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## Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas: Lynn

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# Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas

## Lynn

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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# Lynn

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

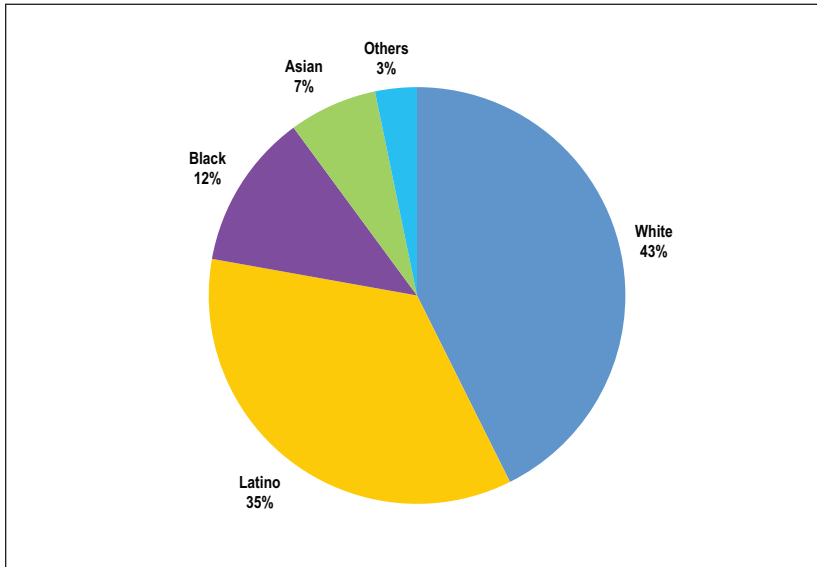
The report on Lynn is part of a larger series that covers cities and towns with a population between 35,000 and 100,000 residents in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with a significant number of Latinos. Each report analyzes data from the American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the U.S. Census 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 Lynn and this consists 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

As the largest city in Essex County, Lynn is home to an estimated 32,217 Latinos. They represent slightly more than one-third (35%) of the city's population, which is a smaller share than for whites but greater than for Asians and blacks (Figure 1).

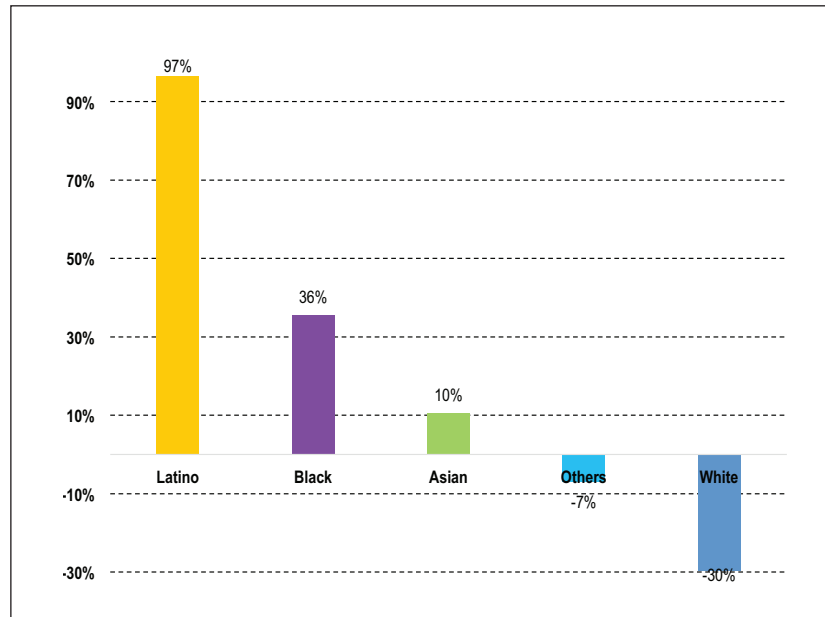
Figure 1: Population Percentages by Ethno-Racial Group in Lynn



Source: 2013 1-Year ACS Data – DP05

A striking feature of Lynn is its recent population change. From 2000 to 2013, the Latino population nearly doubled (97%). Blacks (36%) also experienced population growth in the city, while whites experienced a 30% population decline (Figure 2). This decline in the white population is steeper than the statewide trend. The growth of the Latino population in Lynn outpaces Latinos statewide, who experienced an increase of 53% during this time. Lynn has long been a destination for international migrants, and today it has a greater concentration of foreign-born (30%) than the Commonwealth as a whole (15%).

