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Recommended Citation

Granberry, Phillip and Mattos, Trevor, "Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas: Marlborough" (2018). *Gastón Institute Publications*. 233.

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Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas: Marlborough

by Phillip Granberry, PhD, and Trevor Mattos

October, 2018

THE MAURICIO GASTÓN INSTITUTE FOR
LATINO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
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10/17/2018

Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas: Marlborough

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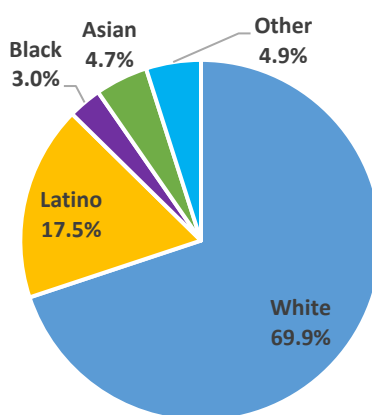
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Marlborough Overview

The Latino Population

The city of Marlborough, Massachusetts has 39,545 residents, of whom 6,902 are Latino, according to the 2012-2016 American Community Survey. While the city is majority non-Latino white (70%), Latinos make up the second largest ethno-racial group (17%), which is higher than the 11% Latino share of the statewide population. Black, Asian, and “other” populations collectively make up 13% of the city’s population (Figure 1). The “other” category includes the 2,902 Brazilians who live in Marlborough.

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

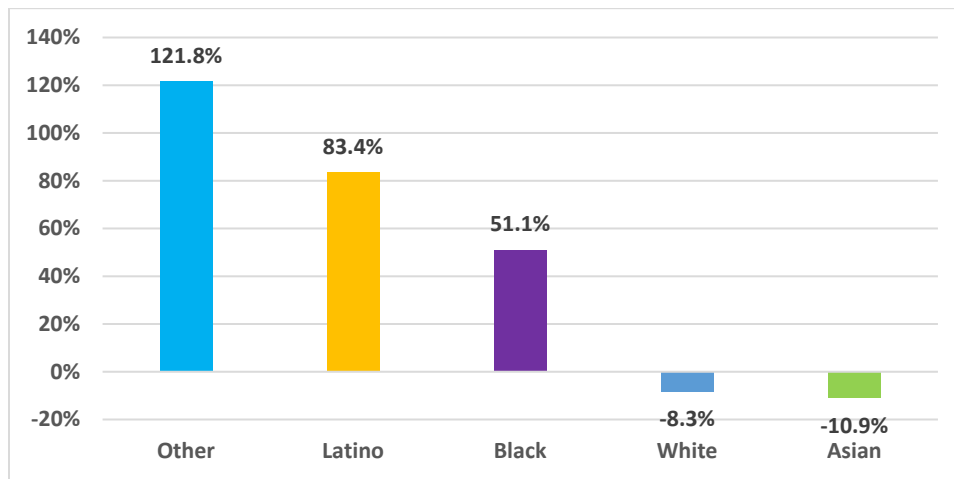


Source: 2012-2016, 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates - B03002

Between 2010 and 2016, Marlborough saw a significant jump in the size of the Latino population, from 3,763 to 6,902, representing an 83% increase. Statewide, the Latino population grew by 25% during this same period. The “Other” population of Marlborough grew by 17%, while the city’s white and Asian populations declined (Figure 2). This growth in the “Other” population may be related to the Brazilian population. Marlborough is geographically near Framingham, which has a Brazilian population of nearly 6,000. Thus, this growth of the Brazilian population may be related to migration within Middlesex County.

Marlborough has a larger share of its population that is foreign-born than does the Commonwealth. Marlborough is 25.4% foreign born, while Massachusetts is 15.7% 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 Marlborough.

