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### Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas: Brockton

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# Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas: Brockton

by Phillip Granberry, PhD, and Trevor Mattos

October, 2018

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THE MAURICIO GASTÓN INSTITUTE  
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### **Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas: Brockton**

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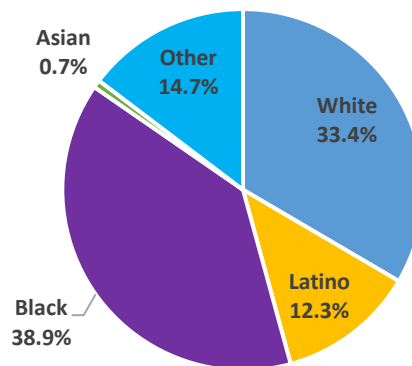
### **Brockton Overview**

## Latino Population

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The city of Brockton, Massachusetts is composed of a population of 95,623 residents, of whom 11,767 or 12% are Latino, according to the 2016 American Community Survey. The city's largest population is made up of black residents (39%), and white residents are the second largest ethno-racial group (33%). The share of Latinos (12%) is similar to their statewide population, which is 11% Latino. Brockton has a larger "other" population, which makes up 15% of the city's population (Figure 1). This group is largely made up of Cape Verdeans. With only 1% of the population, the Asian group will be omitted from the remainder of the report. This is because such a small sample will lead to especially large margins of error.

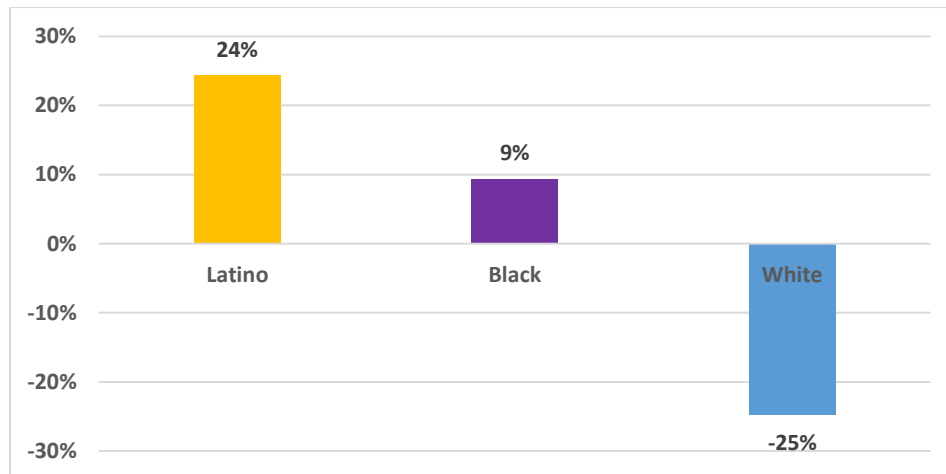
**Figure 1: Population Percentages by Ethno-Racial Group in Brockton**



Source: 2012-2016, 5- Year American Community Survey Estimates - B03002

Between 2010 and 2016, Brockton saw an increase in the size of the Latino population, from 9,465 to 11,767. This represents a 24% increase. Statewide, the Latino population grew by 25% during this same period. Meanwhile, the black population of Brockton grew by 9%, and the city's white population declined substantially (Figure 2).

