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Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas: Framingham

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Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas

Framingham

by Phillip Granberry and Mayara Fontes

June, 2015

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



Framingham

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

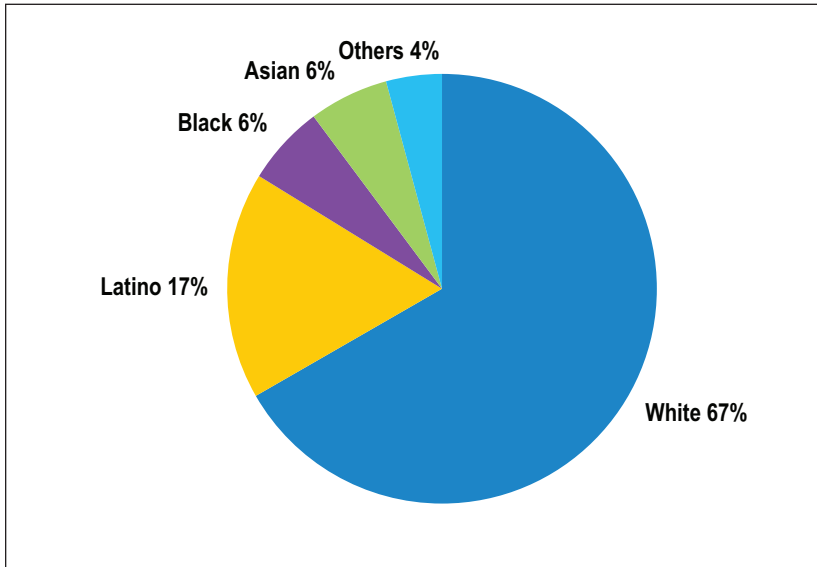
The report on Framingham is part of a larger series that covers cities and towns with a population between 35,000 and 100,000 residents in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with a significant number of Latinos. Each report analyzes data from the American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. We obtained 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 whom the Census identified as "Hispanic or Latino." (The US Census first identifies individuals with an ethnicity category of "Hispanic or Latino" or "Not Hispanic or Latino." Then the US Census allows individuals to select a race.) The Census designation of "Black or African American Alone" is referenced in this report as black. Likewise, the Census category of "Asian Alone" is referenced as Asian. A smaller "Other" ethno-racial category is identified for the initial population estimate of Framingham, consisting of 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

With a total population of 70,448, Framingham is home to an estimated 12,037 Latinos. They represent about one sixth (17%) of the town's population, a smaller share than for whites but greater than for blacks and Asians (Figure 1).

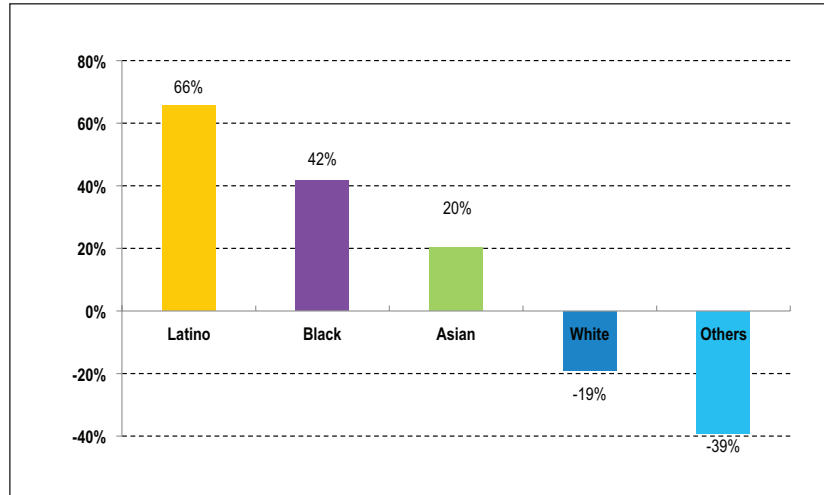
Figure 1: Population Percentages by Ethno-Racial Group in Framingham