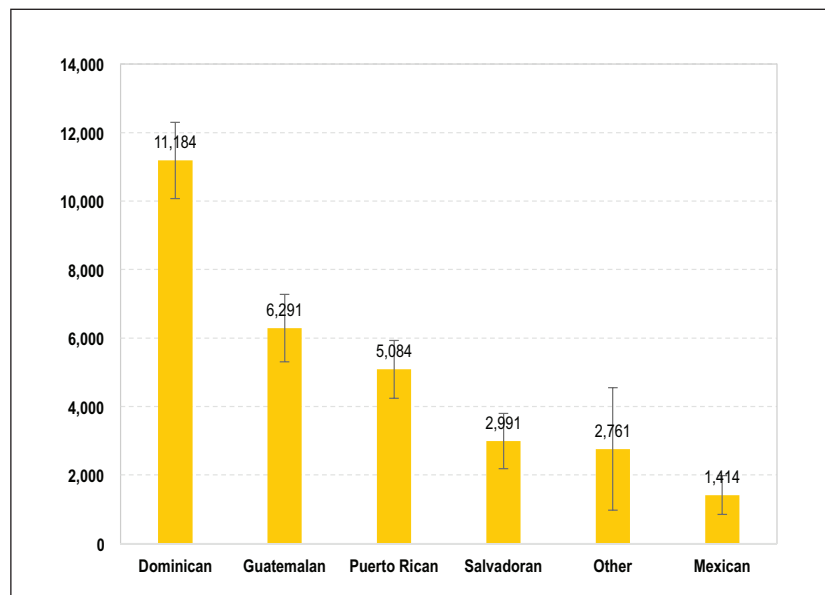
Figure 2: Population Change by Ethno-Racial Group from 2000 to 2013



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

When examining the ancestry of Latinos in the Lynn, it is important to note that Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens; they are not included in foreign-born estimates in the preceding paragraph. As Figure 3 shows, the largest Latino subpopulation in the city is Dominicans (11,184), followed by Guatemalans, Puerto Ricans, Salvadorans, and Mexicans.

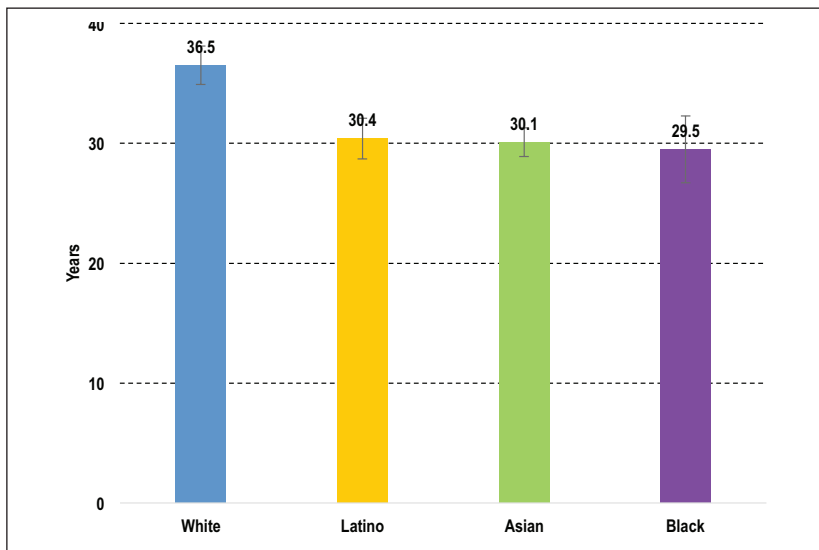
Figure 3: Ancestry of the Top Latino Subpopulations



