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### Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas: Lawrence

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# Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas Lawrence

by Phillip Granberry, PhD, Trevor Mattos

July, 2017

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THE MAURICIO GASTON INSTITUTE  
FOR LATINO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
AND PUBLIC POLICY

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# Lawrence

## The Latino Population

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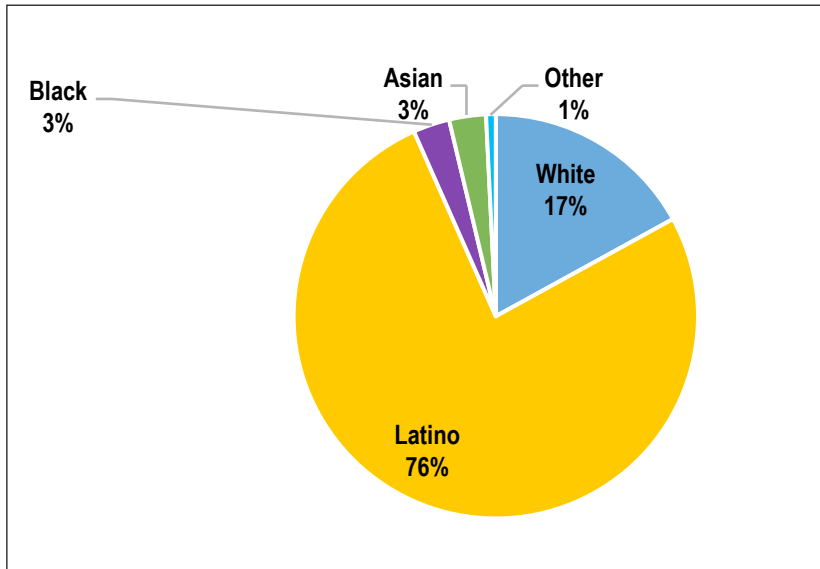
This report provides a descriptive snapshot of selected economic, social, educational, and demographic indicators pertaining to Latinos in Lawrence. It reflects a commitment by UMass Boston's Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy to provide periodic updates on the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

The report on Lawrence 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 Lawrence 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.

Lawrence, Massachusetts is a city of 78,804 residents, of whom 60,168, or 76% identify as Latino. While cities like Boston and Springfield have larger resident Latino populations, Lawrence has the highest density of Latino residents in the state of Massachusetts. The second largest group in the city is non-Latino whites, who make up 17% of the population. Blacks and Asians account for 3% each, while the "other" group makes up 1% of the city's population (Figure 1). In Massachusetts, 11% of residents identify as Latino.

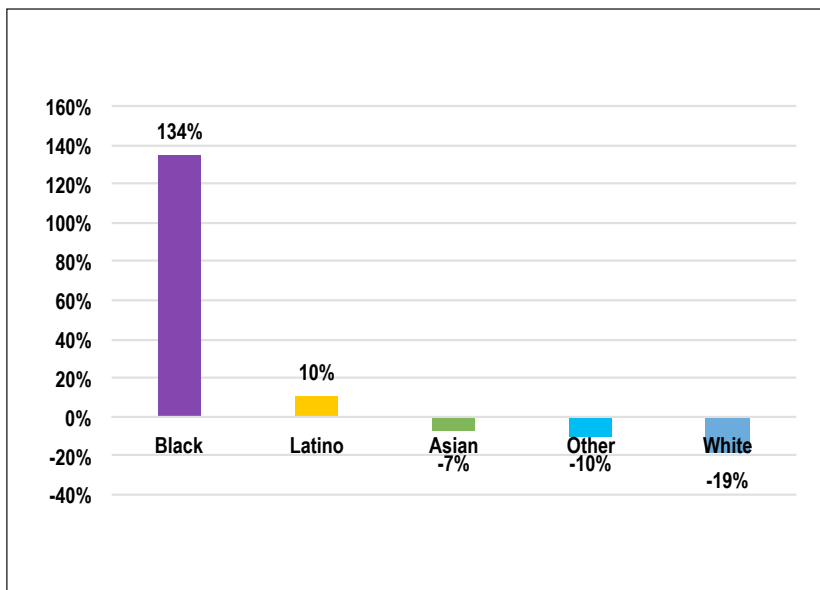
Figure 1: Population Percentages by Ethno-Racial Group in Lawrence



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

From 2010 to 2015 the size of the black community in Lawrence more than doubled, growing 134%. The only other group that saw positive growth was the Latino community, which grew by 10%. This falls short of the statewide Latino growth rate during this time, which was 21%. However, in numeric terms, the Latinos grew by more than 5,000, while the blacks added just over 1,300 residents. All other major groups decreased in size, with the largest reduction observed in the white community (19%). Numerically, the white community lost just over 3,000 residents (Figure 2).