Source: 2013 3-Year ACS Data - DP05

A striking feature of Framingham is its recent population change. From 2000 to 2013, Latinos (66%), blacks (42%), and Asians (20%) experienced population growth in the town, while whites (-19%) experienced population decline (Figure 2). The growth of the Latino population in Framingham has been steeper than that of Latinos statewide, who experienced an increase of 53% during this period. Framingham 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

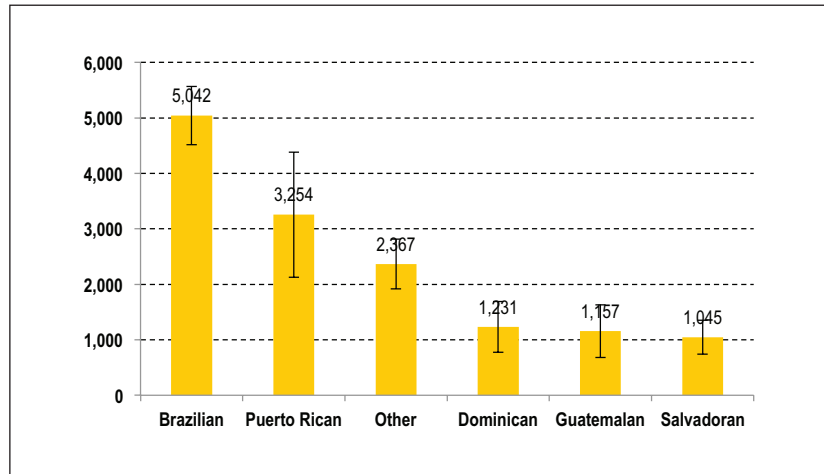


Source: 2013 1-Year ACS and 2000 Census Summary File 1 Data

¹ Because the U.S. Census Bureau does not classify Brazilians as Latinos, only those Brazilians who report their ethnicity as Latino are included in the figures that follow.

When examining the ancestry of Latinos in the Framingham, it is important to note that Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens; they are not included in foreign-born estimates in the preceding paragraph. In addition, not all Brazilians identify as Latino for the Census, and Figure 3 reports a larger number of Latinos than Figure 1. Brazilians, with a population of 5,024, constitute the largest Latino subpopulation in the town,¹ followed by Puerto Ricans (3,254), Dominicans (1,231), Guatemalans (1,157), and Salvadorans (1,045).

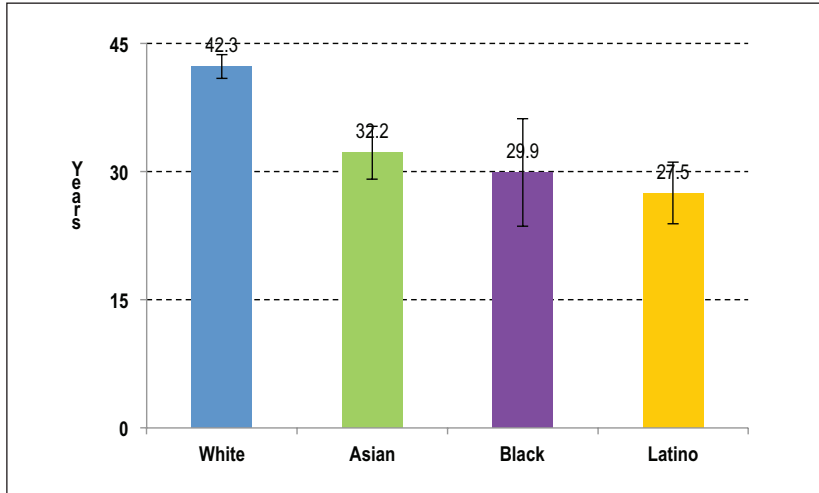
Figure 3: Ancestry of the Top Latino Subpopulations



