

4-2017

The Diversity and Dispersion of Latinos in Massachusetts

Ivan Lozano
State Street Bank and Trust

Phillip Granberry
University of Massachusetts Boston, phillip.granberry@umb.edu

Trevor Mattos
University of Massachusetts Boston

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarworks.umb.edu/gaston_pubs

 Part of the [Demography, Population, and Ecology Commons](#), [Latina/o Studies Commons](#), and the [Race and Ethnicity Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Lozano, Ivan; Granberry, Phillip; and Mattos, Trevor, "The Diversity and Dispersion of Latinos in Massachusetts" (2017). *Gastón Institute Publications*. 226.
http://scholarworks.umb.edu/gaston_pubs/226

This Research Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy Publications at ScholarWorks at UMass Boston. It has been accepted for inclusion in Gastón Institute Publications by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at UMass Boston. For more information, please contact library.uasc@umb.edu.



The Diversity and Dispersion of Latinos in Massachusetts

by Ivan Lozano, Phillip Granberry, PhD, and Trevor Mattos, MPP

April, 2017

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



Massachusetts

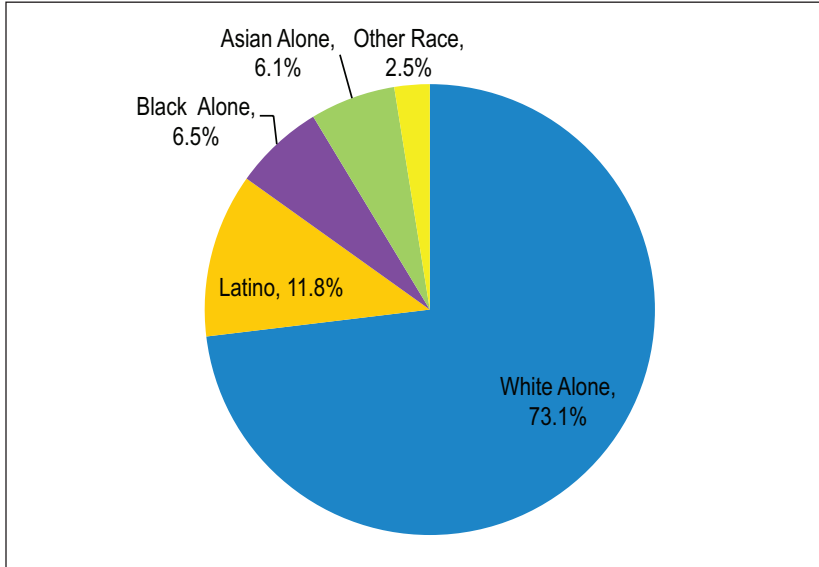
This snapshot report highlights the growing number, and increasing diversity, of Latinos in Massachusetts. In this state, as well as nationally, Latinos' share of the population continues to increase, at the expense principally of the aging non-Latino white population. The Latino population is young, with a high rate of dependent children and a low rate of dependent elders. Its workforce composition has not changed significantly in recent years: Latinos continue to be over-represented in blue-collar and service-sector jobs and under-represented in white-collar jobs. Across all occupational sectors (including white-collar jobs), Latino workers earn substantially less on average than members of other ethno-racial groups. Latinos also lag in regard to private medical insurance coverage and homeownership. Owning a home is a tangible mechanism for prosperity in many families and communities, a platform for economic mobility and success.

This report analyzes Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) data from the 2014 American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. Since ACS data are 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.

Our descriptive analysis uses both household- and individual-level ACS data to estimate population size and percentages, to compare Latinos to other ethno-racial groups (non-Latino white, non-Latino black, and non-Latino Asian subgroups), and to compare the top ten Latino subpopulations in Massachusetts by ancestry. These are Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Brazilians, Salvadorans, Guatemalans, Mexicans, Colombians, Hondurans, Cubans, and Peruvians. We use ancestry, based on migration from Latin America, rather than language: a self-identified Latino born in Massachusetts may have ancestors from a Latin American country but speak only English. For purposes of this report, Brazilians are included in the category "Latino," though most Brazilians self-report using a racial category – white or black – rather than identifying with the term "Latino."

