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Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas: Cambridge

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Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas

Cambridge

by Phillip Granberry, PhD, Trevor Mattos

July, 2017

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



Cambridge

The Latino Population

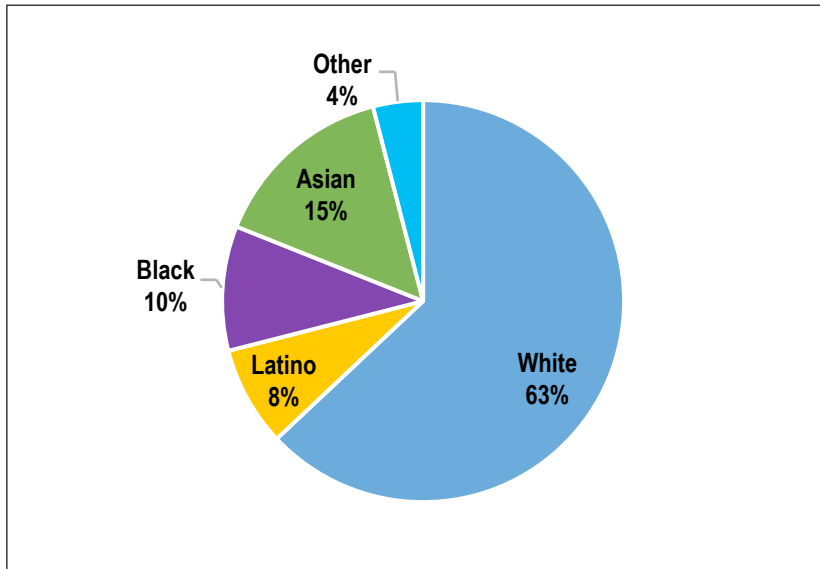
This report provides a descriptive snapshot of selected economic, social, educational, and demographic indicators pertaining to Latinos in Cambridge. It reflects a commitment by UMass Boston's Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy to provide periodic updates on the growing Latino population in Massachusetts.

The report on Cambridge is part of a larger series that covers cities and towns 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 who 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 that 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 Cambridge and this consists those who identified with multiple race categories or some other race and 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.

As of 2015, the city of Cambridge was made up of 107,916 residents, including a Latino population of 8,670, who made up 8% of the city's population. Statewide, Latino residents contribute 11% of the total population. In Cambridge, the largest resident population is non-Latino white (63%). The Asian population is the second largest group in the city, making up 15%, followed by the black population, which accounts for 10% of city residents (Figure 1).

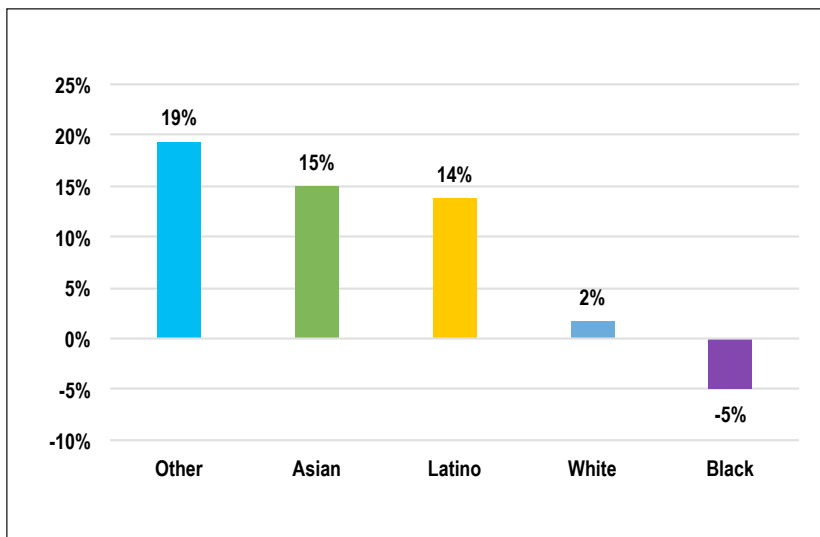
Figure 1: Population Percentages by Ethno-Racial Group in Cambridge



Source: 2011–2015 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – B03002

Between 2010 and 2015, the city of Cambridge saw population growth for all major ethno-racial groups with the exception of black residents, who decreased by 5%. Asians (15%) and Latinos (14%) grew faster than whites (2%) (Figure 2). Across the state, Latinos increased by 21% during this period, indicating below-average growth in the Latino population in Cambridge.

