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Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas: Taunton

by Phillip Granberry, PhD, and Trevor Mattos

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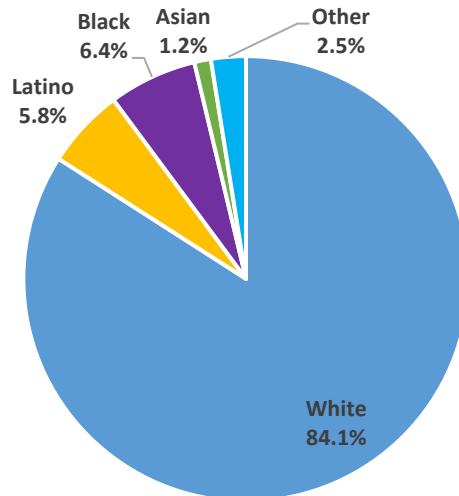
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Taunton Overview

The Latino Population

The city of Taunton, Massachusetts is home to 56,504 residents, of whom 3,272 are Latino, according to the 2012-2016 American Community Survey. The city is majority non-Latino white (84%), and blacks (6.4%) and Latinos (5.8%) compose the second and third largest ethno-racial groups. This share of Latinos is lower than for their statewide population, which is 11%.

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

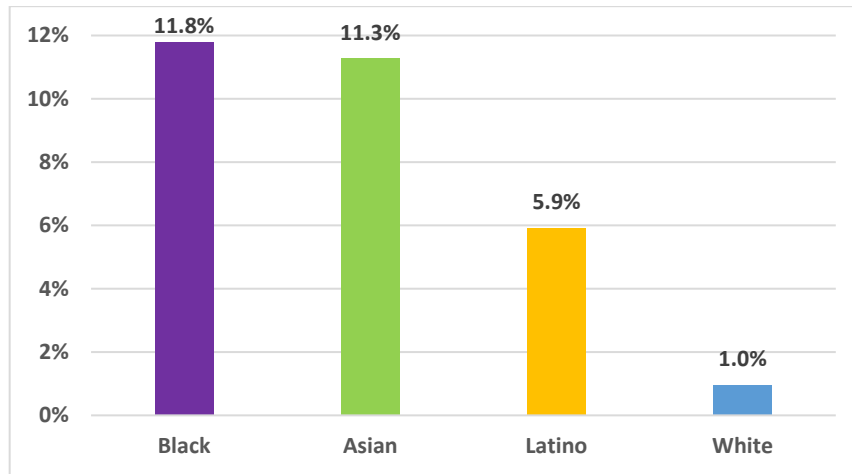


Source: 2012-2016, 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates - B03002

The ethno-racial composition of Taunton is relatively stable. Between 2010 and 2016, Taunton saw a 6% increase in its Latino population. In comparison, statewide, the Latino population grew by 25% during this same period. The black population of Taunton grew by 12%, while the city's Asian population grew by 11%. Taunton's white population increased by 1% (Figure 2).

Taunton has a smaller share of its population that is foreign-born than does the Commonwealth. Taunton is 11.7% 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 Taunton.

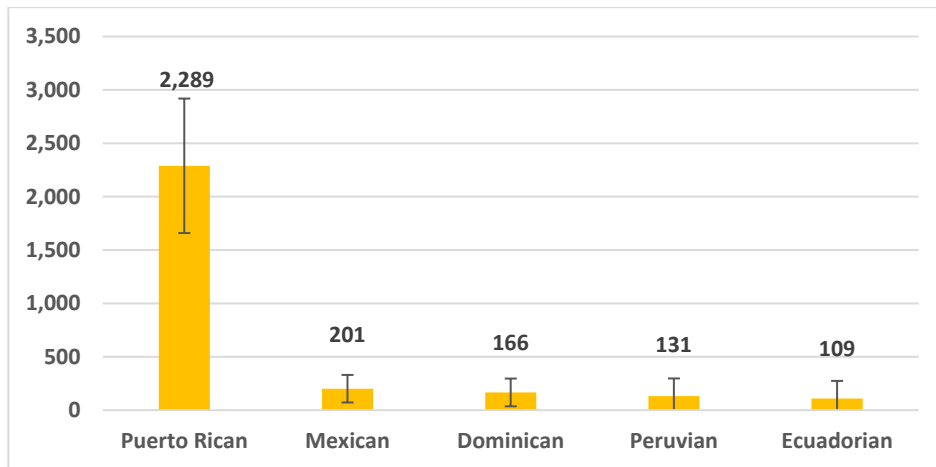
Figure 2: Population Change by Ethno-Racial Group from 2010 to 2016



