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Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas

Cambridge

by Phillip Granberry, PhD, Sarah Rustan, MA, and Faye Karp, MS

January, 2013

**THE MAURICIO GASTON INSTITUTE
FOR LATINO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AND PUBLIC POLICY**

Cambridge

This report provides a descriptive snapshot of selected economic, social, educational, and demographic indicators pertaining to Latinos in Cambridge. It reflects a commitment by UMass Boston's Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy to provide periodic updates on the growing Latino population in Massachusetts.

The report on Cambridge is part of a larger series that covers fourteen other cities, or clusters of cities, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Each report analyzes data from the 2010 American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. Data are analyzed by Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA), which consists of a minimum population of 100,000 and is the smallest geographic area publically available for individual-level analysis. Cambridge is a large enough city that it constitutes a PUMA by itself. The ACS thereby enables us to arrive at a demographic and economic portrait of Cambridge's Latino community.

Since ACS data is collected from a sample of the population, there is some variation associated with each population estimate. In the bar graphs in this report, the 'I' that accompanies each bar represents the confidence interval for that estimate; we expect that another sample would generate an estimate within this interval 95% of the time.

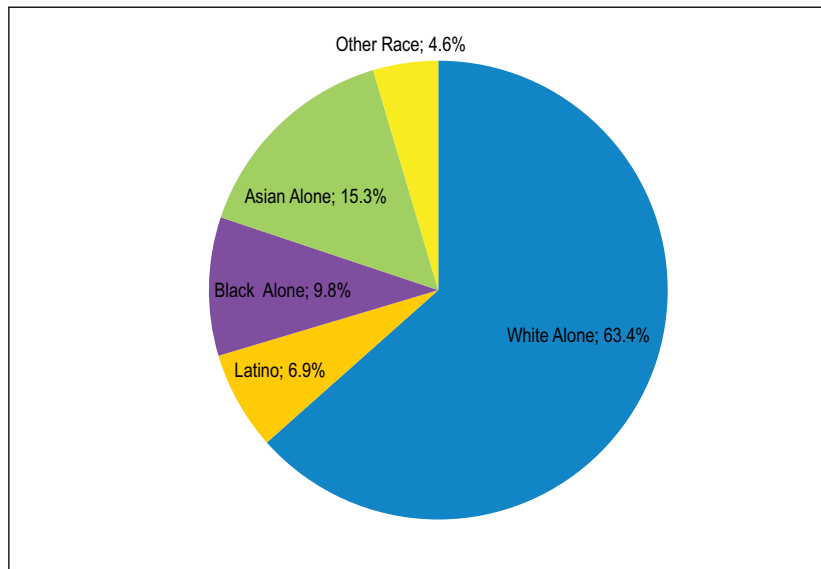
In this report, Latinos are compared to non-Latino whites, non-Latino blacks, and Asians for selected demographic, economic, and social characteristics. The number of ethno-racial groups included in a particular analysis may vary; each ethno-racial group is included in the analysis only when the observed sample size is large enough to produce reliable population estimates.

Cambridge is home to an estimated 7,336 Latinos, who make up 6.9% of the city's population. Whites constitute the largest ethno-racial group (63.4%), while Asians account for 15.3%, and blacks account for 9.8% of the population (Figure 1).

Notes

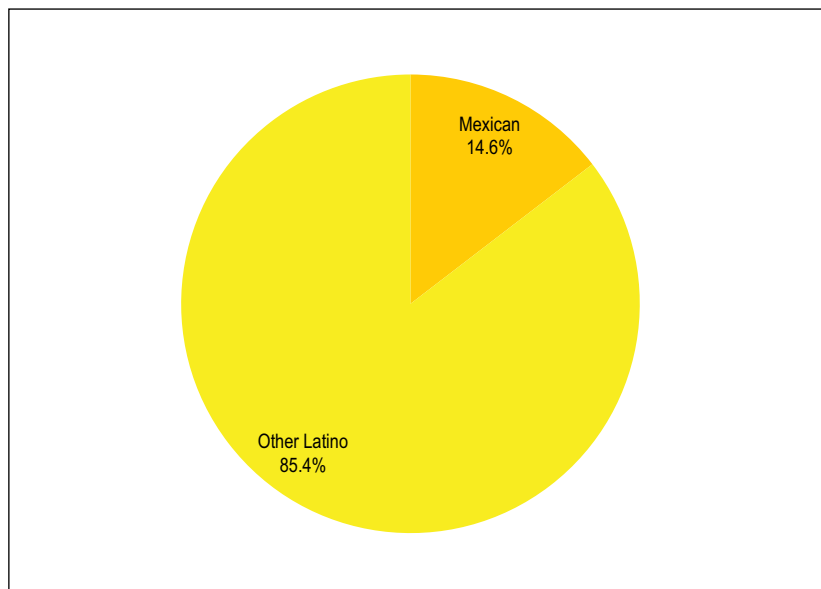
¹ This report uses the census designations of Hispanic or Latino origin and ancestry based on migration from Latin America to estimate the number of Latinos. Thus, Brazilians are included in the category "Latino," though most Brazilians self-report in the ACS using a racial category (e.g., white, black), rather than identifying with the term "Latino."