Source: 2013 ACS 5-Year Data - B03001 and B04003

MEDIAN AGE AND MARITAL STATUS

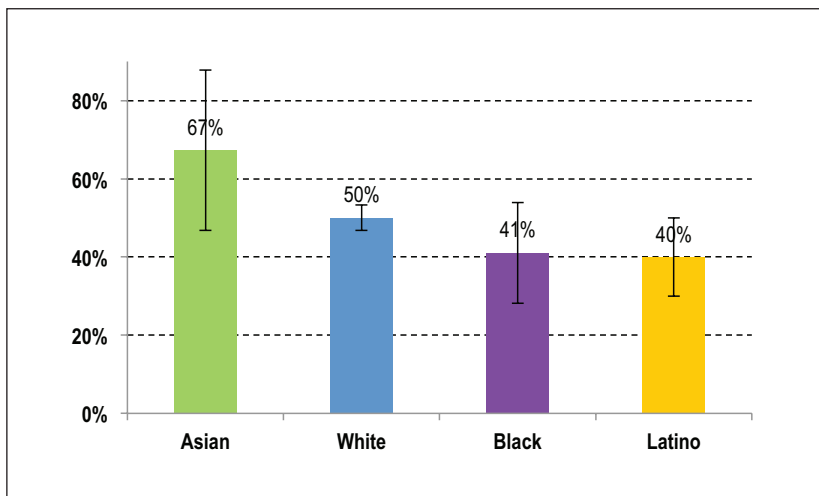
Figure 4: Median Age by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2013 ACS 3-Year Data - B01002

Framingham's Latino population, with a median age of 27.5 years, is slightly older than the statewide Latino median age of 26.9 years. However, as shown in Figure 4, Latinos are the youngest of the ethno-racial groups in Framingham, most dramatically when compared to whites (median age 42.3 years).

Figure 5: Marriage Rates by Ethno-Racial Group



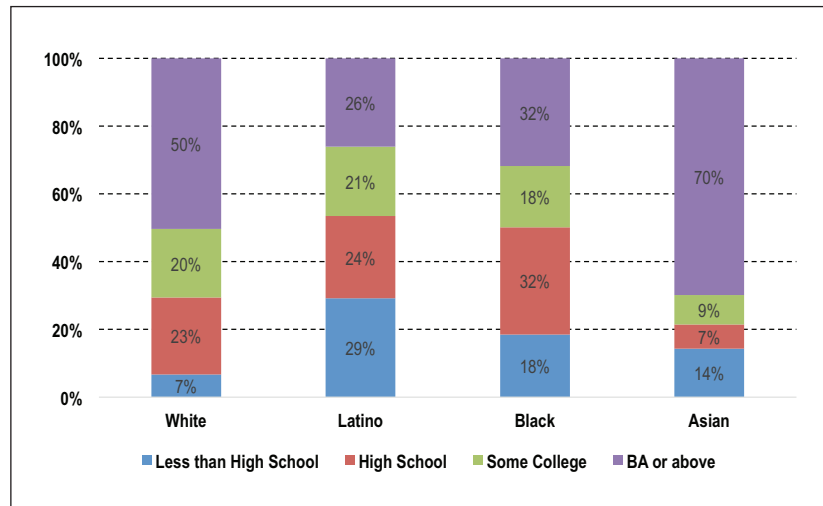
Source: 2013 ACS 3-Year Data - B12002

The marriage rate in Framingham for persons 15 and over is 54%. As shown in Figure 5, the marriage rate among Latinos is 40%, which is the lowest for all ethno-racial groups in the town. However, the Latino marriage rate in Framingham is higher than the statewide Latino rate of 32%.

EDUCATION

The average educational attainment in Framingham is high, with 48% of residents age 25 or older having a bachelor's degree or higher compared to 40% statewide. Latinos have the lowest percentage of their population with at least a bachelor's degree: 26%, compared to 32% for blacks, 50% for whites, and 70% for Asians. The statewide rate for Latinos is 17%. At the other end of the educational scale, Figure 6 also shows that Latinos have the highest percentage of their adult population lacking a high school diploma: 29%, compared to 18% for blacks, 14% for Asians, and 7% for whites. The statewide rate for Latinos is 33%.

