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### Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas: Framingham

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#### Recommended Citation

Granberry, Phillip; Rustan, Sarah; and Karp, Faye, "Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas: Framingham" (2013). *Gastón Institute Publications*. 167.

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# **Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas**

## **Framingham**

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

**January, 2013**

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

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# Framingham

This report provides a descriptive snapshot of selected economic, social, educational, and demographic indicators pertaining to Latinos in the cities of the Framingham area. 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 the Framingham area 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. In the PUMA that includes the Framingham area, the city of Framingham accounts for 64.7% of the total population, and the remainder is dispersed in small towns around Framingham.

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.

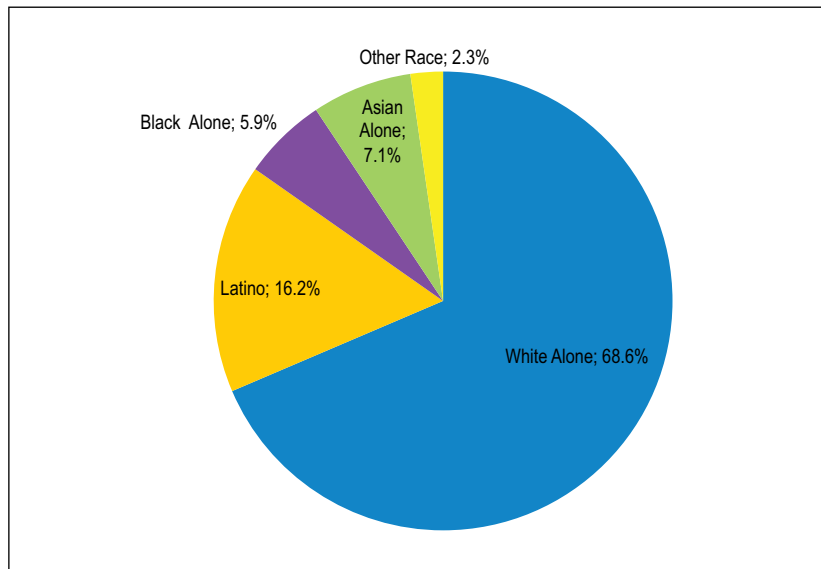
In this report, Latinos are compared to non-Latino whites, non-Latino blacks, and Asians for selected demographic, economic, and social characteristics. The number of ethno-racial groups included in a particular analysis may vary; each ethno-racial group is included in the analysis only when the observed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

The Framingham area is home to an estimated 17,103 Latinos, who account for 16.2% of the area's population. Whites make up the largest percentage of the area's population (68.6%), while Asians represent 7.1% and blacks represent 5.9 % (Figure 1).

## Notes

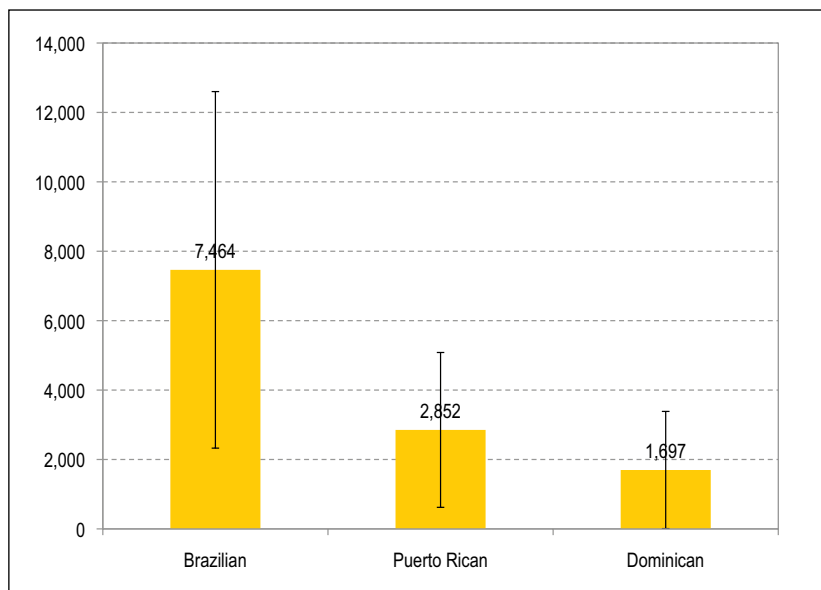
<sup>1</sup> This report uses the census designations of Hispanic or Latino origin and ancestry based on migration from Latin America to estimate the number of Latinos. Thus, Brazilians are included in the category "Latino," though most Brazilians self-report in the ACS using a racial category (e.g.,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