Figure 1: Population Percentages by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010



Cambridge is noted for its highly diverse Latino population. The city's 1,070 Mexicans, who make up 14.6% of Cambridge's Latino population, are by far the largest segment of that population. Overall, Latinos help give the Cambridge a proportionately greater foreign-born population (29.3%) than the state as a whole (14.9%).

Figure 2: Ancestry of the Top Latino Groups in 2010



The rest of this report presents an overview that compares Latinos to whites, blacks, and Asians in this area for selected demographic, economic, and social characteristics.

MEDIAN AGE AND MARITAL STATUS

Figure 3 highlights differences in median age, drawing attention to the importance of Latinos in Cambridge. Cambridge has a lower median age than other cities. Latinos' median age of 26 years is slightly less than that of blacks and Asians and nine years younger than whites. This suggests that Latinos have more families with younger children and will require an investment in education of their youth; however, these younger Latinos will contribute economically, socially, and politically in later years as other ethno-racial groups age and retire. This older population will require younger residents to keep Cambridge's neighborhoods vibrant and maintain a productive workforce, and Latinos are poised to make this contribution.

Figure 3: Median Age by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010

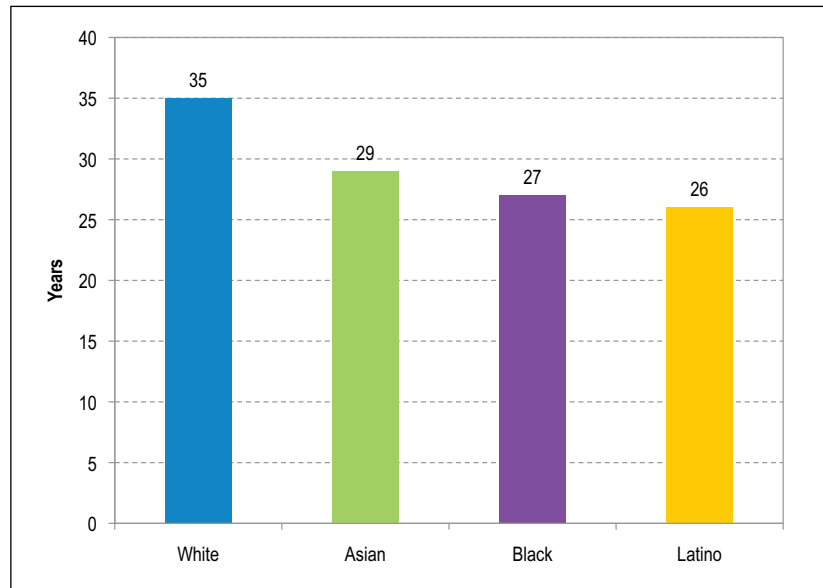
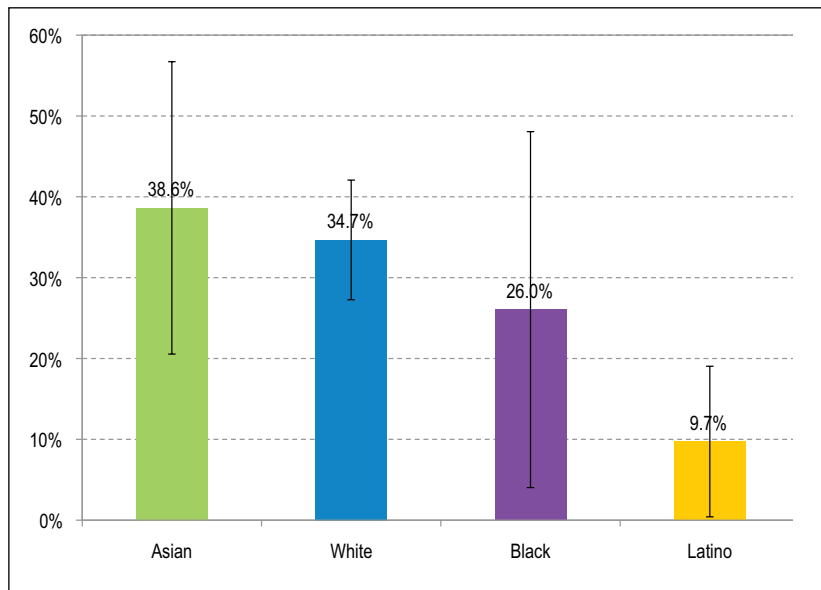