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

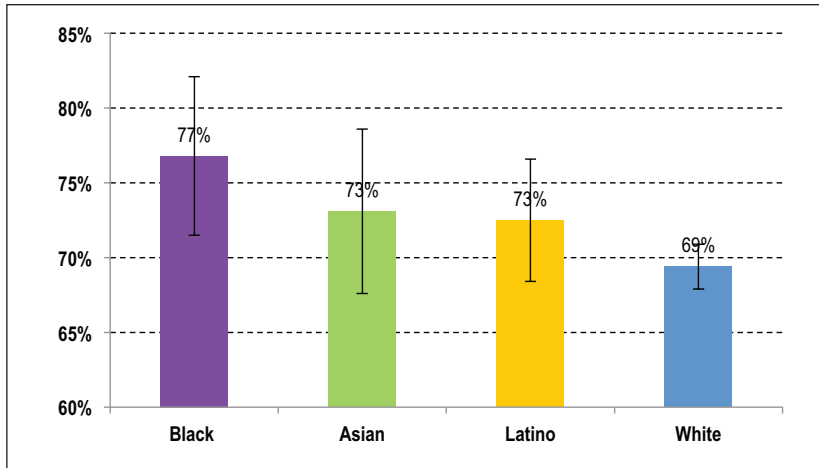


Source: 2013 3-Year ACS Data - B15002

LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

Latinos in Framingham have a higher labor force participation rate (73%) than Latinos statewide (66%). As Figure 7 shows, Latinos' labor force participation in Framingham is higher than for whites (69%), though lower than for blacks and Asians.

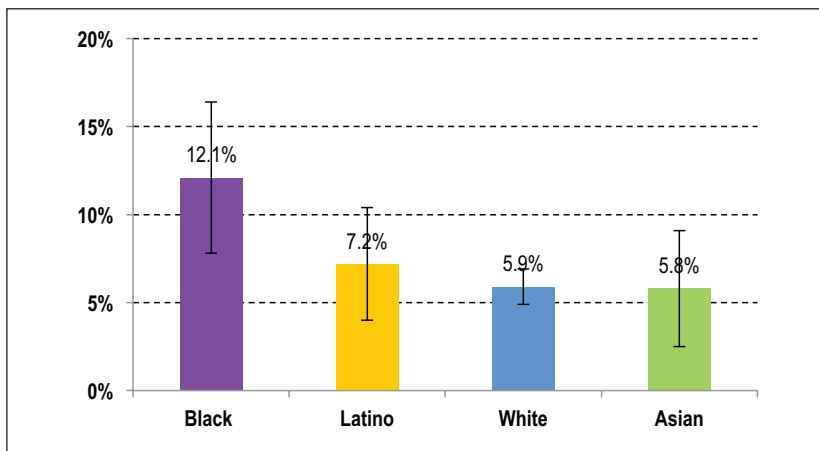
Figure 7: Labor Force Participation among Individuals 16 to 64 Years of Age by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2013 ACS 5-Year Data - C23002

The overall unemployment rate in Framingham during this period was a low 6.7%, compared to the statewide unemployment rate of 7.8%. The Latino unemployment rate in Framingham of 7.2% is the second highest of any ethno-racial group in the town. However, Latinos in Framingham who participate in the labor force fare much better than Latinos statewide, who during this period experienced a 13.9% unemployment rate.