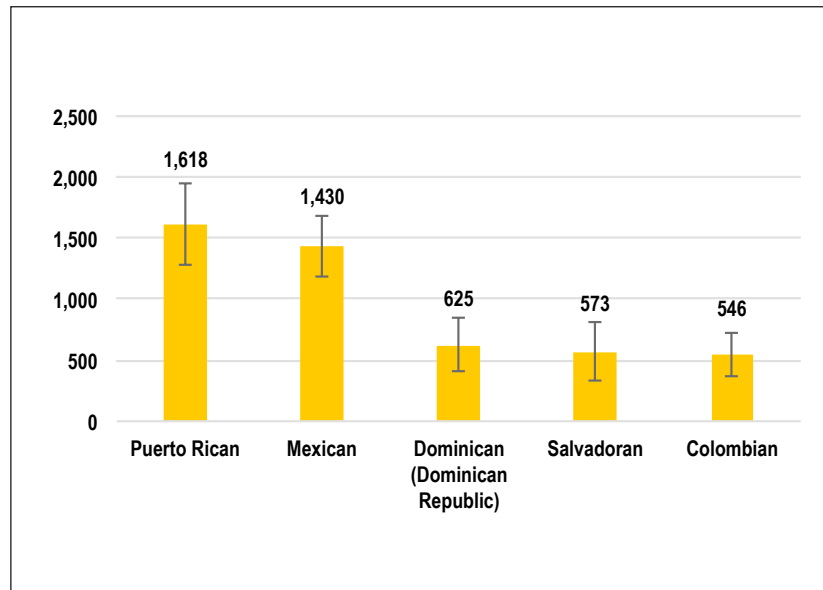
Figure 2: Population Change by Ethno-Racial Group from 2010 to 2015



Source: 2011–2015 & 2006–2010 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – B03002

The Latino community of Cambridge is a mix of several subgroups, and not quite as dominated by Puerto Ricans and Dominicans (Dominican Republic) as are other towns and cities across Massachusetts. Puerto Ricans are the largest single group, but Mexicans are the second largest and Salvadorans and Colombians are nearly as numerous as Dominicans (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Ancestry of the Top Latino or Hispanic Subpopulations