Source: 2013 ACS 5-Year Data B03001

## MEDIAN AGE AND MARITAL STATUS

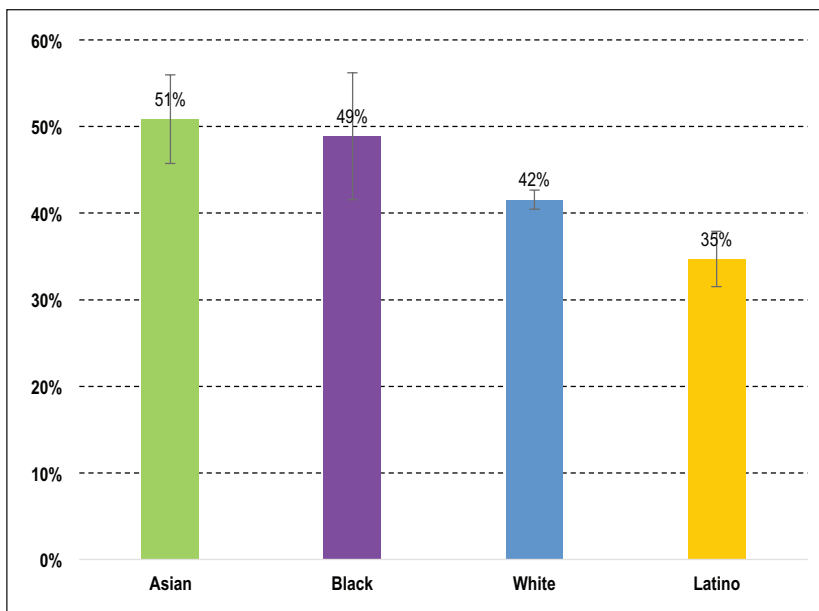
Figure 4: Median Age by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2013 ACS 3-Year Data - B01002

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

Figure 5: Marriage Rates by Ethno-Racial Group



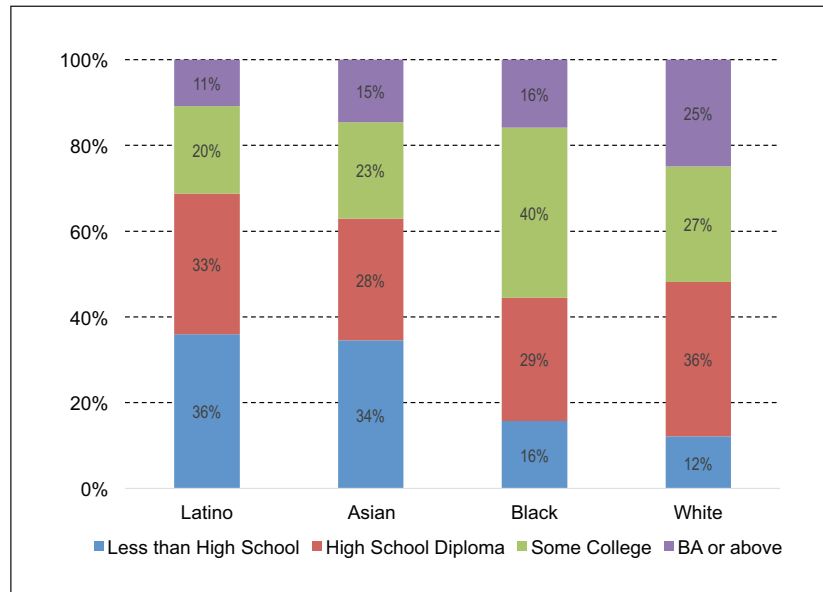
Source: 2013 ACS 5-Year Data - B12002

The marriage rate in Lynn for persons 15 and over is 41%. As shown in Figure 5, the marriage rate for Latinos (35%) is lower than for all other ethno-racial groups in the city. However, the Latino marriage rate in Lynn is higher than for Latinos statewide (32%).

## EDUCATION

Educational attainment in Lynn is lower than in the Commonwealth as a whole. In Massachusetts 40% of the population age 25 and older have a bachelor's degree or higher compared 19% in Lynn. As Figure 6 shows, Latinos have the lowest percentage of their population with at least a bachelor's degree: 11%, compared to 15% for Asians, 16% for blacks, and 25% for whites. 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 whites, 16% for blacks, and 34% for Asians.

