

6-1-2015

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Recommended Citation

Granberry, Phillip and Kabir, Priyanka, "Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas: Salem" (2015). *Gastón Institute Publications*. Paper 211.

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Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas Salem

by Phillip Granberry and Priyanka Kabir

June, 2015

THE MAURICIO GASTON INSTITUTE
FOR LATINO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AND PUBLIC POLICY

Salem

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

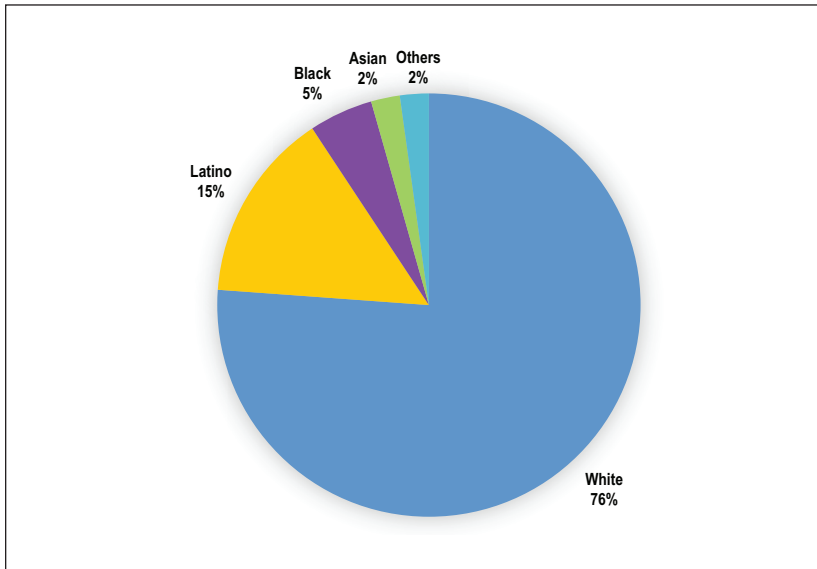
The report on Salem is part of a larger series that covers cities and towns with a population between 35,000 and 100,000 residents in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with a significant number of Latinos. Each report analyzes data from the American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the U.S. Census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

As a historical seaport, Salem has long welcomed new arriving populations and is home to an estimated 6,149 Latinos. They represent 15% of the city's population, which is a smaller share than for whites but greater than for Asians and blacks (Figure 1).

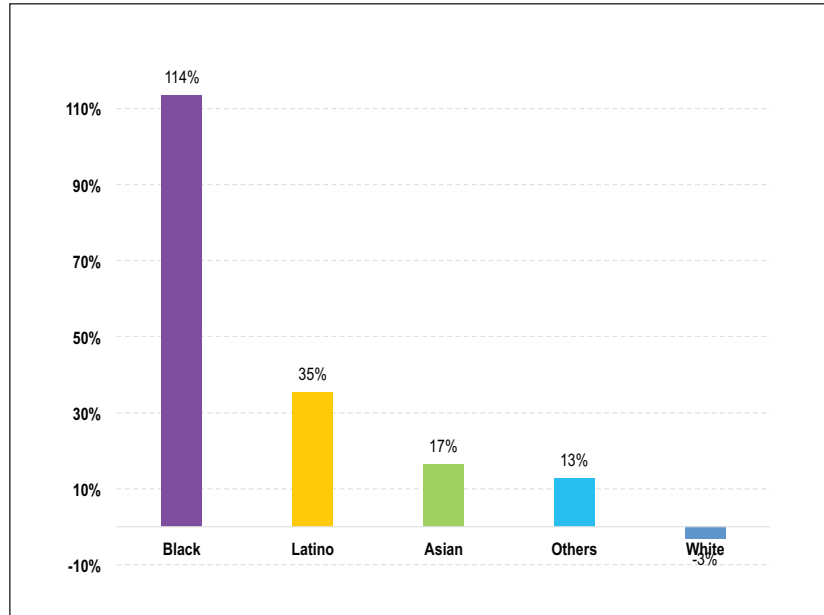
Figure 1: Population Percentages by Ethno-Racial Group in Salem