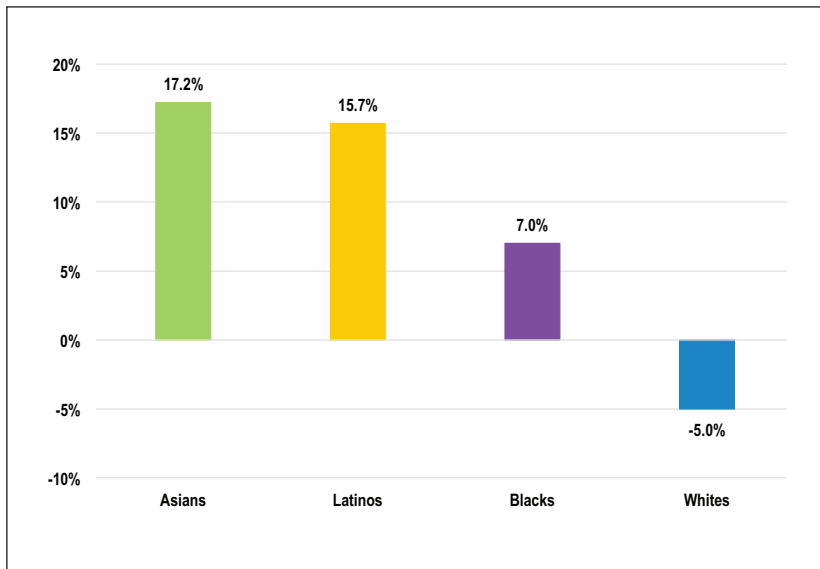
This socio-demographic and economic portrait of the growing Latino population in Massachusetts is divided into two sections: (1) socio-demographic characteristics of Latinos statewide compared to other ethno-racial groups; and (2) overview of the Latino population in eleven regions of the state, highlighting the growing diversity and dispersion of the Latino population in Massachusetts.

Figure 1: Population Percentages by Ethno-Racial Group in Massachusetts in 2014



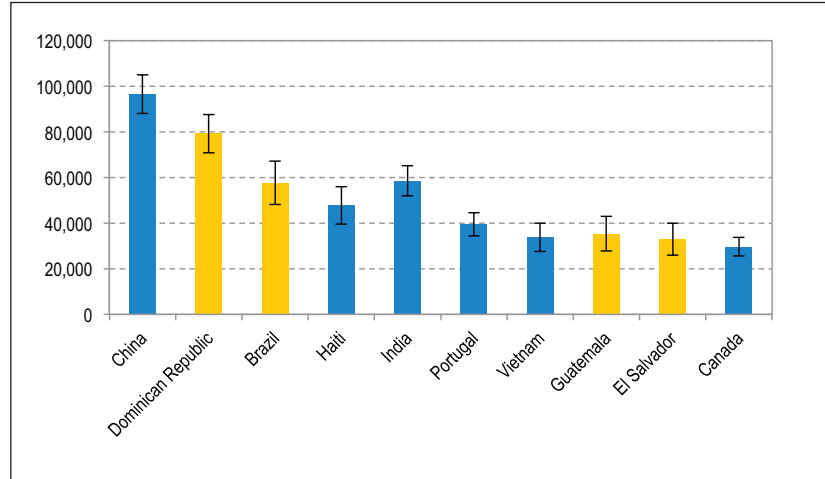
Massachusetts was home to 797,835 Latinos in 2014. The Latino population has grown by 15.7% in Massachusetts from 2010 to 2014. This marks a change relative to the Asian population in the state. Overall, from 2010 to 2014, Latinos were second in population growth, as Asians (17.2%) grew at an increased rate. Blacks (7.0%) grew at a slower rate. Meanwhile, whites continued to experience a decline of 5.0%.

Figure 2: Population Growth by Ethno-Racial Group in Massachusetts from 2010 to 2014



Growth for Latinos is due to international migration, domestic migration, and Latino births. Massachusetts is a hub for international migrants due to its access to employment, education, and healthcare. Latino countries account for four of the top ten sending countries which include the Dominican Republic (source of the largest foreign-born Latino population in the state), Brazil, Guatemala, and El Salvador.

