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## Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas: Watertown

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# Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas: Watertown

by Phillip Granberry, PhD, and Trevor Mattos

October, 2018

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

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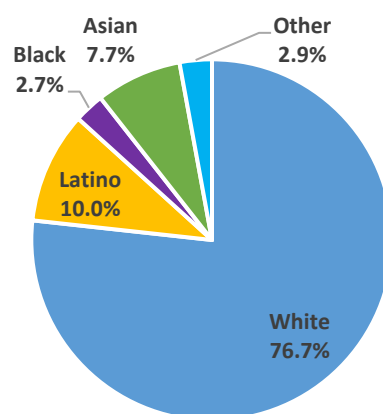
### Watertown Overview

## The Latino Population

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The city of Watertown, Massachusetts is home to 33,849 residents, of whom 3,382 are Latino, according to the 2012-2016 American Community Survey. The city is majority non-Latino white (77%), though Latinos make up the second largest ethno-racial group (10%). This share of Latinos is slightly lower than the statewide population, which is 11%. Asians, make up 8% of the city's population (Figure 1). Watertown is geographically located in the metropolitan Boston area, which has a similar 10.8% share of its population Latino.

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

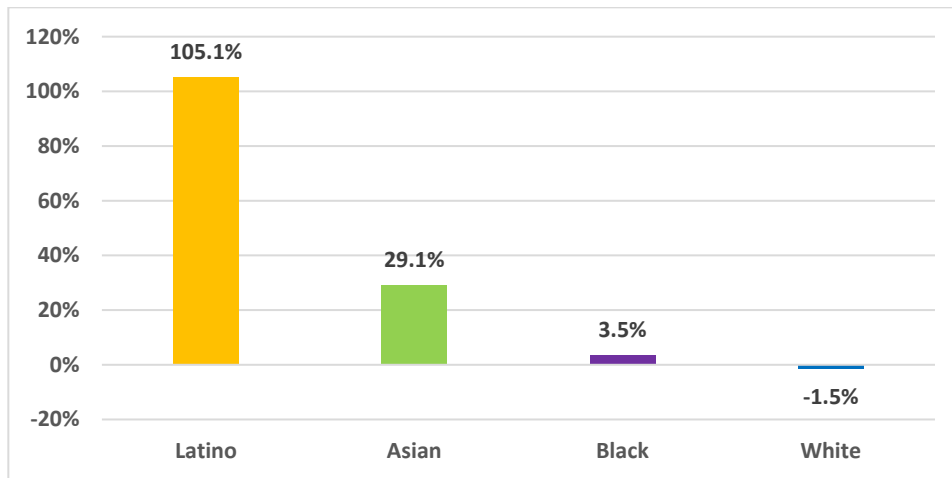


Source: 2012-2016, 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates - B03002

Between 2010 and 2016, Watertown saw a significant increase in its Latino population, from 1,649 to 3,382, which is a 105% increase. Statewide, the Latino population grew by 25% during this same period. The Asian population of Watertown grew by 29%, while the city's black population grew by 4%. Watertown's white population declined by 2% (Figure 2).

Watertown has a larger share of its population that is foreign-born than does the Commonwealth. Watertown is 20.2% 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 Watertown.

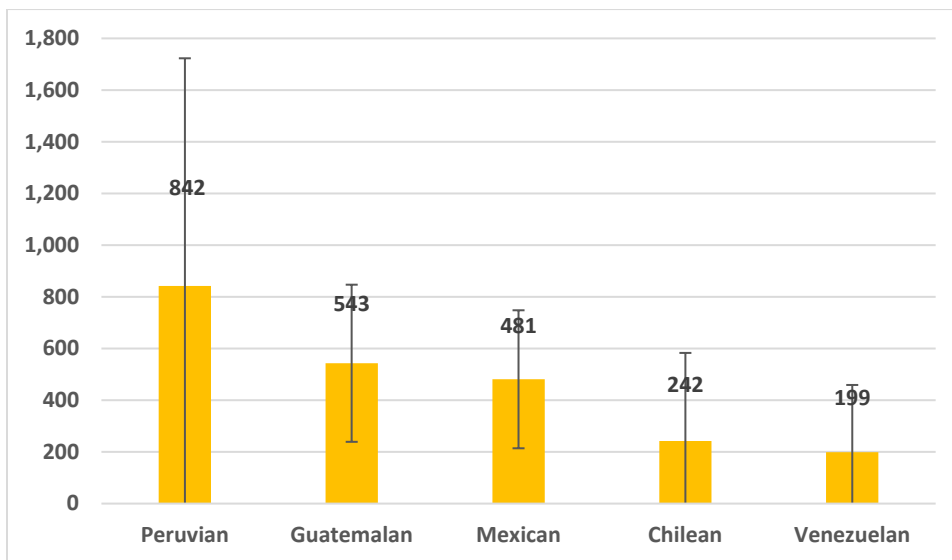
**Figure 2: Population Change by Ethno-Racial Group from 2010 to 2016**