Source: 2013 3-Year ACS Data – DP05

A striking feature of Salem is its recent population change. From 2000 to 2013, the Latino population increased by 35% (smaller than the statewide Latino increase of 53%), which was significantly outpaced by blacks (114%) who experienced the largest population growth in the city (Figure 2). As in many other cities in Massachusetts, whites in Salem experienced a population decline. Salem has the same concentration of foreign-born (15%) as the Commonwealth as a whole.

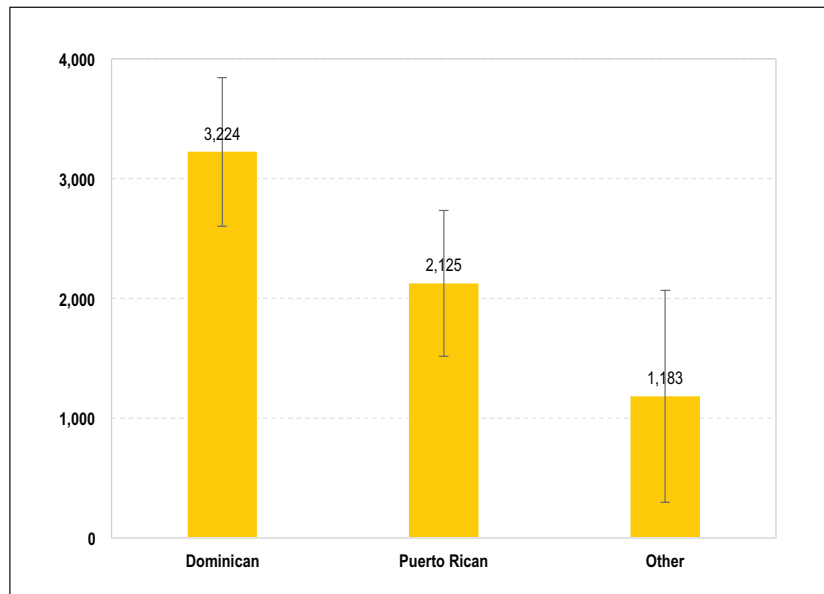
Figure 2: Population Change by Ethno-Racial Group from 2000 to 2013



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

When examining the ancestry of Latinos in the Salem, 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 consists of Dominicans, (3,224), followed by Puerto Ricans (2,125).

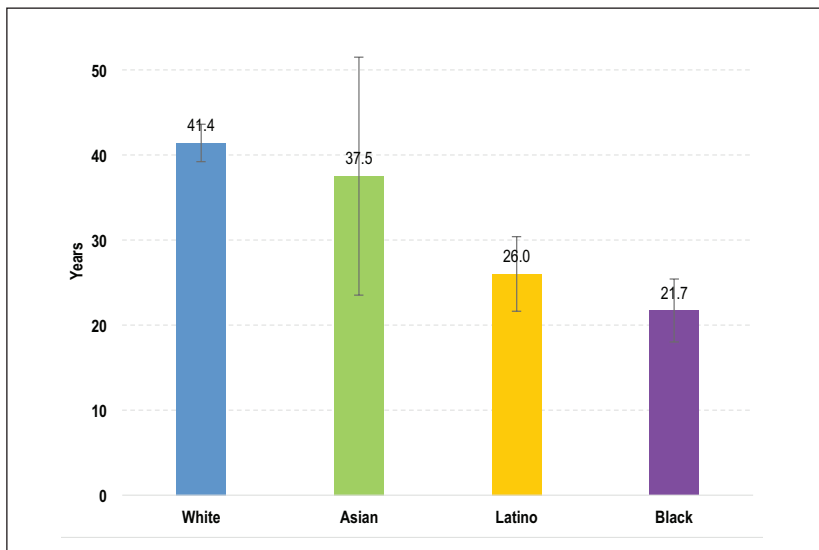
Figure 3: Ancestry of the Top Latino Subpopulations