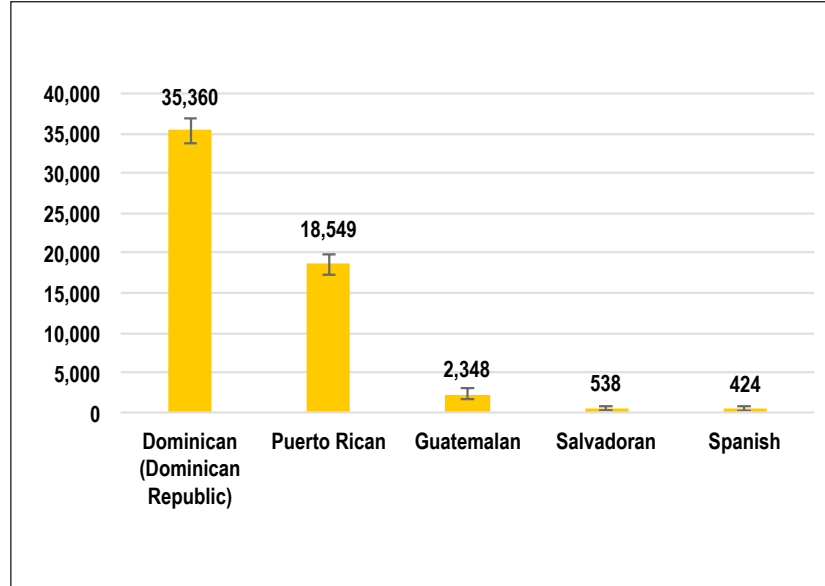
Figure 2: Population Change by Ethno-Racial Group from 2010 to 2015



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

The Latino community of Lawrence looks similar to the state overall, in that Dominicans and Puerto Ricans make up overwhelming majorities. However, while Puerto Ricans outnumber Dominicans statewide by more than 150,000, in Lawrence, the Dominicans are the largest group. The next largest groups, after the Puerto Ricans, are Guatemalans, Salvadorans, and the Spanish (Figure 3).

**Figure 3: Ancestry of the Top Latino Subpopulations**

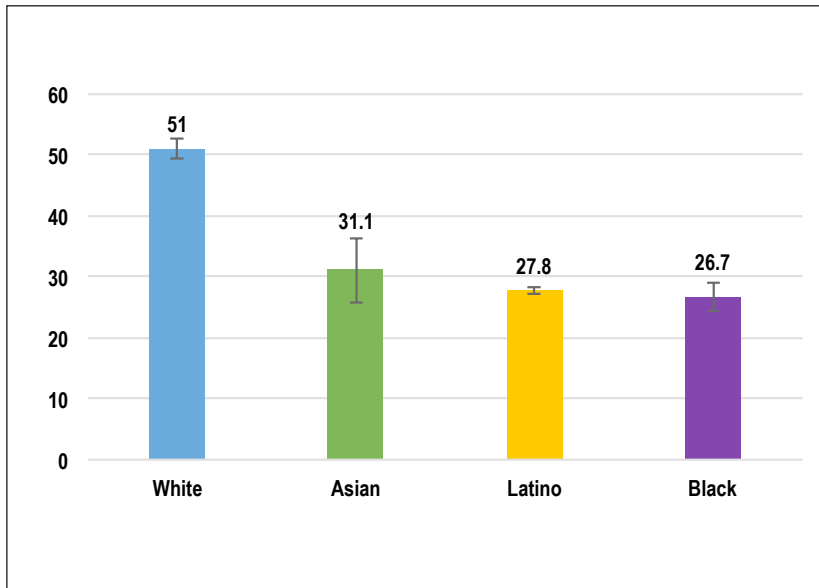


Source: 2011-2015 5-Year ACS Estimates – B03001

In Lawrence, the white community average about 20 years older than Asian, Latino, and black residents. The median age for white residents – the oldest group – is 51 years, while for black residents it is 26.7 years. For Asians the median age is 31.1 years and for Latinos it is 27.8 years, which nearly matches the statewide median age of 27 years for Latino residents (Figure 4).