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

Watertown does not have a dominate Latino subpopulation. The largest Latino subpopulation is Peruvian, with 842 residents. Guatemalans, Mexicans, Chileans, and Venezuelans are the next largest Latino groups, though each number fewer than 600 residents (Figure 3). Statewide, Puerto Ricans are the largest group, followed by Dominicans, Salvadorans, Mexicans, and Guatemalans.

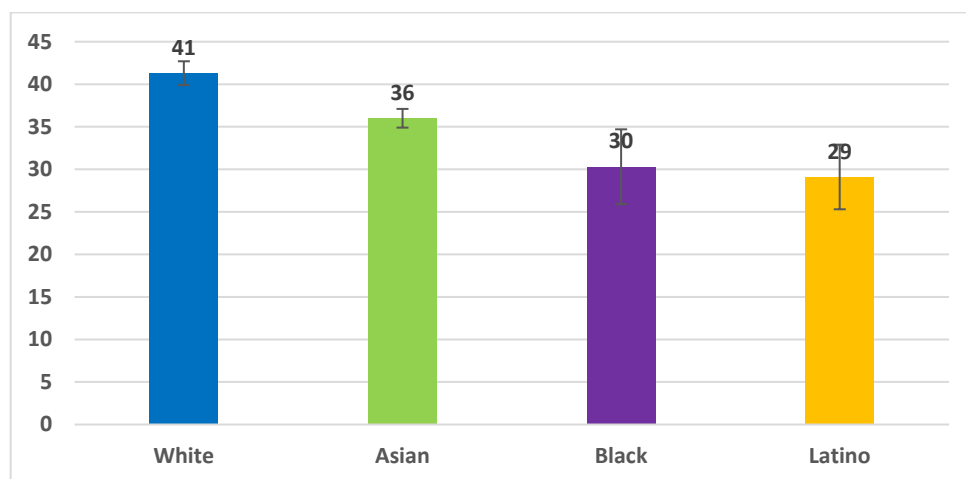
**Figure 3: Origin of the Top Latino or Latino Subpopulations**



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

## Median Age and Marital Status

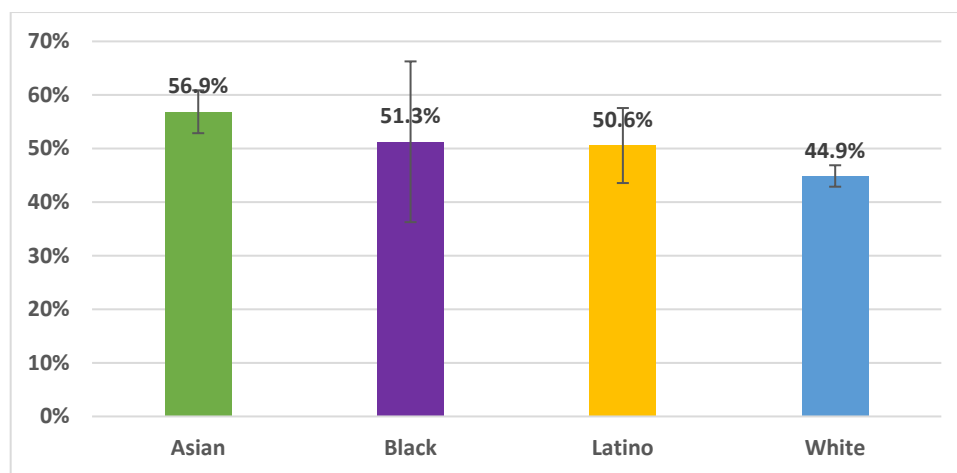
Figure 4: Median Age by Ethno-Racial Group



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

The age demographics vary significantly across the ethno-racial groups. Whites are the oldest population both statewide and in Watertown. The median age for whites in Watertown is 41 years, while that of Latinos, the youngest group, is 29 years. Across the state, the median age for Latinos is younger than Watertown, 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)