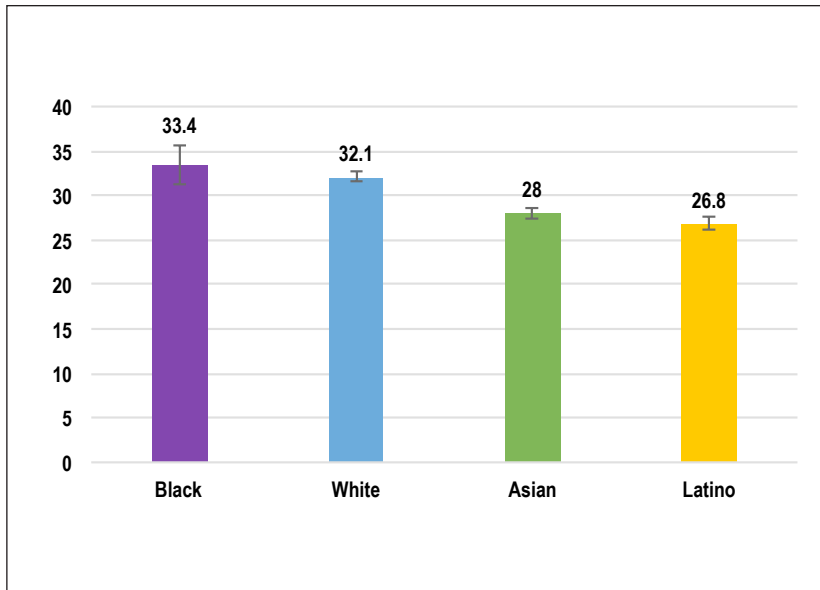


Source: 2011–2015 5-Year ACS Estimates – B03001

Median Age and Marital Status

Unlike many other cities and towns across the state, black residents of Cambridge have the highest median age of all major ethno-racial groups (33.4 years). Whites are nearly as old with a median age of 32.1 years. Asian and Latino populations are younger in Cambridge, though the differences are not very large. The median age for the Asians is 28 years, and that of Latinos – the youngest group – is 26.8 years. This nearly matches the statewide median age for Latinos, at 27 years. For all groups statewide, the median age is 39.4, which is significantly higher than ages in Cambridge.

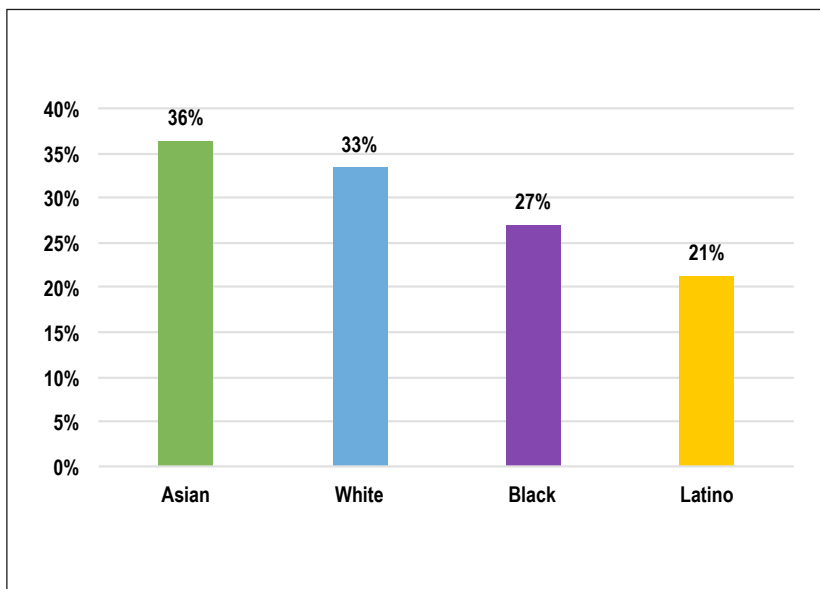
Figure 4: Median Age by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2011–2015 5-Year ACS Estimates – B01002

Marriage rates vary significantly in Cambridge. At the high end, Asian residents have a marriage rate of 36%. Alternatively, Latinos’ marriage rate is 21%. This is more than 10 percentage points lower than the statewide marriage rate for Latinos (32%). The statewide marriage rate is 47%, indicating that, on average, marriage rates are lower in Cambridge.