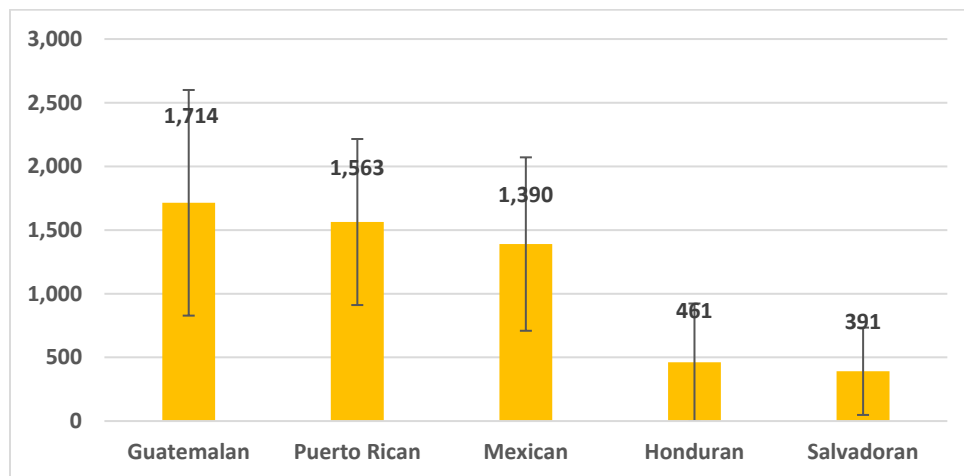
Figure 2: Population Change by Ethno-Racial Group from 2010 to 2016



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

The two largest Latino subpopulations in Marlborough are Guatemalan and Puerto Rican, with more than 1,700 and 1,500 residents respectively. Mexicans, Hondurans, and Salvadorans are the next largest Latino groups (Figure 3). Statewide, Puerto Ricans are the largest group, followed by Dominicans, Salvadorans, Mexicans, and Guatemalans.

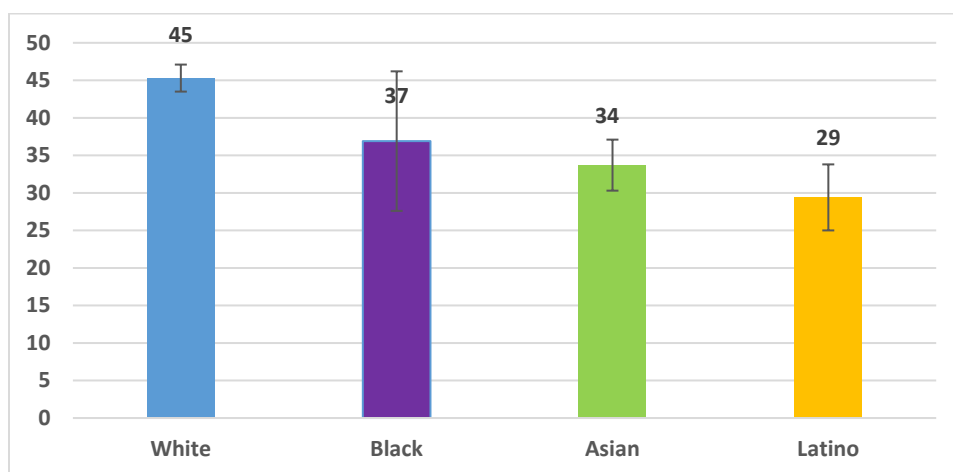
Figure 3: Origin of the Top Latino Subpopulations



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

Median Age and Marital Status

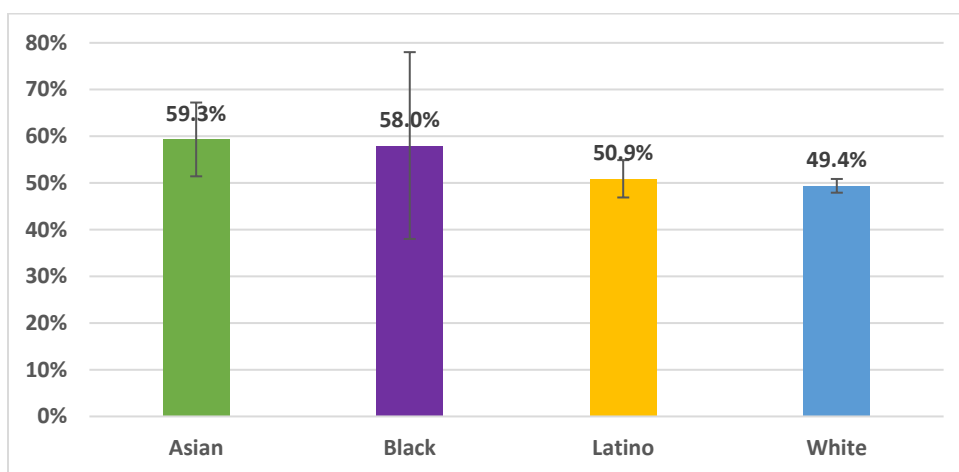
Figure 4: Median Age by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2012-2016, 5-Year ACS Estimates – B01002

The age demographics vary significantly across these ethno-racial groups. Whites are the oldest population both statewide and in Marlborough. The median age for whites in Marlborough is 45 years, while that of Latinos, the youngest group, is 29 years. Across the state, the median age for Latinos is slightly younger than in Marlborough, at 27 years. Asians and blacks fall between the median ages of the whites and Latinos (Figure 4).