## Median Age and Marital Status

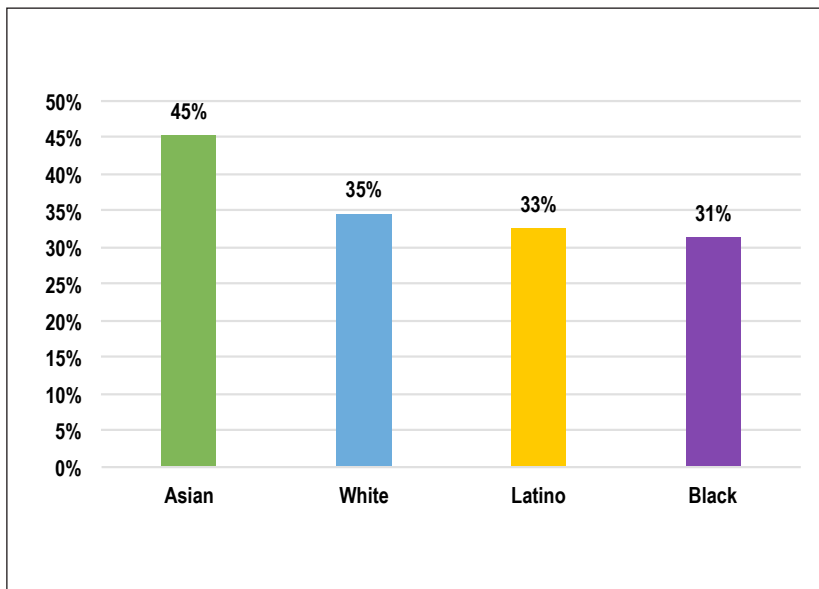
Figure 4: Median Age by Ethno-Racial Group



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

Marriage rates in Lawrence are higher among Asian residents than with any other group. At 45%, the marriage rate for Asians is at least 10% higher than it is for whites (35%), Latinos (33%), or blacks (31%). For the Latino community of Lawrence, their marriage rate is slightly higher than their rate statewide (32%).

Figure 5: Marriage Rates by Ethno-Racial Group

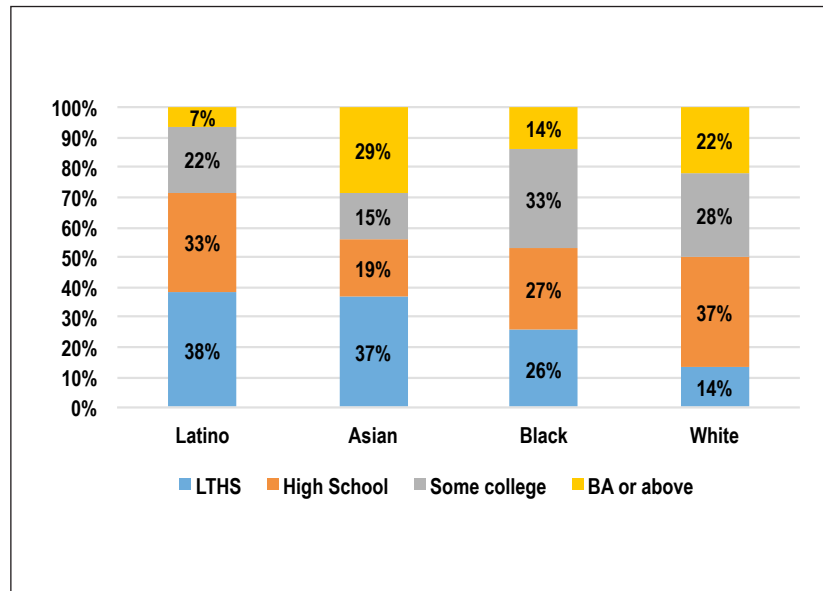


Source: 2011-2015 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – B12002

## Education

The most highly educated groups in Lawrence are the Asians and whites, with higher educational attainment rates of 29% and 22%, respectively. The Latino higher education rate is by far the lowest, at 7%. This is much lower than all other communities in Lawrence, and also much lower than the statewide figure for Latinos, which is 17%. Residents with less than a high school education are most densely concentrated in Latino and Asian communities.