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

Taunton’s Latino population is predominately Puerto Rican. Mexicans, Dominican, Peruvians, and Ecuadorians are the next largest Latino groups, though each number fewer than 200 residents (Figure 3). Statewide, Puerto Ricans are the largest group, followed by Dominicans, Salvadorans, Mexicans, and Guatemalans.

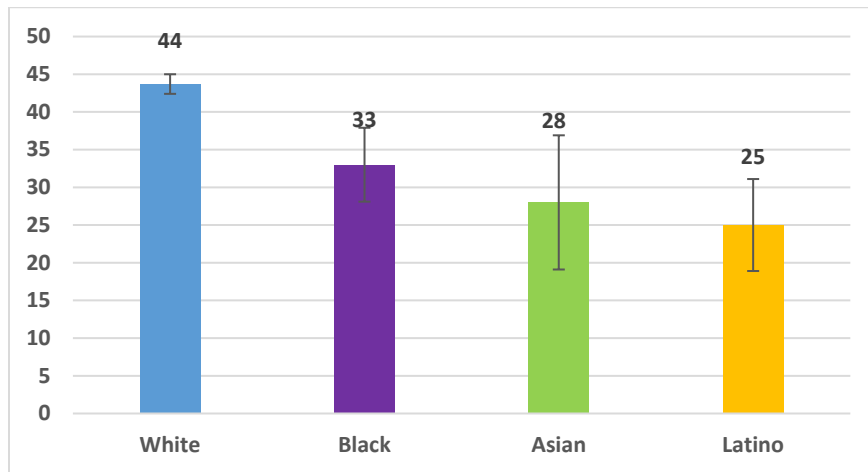
Figure 3: Origin of the Top Latino or Latino Subpopulations



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

Median Age and Marital Status

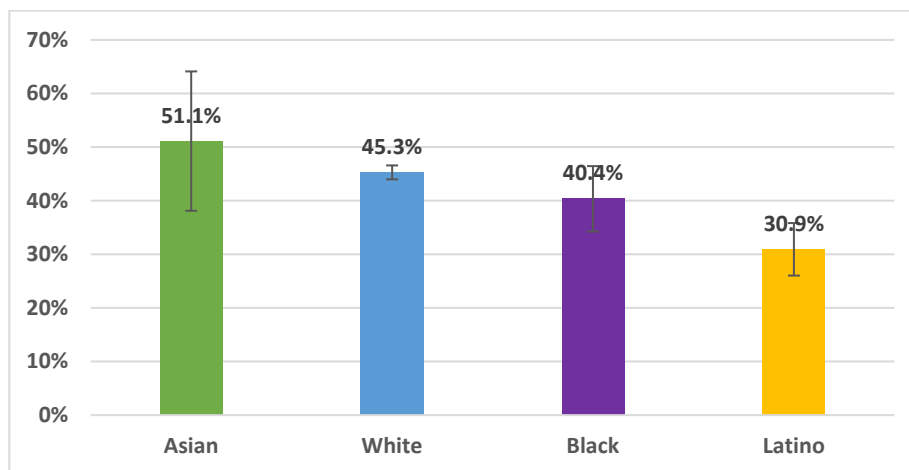
Figure 4: Median Age by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2012-2016, 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – B01002

The age demographics vary significantly across these ethno-racial groups. Whites are the oldest population both statewide and in Taunton. The median age for whites in Taunton is 44 years, while that of Latinos, the youngest group, is 25 years. Across the state, the median age for Latinos is older than Taunton, at 27 years. Blacks and Asians fall between the median ages of the whites and Latinos (Figure 4).