Figure 5: Marriage Rates by Ethno-Racial Group

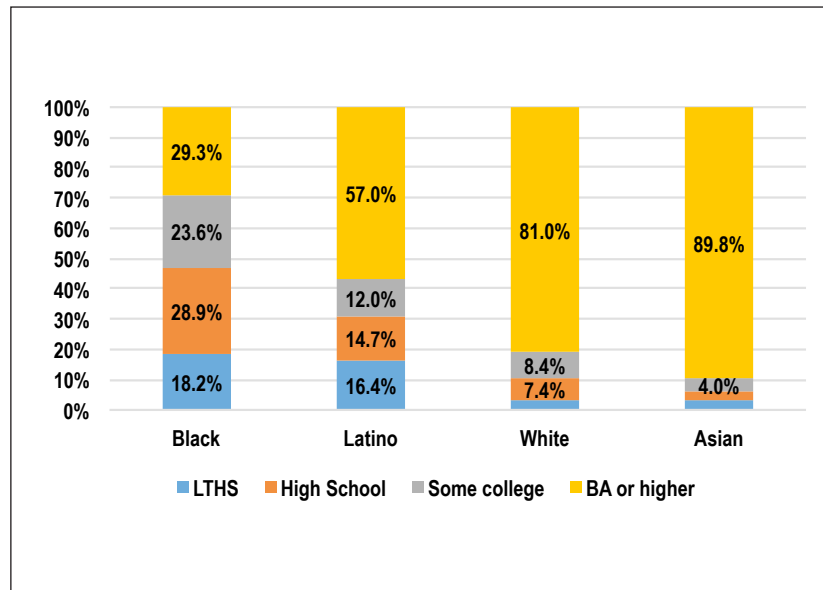


Source: 2011–2015 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – B12002

Education

Standing in stark contrast to many other municipalities across Massachusetts, and particularly those outside of the Greater Boston area, Cambridge likely has the most densely concentrated human capital base in New England. A historic center of higher education, with large student and research communities, Cambridge has exceptionally high rates of educational attainment. Nevertheless, there are noteworthy differences across ethno-racial groups. Residents who did not complete high school are almost entirely within the black and Latino communities, accounting for more than 15% of each group. Similarly, degree holders are far more concentrated in the white and Asian communities. Black residents have the lowest higher educational attainment rate (29%). Interestingly, the Latino group nearly doubles this rate for degree holders, at 57%. Statewide, only 17% of Latino residents hold a college degree, again highlighting the unique attributes of Cambridge overall. At the high end of the educational attainment distribution, we observe that white and Asian residents are highly educated, with over 80% of each group holding a bachelor's degree or more (Figure 6).

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

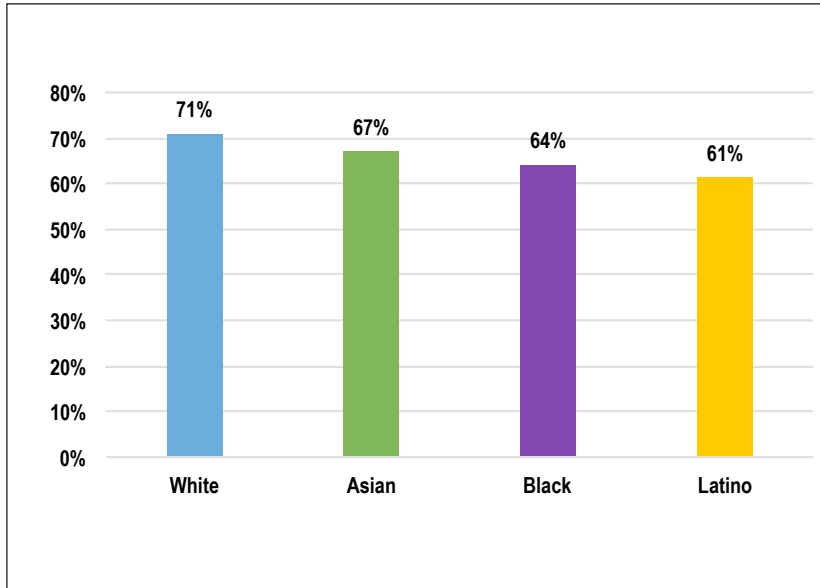


Source: 2011–2015 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – C15002

Labor Force Participation

Labor force participation is highest among white residents of Cambridge, at 71%. Among Asian residents, the participation rate is 67%. Labor force participation is moderately lower among black and Latino populations, at 64% and 61%, respectively (Figure 7). Statewide, 67% of working age Latinos participate in the labor market.