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

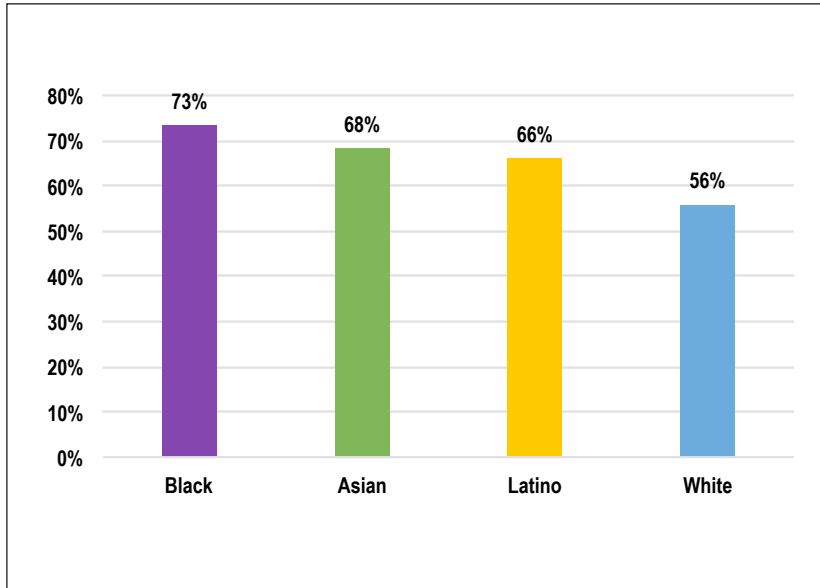


Source: 2011-2015 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – C15002

## Labor Force Participation

Labor force participation in Lawrence is highest among black, Asian, and Latino groups. White residents have a labor force participation rate of 56%, more than 10 percentage points lower than most other groups. This may relate to differences in the average ages of the various major ethno-racial groups in Lawrence. Statewide, 67% of Latinos participate in the labor force.

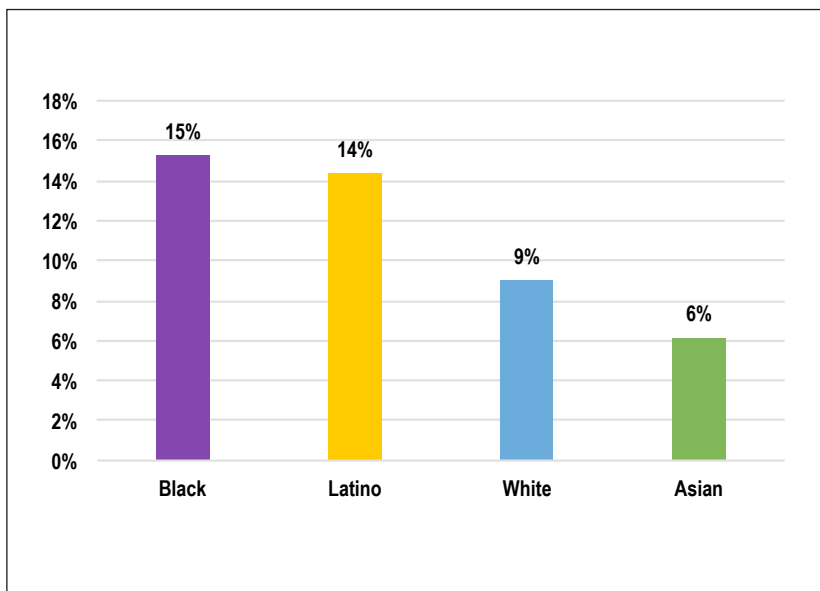
**Figure 7: Labor Force Participation among Individuals 16 years and older by Ethno-Racial Group**



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

Unemployment rates in Lawrence are highest for black and Latino groups, who are unemployed at rates of 15% and 14%, respectively. These figures are much higher than the rates for white residents (9%) and for Asian residents (6%). Statewide, the unemployment rate for Latinos is 12%, indicating that those who reside in Lawrence are not experiencing dramatically different labor market conditions.