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

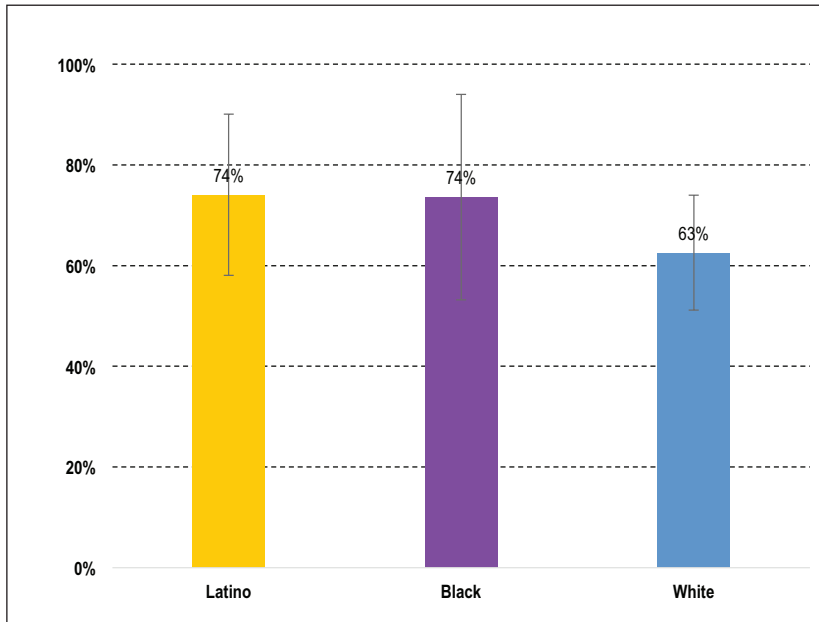


Source: 2013 3-Year ACS Data - B15002

## LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

Latinos have a higher labor force participation rate in Lynn (74%) than Latinos statewide (66%). As Figure 7 shows, they have a similar rate to blacks in Lynn (74%) but higher than whites (63%). The Asian rate is not reported because of its small sample size.

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

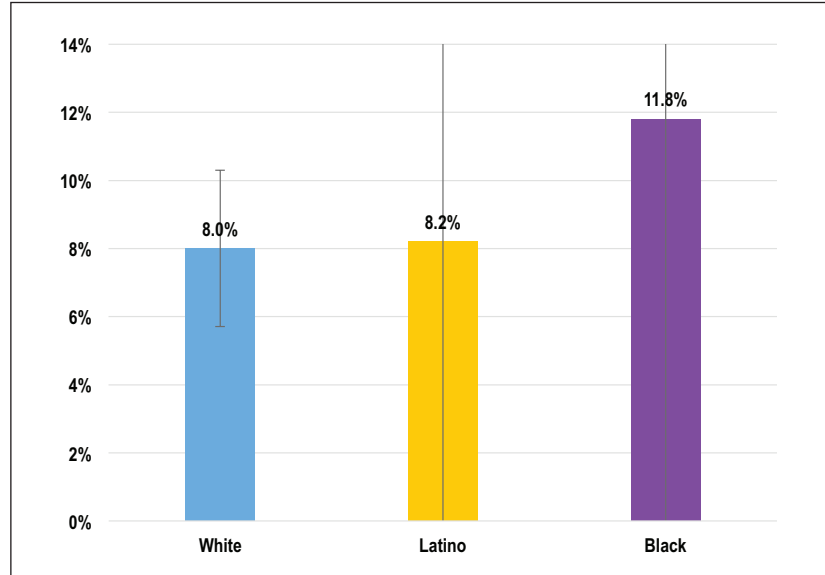


Source: 2013 ACS 3-Year Data - C23002

The overall unemployment rate in Lynn during this period was 10.4%, higher than the statewide unemployment rate of 8.5%. The Latino unemployment rate in Lynn of 8.2% is higher than for blacks (11.8%) but lower than for whites (8.0%). When Latinos in Lynn participate in the labor force, they fare much better than Latinos statewide, who during this period experienced a 12.6% unemployment rate.