Figure 4 shows that the 9.7% marriage rate for Latinos (for persons age 16 and older) is lower than the rate for all other ethno-racial groups. Statewide, the Latino marriage rate (35.4%) is significantly higher than the rate for Latinos in Cambridge.

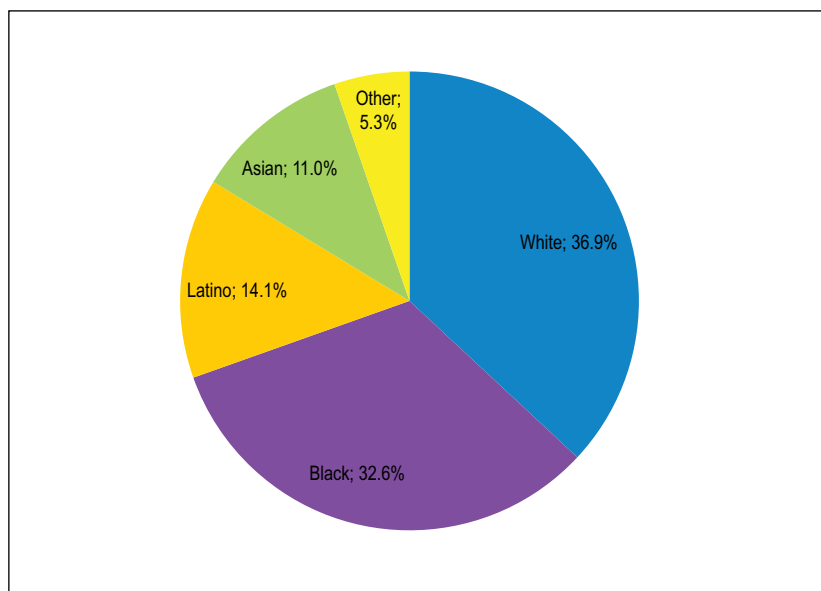
Figure 4: Marriage Rates by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010



EDUCATION

Figures 5A and 5B provide information on Latinos in Cambridge Public Schools, using data from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Latinos represented 14.1% of total student enrollment in the 2010–2011 school year.

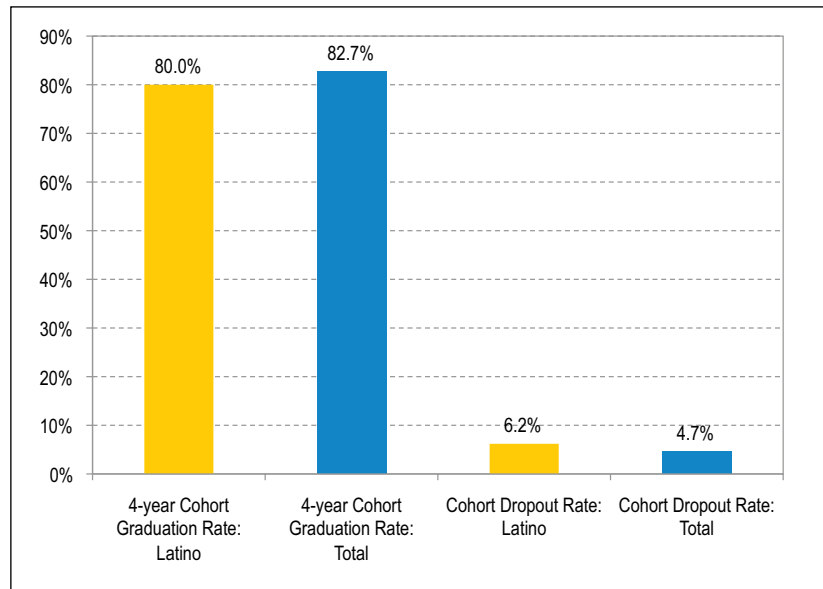
Figure 5A: Spotlight on Cambridge Public Schools by Ethno-Racial Group, School Year 2010–2011



Latinos in Cambridge Public Schools lag slightly behind the total population in academic success. The majority of Latino students (80.0%) graduated from high school in four years, a figure similar to that of the total student population (82.7%).