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

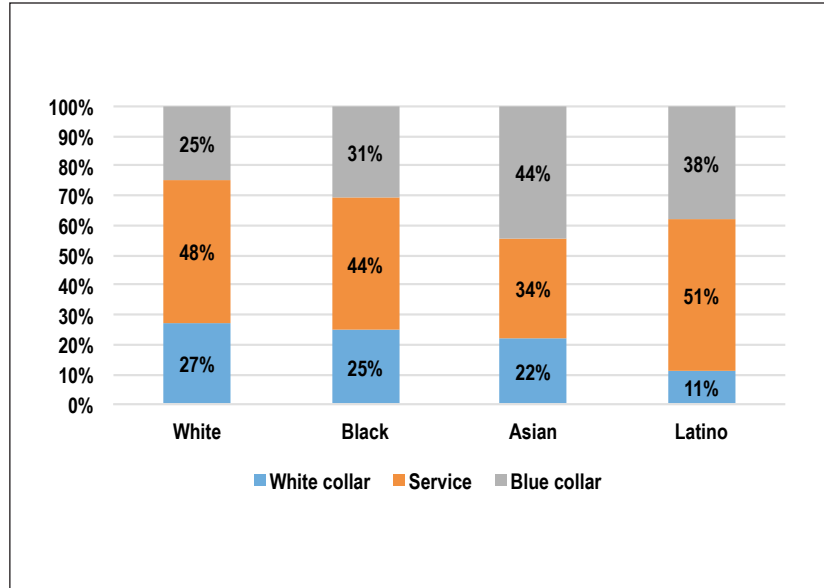


Source: 2011-2015 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – C23002



Across the occupational distribution, Latino workers in Lawrence are least represented in white collar positions (11%). This pales in comparison to the statewide figure for Latinos of 23% working in white collar jobs. White, black, and Asian residents each have at least 20% of their workers in white collar positions. Finally, in Lawrence, Latinos are most likely to work in the service sector, while Asians are most likely to work in blue collar positions (Figure 9).

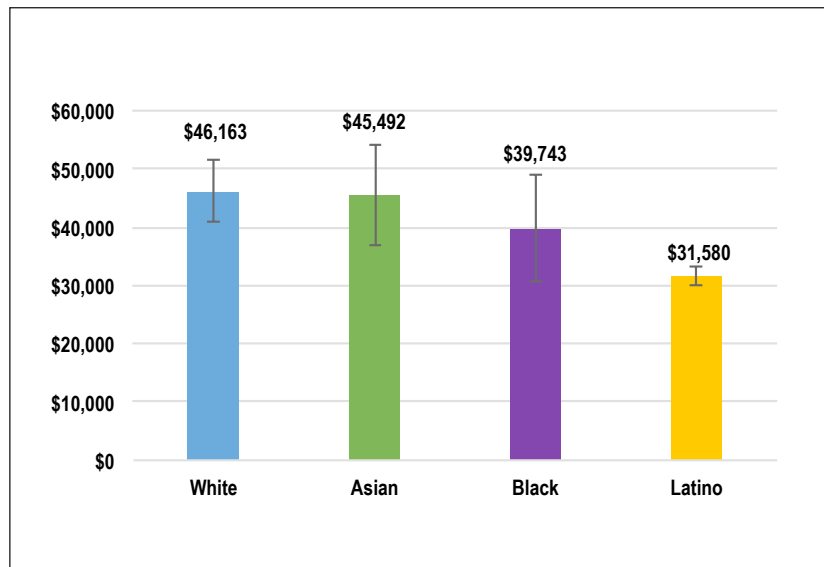
**Figure 9: Population Employed by Occupational Category by Ethno-Racial Group**



