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Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas: Chelsea

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Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas

Chelsea

by Phillip Granberry and Mayara Fontes

June, 2015

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

Chelsea

This report provides a descriptive snapshot of selected economic, social, educational, and demographic indicators pertaining to Latinos in Chelsea. 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.

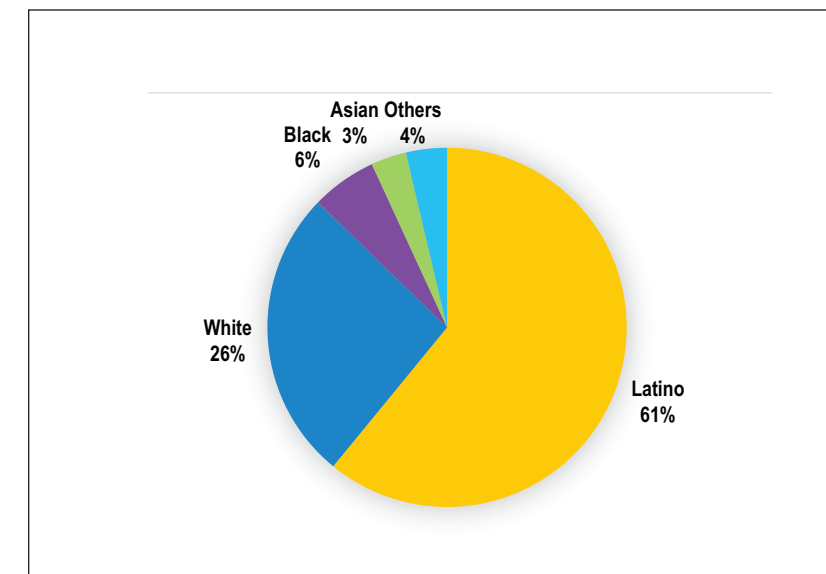
The report on Chelsea is part of a larger series that covers cities and towns with a population between 35,000 and 100,000 residents in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with a significant number of Latinos. Each report analyzes data from the American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. We obtained the data from the American Factfinder website in tabular form, and we transformed these data into figures presented in this report.

In this report, Latinos are compared to non-Latino whites, blacks, and Asians for selected characteristics. This report uses the designation of Latino for the universe of people whom the Census identified as "Hispanic or Latino." (The US Census first identifies individuals with an ethnicity category of "Hispanic or Latino" or "Not Hispanic or Latino." Then the US Census allows individuals to select a race.) The Census designation of "Black or African American Alone" is referenced in this report as black. Likewise, the Census category of "Asian Alone" is referenced as Asian. A smaller "Other" ethno-racial category is identified for the initial population estimate of Chelsea, consisting of those who identified with multiple race categories or some other race (including the category of "American Indian and Alaska Native Alone"). 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 LATINO POPULATION

As one of the smallest municipalities of the Commonwealth in terms of land area, Chelsea is home to an estimated 22,484 Latinos. They represent about three fifths (60.9%) of the city's population, the largest percentage of any ethno-racial group in the city (Figure 1).

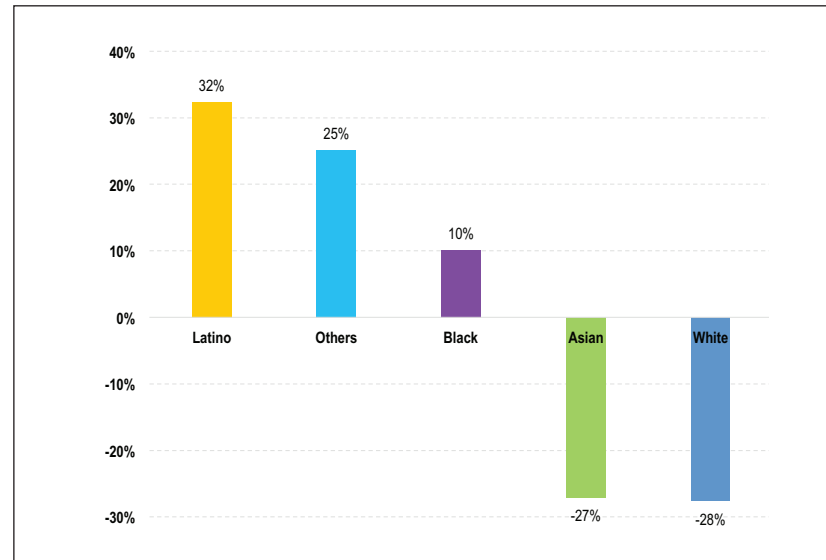
Figure 1: Population Percentages by Ethno-Racial Group in Chelsea