**Figure 2: Population Change by Ethno-Racial Group from 2010 to 2016**

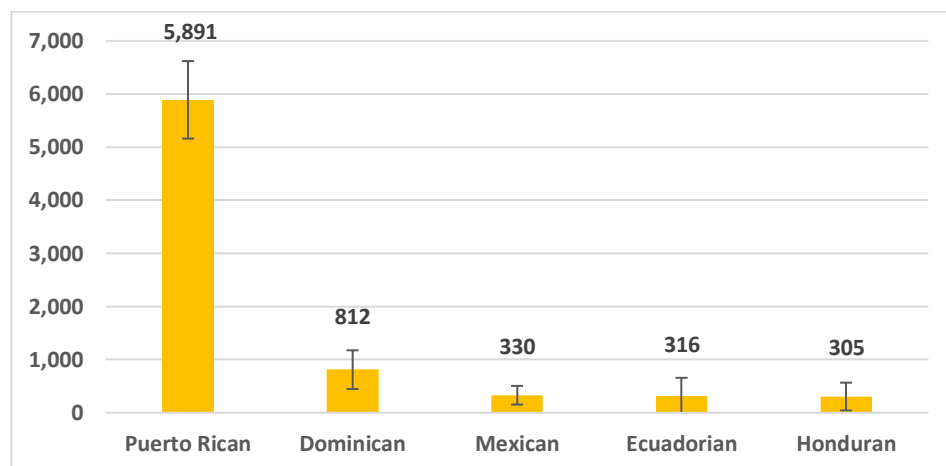


Source: 2012-2016 & 2006-2010, 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – B03002

The foreign-born share of the overall population in Brockton is notably larger than that of the state of Massachusetts. Brockton's population is 27% foreign-born, while Massachusetts' population overall is only 16% foreign-born. Figure 3, which breaks down the Latino population into national origins subgroups, however, includes both native-born and foreign-born Latino residents of Brockton.

The largest Latino subpopulation in Brockton is Puerto Ricans, with nearly 5,900 residents. Dominican, Mexican, Ecuadorian, and Honduran subpopulations are the next largest Latino subpopulations, though each number fewer than 1,000 (Figure 3). Statewide, the largest Latino subpopulations in descending order are Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Salvadorans, Mexicans, and Guatemalans.

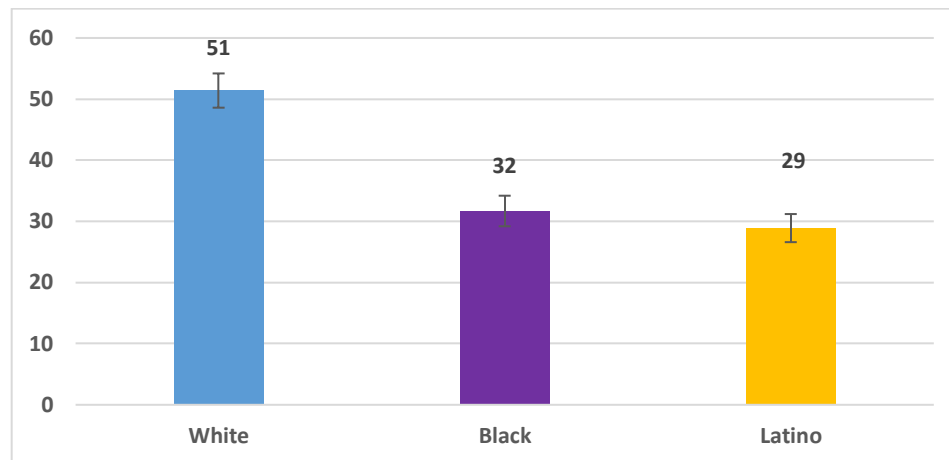
**Figure 3: Origin of the Top Latino or Latino Subpopulations**