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

## Earnings

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



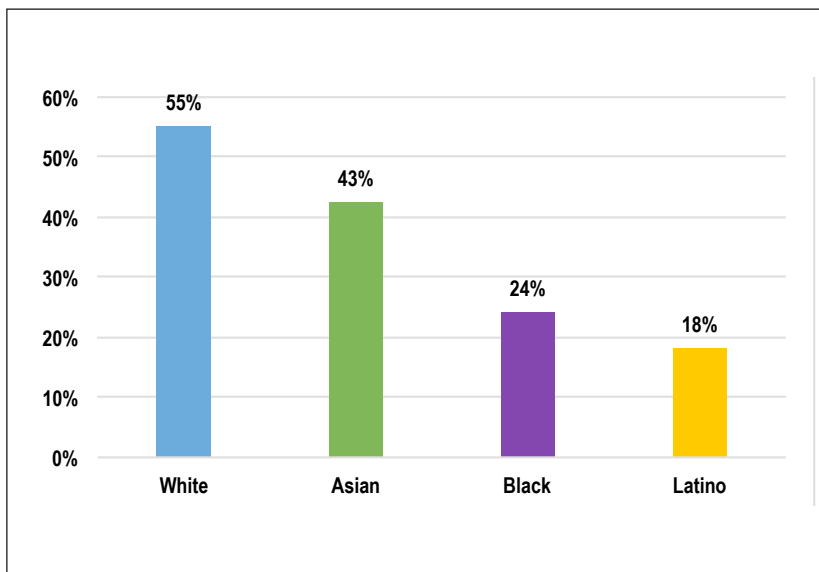
Source: 2011-2015 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – B19013

Household incomes in Lawrence are much lower than across the state. The median household income for the state of Massachusetts is \$68,563, compared to that of Lawrence, which is \$34,852. Within Lawrence, Latino residents have the lowest household income (\$31,580), roughly \$5,000 less than the statewide median for Latinos (\$36,171). Whites and Asians have the highest incomes, at \$46,163 and \$45,492, respectively. Black residents' incomes fall somewhere in the middle, with a median of \$39,743 (Figure 10).

## Housing Status and Medical Uninsurance

Like in many other towns and cities across the Commonwealth, homeownership rates vary significantly in the city of Lawrence. At the high end, white residents of Lawrence have a homeownership rate of 55%, compared to Latino residents, who have the lowest ownership rate, 18%. Statewide, the Latino ownership rate is 24%. Asians and blacks have ownership rates that fall between those of white and Latino residents, with Asians owning at a rate of 43% and blacks, 24% (Figure 11).

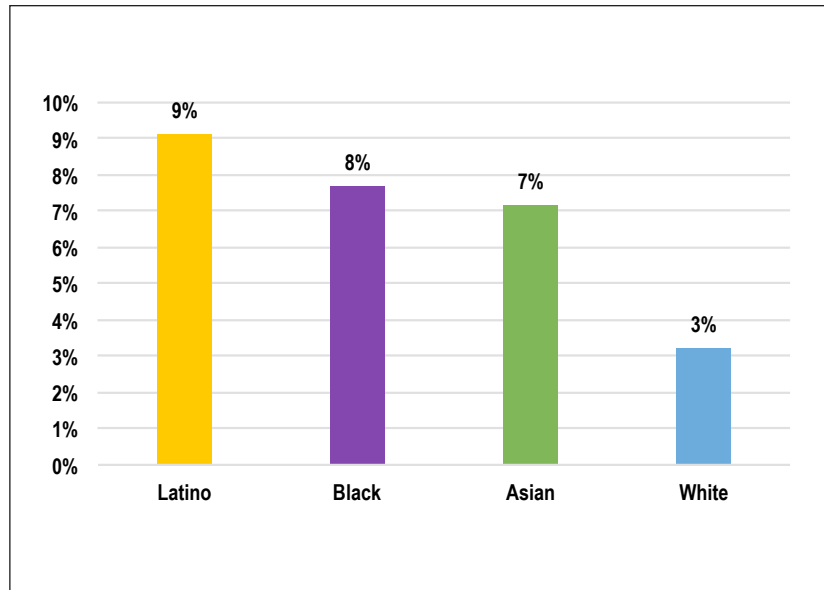
Figure 11: Homeownership Rates by Ethno-Racial Group



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

Latinos in Lawrence have a higher probability of lacking health insurance than any other group in the city. Where Latinos' uninsurance rate is 9%, for blacks it is 8%, for Asians it is 7%, and for whites it is 3% (Figure 12). Across the state, the Latino uninsurance rate is 3.6%.

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.