Source: 2013 3-Year ACS Data – DP05

A striking feature of Chelsea is its recent population change. From 2000 to 2013 Latinos (32%) experienced the largest population growth in the city, while whites (28%) and Asians (27%) experienced population decline (Figure 2). The growth of the Latino population in Chelsea was smaller than that of Latinos statewide, who experienced an increase of 53%. Chelsea has long been a destination for international migrants, and today it has a much greater concentration of foreign-born (44%) than the Commonwealth as a whole (15%).

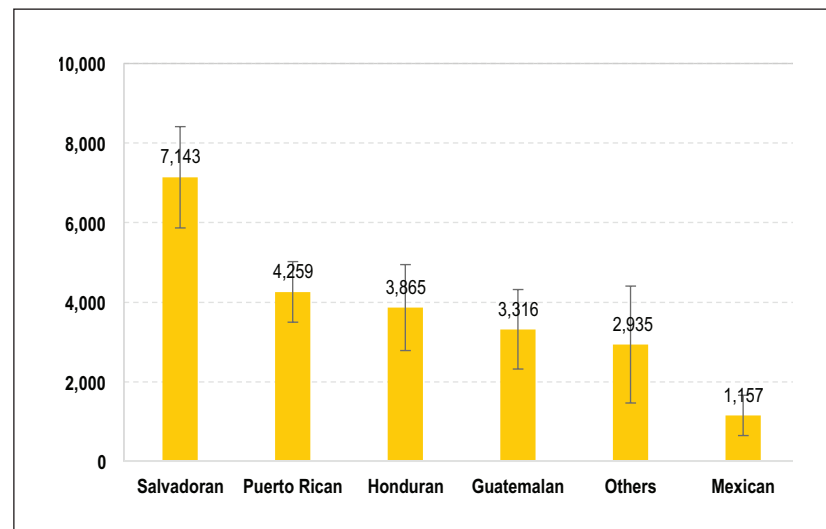
Figure 2: Population Change by Ethno-Racial Group from 2000 to 2013



Source: 2013 3-Year ACS and 2000 Census Summary File 1 Data

When examining the ancestry of Latinos in the Chelsea, it is important to note that Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens; they are not included in foreign-born estimates in the preceding paragraph. Figure 3 shows that Salvadorans, with a population of 7,143, constitute the largest Latino subpopulation in the city, followed by Puerto Ricans (4,259), Hondurans (3,865), Guatemalans (3,316), and Mexicans (1,157).

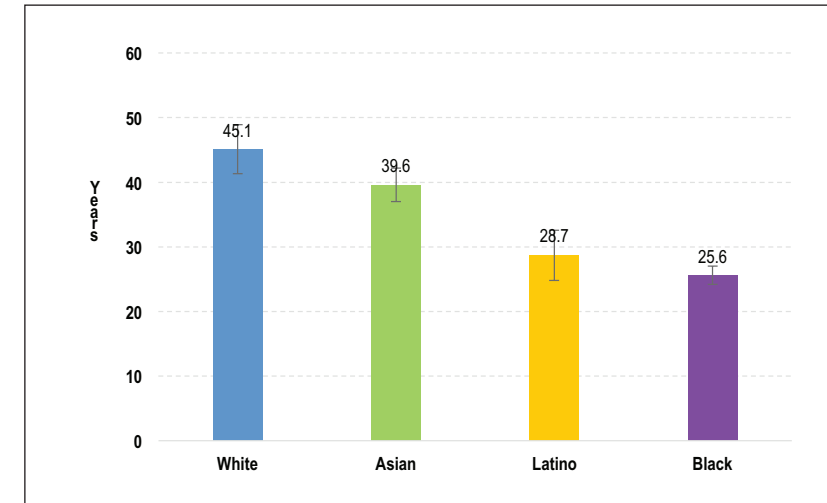
Figure 3: Ancestry of the Top Latino Subpopulations