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



Framingham is home to a diverse Latino population. Brazilians (7,464) make up the largest Latino subpopulation in the area, followed by Puerto Ricans and Dominicans (Figure 2); the three subpopulations account for 70.2% of the Latino population. This Latino presence is significantly shaped by international migration, and the Framingham area has a proportionately greater foreign-born population (22.6%) than the state as a whole (14.9%).

**Figure 2: Ancestry of the Top Latino Groups in 2010**

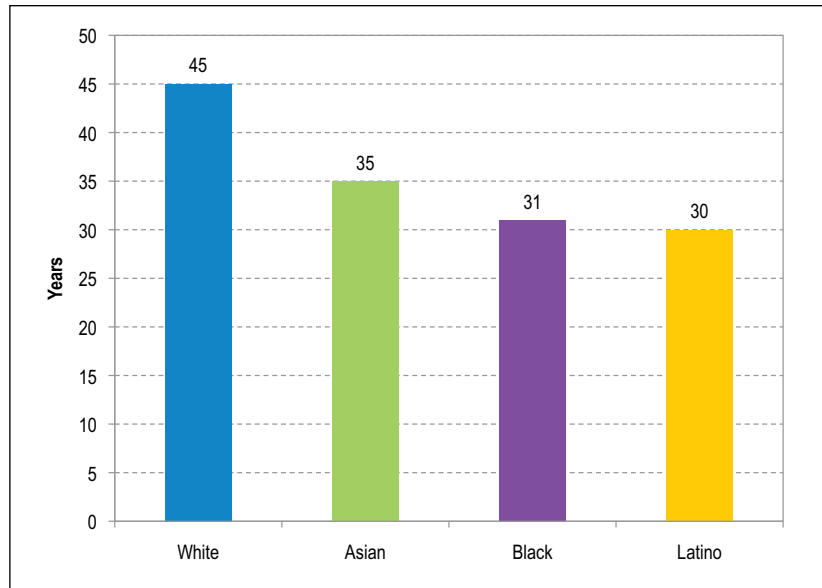


The rest of this report presents an overview that compares Latinos to whites, blacks, and Asians in this area for selected demographic, economic, and social characteristics.