Figure 3: Top 10 Sending Countries to Massachusetts in 2014

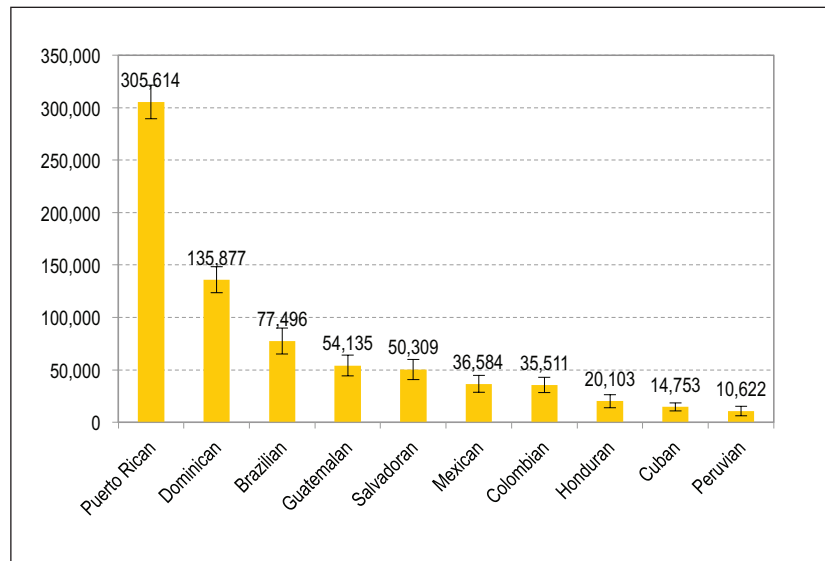


Granberry, Phillip; Rustan, Sarah; and Karp, Faye, “Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas: Massachusetts” (2013). Gastón Institute

Publications. Paper 179.

While exploring the ancestry of Latinos in the state, it is important to distinguish Puerto Ricans as U.S. citizens by birth; they are included in Figure 4, but not in Figure 3, since they are not foreign-born. Puerto Ricans constitute the largest Latino subpopulation in the state with a population of 305,614, followed by Dominicans with 135,877. Changes since the 2011 report include Peruvians making the top ten with a population of 10,622, along with Guatemalans surpassing Salvadorans. Cubans meanwhile rose to the ninth position while Ecuadorians dropped from the list.

Figure 4: Ancestry of the Top 10 Latino Groups in Massachusetts in 2014



AGE DISTRIBUTION AND MARITAL STATUS

Figures 5A and 5B represent the age distributions of the Latino and non-Latino populations of Massachusetts. Comparing the shape of the two graphs shows a significantly larger proportion of Latinos in the younger age brackets. There is a

slight increase in their age since our 2013 report, but with their age distribution the state still needs to invest in the education of young Latinos. In later years, as they achieve higher educational attainment, grow older, and enter more specialized career fields, they will contribute economically, socially, and politically. Also, as the non-Latino group enters retirement age (Figure 5B), the elderly population will require younger residents to keep the state’s cities vibrant and maintain a productive labor market. Latinos are heading in the right direction to take up leadership roles and make important contributions to their communities.

Granberry, Phillip; Rustan, Sarah; and Karp, Faye, “Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas: Massachusetts” (2013). Gastón Institute

Publications. Paper 179.