Source: 2013 ACS 5-Year Data - B03001

MEDIAN AGE AND MARITAL STATUS

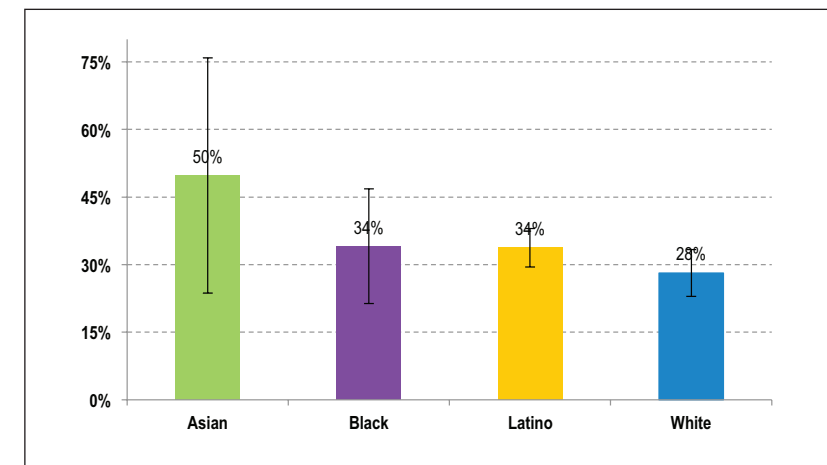
Figure 4: Median Age by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2013 ACS 3-Year Data - B01002

Chelsea's Latino population, with a median age of 28.7 years, is older than the statewide Latino median age of 26.8 years. As shown in Figure 4, Latinos in Chelsea are much younger than the city's larger white population (45.1 years), who are older than the state median age of 39.4 years. This suggests that Latinos have more families with young children and will require an investment in the 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. Chelsea's present-day older population will require younger residents to keep the city's neighborhoods vibrant and maintain a productive workforce, and Latinos are poised to make this contribution.

Figure 5: Marriage Rates by Ethno-Racial Group



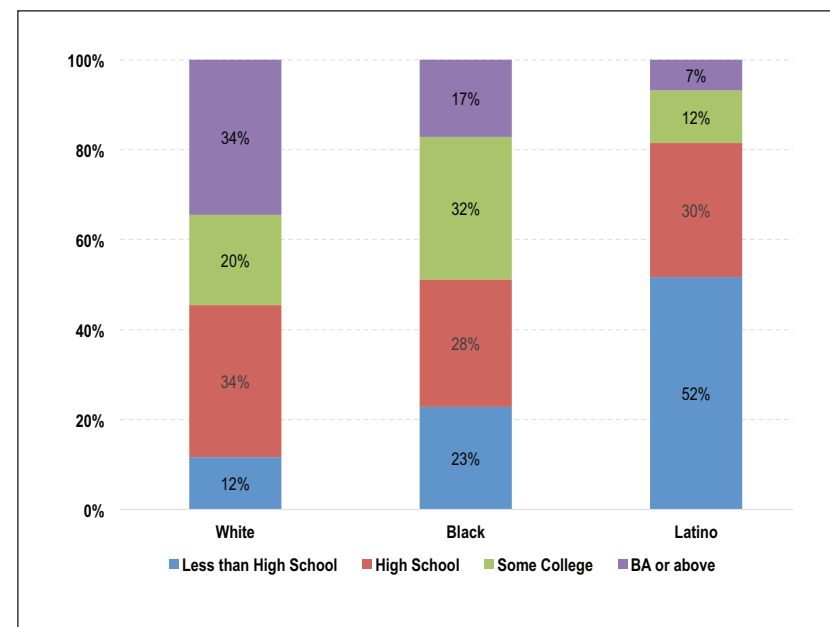
Source: 2013 ACS 5-Year Data - B12002

The marriage rate in Chelsea for persons 15 and over is 34%. As shown in Figure 5, the marriage rate among Latinos is 34%, which is much lower than for Asians but higher than for whites. The Latino marriage rate in Chelsea is slightly higher than for Latinos statewide (32%).