Source: 2012-2016, 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – B03001

## Median Age & Marital Status

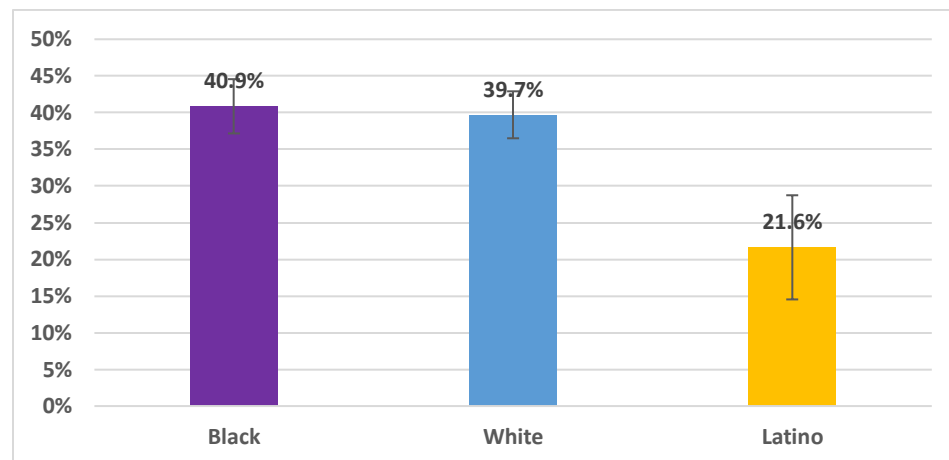
**Figure 4: Median Age by Ethno-Racial Group**



Source: 2016 1-Year American Community Survey Estimates – B01002

The age demographics in Brockton vary significantly across these ethno-racial groups. Whites are the oldest group both statewide and in Brockton. The median age for white residents in Brockton is 51 years, while that of Latinos, the youngest group, is 29 years. The median age for black residents is 32 years. Across the state, the median age for Latinos is slightly younger than in Brockton, at 27 years (Figure 4).

**Figure 5: Marriage Rates by Ethno-Racial Group (Ages 15 and older)**



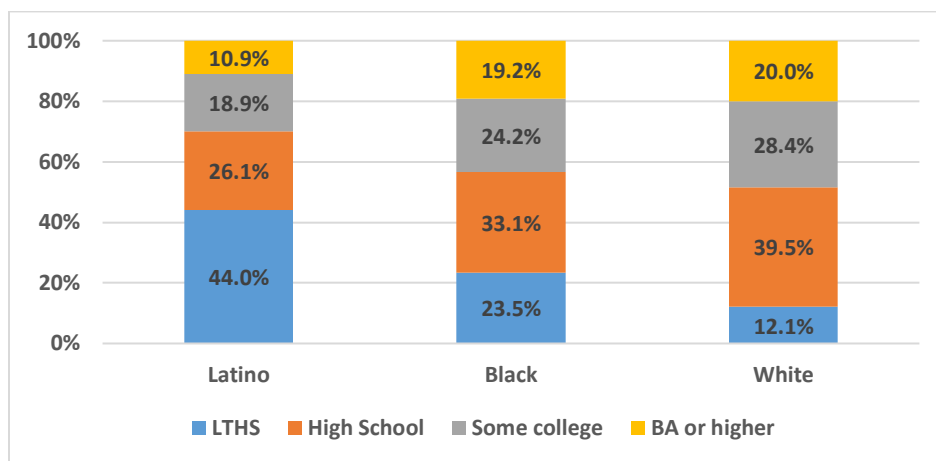
Source: 2012-2016, 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – B12002

Marriage rates are low in Brockton and particularly among Latinos. The marriage rate for Latinos is 22%, which is lower than their statewide marriage rate of 32%. At 41%, blacks have the highest marriage rate, which is lower than the marriage rate of 52% for the Massachusetts population overall (Figure 5).

## Education

In Brockton, Latinos have the largest share of residents who did not complete high school (44%). Whites have the lowest less than high school (LTHS) educated percentage of 12%. Degree holders, on the opposite end of the spectrum, are most heavily concentrated in the white (20%) and black (19%) populations. Latinos with a bachelor's degree or higher account for only 11% of Latinos 25 years and older in Brockton and 18% of Latinos across the state.

