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Latinos in Massachusetts

Selected Areas:

Chicopee

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THE MAURICIO GASTÓN INSTITUTE
FOR LATINO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AND PUBLIC POLICY
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON

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Chicopee Overview

Chicopee has a population of 55,560, of whom 13,027 identify as Hispanic or Latino, according to the 2020 Decennial Census. The majority of the city identifies as non-Latino White, while Latinos are the second largest population, comprising 23.4% of the population. Latinos' share of the city's population is almost twice as high as in the Massachusetts overall population, which is only 12.6% Latino. Black, Asian, and "other" populations make up 9.8% of the city's population (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Population Percentages by Ethno-Racial Groups in Chicopee

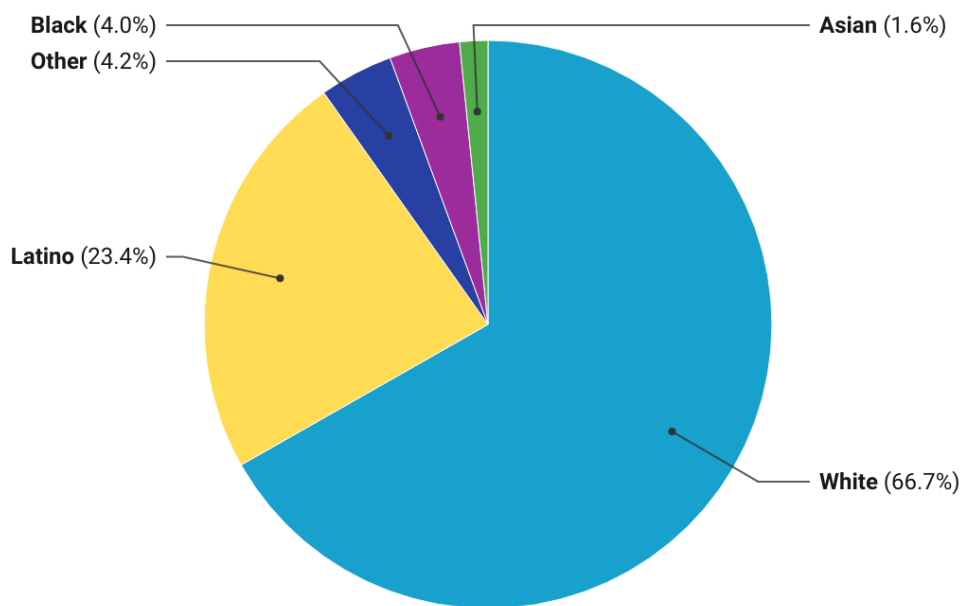


Chart: Gastón Institute · Source: 2020 Decennial Census · Created with Datawrapper

Chicopee underwent significant population shifts between 2010 and 2020, even though its population increased by only 0.5%, much slower than the statewide increase of 7.4%. The Latino population increase of 58.9% kept the city from having a population decline over the decade. Statewide, the Latino population grew by 41.4% during this same time. The larger White population of Chicopee declined by 15.6%, while the smaller Black population grew at a faster rate of 44.5%, and the Asian population grew by 25.9% (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Population Growth by Ethno-Racial Groups in Chicopee from 2010 to 2020



Chart: Gastón Institute · Source: 2010 & 2020 Decennial Census · Created with Datawrapper

The remainder of this profile uses 2017–2021 American Community Survey data to analyze the demographic and economic characteristics presented in this profile.

The Latino population in Chicopee, much like that of neighboring Springfield, is dominated by Puerto Ricans, who number 11,081. Other smaller Latino populations include Dominicans, Salvadorans, Mexicans, and Peruvians, though each group numbers less than 300 persons (Figure 3). Statewide, the five largest Latino populations in Massachusetts in order of size are Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Salvadorans, Guatemalans, and Mexicans.

Because of its high number of Puerto Ricans, who are U.S. citizens, Chicopee has a small foreign-born population, making up only 8.5% of the city’s residents (compared to 17.3% statewide). Only 4.7% of Latinos in Chicopee are foreign-born, compared to 32.1% for the entire state. (Note that Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens by birth, whether born on the island or the mainland).