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



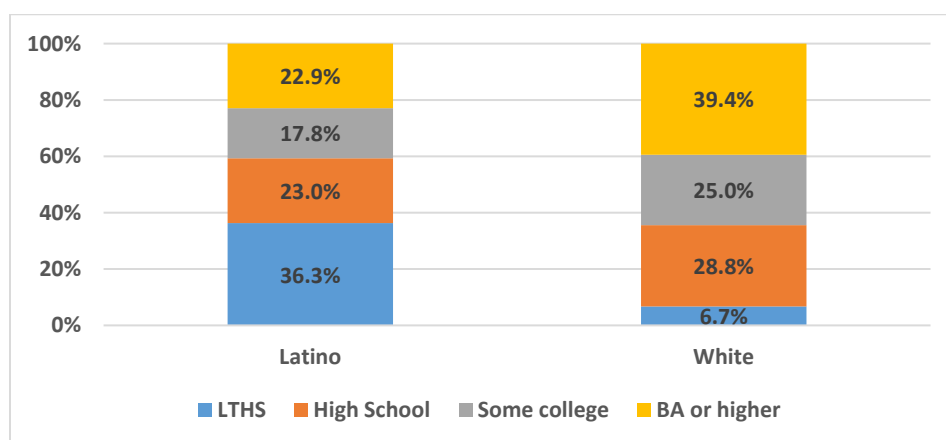
Source: 2012-2016, 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – B12002

Marriage rates are highest among Asians and lowest among whites in Marlborough. The marriage rate for Latinos is 51%, which is higher than their statewide marriage rate of 32%. Asians have the highest marriage rate of 59% followed by blacks (58%), which are both higher than the Massachusetts marriage rate of 52% (Figure 5).

Education

In Marlborough, Latinos have a larger share of residents who did not complete high school (36%) than whites (7%). College degree holders, at the opposite end of the spectrum, are most heavily concentrated among whites (39%), while 23% of Latino adults have a bachelor's degree or higher. The statewide Latino percentage is lower, at 18%. The Asian and black margin of errors are large for these educational categories, and the data are not reported.

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

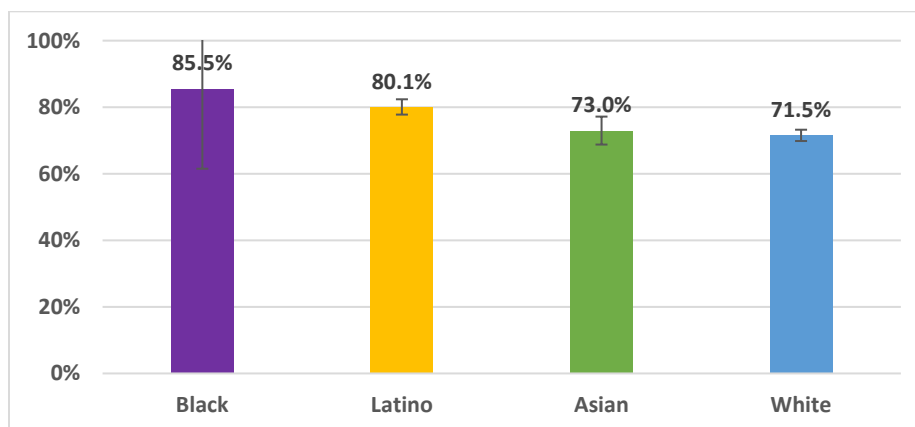


Source: 2012-2016, 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – C15002

Labor Force Participation

Labor force participation in Marlborough is highest among blacks (86%), and lowest among whites (72%), while the Latino rate is 80% (Figure 7). Latino labor force participation statewide, at 67%, is lower than in Marlborough.

