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Selected Areas:

Westfield

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July 2023



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

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Westfield Overview

Westfield has a population of 40,834, of whom 3,942 identify as Hispanic or Latino, according to the 2020 Decennial Census. The majority of the city identifies as non-Latino White (82.1%), while Latinos 9.7% are the second largest population; Black, Asian, and “other” populations make up the remaining 8.2% (Figure 1). The Latino share of Westfield’s population is lower than the statewide Latino share, which is 12.6%.

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

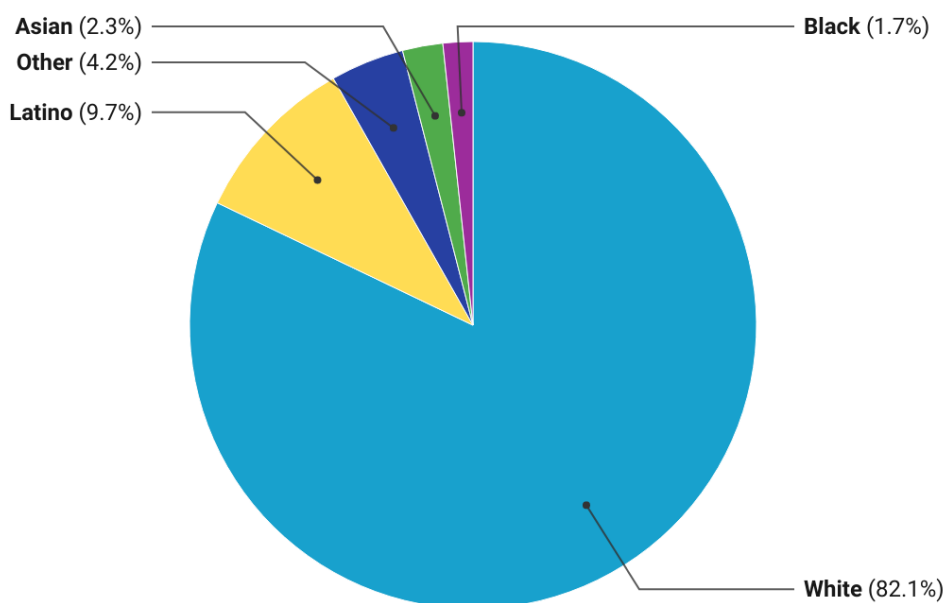


Chart: Gastón Institute · Source: 2020 Decennial Census · Created with Datawrapper

Westfield underwent significant population shifts between 2010 and 2020. The city’s population decreased by 0.6%, while the statewide population increased by 7.4%. The Latino population increase of 27.3% is lower than the statewide Latino population increase of 41.4% during this same time. The larger White population declined by 7.7%, while the smaller Asian population grew at a faster rate of 79.7%, and the Black population by a rate of 30.8% (Figure 2). Thus, the increase in the non-White populations helped minimize the city’s population decline.

Figure 2: Population Growth by Ethno-Racial Groups in Westfield 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 Westfield, as in neighboring Springfield, is dominated by Puerto Ricans, who number 3,431. Other smaller Latino populations include Dominicans (305), Peruvians, Hondurans, and Guatemalans though each of the last three groups numbers fewer than 20 persons (Figure 3). Statewide, the five largest Latino populations in Massachusetts in order of size are Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Salvadorans, Guatemalans, and Mexicans.

Partly because the great majority of Latinos in Westfield are Puerto Ricans population, who are U.S. citizens, Westfield has a small foreign-born population, making up only 9.9% of the city’s residents. Only 4.6% of Latinos in Westfield 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.) By comparison, foreign-born make up 17.3% of the statewide population.

Figure 3: Origin of the Top Latino Populations in Westfield



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

Median Age and Marital Status

Westfield has a median age of 38.5 years, slightly younger than the statewide median of 39.6 years. For Latinos, however, the median age is older in Westfield than statewide (30.2 years compared to 28.9 years). Somewhat different from other cities and towns across the state, the Latino population is not the youngest of all major ethnic-racial groups; in fact, they are the second oldest population in the city (Figure 4).

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



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

The marriage rate in Westfield is 46.5% compared to 48.4% statewide. Marriage rates vary in the city. Marriage rates are highest among Asians (52.9%) and lowest among Blacks (31.2%). White residents in Westfield have a marriage rate of 46.4% (Figure 5). Latinos have a marriage rate of 33.9%, lower than their statewide 36.4% marriage rate.

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



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

Educational Attainment

Overall, Westfield has relatively low educational attainment, with only 22.9% of residents aged 25 and older having at least a Bachelor's degree compared to 46.6% statewide. For Latinos, however, educational attainment is higher in Westfield, where 23.5% have at least a Bachelor's degree, than statewide (21.6%). The corresponding figures are 33.8% for Whites in Westfield, 25.2% for Blacks, and 22.9% for Asians. On the opposite end of the educational spectrum, Latinos have the second-highest share

of residents who did not complete high school (29.3%), only exceeded by Asians (Figure 6). Statewide the Latino share with less than a high school education is 27.4%.