Figure 3: Origin of the Top Latino Populations in Chicopee



Chart: Gastón Institute · Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey · Created with Datawrapper

Median Age and Marital Status

Chicopee has a median age of 41.1 years compared to the Massachusetts median age of 39.6 years. As in many other cities and towns across the state, the Latino population is the youngest of all major ethnic-racial groups, with a median age of 25.5 years. (Latinos in Chicopee are even younger than statewide, where the median age is 28.9 years.) Blacks and Asians in Chicopee also have younger median ages than the older White population, whose median age is 49.2 years (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Median Age by Ethno-Racial Groups in Chicopee



Chart: Gastón Institute · Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey · Created with Datawrapper

The marriage rate in Chicopee is 40.1% compared to 48.4% statewide. Marriage rates vary in the city, highest among Asians (58.5%) and lowest among Blacks (19.8%). The White residents of Chicopee have a marriage rate of 44.7% (Figure 5). Latinos have a marriage rate of 20.4%, much lower than their statewide 36.4% marriage rate.

Figure 5: Marriage Rates by Ethno-Racial Groups in Chicopee (Ages 15+)



Chart: Gastón Institute · Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey · Created with Datawrapper

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment is relatively low in Chicopee, with 22.0% of residents aged 25 and older having at least a Bachelor's degree compared to 46.6% statewide. The figure is particularly low for Latinos in Chicopee, only 10.5% of whom have at least a Bachelor's degree. These shares are 39.4% for Asians, 24.2% for Whites, and 13.3% for Blacks. Statewide, the Latino share is 21.6%. On the opposite end of the educational spectrum, Latinos have the highest share of residents who did not complete high school (23.6%), followed by Asian, White, and Black, adults (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Educational Attainment by Ethno-Racial Groups in Chicopee (Ages 25+)

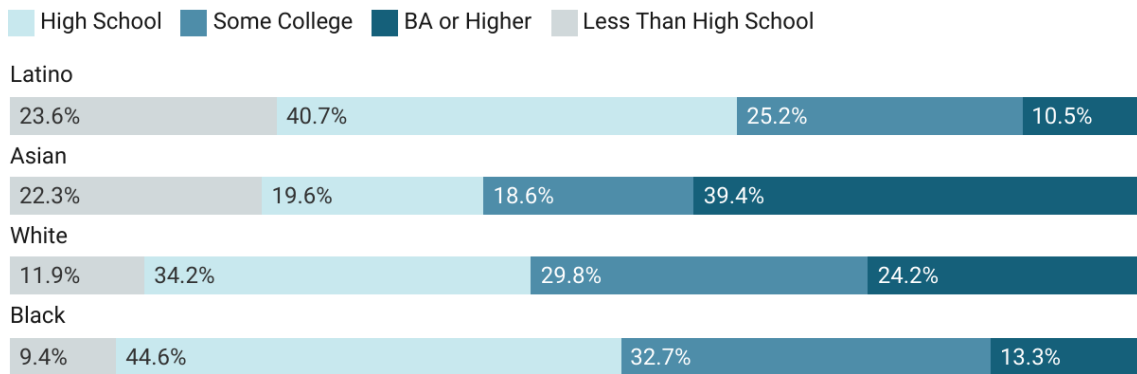


Chart: Gastón Institute · Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey · Created with Datawrapper

Labor Force Participation

Chicopee's labor force participation rate is 61.1%, lower than the statewide 67.1% rate. Latinos in Chicopee have the city's highest labor force participation rate, at 66.2%, but it is slightly lower than Latinos' statewide labor force participation rate of 68.7%. The rates for Whites (60.1%), Asians (59.4%), and Blacks (58.7%) are all much lower than Latinos (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Labor Force Participation by Ethno-Racial Groups in Chicopee (Ages 16+)



Chart: Gastón Institute · Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey · Created with Datawrapper

The unemployment rate in Chicopee is 6.5%, which is higher than the state's 5.3% during this period. Statewide, the Latino unemployment rate is 8.9%, while in Chicopee, Latinos with a 13.0% unemployment rate have the highest in the city (Figure 8). Whites have the lowest unemployment (4.2%). Unemployment is 11.9 % for Blacks and 7.6% for Asians.

Figure 8: Unemployment Rate by Ethno-Racial Groups in Chicopee (Ages 16+)



Chart: Gastón Institute · Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey · Created with Datawrapper

For those employed in Chicopee, over one-third of White and Asian workers (36.4% and 33.7% respectively) are in white-collar occupations. Latino residents have the lowest share working these jobs (16.5%), with Black having a slightly higher share (Figure 9). Latinos are more likely to work in services (43.9%) and blue-collar (39.6%) occupations. For Latinos across the state, this distribution is 28.8% white-collar, 45.4% service, and 25.7% blue-collar.