EDUCATION

The average educational attainment in Chelsea is lower than in Massachusetts overall. In Massachusetts 34% of the population age 25 and older have a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 18% in Chelsea. As Figure 6 shows, Latinos have a lower percentage of their population with at least a bachelor's degree: 7%, compared to 40% for whites. The statewide rate for Latinos is 17%. At the other end of the educational scale, Latinos have a higher percentage of their adult population lacking a high school diploma: 52%, compared to 12% for whites and 23% for blacks. The statewide rate for Latinos lacking a high school diploma is 33%.

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

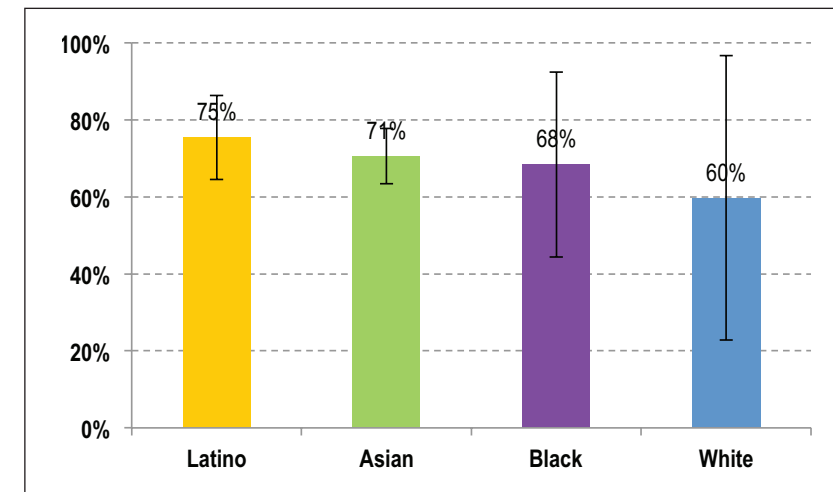


Source: 2013 3-Year ACS Data - B15002

LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

In Figure 7, Latinos in Chelsea have a higher labor force participation rate (75%) than other ethno-racial groups in the city. It is also higher than for Latinos statewide (66%). This high Latino labor participation is somewhat surprising because of identified characteristics of a youthful population (Figure 4) with lower levels of educational attainment (Figure 6).

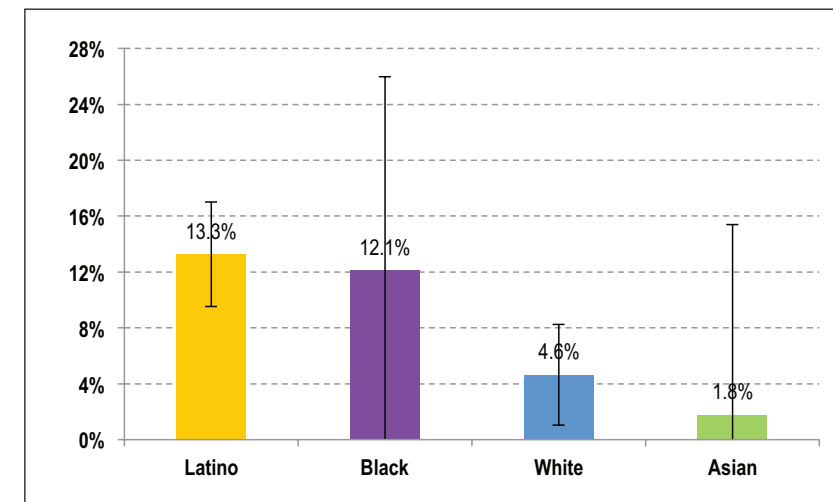
Figure 7: Labor Force Participation among Individuals 16 to 64 Years of Age by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2013 ACS 5-Year Data - C23002

The overall unemployment rate in Chelsea during this period was a high 10.5% compared to the statewide unemployment rate of 7.8%. The higher unemployment in the city is consistent with that of other Gateway Cities in the Commonwealth. The Latino unemployment rate of 13.3% is similar to the rate for blacks (12.1%) but much higher than for whites (4.6%). However, the Latino unemployment rate is lower than the 13.9% rate among Latinos statewide during this period.