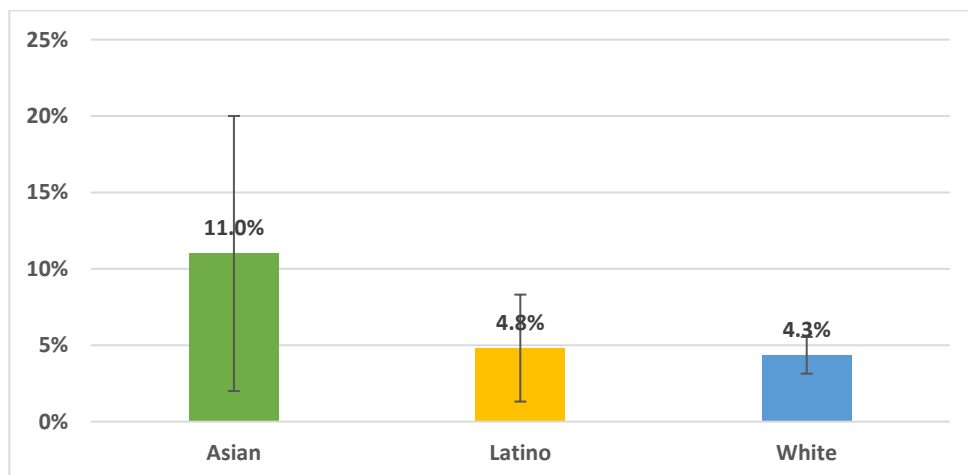
Figure 7: Labor Force Participation among Individuals 16 Years and Older by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2012-2016, 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – C23002

The Latino unemployment rate in Marlborough, at 4.8%, is much lower than the statewide Latino rate of 11%. Asians have the highest unemployment rate in Marlborough (11%), while whites have a slightly lower 4.3% rate (Figure 8).

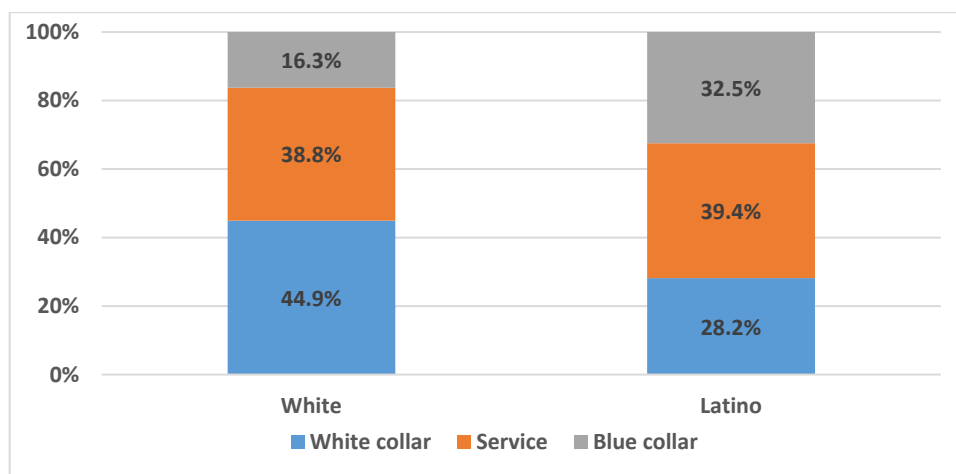
Figure 8: Unemployment Rates by Ethno-Racial Group (ages 16+)



Source: 2012-2016, 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – C23002

Latino residents in Marlborough are more likely than whites to work in blue-collar occupations (32% compared to 16%) and less likely to work in white collar, managerial and professional, positions (28% compared to 45%). Both populations have similar shares, 39%, working in service occupations (Figure 9).

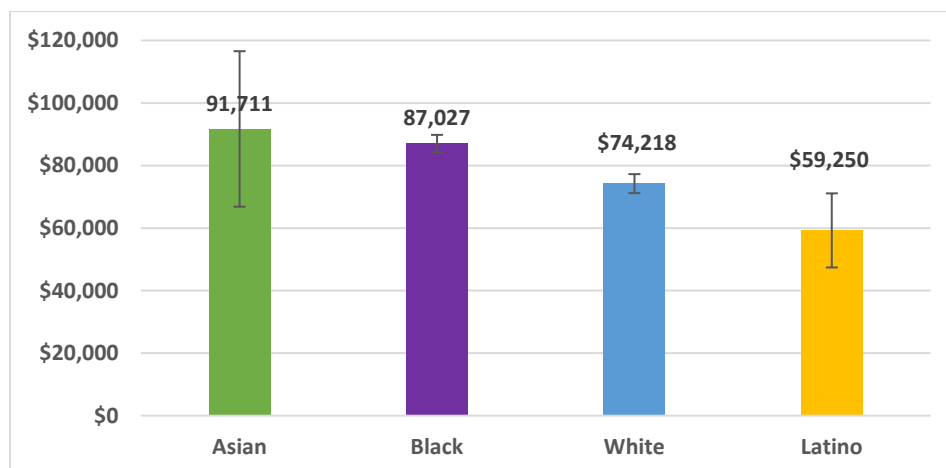
Figure 9: Population Employed by Occupational Category by Ethno-Racial Group