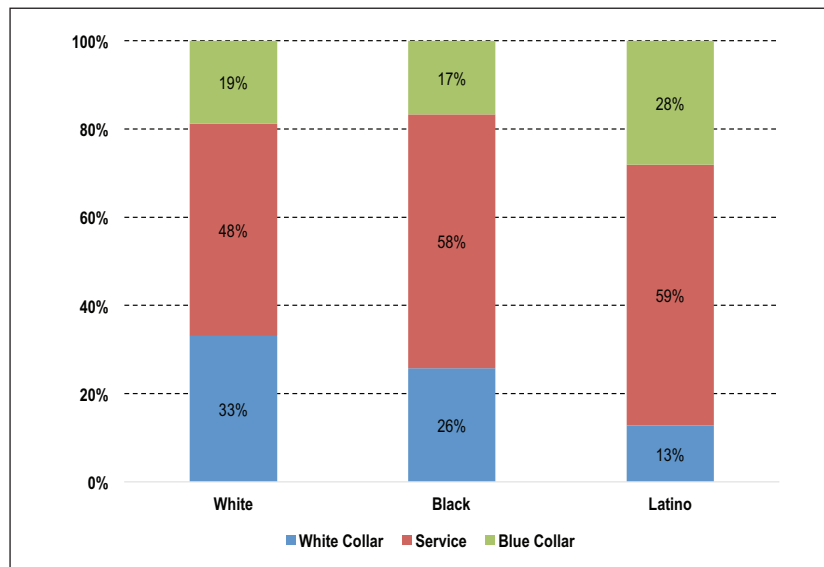
Figure 8: Unemployment Rates by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2013 ACS 1-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 59% working in services and sales occupations, and in what are traditionally considered blue-collar jobs, with 28% working in natural resources, construction, maintenance, production, transportation, and material moving occupations.

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

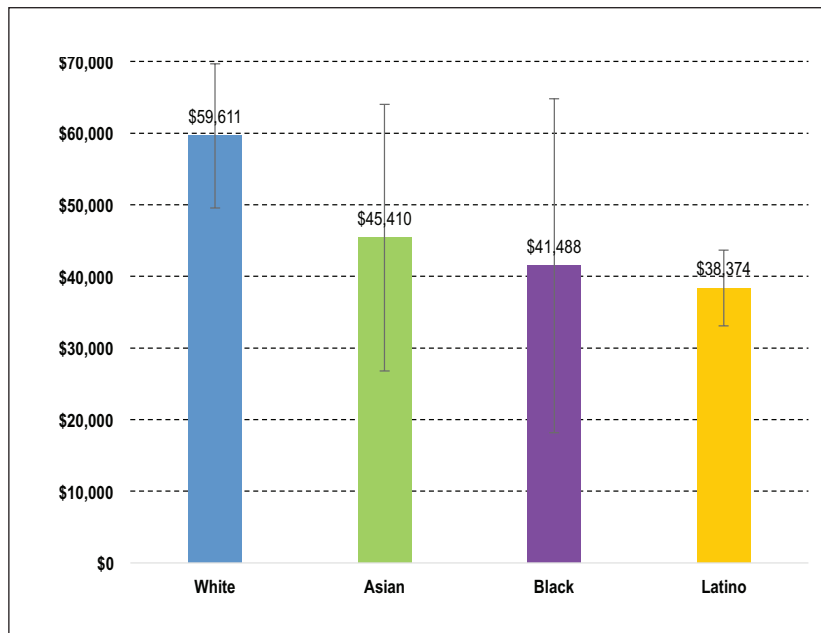


Source: 2013 ACS 1-Year Data - B24010

## EARNINGS

Lynn's median income is \$45,539, which is considerably lower than the statewide median income of \$66,135. Latinos in Figure 10 have the lowest median income (\$38,374) of any ethno-racial group in the city. However, Latinos in Lynn are slightly more economically successful than Latinos in other parts of the Commonwealth, as the statewide Latino median income is \$34,726.