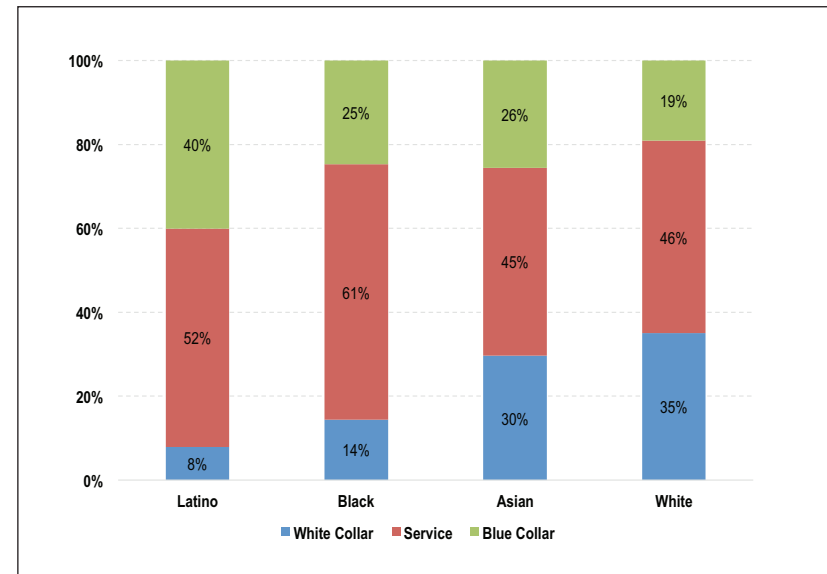
Figure 8: Unemployment Rates by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2013 ACS 5-Year Data - C23002

Figure 9 highlights that Latinos work in traditionally low-wage jobs. Latinos are underrepresented in what are traditionally considered white-collar jobs, with only 8% working in these management, business, science, and arts occupations. Correspondingly, they are overrepresented in the service sector, with 52% working in services and sales occupations, and in what are traditionally considered blue-collar jobs, with 40% working in natural resources, construction, maintenance, production, transportation, and material moving occupations.

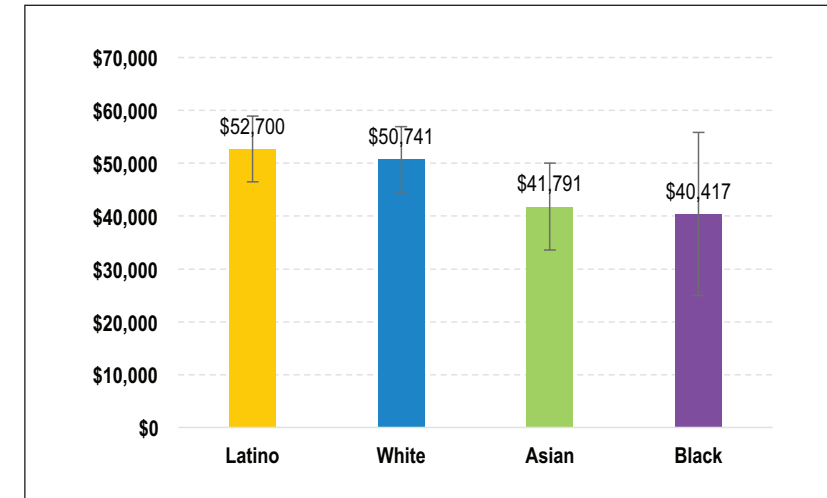
Figure 9: Population Employed by Occupational Category by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2013 ACS 5-Year Data - C24010