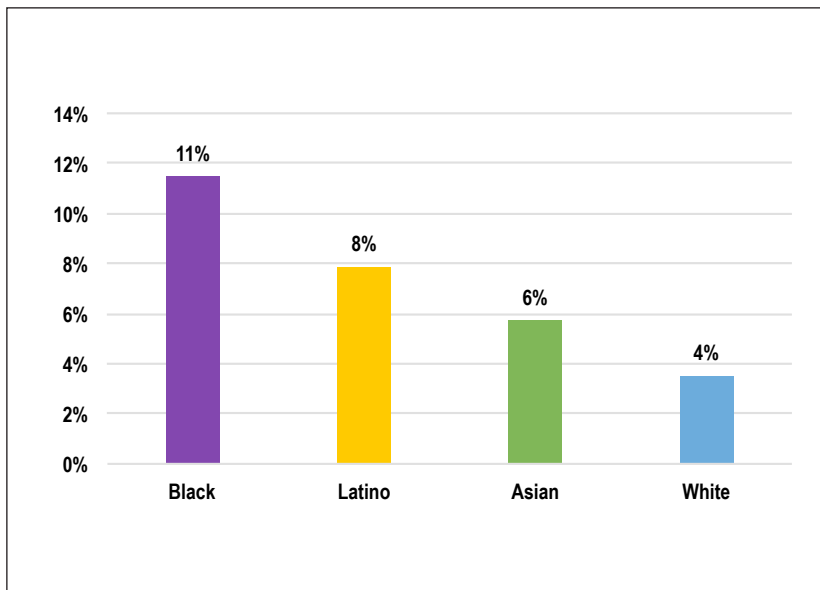
Figure 7: Labor Force Participation among Individuals 16 years and Older by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2011–2015 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – C23002

Variation in unemployment rates may reflect trends in education attainment and human capital across ethno-racial subgroups. Unemployment is highest among black residents, at 11%, which may relate to the fact that this population has the lowest concentration of degree holders. Just after black residents comes Latinos, with an unemployment rate of 8%, which corresponds to their having the second lowest rate of educational attainment. Unemployment among Asian and white residents is 6% and 4%, respectively (Figure 8). Statewide, Latinos’ unemployment rate is 12%, which suggests that they fare better in the labor market in Cambridge.

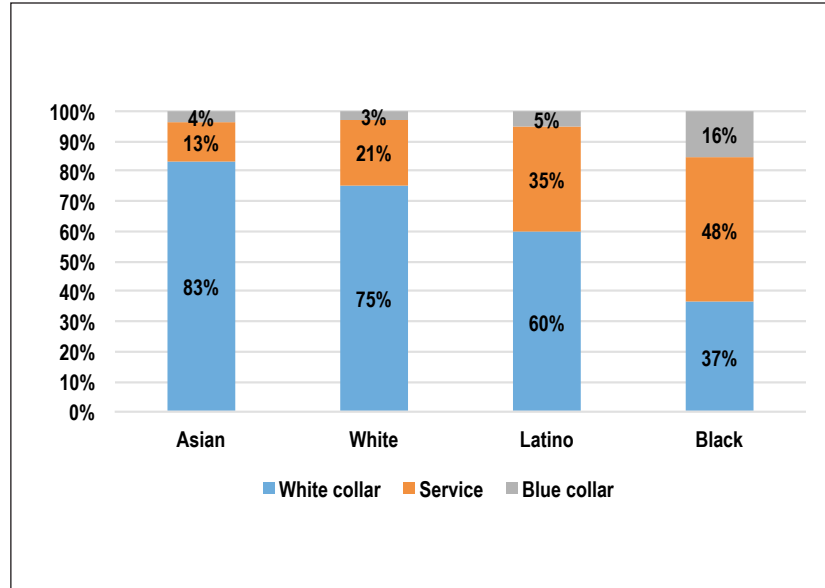
Figure 8: Unemployment Rates by Ethno-Racial Group (ages 16+)



Source: 2011–2015 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – C2300

The occupational distribution across ethno-racial groups in Cambridge looks very different from many other towns and cities across the state, where there are lower-skilled workers. By contrast, Cambridge workers are disproportionately concentrated in white collar positions. However, there are large differences between groups, and similar to many other indicators, white and Asian groups appear to be faring better in the labor market than Latinos and blacks. While 83% of Asians and 75% of whites have white collar positions, 60% of Latinos and only 37% of black workers fill these positions (Figure 9). Statewide, 23% of Latino workers fill white collar positions. This too demonstrates that Latino residents of Cambridge attain better economic outcomes than Latinos in other parts of Massachusetts.

