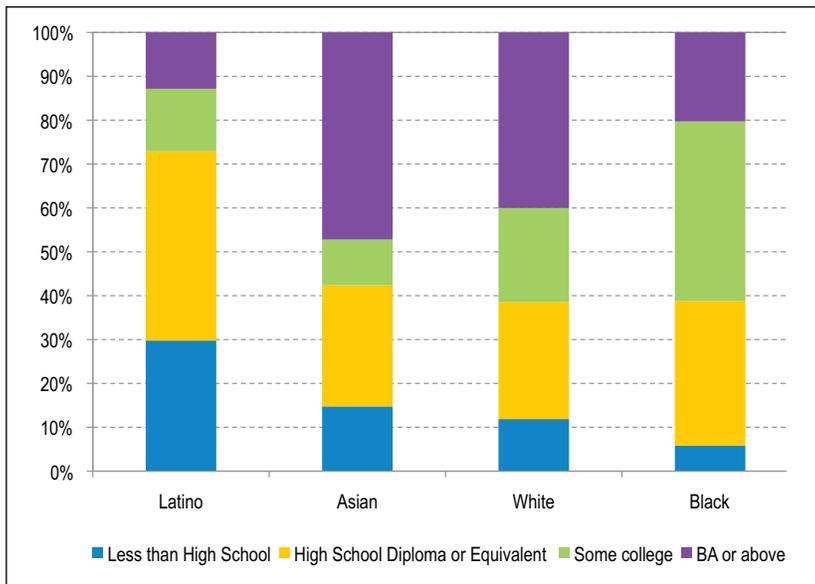
Figure 4: Marriage Rates by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010



EDUCATION

Figure 5 highlights the fact that Latinos have the highest percentage of their adult population who lack a high school diploma: 29.8%, compared to 14.8% for Asians, 11.9% for whites, and 5.8% for blacks. At the other end of the educational scale, Latinos (12.8%), have the lowest percentage with at least a bachelor's degree.

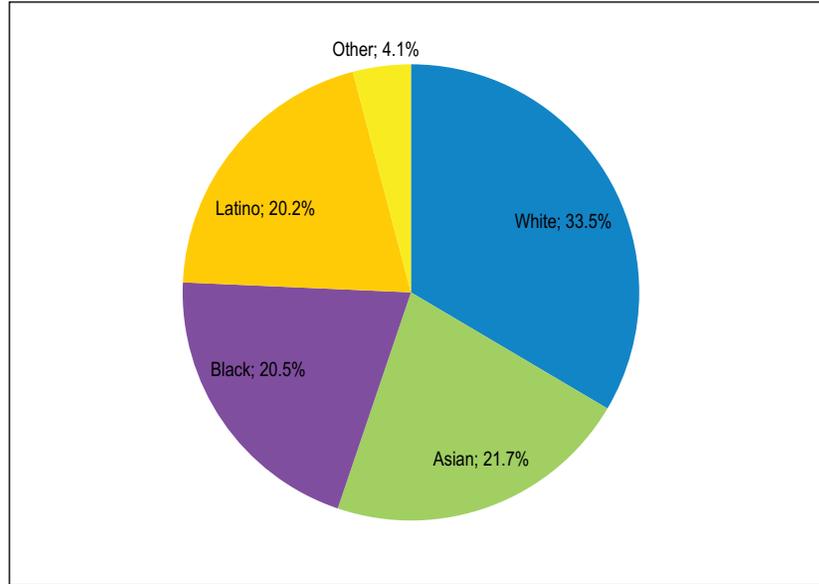
Figure 5: Educational Attainment by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010 (Adults 25 Years and Older)



Figures 6A and 6B, unlike other figures in this report, pertain solely to Malden rather than to both Malden and Medford. They provide information on Latinos in Malden Public Schools, using data from the Massachusetts Department of Elemen-