EARNINGS

Figure 10: Median Income by Ethno-Racial Group



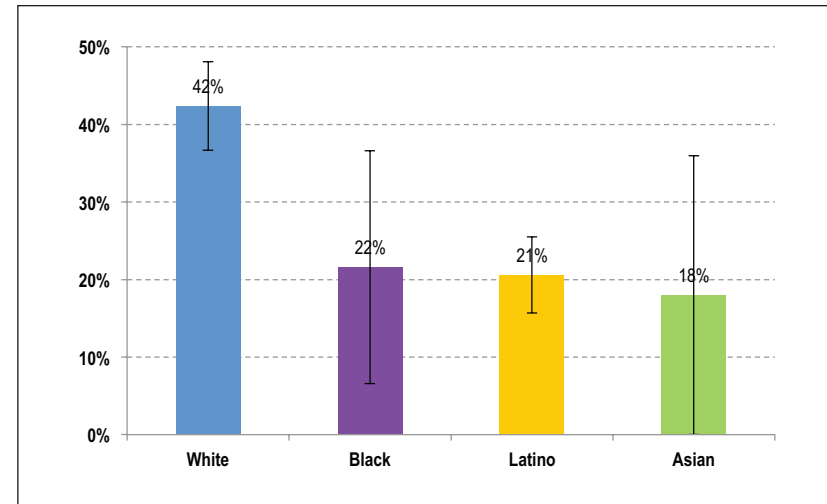
Source: 2013 ACS 3-Year Data - S1903

Highlighting the economic problems that Chelsea has experienced as a Gateway City in Massachusetts over the last several decades, the city's median income is \$50,056 which is lower than the statewide median income of \$66,135. However, Latinos in Figure 10 have the highest median income (\$52,700) of any ethno-racial group in the city. Latinos in Chelsea are more economically successful than Latinos in other parts of the Commonwealth, as the statewide Latino median income is \$34,726.

HOUSING STATUS AND MEDICAL UNINSURANCE

The final measures of Latino participation in Chelsea are intended to identify how well Latinos are being rewarded for their economic, social, and political participation. Chelsea has a lower homeownership rate (29%) than the statewide rate (66%) as measured by occupied housing units. Latinos in Figure 11 have the second lowest homeownership level of any ethno-racial group in the city at 21%, and this is lower than the 24% of Latinos statewide who are homeowners. As a complement to these percentages in Figure 11, it is evident that 79% of Latinos in Chelsea are renters.

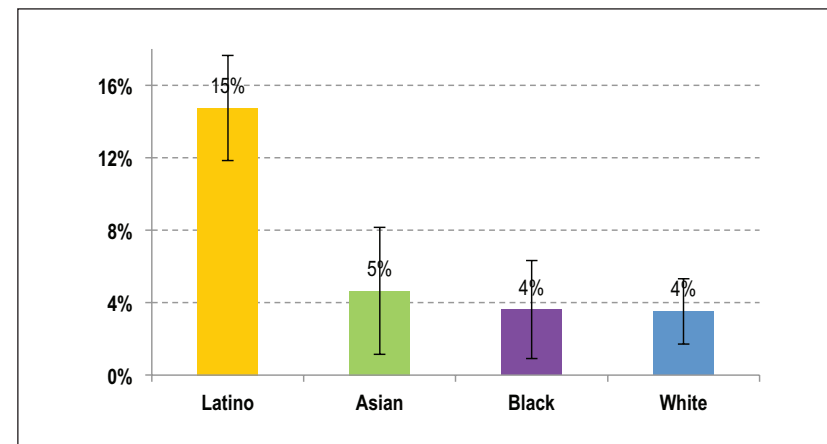
Figure 11: Homeownership Rates by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2013 ACS 3-Year Data - B25003

Chelsea has a higher rate of medical uninsurance (9%) than the statewide average of 4%. Some of this might be attributed to its higher concentration of foreign-born residents, who have the highest rates of uninsurance. Figure 12 shows that Latinos have the highest rates of medical uninsurance in Chelsea: 15%, which is higher than the rate of 8% for Latinos statewide.

Figure 12: Medical Uninsurance by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2013 ACS 5-Year Data - 2701

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 American Community Survey (ACS) data.

Our descriptive analysis uses 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.

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 2020 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 unauthorized immigration in the United States. 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 Mexican migrants and the impact of welfare and immigration policy reform on Latinos in Massachusetts. In addition to teaching in the Economics department, he is also an investigator for *Por Ahí Dicen*, a research project of the Center for Health Equity Intervention Research (CHEIR) that is evaluating the effectiveness of a Spanish language multi-media campaign in Springfield designed to increase Puerto Rican mother-child communication about sexuality and sexual health.

Mayara Fontes holds a M.A. in Applied Economics from University of Massachusetts Boston and is currently a Reporting Analyst at American Student Assistance. Her research interests include migration, health and human rights.