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

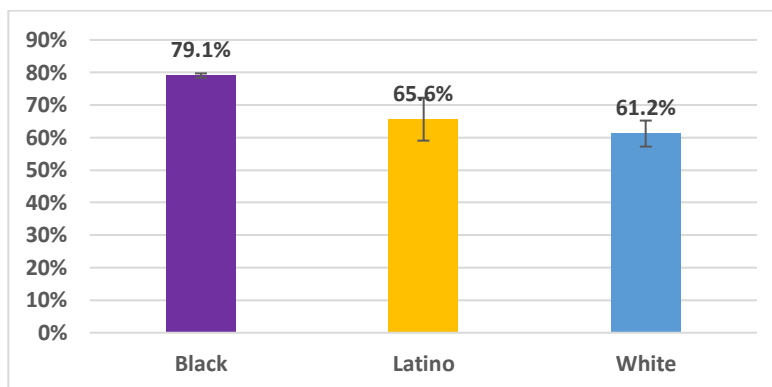


Source: 2016 1-Year American Community Survey Estimates – C15002

## Labor Force Participation

Labor force participation in Brockton (68%) matches the statewide participation rate. In the city, labor force participation is highest among black residents (79%), and lowest among white residents (61%). The Latino labor force participation in Brockton (66%) is quite similar to the Latino labor force participation rate at the state level (67%).

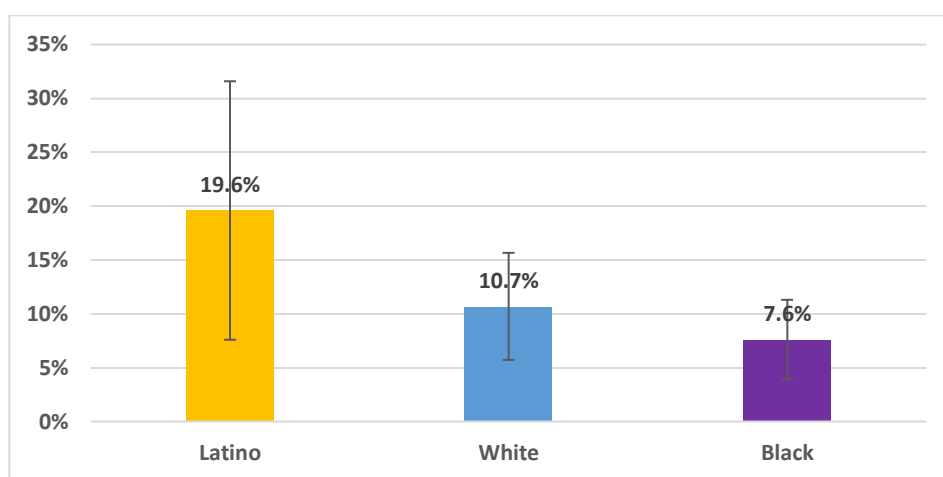
**Figure 7: Labor Force Participation among Individuals 16 Years and Older by Ethno-Racial Group**



Source: 2016 1-Year American Community Survey Estimates – C23002

The unemployment rate for Brockton was 11% in 2016. As in other parts of Massachusetts, unemployment is higher among Latino residents than among white residents. However, the unemployment rate for Latinos in Brockton is especially high, at 20% (Figure 8). Alternatively, black residents have a particularly low rate (8%), which is comparable to the overall state unemployment rate (7%). The Latino unemployment rate in Brockton is significantly higher than the statewide Latino rate of 11%.