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



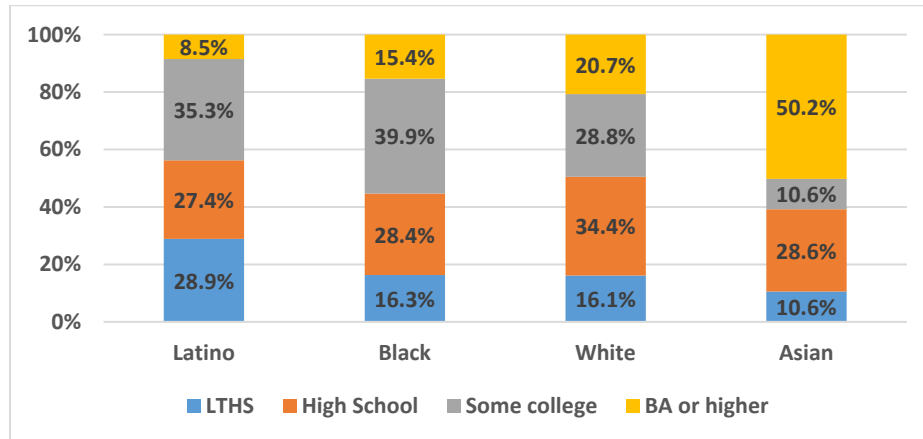
Source: 2012-2016, 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – B12002

Marriage rates are highest among Asians and lowest among Latinos in Taunton. The marriage rate for Latinos is 31%, which is similar to their statewide marriage rate of 32%. Only Asians have a marriage rate near the statewide rate of 52% (Figure 5).

Education

Similar to Latinos statewide, Latinos in Taunton have lower levels of educational attainment. Approximately 29% of Latinos have less than a high school education, which is slightly less than the 31% of Latinos statewide. On the opposite end of the spectrum, 8.5% of Latinos have a Bachelor's degree or higher compared to 18% of Latinos statewide. A larger share of the Asian population has a Bachelor's degree or higher, followed by whites and blacks.

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

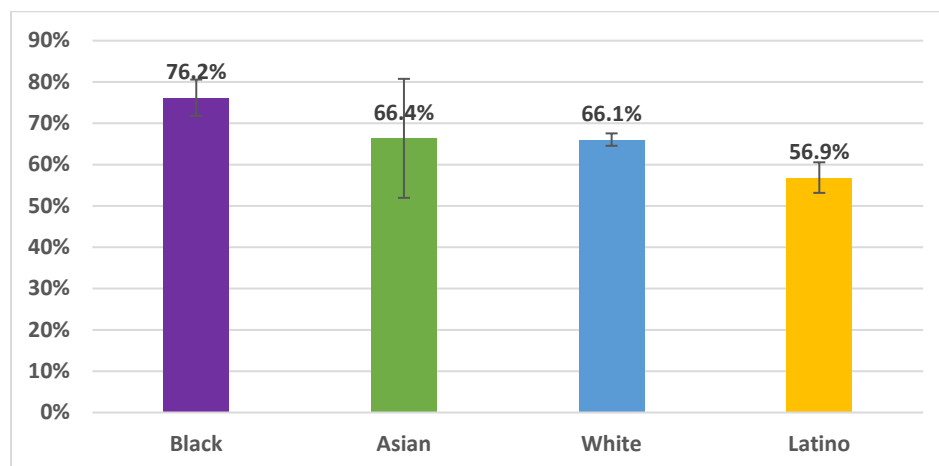


Source: 2012-2016, 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – C15002

Labor Force Participation

Labor force participation in Taunton is lowest among Latinos (57%), and highest among blacks (76%). The Latino labor force participation (Figure 7) is much lower in Taunton than for Latinos statewide (67%).