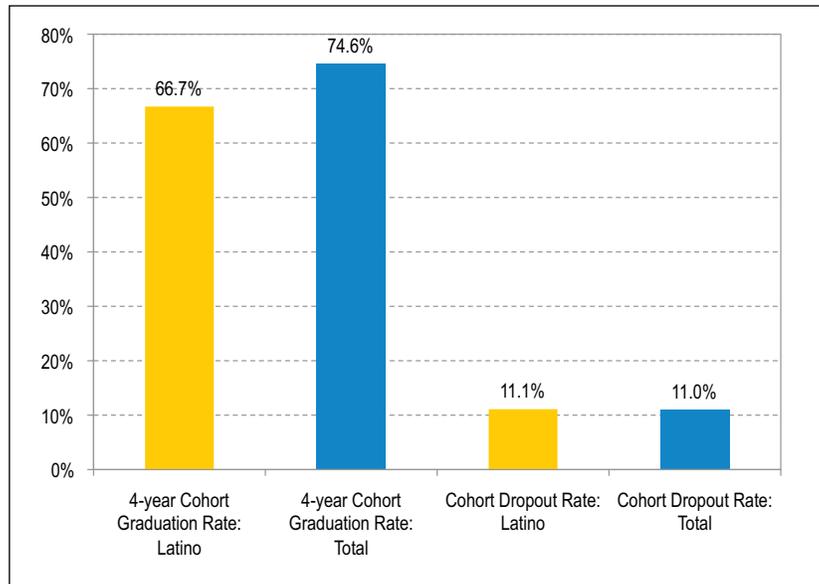
tary and Secondary Education. Latinos represented 20.2% of total student enrollment in the 2010–2011 school year, up from just 8.5% ten years earlier.

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



This growing group of students in Malden Public Schools lags somewhat behind the total population in academic success. Two-thirds of Latino students (66.7%) graduated from high school in four years, compared to 74.6% for the total student population. However, among Latinos who entered their freshman year in the 2006–2007 school year, the proportion who dropped out of high school and did not return or get a GED (11.1%) was comparable to that of the total population (11.0%).

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



LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

Figure 7 shows that Latinos have a labor force participation rate (73.7%) that is higher than for whites (68.1%) and Asians (64.0%), but lower than for blacks (77.0%). The Latino labor force participation rate for Malden and Medford is higher than among Latinos across the state, whose overall participation rate is 68.1%.

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

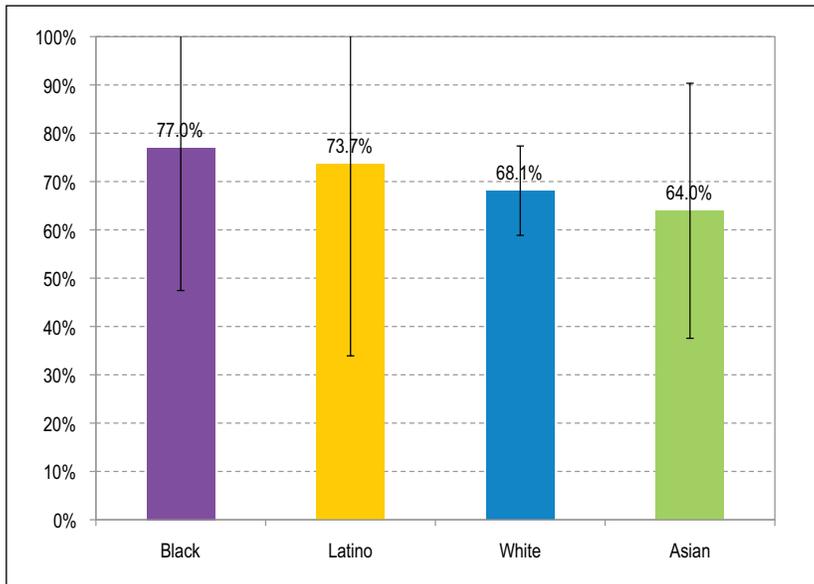
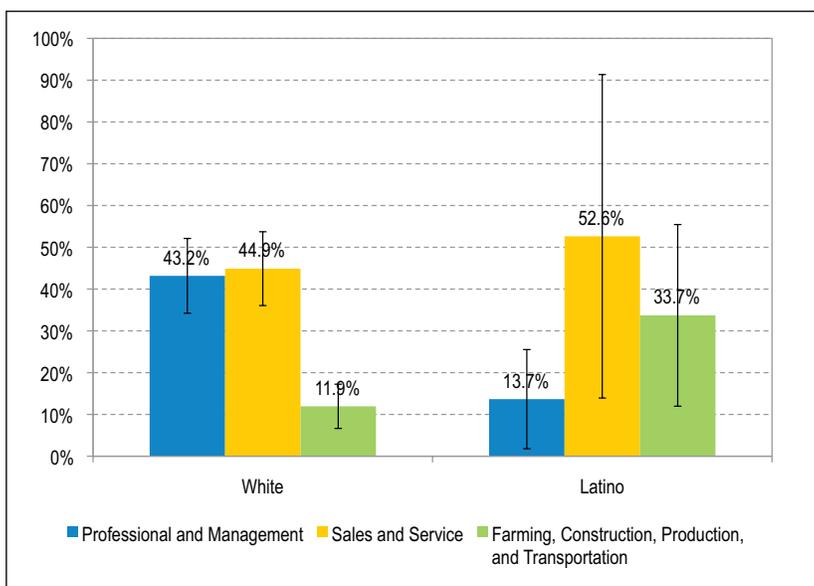