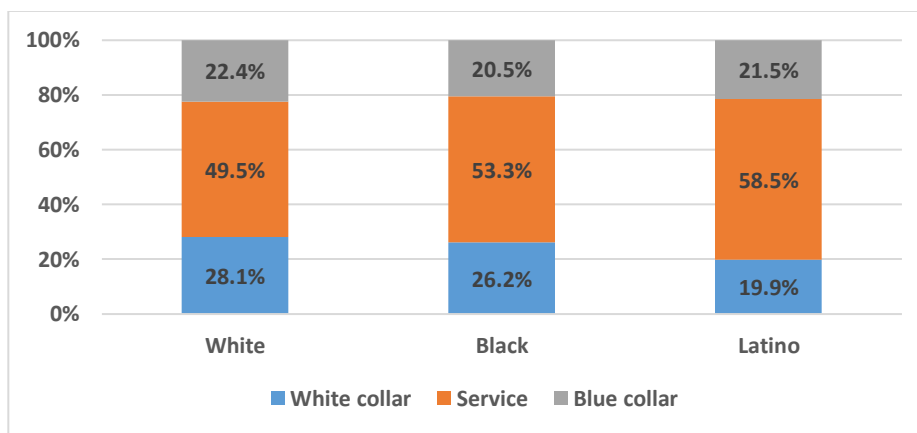
**Figure 8: Unemployment Rates by Ethno-Racial Group (ages 16+)**



Source: 2016 1-Year American Community Survey Estimates – C23002

Among those employed in Brockton, Latino residents are more likely to work in service-related occupations and less likely to work in white collar, managerial and professional, positions (Figure 9). This is similar to the statewide distribution of Latino workers, where 53% of Latinos work in service occupations and 24% of Latinos work in white-collar positions. White workers and black workers in Brockton are both less likely to work in services roles and more likely to work in white-collar positions than Latino workers.

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



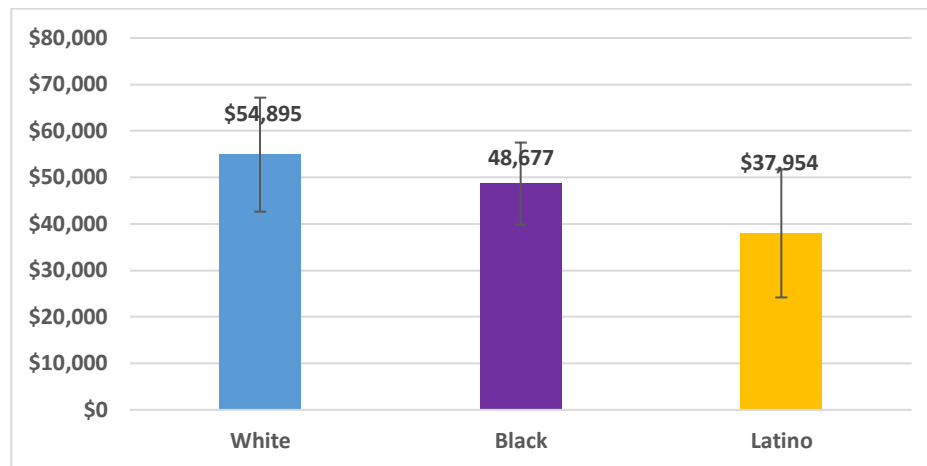
Source: 2012-2016, 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – C24010



## Income

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**Figure 10: Median Household Income by Ethno-Racial Group**



Source: 2016, 1-Year American Community Survey Estimates – S1903

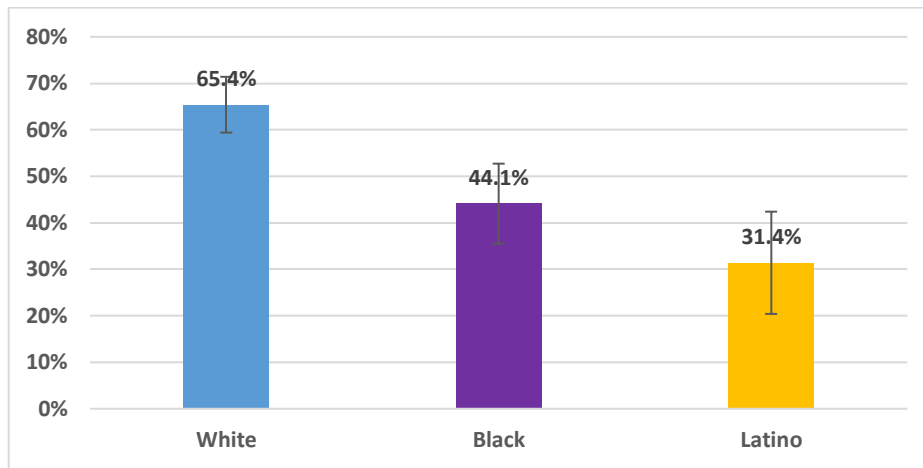
The median household income in Brockton is \$49,956, and is much lower than the statewide median household income of \$70,954. In Brockton, Latino households earn \$37,954. White households have the highest income (\$54,895), while black households have a median household income of \$48,677. Median household income for Latinos in Brockton is similar to that of Latinos across the state. For Massachusetts, Latinos' household income is \$37,100 (Figure 10).