Figure 9: Occupational Categories by Employed Ethno-Racial Groups in Chicopee (Ages 16+)

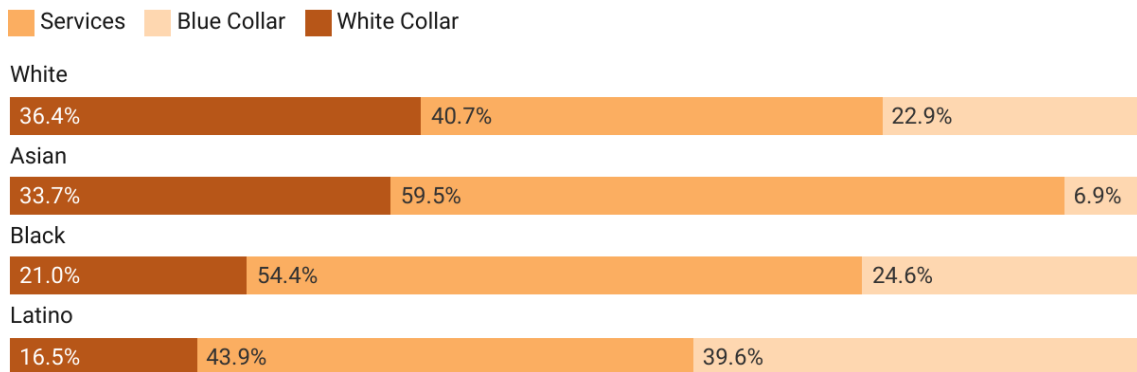


Chart: Gastón Institute · Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey · Created with Datawrapper

Income

Chicopee residents have a median household income of \$56,509, much lower than the statewide median of \$89,026. Similarly, Latinos have a median household income of \$35,171 (Figure 10), well below the statewide Latino median household income of \$35,171. Within Chicopee, the larger White population has the highest median household income (\$64,174) while it is \$50,183 for Blacks and \$42,400 for Asians.

Figure 10: Median Household Income by Ethno-Racial Groups in Chicopee



Chart: Gastón Institute · Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey · Created with Datawrapper

Housing Status and Medical Uninsurance

The final measures of Latino participation in Chicopee are intended to identify how well Latinos are being rewarded for their economic, social, and political participation.

Chicopee's homeownership rate of 56.1% is lower than the overall Massachusetts rate of 62.4%, and the homeownership rate of 17.0% among Latinos is significantly lower than the statewide Latino rate of 15.7%. Blacks in Chicopee also have a low homeownership rate (15.6%), while the rates for Whites (69.5%) and Asians (49.0%) are much higher (Figure 11).

Figure 11: Homeownership Rates by Ethno-Racial Groups in Chicopee



Chart: Gastón Institute · Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey · Created with Datawrapper

The share of city residents who lack medical insurance in Chicopee (3.0%) is slightly higher than the statewide rate (2.5%). In Chicopee, uninsured rates (Figure 12) are highest for Latinos (4.5%), followed by Blacks (3.9%), and Whites (2.6%). The Latino statewide rate of medical uninsurance is 5.5%. The Asian medical uninsurance rate had too large a margin of error to report.

Figure 12: Medical Uninsurance Rates by Ethno-Racial Groups in Chicopee



Chart: Gastón Institute · Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey · Created with Datawrapper

About the Institute

Established in 1989, the Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy was created by the Massachusetts Legislature in response to a need for an improved understanding of the Latino experience in the commonwealth. Now in its 34th year, the Gastón Institute continues its mission of informing the public and policymakers about issues vital to the state's growing Latino community and providing information and analysis necessary for effective Latino participation in public policy development. To learn more about the Gastón Institute, visit www.umb.edu/gastoninstitute.

About the Authors

Phillip Granberry worked with various community-based organizations assisting recently arrived U.S. immigrants before earning a Ph.D. in Public Policy from UMass 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 at the Gastón Institute and Economics Department at UMass Boston, he is Senior Researcher in demography for the Boston Planning and Development Agency.

Victor Luis Martins holds an M.A. in Applied Economics from the University of Massachusetts Boston, specializing in Financial Economics and Macroeconomics. With a strong background in statistical analysis and data manipulation, he applies quantitative and qualitative research methodologies to analyze economic and social policy issues. Victor's current research focuses on the financialization and interest burden of non-financial corporations in the United States, as well as related economic and demographic conditions in Latinx communities in Massachusetts. His expertise

includes programming skills for data analysis, statistical modeling, and the interpretation of empirical data.

Michelle Borges is an economist from Brazil. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in Applied Economics at the University of Massachusetts Boston and working as a research assistant at the Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy. Her research interests span the areas of Labor Economics, Development Economics, Immigration, and Feminist Economics.