Figure 8 suggests that Latinos in Malden and Medford, despite their relatively higher educational attainment than Latinos statewide, are complements to other ethno-racial groups in the area's labor market. As shown in Figure 8, greater percentages of Latinos are working in what are traditionally considered blue-collar jobs (farming, construction, production, and transportation) than whites. Correspondingly, Latinos are underrepresented in what are traditionally considered white-collar jobs (professional and managerial).

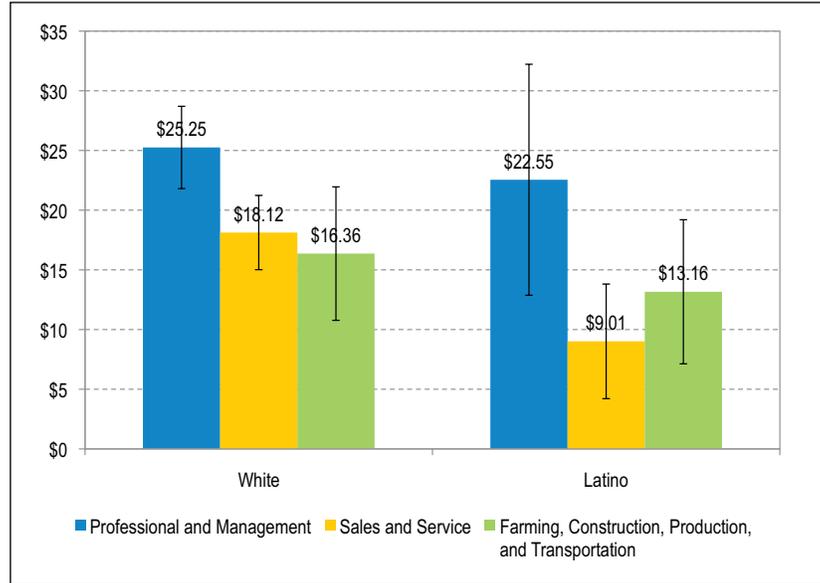
Figure 8: Population Employed by Occupational Category by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010



EARNINGS

When examining the wage rates for these occupational categories, we see that Latinos appear to be receiving lower wages in all three categories. As shown in Figure 9, the most striking disparity in wages occurs in the service sector, where Latinos earn approximately half of the wages earned by whites (\$9.01 versus \$18.12).

Figure 9: Hourly Wages by Occupational Category 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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