Similarly, 6.2% of Latinos who entered their freshman year in the 2006–2007 school year dropped out of high school and did not return or get a GED, compared to 4.7% of the total population.

Figure 5B: Spotlight on Cambridge Public Schools by Outcomes, School Year 2010–2011



LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

Latinos have the lowest labor force participation (58.0%) in Cambridge (Figure 6). This is also lower than the statewide Latino average of 68.1%. This may be related to the younger median age of Latinos shown by Figure 3, suggesting they have more families with young children, which typically aligns with lower labor force participation rates due to caretaking needs.

Figure 6: Labor Force Participation by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010

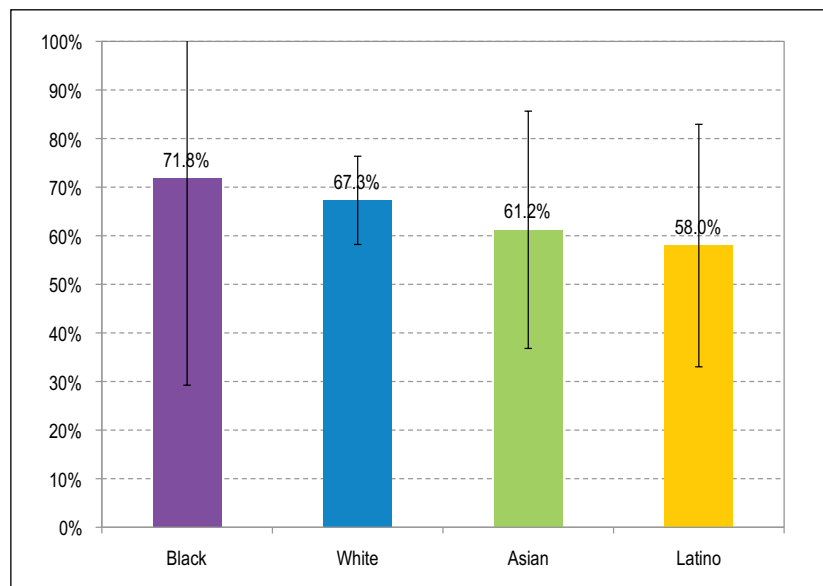
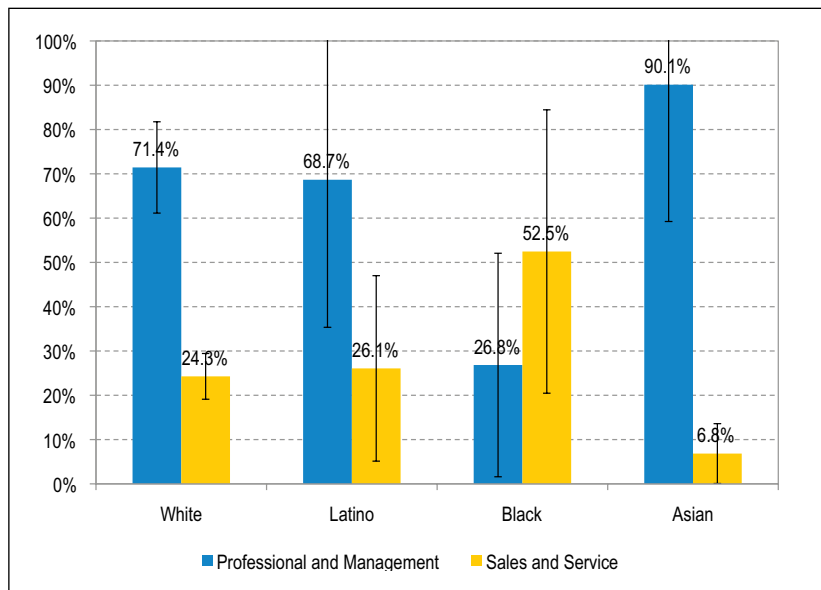


Figure 7 suggests that Latinos in Cambridge compete with whites and Asians in the labor market for white-collar jobs, which often require specific skills, because their human capital qualifies them for such jobs. This trend is found in few areas of the state and may be related to Latinos' higher educational attainment in Cambridge.