## MEDIAN AGE AND MARITAL STATUS

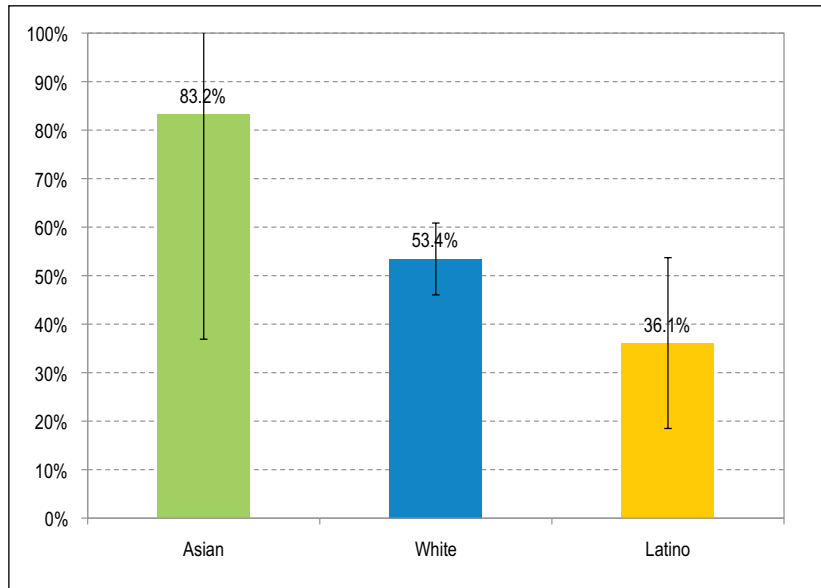
Figure 3 highlights differences in median age and thereby draws attention to the importance of Latinos in the Framingham area. Latinos have a median age (30 years) similar to blacks but younger than Asians and much younger than the white majority. This suggests that Latinos have more families with young children than whites and will require an investment in education of their youth; however, these younger Latinos will contribute economically, socially, and politically in later years as an older white population ages and retires. This older population will require younger residents to keep these cities' 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**



The youthfulness of the Framingham area's Latino population may influence their marital status. Figure 4 shows that the marriage rate for Latinos (for persons age 16 and older) is lower than for any other ethno-racial group. However, the Latino marriage rate of 36.1% is slightly higher than the statewide Latino marriage rate of 35.4%.

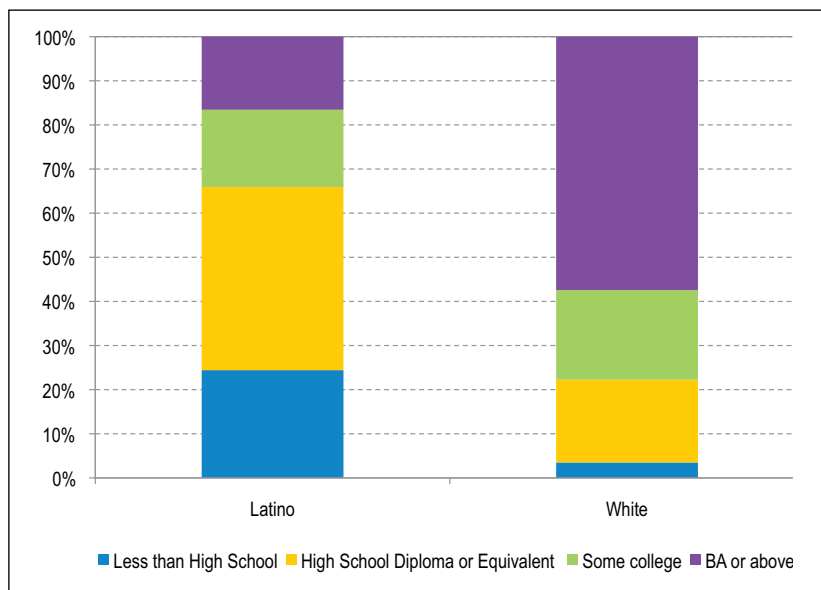
**Figure 4: Marriage Rates by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010**