Figure 5A: Age Distribution of the Latino Population in Massachusetts in 2014

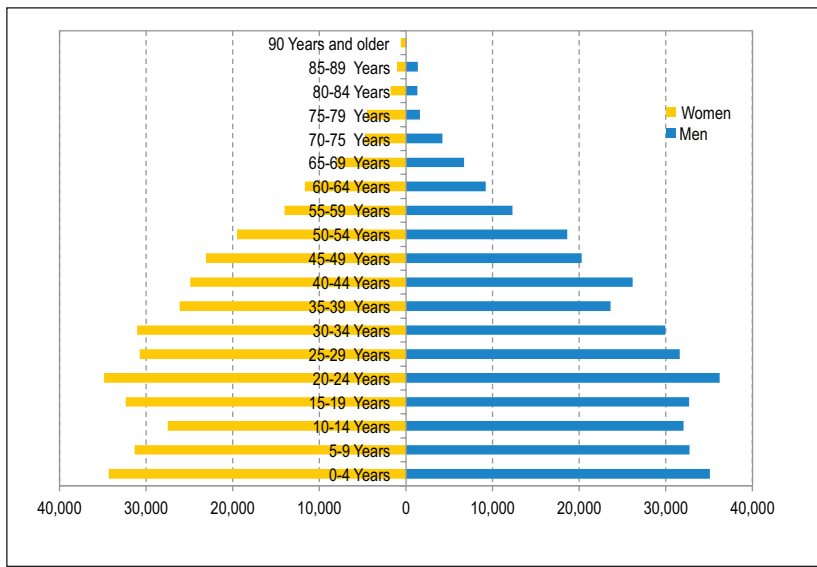
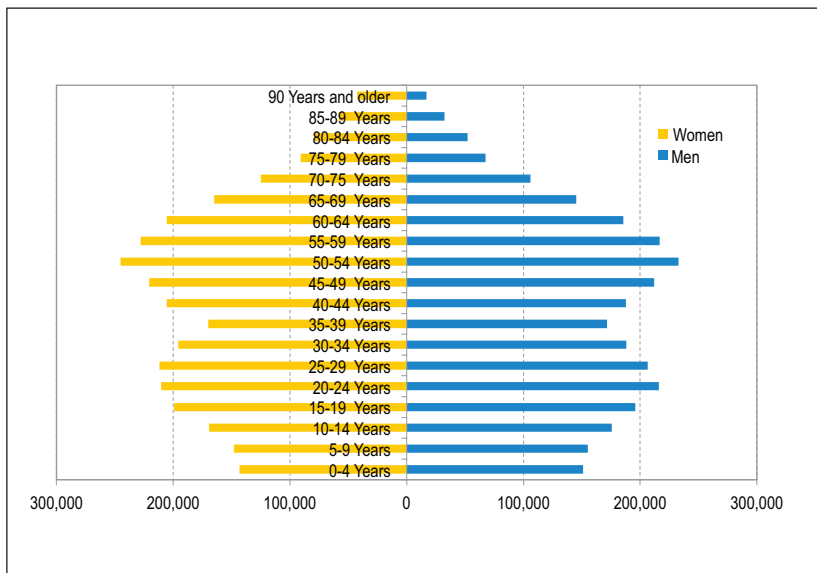
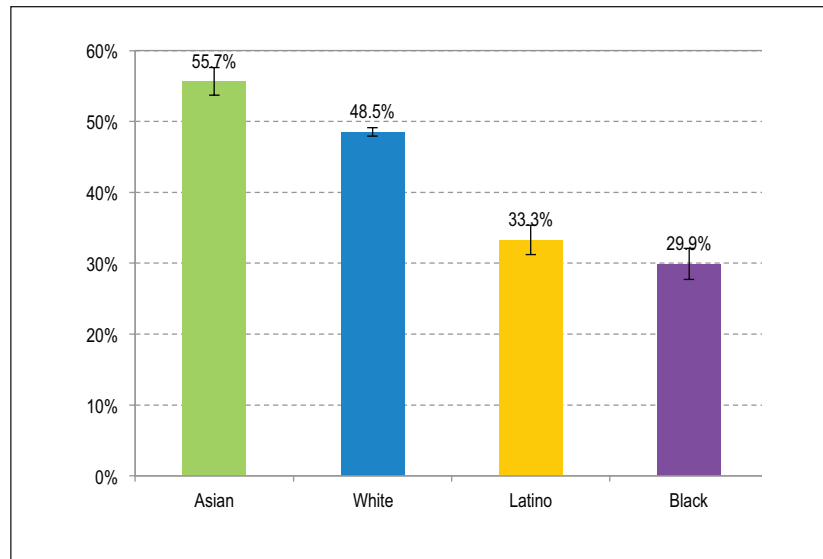


Figure 5B: Age Distribution of the Non-Latino Population in Massachusetts in 2014



The Latino population’s youthfulness is a likely factor contributing to their relatively low marriage rate. Figure 6, covering all ages 15 and older, shows that Latinos are significantly less likely to be married than are whites and Asians. People aged 15 to 24 are marrying at lower rates than previous cohorts.