Source: 2013 ACS 5-Year Data B03001

MEDIAN AGE AND MARITAL STATUS

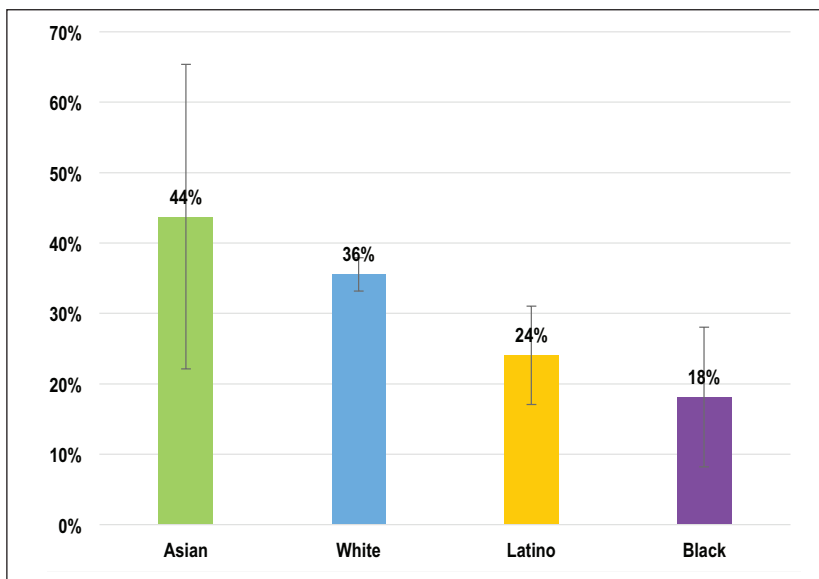
Figure 4: Median Age by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2013 ACS 3-Year Data - B01002

Salem's Latino population, with a median age of 26 years, is slightly younger than the statewide Latino median age of 26.8 years. As Figure 4 shows, Latinos as a group in Salem are significantly younger than whites (41.4 years) and Asians (37.5 years), but older than blacks (21.7 years). This suggests that Latinos have more families with young children and will require an investment in the 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. Salem's older population will require younger residents to keep the city's neighborhoods vibrant and maintain a productive workforce, and Latinos are poised to make this contribution.