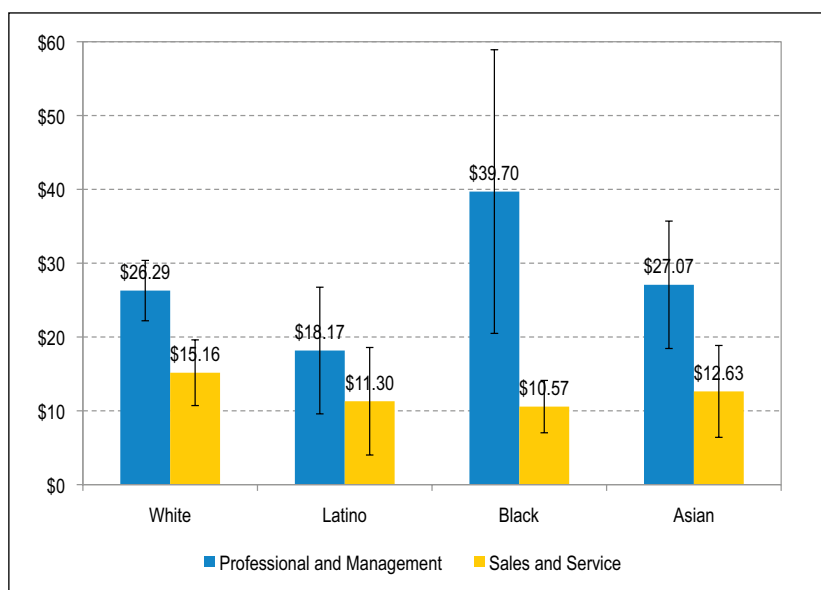
Figure 7: Population Employed by Occupational Category by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010



EARNINGS

When examining the wage rates for occupational categories, Latinos generally appear to be receiving wages below those of other ethno-racial groups. As shown in Figure 8, they earn less than whites, Asians, and blacks for their white-collar employment, and less than whites and Asians for their service-sector employment.

Figure 8: Hourly Wages by Occupational Category by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010



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 has produced this series of demographic profiles for selected Massachusetts areas based on an analysis of 2010 American Community Survey (ACS) data.

Our descriptive analysis uses both household- and individual-level ACS data to estimate population size and characteristics in order to compare Latinos to other ethno-racial groups. Technically, these groups are designated as non-Latino whites, non-Latino blacks, and non-Latino Asians though they are often referenced simply as “white,” “black,” and

“Asian” in these profiles. Although many Brazilians do not self-identify as Latino or Hispanic, the ‘Latino’ category does include the Brazilian population in this report series.

The Gastón Institute plans to update this series of demographic profiles for selected Massachusetts areas every five years upon release of American Community Survey data. A similar report series examining Latino populations at the city level is planned for the 2015 Gastón Institute public policy conference. In addition, demographic profiles highlighting Latino subgroups will be produced on an ongoing basis.

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 who specializes in immigrants in the US. He worked with various community-based organizations assisting recently arrived U.S. immigrants before earning a PhD in Public Policy from the University of Massachusetts Boston. He has published several articles on the accumulation and use of social capital among Mexican migrants and the impact of welfare and immigration policy reform on Latinos in Massachusetts. Currently a Research Associate for the Gastón Institute, he also teaches courses on international migration and urban affairs for the UMass Boston Economics Department.

Faye Karp specializes in conducting research that helps organizations improve programs serving low-income, Latino, and English Language Learner youth. She holds an MS in Public Policy from the University of Massachusetts Boston. As a Research Associate and Project Manager at the Gastón Institute, she worked with the Boston Public Schools Office of English Language Learners to develop policy guidelines for the district’s Two-Way Bilingual programs.

Sarah Rustan is a PhD candidate in Law and Public Policy at Northeastern University, with previous degrees in architecture (BA) and cultural management (MA). Her professional background includes broad experience in the nonprofit sector including research, development, and management, and her dissertation explores the role that nonprofit arts organizations play in community development and social organization. She currently serves as a Research Associate and Data Analyst for the Gastón Institute.