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

Income

Figure 10: Median Household Income by Ethno-Racial Group



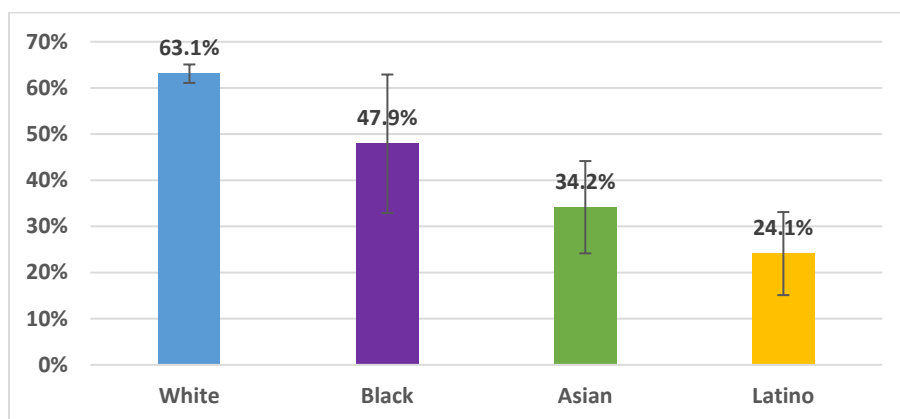
Source: 2012-2016, 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – S1903

The median household income in Marlborough is \$72,222, compared to the statewide median of \$70,945. Asian households have the highest income (\$91,711). In Marlborough, Latino households earn \$59,250, which is the lowest of these four populations (Figure 10). However, this income for Latinos in Marlborough is much higher than their statewide median household income of \$37,100.

Housing Status and Medical Uninsurance

Homeownership varies dramatically in Marlborough, where whites have the highest share (63%) who are homeowners, and Latino residents have the lowest share (24%). Across the state, the Latino homeownership share is 25%, indicating that Latinos in Marlborough are not faring as well in housing as their median income might suggest they would.

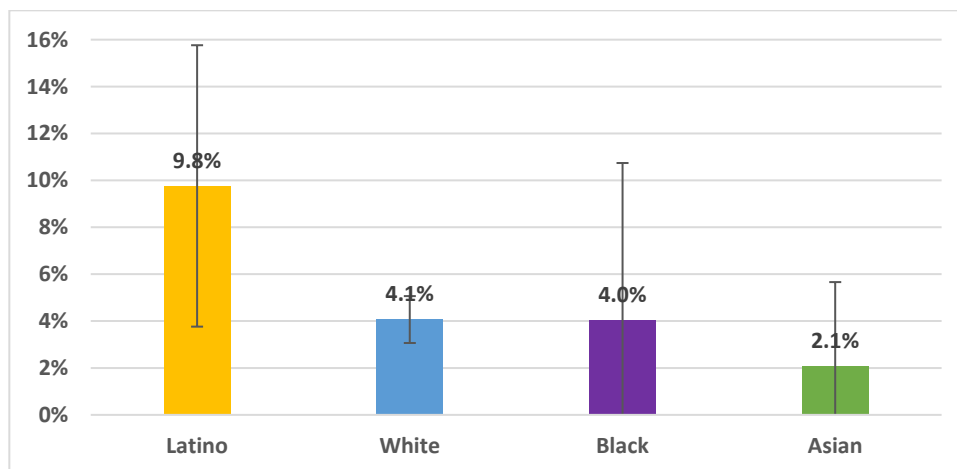
Figure 11: Homeownership Rates by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2012-2016, 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates - B25003

Latinos have the highest share of medical uninsurance in Marlborough at 9.8%. There is a large margin of error with this estimate, but this share is higher than the 6.3% medical uninsurance share among Latinos statewide.

Figure 12: Medical Uninsurance by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2012-2016, 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 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.