## EDUCATION

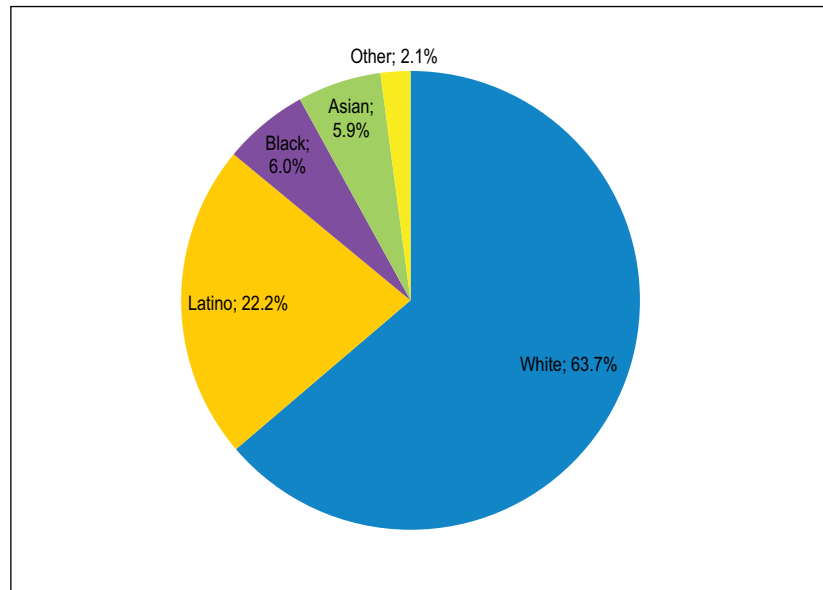
Figure 5 highlights the fact that Latinos have a high percentage of their adult population who lack a high school diploma: 24.4%, compared to 3.5% for whites. At the other end of the educational scale, Latinos in the Framingham area have a low percentage of their population with at least a bachelor's degree: 16.6%, compared to 57.4% for whites.

**Figure 5: Educational Attainment by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010 (Adults 25 Years and Older)**



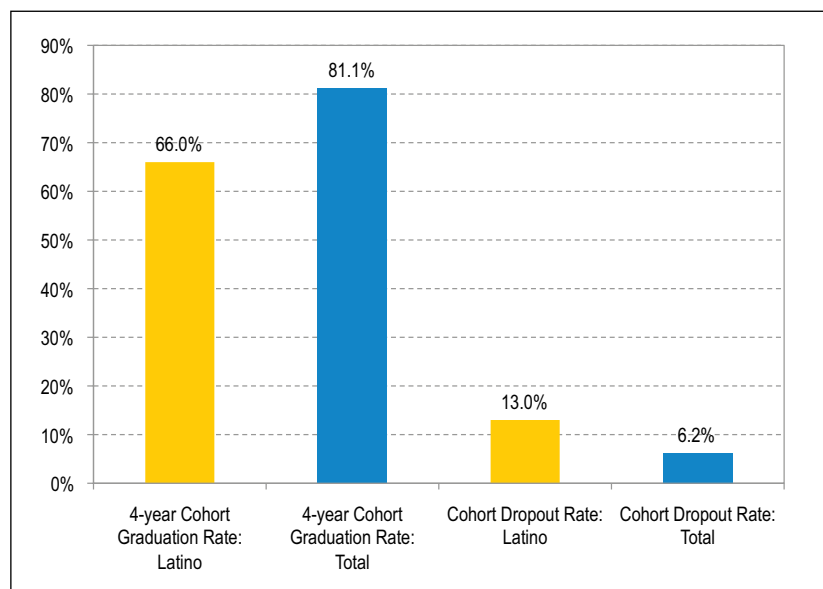
Figures 6A and 6B, unlike the other figures in this report, pertain solely to Framingham itself, not to the overall area. They provide information on Latinos in Framingham Public Schools, using data from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Latinos represented 22.2% of total student enrollment in the 2010–2011 school year. After white students, Latinos were the next largest ethno-racial group in the district.

**Figure 6A: Spotlight on Framingham Public Schools by Ethno-Racial Group, School Year 2010–2011**



Latinos in Framingham Public Schools lag behind the total population in academic success. About two-thirds of Latino students (66.0%) graduated from high school in four years compared to 81.1% for the total student population. Similarly, 13.0% 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 6.2% of the total population.