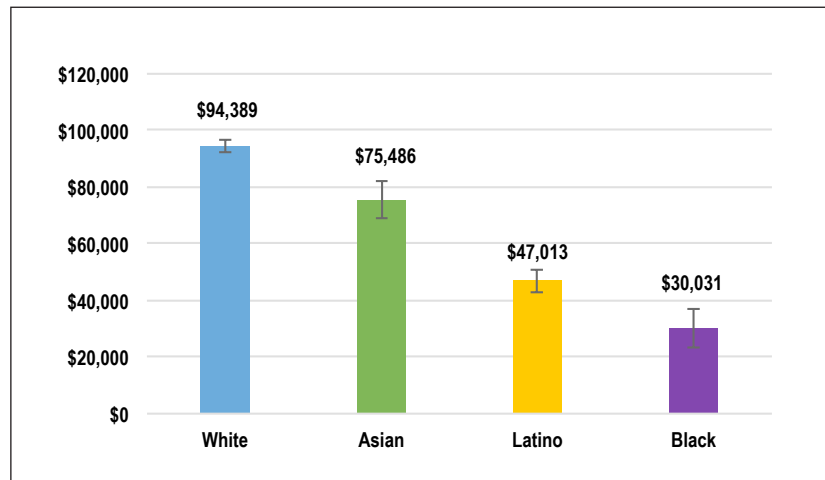
Figure 9: Population Employed by Occupational Category by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2011–2015 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – C24010

Earnings

Figure 10: Median Earnings by Ethno-Racial Group in 2015



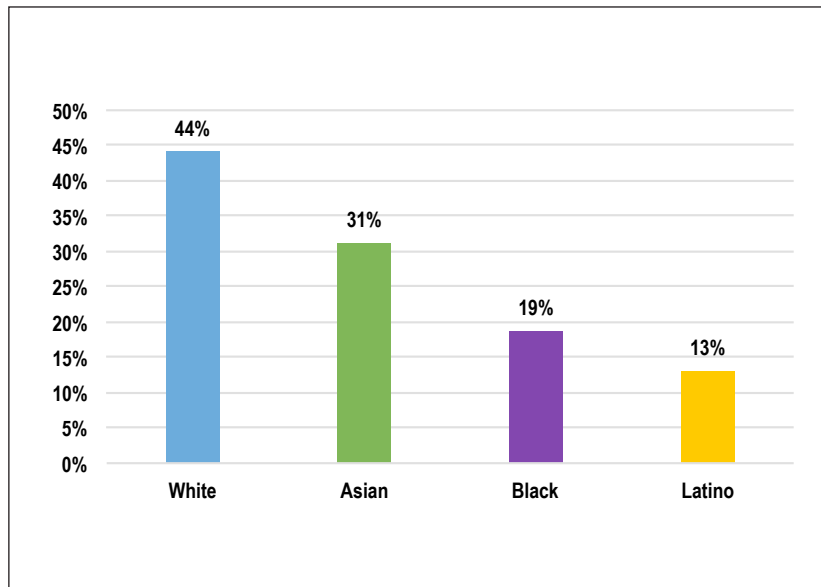
Source: 2011–2015 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – B19013

The median household income for all households across Massachusetts is \$68,563, while in Cambridge the median income is \$79,416. There is, however, a great deal of income inequality in Cambridge. Despite Asian workers having higher rates of educational attainment, white household incomes are higher, with a median income of \$94,389 – certainly one of the highest median household incomes in the region. Asian households have a median income of \$75,486. This large and noteworthy disparity pales in comparison to corresponding differentials for Latino and black communities. Median income for Latinos is about half that of white households (\$47,013), while median income for black households is less than one third that of white households (\$30,031). Statewide, median household income for Latinos is \$36,171, providing further evidence of Latinos' elevated economic status in Cambridge when compared to other Latino communities across the state.