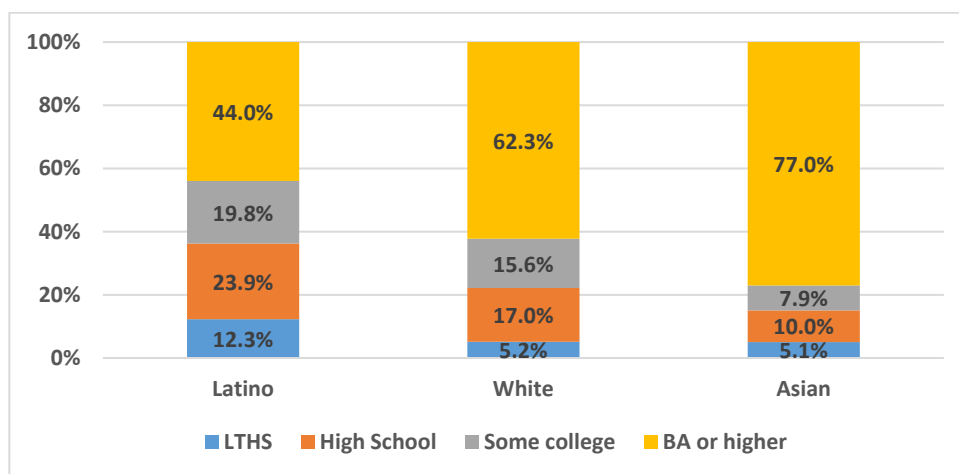
Source: 2012-2016, 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – B12002

Marriage rates are highest among Asians and lowest among whites in Watertown. The marriage rate for Latinos is 51%, which is significantly larger than their statewide marriage rate of 32%. For all but whites, these marriage rates are similar to the statewide marriage rate of 52% (Figure 5).

## Education

Similar to the other ethno-racial groups in Watertown, Latinos have increased levels of educational attainment. Only 12% of Latinos did not complete high school (LTHS) compared to 31% of Latinos statewide. On the opposite end of the spectrum, 44% of Latinos have a Bachelor's degree or higher compared to 18% of Latinos statewide. Both whites and Asians have large shares of their population with a Bachelor's degree or higher. We do not include estimates for blacks because the margin of errors are too large when this smaller adult population is divided into these four educational categories.

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

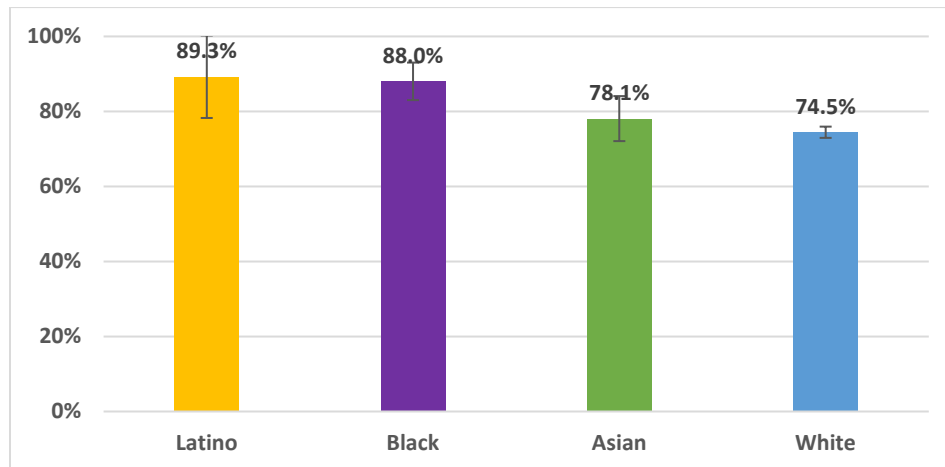


Source: 2012-2016, 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – C15002

## Labor Force Participation

Labor force participation in Watertown is highest among Latinos (89%) and lowest among whites (74%). The Latino labor force participation (Figure 7) is much higher in Watertown than for Latinos statewide (67%).