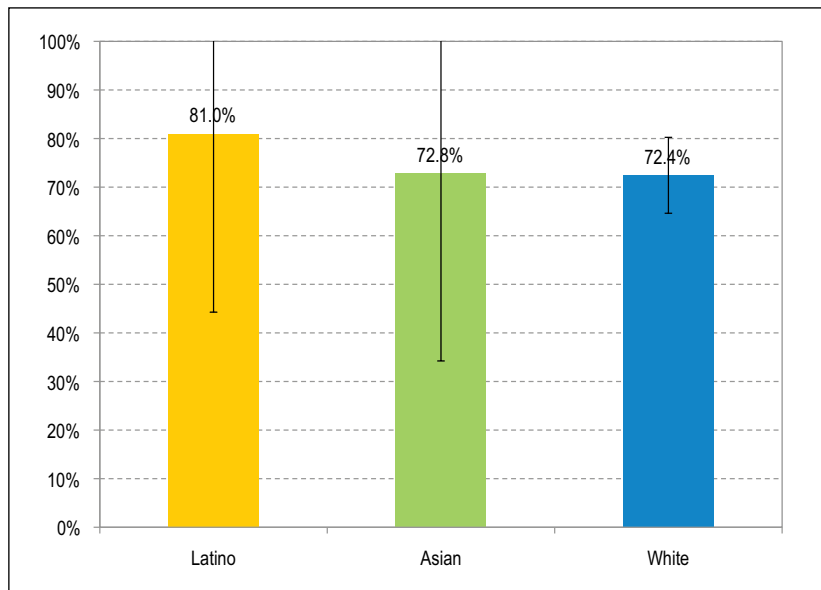
**Figure 6B: Spotlight on Framingham Public Schools by Outcomes, School Year 2010–2011**



## LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

Figure 7 shows that Latinos have a labor force participation rate (81.0%) that is higher than for Asians (72.8%) and whites (72.4%). The Latino labor force participation rate for the Framingham area is significantly higher than among Latinos across the state, whose overall participation rate is 68.1%.

**Figure 7: Labor Force Participation by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010**



The high labor force participation of Latinos is noteworthy, and Figure 8 tells an even more positive story. The unemployment rate among Latinos in 2010 was 6.5%, which was slightly lower than for whites (6.6%). In comparison, the Latino statewide unemployment rate in 2010 was 15.2%.

**Figure 8: Unemployment Rates by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010**

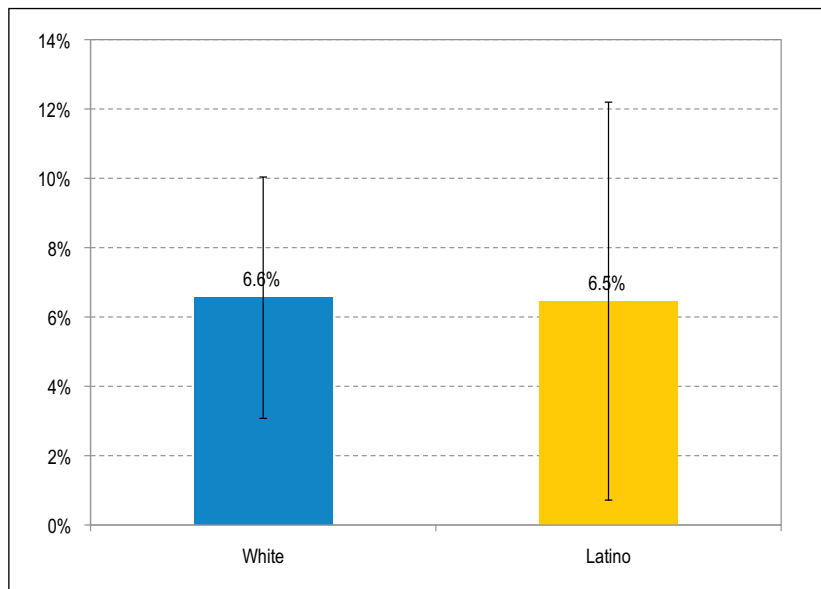
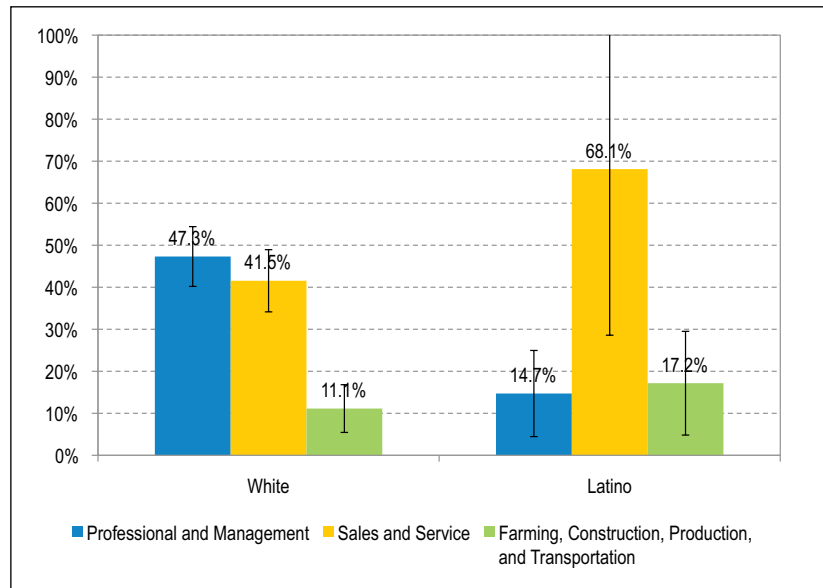