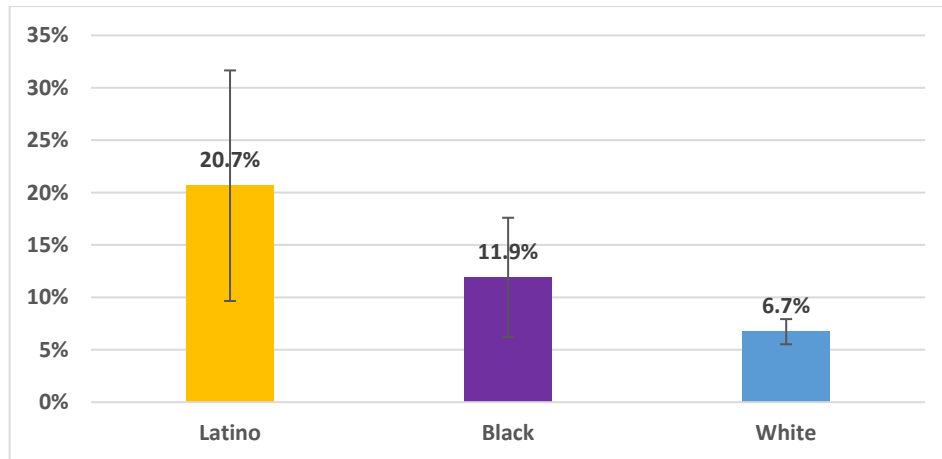
Figure 7: Labor Force Participation among Individuals 16 Years and Older by Ethno-Racial Group



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

The unemployment rate in Taunton, much as in other parts of Massachusetts, is higher for Latinos than for whites. Latino unemployment rate is 21%, while it is 7% for whites (Figure 8). The Latino unemployment rate in Taunton is above the statewide Latino rate of 11.5%. Statewide in Massachusetts during this period, unemployment was 6.8%.

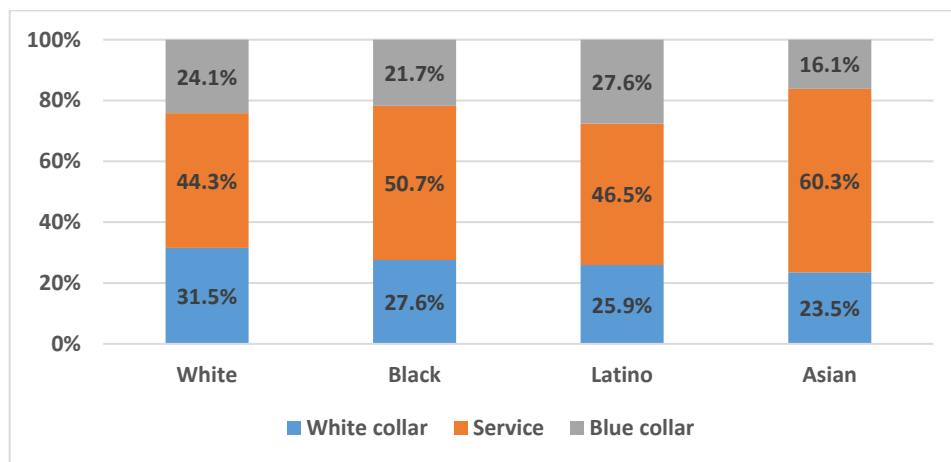
Figure 8: Unemployment Rates by Ethno-Racial Group (ages 16+)



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

Latino residents in Taunton are more likely to work in service-related occupations (47%) and have a similar share of their labor force work in white-collar, managerial and professional, (26%) and blue-collar (28%) positions. This distribution of the occupations among Latinos is similar to the statewide distribution in which 52% of Latinos work in service occupations and 23% of whom work in white-collar positions.

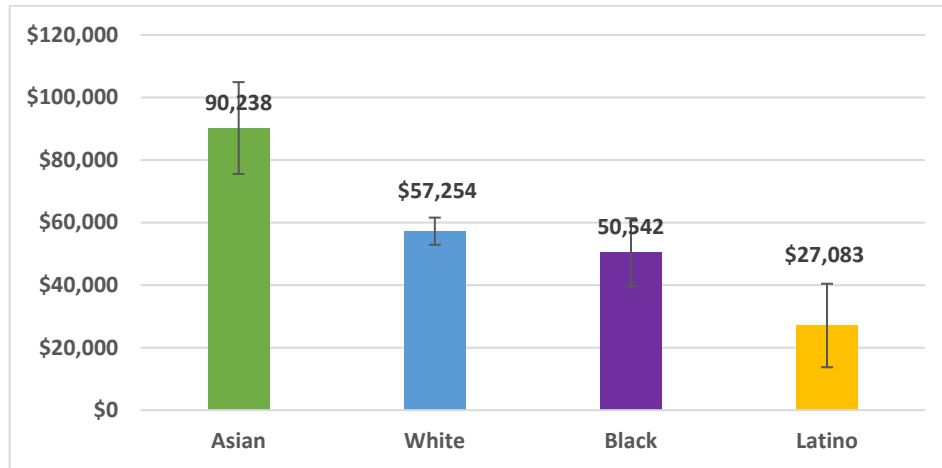
Figure 9: Population Employed by Occupational Category by Ethno-Racial Group