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

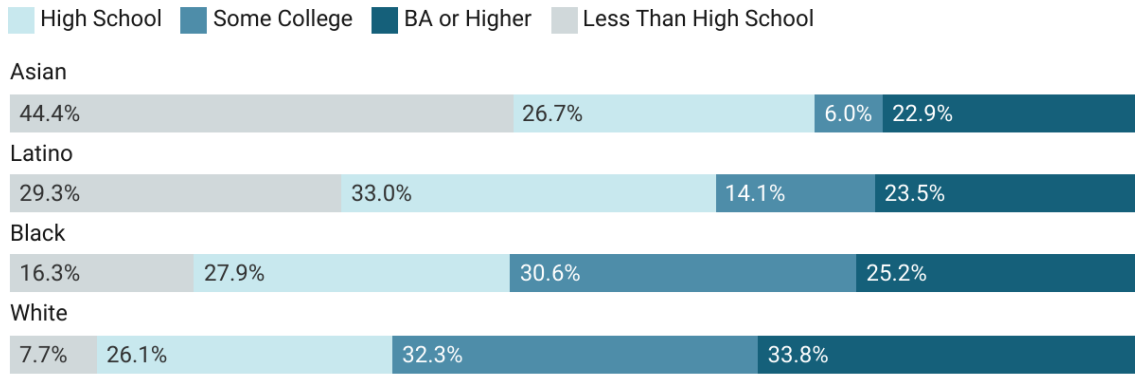


Chart: Gastón Institute · Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey · Created with Datawrapper

Labor Force Participation

Westfield's labor force participation rate is 60.8%, lower than Massachusetts's 67.1% rate. Latinos in Westfield have a 62.5% labor force participation rate which is lower than their 68.7% statewide rate. White residents have the lowest participation rate at 60.3% (Figure 7).

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



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

The unemployment rate in Westfield is 4.6%, which is lower than the state's 5.3% during this period. But the Latino unemployment rate is much higher in Westfield (14.4%) than statewide (8.9%). Latinos' unemployment rate puts them second only to Asians (Figure 8).

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



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

Latino residents’ relatively high educational attainment makes it not surprising that they have a higher share of working in white-collar jobs (43.3%) than other racial-ethnic groups (Figure 9). Compared to other cities in the Pioneer Valley, Latinos have lower shares of working in services (32.6%) and blue-collar (24.1%) occupations. For Latinos across the state, this distribution is 28.8% white-collar, 45.4% services, and 25.7% blue-collar.

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

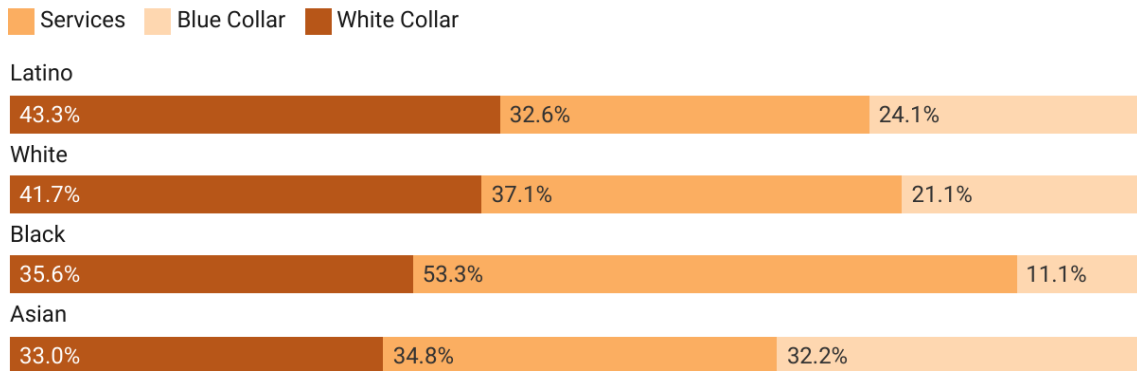


Chart: Gastón Institute · Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey · Created with Datawrapper

Income

Westfield residents have a median household income of \$77,692, less than the statewide median of \$89,026. Latinos, however, have a median household income that is much higher than the statewide Latino median (\$70,167 compared to \$52,106). Within Westfield, the larger White population has the highest median household income at \$74,572 (Figure 10). The smaller number of Black and Asian households allowed for a large margin of errors in their income estimates, and they are not reported.

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



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

Housing Status and Medical Uninsurance

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

Westfield’s homeownership rate of 65.6% is higher than the overall Massachusetts rate of 62.4%. The homeownership rate of 29.5% among Latinos is the lowest in the city but is similar to the statewide Latino rate of 29.7%. Asians in Westfield also have a lower homeownership rate (31.6%), while the rates for Whites (69.2%) and Blacks (66.2%) are much higher (Figure 11).

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



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

The share of city residents who lack medical insurance in Westfield (2.3%) is slightly lower than the statewide rate (2.5%). In Westfield, uninsured rates (Figure 12) are highest for Latinos (5.1%), followed by Asians (2.9%) and Whites (2.0%). (The Black medical uninsurance rate had too large of a margin of error to report.) The Latino statewide rate of medical uninsurance is 5.5%.

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



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.