Figure 5: Marriage Rates by Ethno-Racial Group



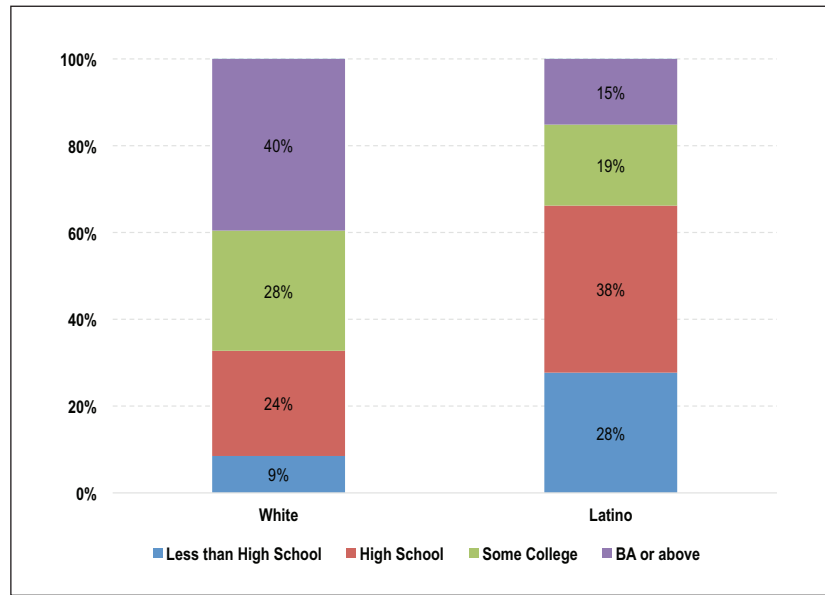
Source: 2013 ACS 5-Year Data - B12002

The marriage rate in Salem for persons 15 and over is 32%. As shown in Figure 5, the marriage rate for Latinos (24%) is higher than for blacks but much lower than for Asians and whites. The Latino marriage rate in Salem is also lower than for Latinos statewide (32%).

EDUCATION

The average educational attainment in Salem is slightly lower than in the Commonwealth as a whole. Statewide, 40% of the population age 25 and older have a bachelor's degree or higher compared to 38% in Salem. As Figure 6 shows, Latinos in Salem have an especially low percentage of their population with at least a bachelor's degree: 15%, compared to 40% for whites. The statewide rate for Latinos is 17%. At the other end of the educational scale, Latinos have a higher percentage of their adult population lacking a high school diploma: 28%, compared to 9% for whites. The statewide rate for Latinos is 61%. Both Asians and blacks in Salem have too small a population to be included in these education statistics.

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

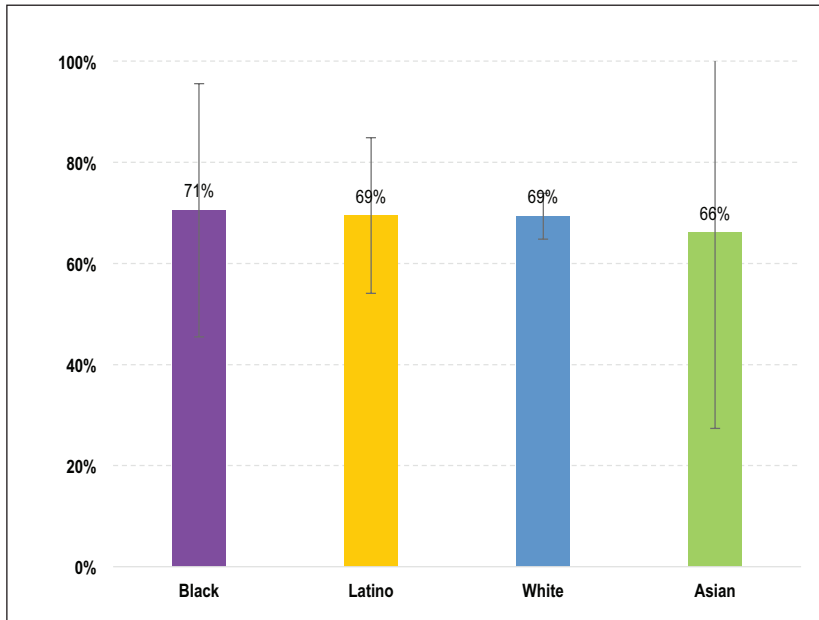


Source: 2013 3-Year ACS Data - B15002

LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

Latinos have a higher labor force participation rate in Salem (69%) than Latinos statewide (66%). As Figure 7 shows, they have the same rate as whites and higher than Asians (63%), but lower than blacks (71%).