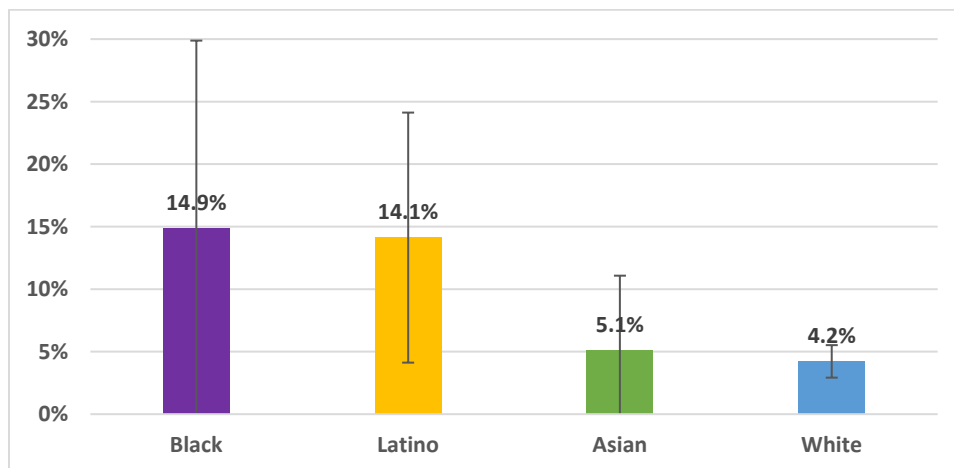
**Figure 7: Labor Force Participation among Individuals 16 Years and Older by Ethno-Racial Group**



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

The unemployment rates in Watertown, much as in other parts of Massachusetts, are higher for Latinos and blacks than for whites and Asians. Latinos and blacks have the highest unemployment rates (14.1% & 14.9%), while Asians and whites have the lowest (5.1% & 4.2%). The Latino unemployment rate in Watertown is above the statewide Latino rate of 11.5%. Statewide in Massachusetts during this period, unemployment was 6.8% (Figure 8).

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

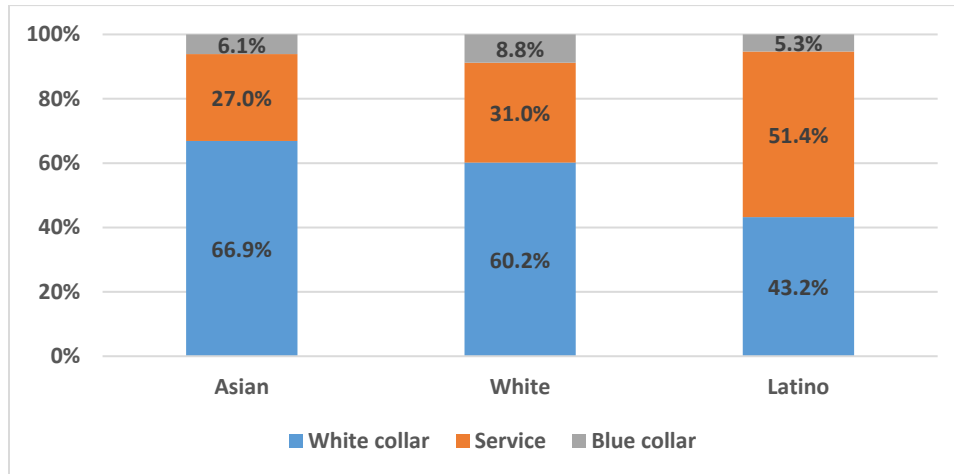


Source: 2012-2016, 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – C23002

Latino residents in Watertown are more likely to work in service-related occupations (51%) but have a larger share of its labor force to work in white-collar, managerial and professional, positions (43%) than in many other cities. This distribution of the occupations among Latinos is similar to their statewide distribution in that 52% of Latinos work in service occupations but differs in that only 23% of Latinos work in white-collar positions.



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

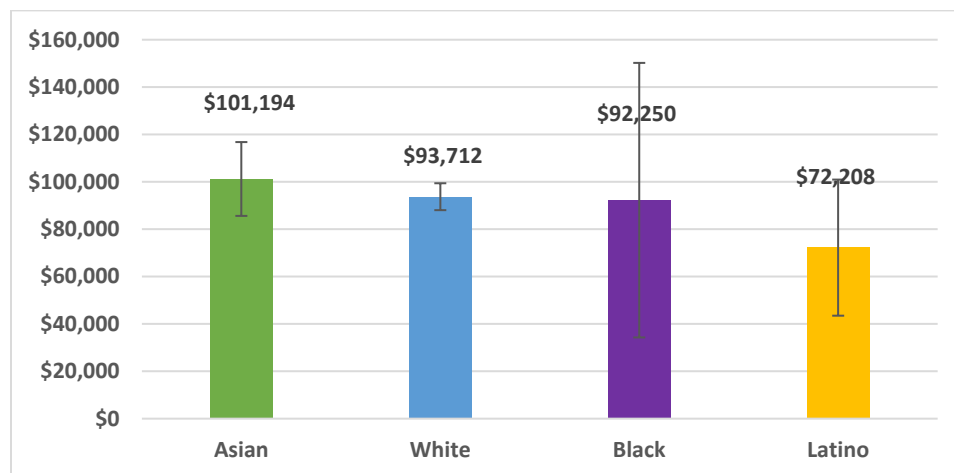


Source: 2012-2016, 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – C24010

## Income

The median household income in Watertown is \$92,050, compared to the statewide median of \$70,945. In Watertown, Latino households earn \$72,208. Asian households have the highest income (\$101,194). We note the large margin of error for Latino income, but Latinos earn more in Watertown than they do statewide. For Massachusetts, their median household income is \$37,100 (Figure 10).