## Housing Status and Medical Uninsurance

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Homeownership varies dramatically in Brockton, where white residents have the largest share (65%) who are homeowners, and Latino residents have the lowest share (31%). Across the state, the Latino homeownership share is 25%, indicating that Latinos in Brockton are faring better. The homeownership share among black residents of Brockton falls in the middle of the distribution, at 44%. Overall, disparities in homeownership imply substantial economic inequality among the major ethno-racial communities in Brockton.

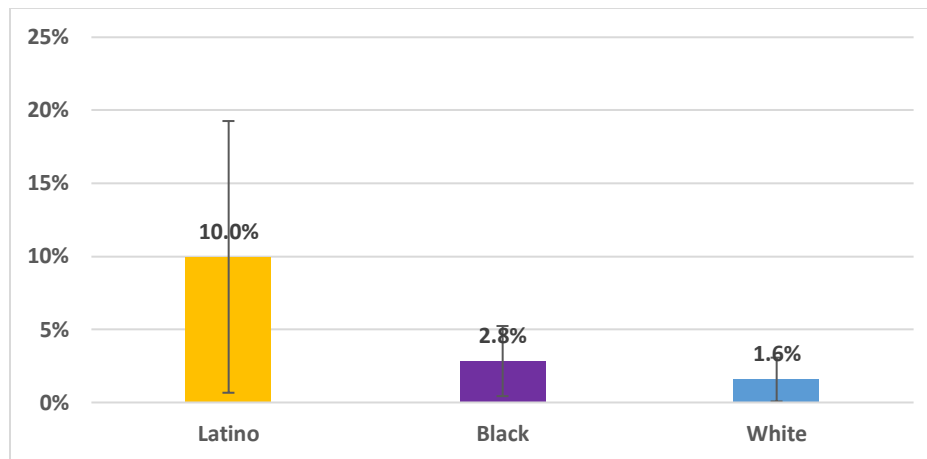
**Figure 11: Homeownership Rates by Ethno-Racial Group**



Source: 2016, 1-Year American Community Survey Estimates - B25003

The share of Brockton's residents without medical insurance is 4%. Latino residents have the highest share of uninsured in Brockton, at 10%. Uninsurance is relatively low for black and white residents. The uninsurance share for Latinos in Brockton is much higher than the statewide Latino uninsurance share (6.3%).

**Figure 12: Medical Uninsurance by Ethno-Racial Group**



Source: 2016, 1-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 produces demographic profiles and analysis for Latino communities throughout the Commonwealth.

Our descriptive analysis uses ACS data to estimate population size and characteristics in order to compare Latinos to other ethnoracial groups. Technically, these categories are non-Latino white, Black or African American alone,

and Asian alone, though they are identified as “white,” “black”, and “Asian” in these profiles. 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.

## 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.

**Trevor Mattos** holds a master of arts (M.A.) in applied economics from the University of Massachusetts Boston and a master of public policy (MPP) from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Trevor applies quantitative and qualitative research methodologies to a variety of economic and social policy issues. His current research focuses on the earnings of Latina immigrants in the United States, as well as other topics related to the economic conditions in Latinx communities.