Figure 9 suggests that Latinos serve as complements in the Framingham area's labor market to other ethno-racial groups whose members have higher educational attainment. Latinos are overrepresented in what are traditionally considered blue-collar jobs (farming, construction, production, and transportation) and service and sales occupations. Correspondingly, Latinos are underrepresented in what are traditionally considered white-collar jobs (professional and managerial).

**Figure 9: Population Employed by Occupational Category by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010**



## EARNINGS

When examining the wage rates for these occupational categories, we see that Latinos appear to be receiving lower wages than whites in each of the categories. As shown in Figure 10, the discrepancy is especially striking in the sales and service category.

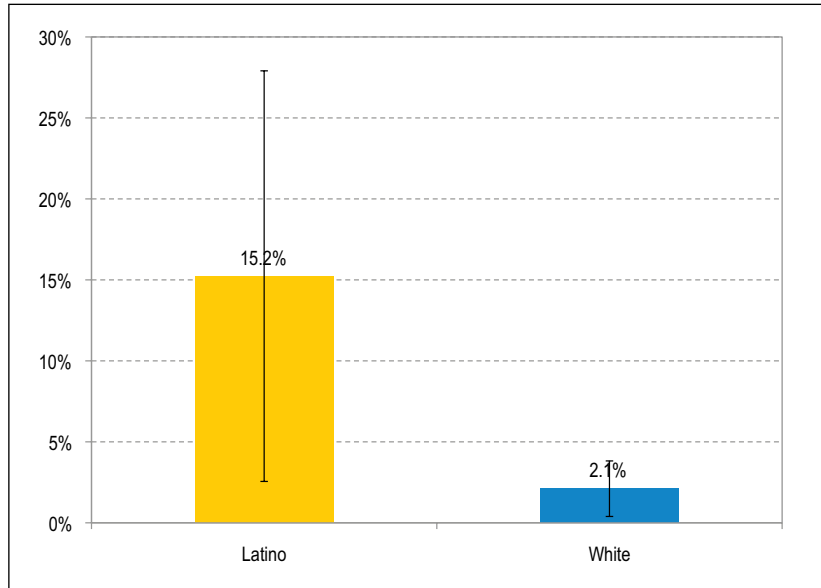
**Figure 10: Hourly Wages by Occupational Category by Ethno-Racial Group in 2010**



## MEDICAL INSURANCE

The percentage of Latinos who lack medical insurance (15.2%) is greater than for whites in the Framingham area and greater than the statewide average for Latinos (11.6%).

**Figure 11: Medical Uninsurance Rates 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.