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

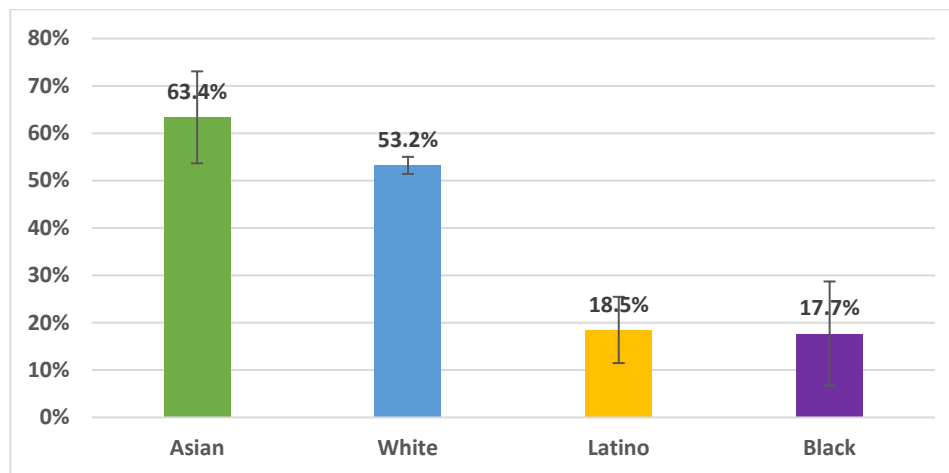


Source: 2012-2016, 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – S1903

## Housing Status and Medical Insurance

Homeownership varies dramatically in Watertown, where Asians have the highest share (63%) owning a home. Even with their higher median income, Latinos have a lower homeownership share (18%). Across the state, the Latino homeownership share is 25%. Thus, if the Latino population would continue to grow in Watertown, homeownership could be one indication of their ability to become more integrated into the city.

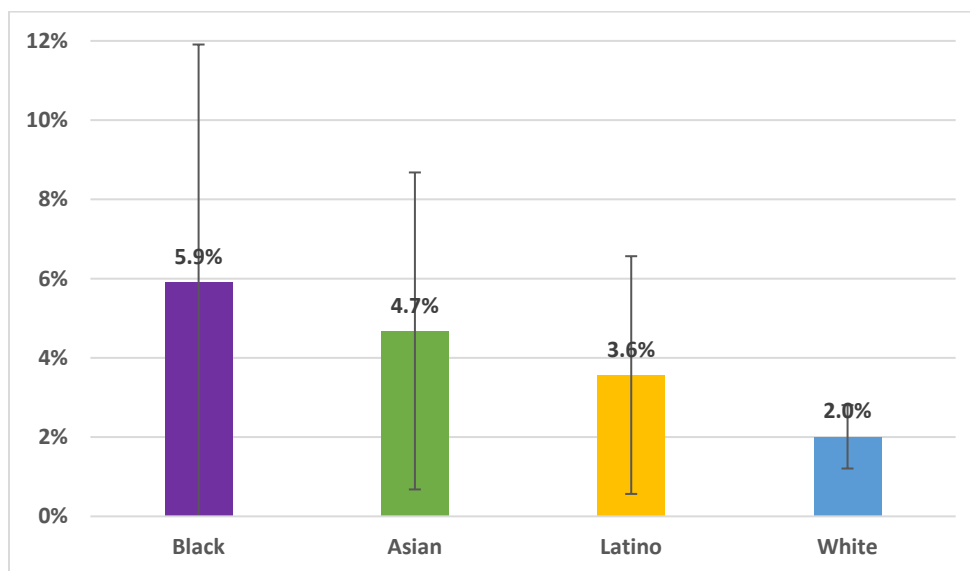
**Figure 11: Homeownership Rates by Ethno-Racial Group**



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

Disparities exist in health insurance coverage among these population. The uninsurance share for Latinos in Watertown is 3.6%, much lower than the statewide Latino share (6.3%). This lack of coverage is higher among blacks and Asians, but much lower among 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.