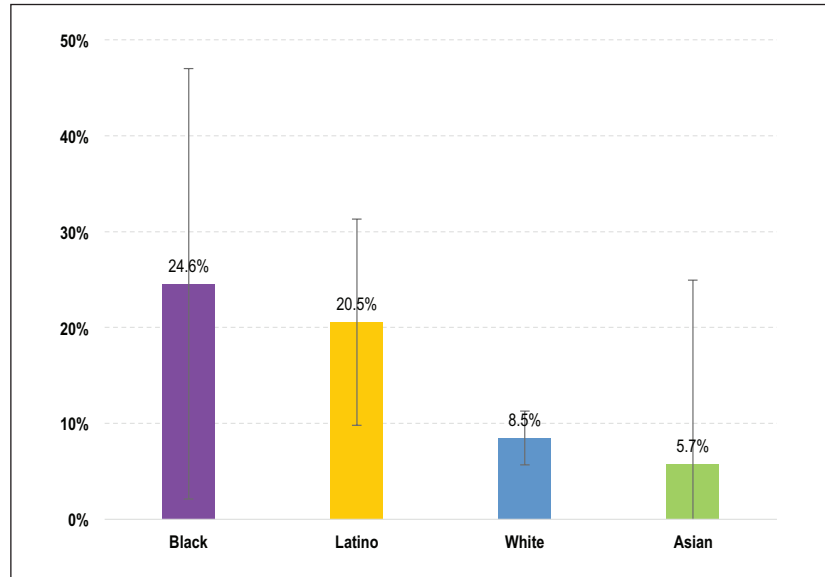
Figure 7: Labor Force Participation among Individuals 16 to 64 Years of Age by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2013 ACS 5-Year Data - C23002

The overall unemployment rate in Salem during this period was 9.9%, higher than the statewide unemployment rate of 8.5%. The Latino unemployment rate in Salem of 20.5% was much higher than for whites (8.5%) and Asians (5.7%), though lower than for blacks (26%). When Latinos in Salem participate in the labor force, they have even less success than Latinos statewide, who during this period experienced a 13.9% unemployment rate.

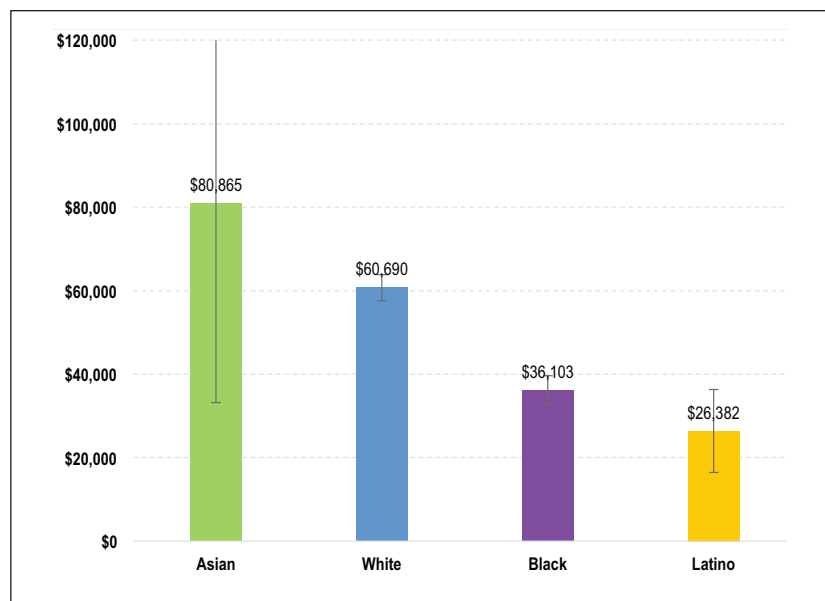
Figure 8: Unemployment Rates by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2013 ACS 5-Year Data - C23002

Salem's median income is \$69,212, which is higher than the statewide median income of \$66,135. Latinos in Figure 9 have the lowest median income (\$26,382) of any ethno-racial group in the city. Latinos in Salem also lag behind Latinos in other parts of the Commonwealth, as the statewide Latino median income is \$34,726.