Housing Status and Medical Uninsurance

Differences in homeownership rates follow a familiar pattern. White and Asian residents have much higher homeownership rates than blacks and Latinos. In the aggregate, ownership rates are lower in Cambridge than they are statewide. This likely reflects differences across degrees of urbanization somewhat more than differences across economic status. However, it is also true that property values in Cambridge are exceedingly high, and perhaps difficult to attain even for relatively advantaged groups. White residents of Cambridge have the highest homeownership rate – 44%. By contrast, Latino homeownership is at 13%, and is the lowest among major ethno-racial groups in the city. Statewide, the Latino homeownership rate is 24%. This latter point contradicts trends in other economic measures that show Latino's economic status to be higher in Cambridge. It may be the case that this group is realizing an urban wage premium in nominal terms that amounts to very little buying power in real terms, reflected in the extremely low homeownership rate. Asian residents have the second highest homeownership rate, 31%, while blacks have the second to lowest ownership rate, 19% (Figure 11).

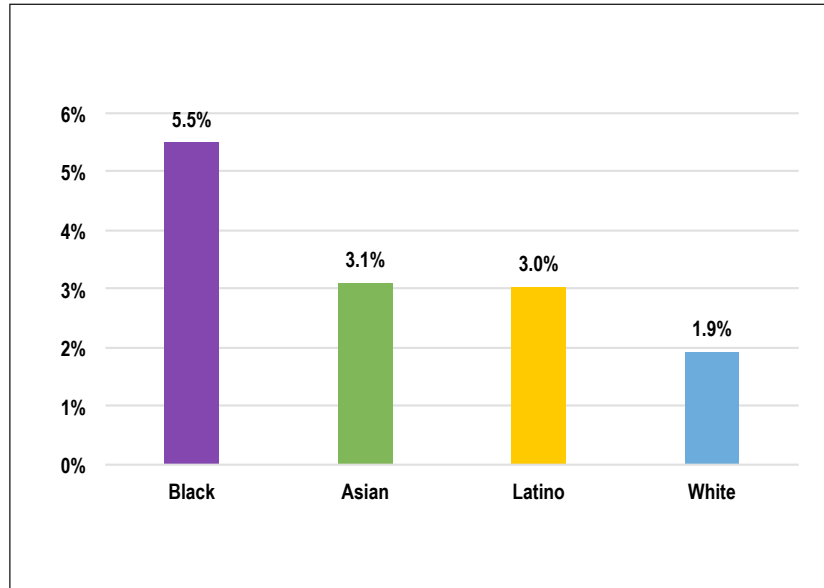
Figure 11: Homeownership Rates by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2011–2015 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – B25003

The majority of Cambridge residents have health insurance. Those who lack health insurance, though, are not equally distributed across ethno-racial groups. While differences in the uninsurance rate between Asians, Latinos, and whites are not very large, the uninsurance rate for black residents is somewhat higher, at 5.5%. Uninsurance rates for Asians, Latinos, and whites are 3.1%, 3%, and 1.9%, respectively (Figure 12). The statewide uninsurance rate for Latino residents is 3.6%. By and large, uninsurance rates in Cambridge are lower than most other municipalities across the state, particularly those outside of the Greater Boston region.

Figure 12: Medical Uninsurance by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2011–2015 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – C27001

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. Demographic profiles highlighting Latino subgroups will be produced on an ongoing basis.

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 non-Latino whites, non-Latino blacks, and non-Latino Asians, though they are identified as “white,” “black”, and “Asian” in these profiles.

About the Authors

Phillip Granberry is a social demographer. 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 Latinos and the sexual health communication of Puerto Rican mothers with their children. In addition to his research and teaching in the Gastón Institute and Economics Department at UMass Boston, he is Senior Researcher in demography for the Boston Planning and Development Agency.

Because these estimates contain a “margin of error,” they may vary from one year’s report to another but still fall within this “margin of error.” Only when another estimate is outside of this margin of error can we identify a population change over time. Even with the limitation of this “margin of error,” these reports use the best demographic data of Latinos in the city and towns of Massachusetts.

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.

Trevor Mattos holds a M.P.P. in Public Policy from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and is currently a Graduate Research Assistant at the Gastón Institute, while pursuing a Master’s degree in Applied Economics at UMass Boston. His work primarily focuses on analysis of socio-demographic and economic conditions in Latino communities across Massachusetts.