Figure 10: Median Income by Ethno-Racial Group in 2013

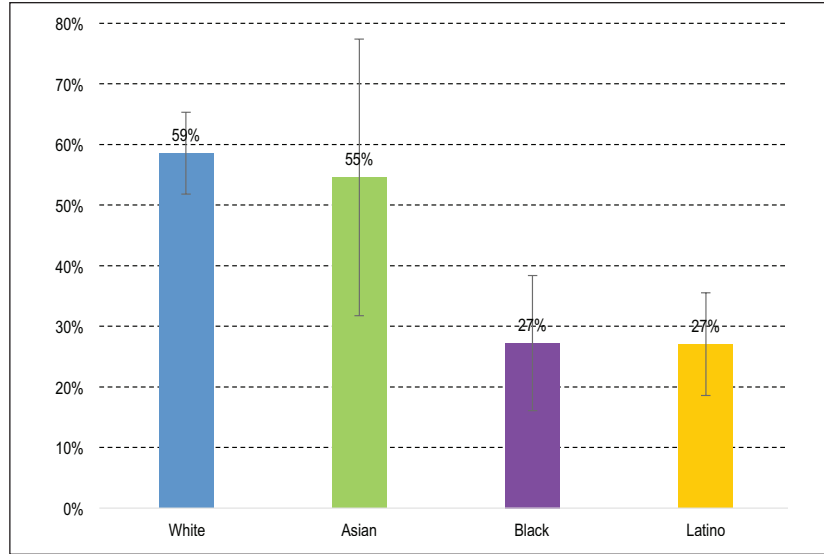


Source: 2013 ACS 1-Year Data - S1903

## HOUSING STATUS AND MEDICAL UNINSURANCE

The final measures of Latino participation in Lynn are intended to identify how well Latinos are being rewarded for their economic, social, and political participation. Lynn has a lower homeownership rate (46%) than the statewide rate (66%) as measured by occupied housing units. As shown in Figure 11, Latinos have a 27% homeownership rate, which is slightly higher than the 24% rate for Latinos statewide but lower than for whites and Asians in Lynn. As a complement to these percentages in Figure 11, it is evident that 73% of Latinos in Lynn are renters.

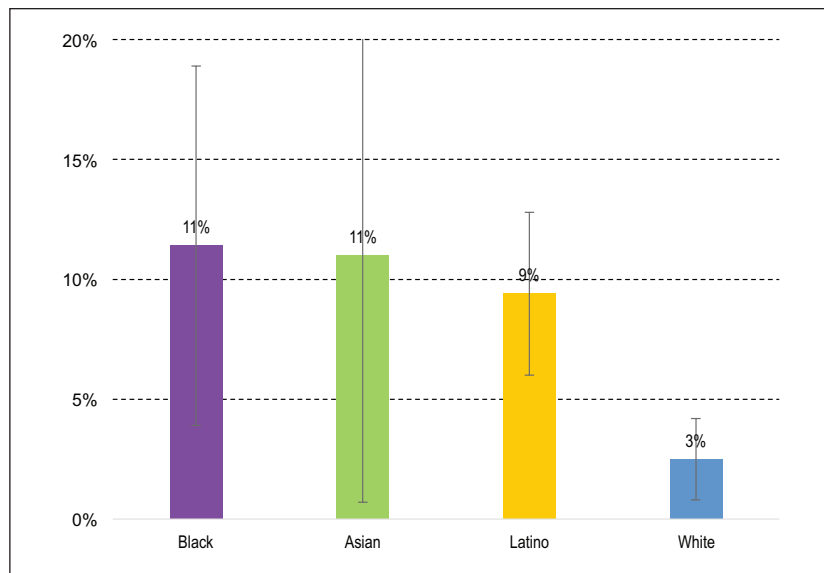
**Figure 11: Homeownership Rates by Ethno-Racial Group**



Source: 2013 ACS 3-Year Data - B25003

Lynn's overall rate of medical uninsurance (7%) is higher than the statewide average of 4%, which may be related to the city's high percentage of foreign-born residents who have disproportionately high rates of uninsurance. Figure 12 shows that Lynn's Latinos have a 9% uninsurance rate. This is higher than for whites but lower than for Asians and blacks, and is similar to the Latino statewide medical uninsurance rate of 8%.

**Figure 12: 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 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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