Figure 9: Median Income by Ethno-Racial Group

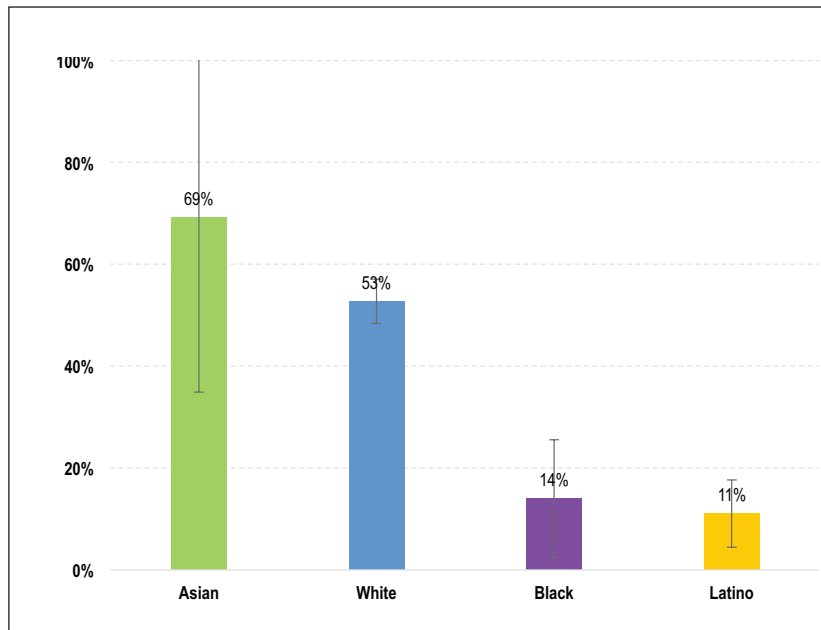


Source: 2013 ACS 3-Year Data - S1903

HOUSING STATUS AND MEDICAL UNINSURANCE

The final measures of Latino participation in Salem are intended to identify how well Latinos are being rewarded for their economic, social, and political participation. Salem has a lower homeownership rate (47%) than the statewide rate (66%) as measured by occupied housing units. Figure 10 shows that Latinos have the lowest homeownership rate at 11%, which is significantly lower than the 24% rate for Latinos statewide. As a complement to these percentages in Figure 10, it is evident that 89% of Latinos in Salem are renters.

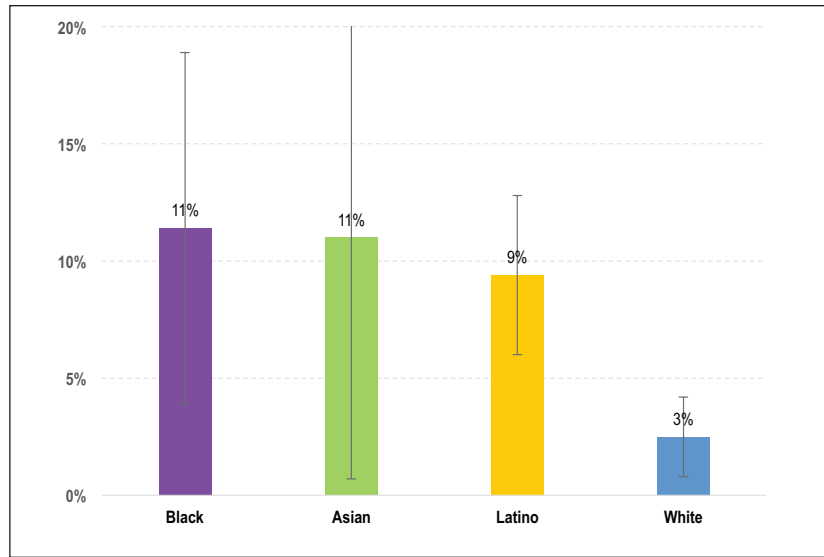
Figure 10: Homeownership Rates by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2013 ACS 3-Year Data - B25003

Salem's overall rate of medical uninsurance (7%) is higher than the statewide average of 4%. Figure 11 shows that Salem's Latinos have a 9% uninsurance rate, much higher than for whites though lower than for Asians and blacks. The Latino uninsurance rate in Salem is similar to the Latino statewide rate of 8%.

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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