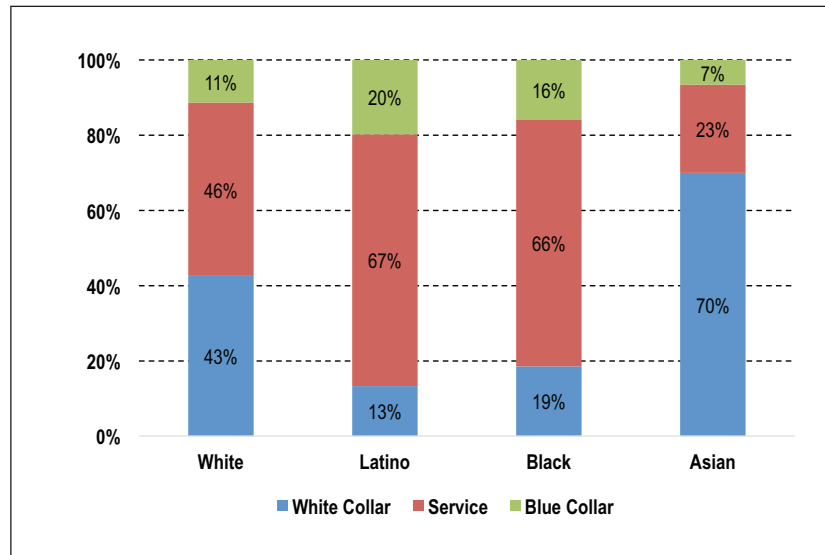
Figure 8: Unemployment Rates by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2013 ACS 5-Year Data - C23002

Figure 9 highlights that Latinos work in traditionally low-wage jobs. Latinos are underrepresented in what are traditionally considered white-collar jobs with only 13% working in these management, business, science, and arts occupations. Correspondingly, they are overrepresented in the service sector, with 67% working in services and sales occupations, and in what are traditionally considered blue-collar jobs, with 20% working in natural resources, construction, maintenance, production, transportation, and material moving occupations.

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

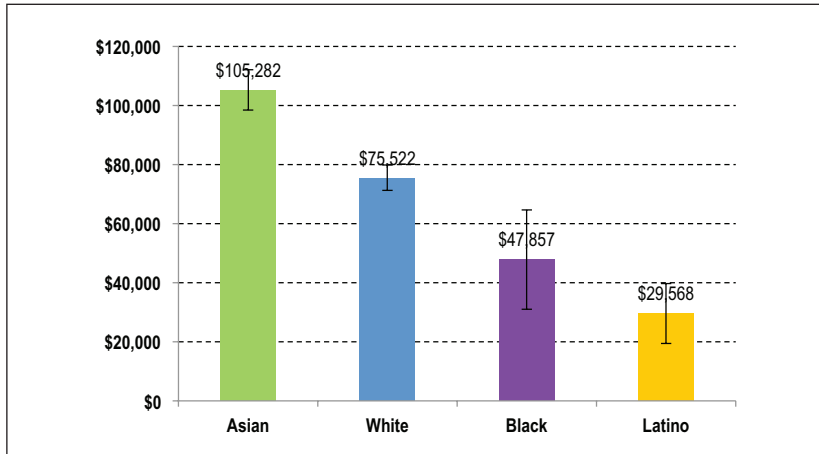


Source: 2013 ACS 3-Year Data - C24010

EARNINGS

Framingham's median income is \$67,110, which is close to the statewide median income of \$66,135. Latinos in Figure 9 have the lowest median income (\$29,568) of any ethno-racial group in the town. Moreover, Latinos in Framingham are less economically successful than Latinos in other parts of the Commonwealth, as the statewide Latino median income is \$34,726.