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

Income

Figure 10: Median Household Income by Ethno-Racial Group



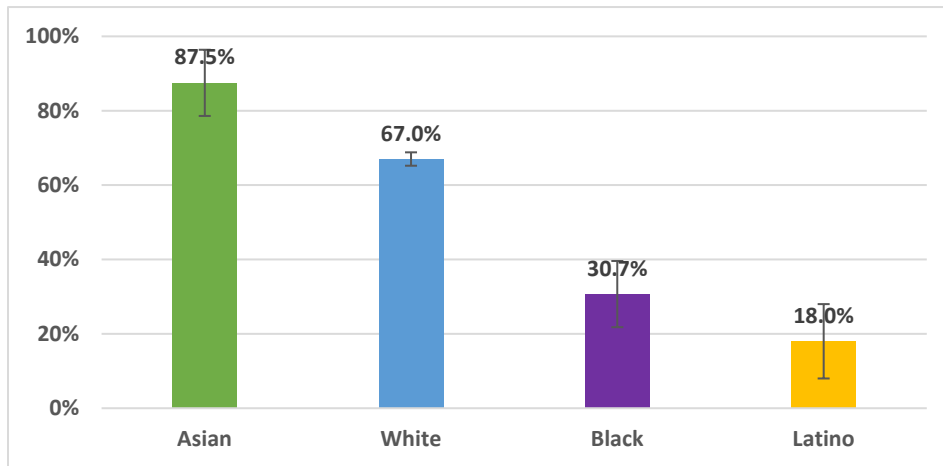
Source: 2012-2016, 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – S1903

The median household income in Taunton is \$54,785, compared to the statewide median of \$70,945. In Taunton, Latino households earn \$27,083. Asian households have the highest income (\$90,238), followed by whites (\$57,254) and blacks (\$50,542). Latinos earn less in Taunton than they do statewide. For Massachusetts, their household income is \$37,100 (Figure 10).

Housing Status and Medical Uninsurance

Homeownership varies dramatically in Taunton, where Asians have the highest share (88%) who are homeowners. Not surprisingly with their lower median income, Latinos have the lowest share (18%) of homeowners. Across the Commonwealth, 25% of Latino households are homeowners.

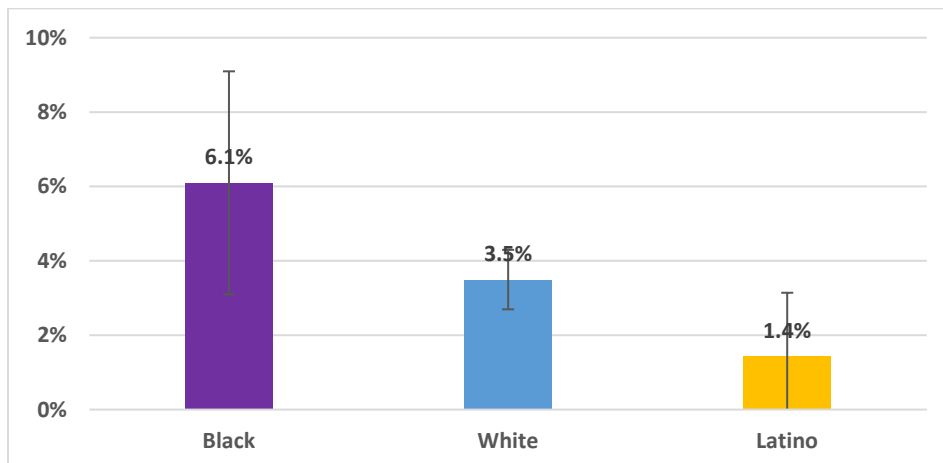
Figure 11: Homeownership Rates by Ethno-Racial Group



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

Disparities exist in health insurance coverage among these populations. The uninsurance share for Latinos is 1.4%, much lower than the statewide Latino share (6.3%). Lack of coverage is higher among blacks and whites.

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.