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

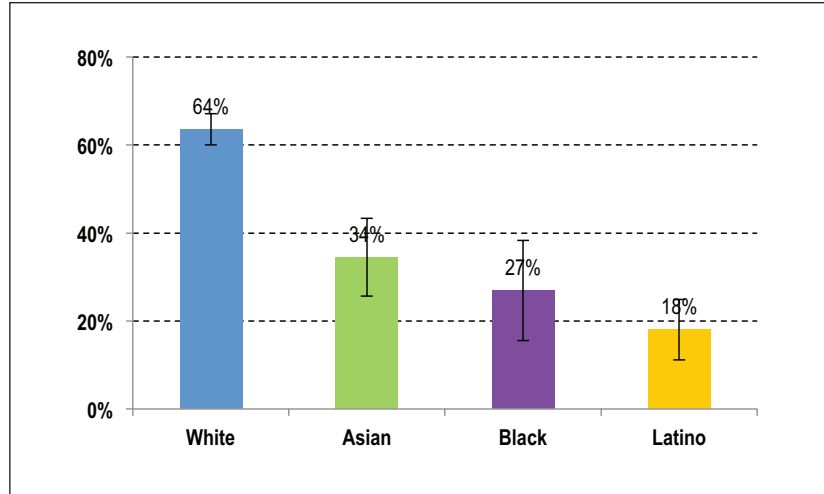


Source: 2013 ACS 5-Year Data - S1903

HOUSING STATUS AND MEDICAL UNINSURANCE

The final measures of Latino participation in Framingham are intended to identify how well Latinos are being rewarded for their economic, social, and political participation. Framingham has a lower homeownership rate (54%) than the statewide rate (66%) as measured by occupied housing units. Latinos in Figure 10 have the lowest homeownership level of any ethno-racial group in the town at 18%, which is also lower than the 24% of Latinos statewide who are homeowners. As a complement to these percentages in Figure 10, it is evident that 82% of Latinos in Framingham are renters.

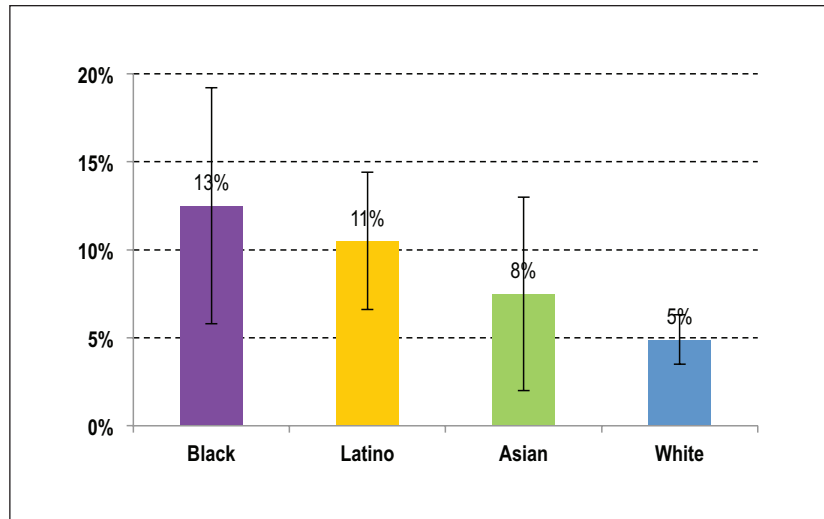
Figure 10: Homeownership Rates by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2013 ACS 3-Year Data - B25003

Framingham has a higher rate of medical uninsurance (7%) than the statewide average of 4%. Some of this might be attributed to its higher concentration of foreign-born residents, who have the highest rates of uninsurance. Figure 11 shows that Latinos have the second highest rate of medical uninsurance in Framingham at 11%, which is higher than the rate for Latinos statewide (8%).

Figure 11: Medical Uninsurance by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2013 ACS 3-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 unauthorized immigration in the United States. He worked with various community-based organizations assisting recently arrived U.S. immigrants before earning a Ph.D. 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. In addition to his teaching in the Economics Department, he is also an investigator for *Por Ahí Dicen*, a research project of the Center for Health Equity Intervention Research (CHEIR) that is evaluating the effectiveness of a Spanish language multi-media campaign in Springfield designed to increase Puerto Rican mother-child communication about sexuality and sexual health.

Mayara Fontes holds a M.A. in Applied Economics from University of Massachusetts Boston and is currently a Reporting Analyst at American Student Assistance. Her research interests include migration, health and human rights.