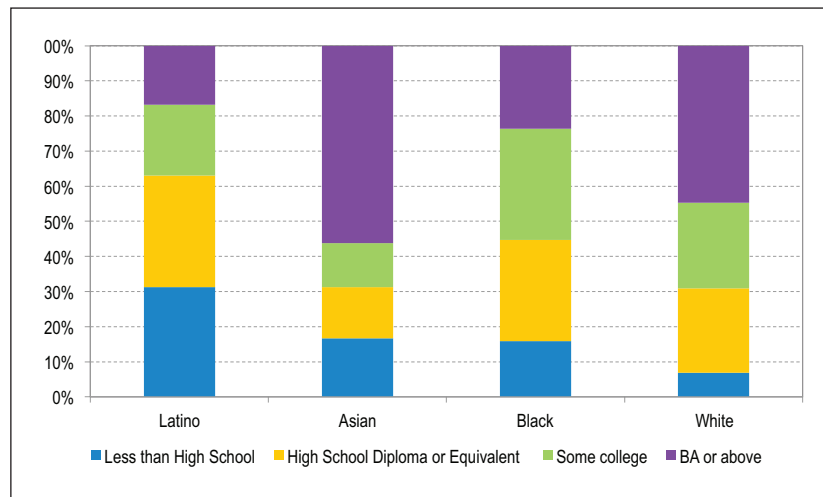
Figure 6: Marriage Rates by Ethno-Racial Group in 2014



EDUCATION

Figure 7 reveals that Latinos continue to have the highest percentage of their population with less than a high school diploma: 31.2%, compared to 16.7% for Asians, 15.8% for blacks, and 6.8% for whites. Correspondingly, Latinos have the lowest percentage of their population with at least a Bachelor's degree: 16.8% compared to 56.2% for Asians, 44.7% for whites, and 23.6% for blacks.

Figure 7: Educational Attainment by Ethno-Racial Group in 2014 (Adults 25 Years and Older)

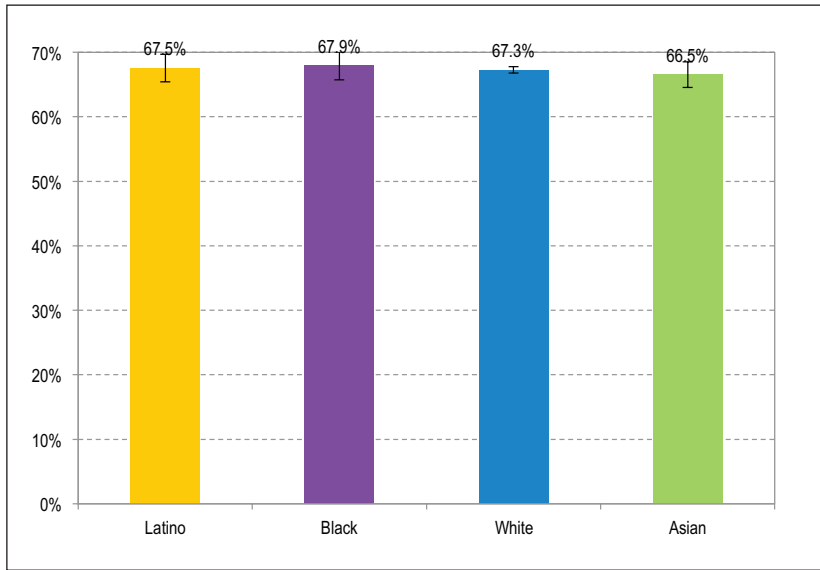


LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

Latinos' contribution to the Massachusetts labor force remains strong. Figure 8 identifies Latinos as having the second highest rate of labor force participation (67.5%, a slight decrease since 2011). This high rate is in part related to the large

proportion of their population being under 25 years of age (Figure 5A). In this age group, Latinos' relative lack of K-12 educational success (Figure 8) encourages earlier labor force participation rather than post-secondary education.

Figure 8: Labor Force Participation by Ethno-Racial Group in 2014



The previous graph on labor force participation suggests that Latinos in Massachusetts have a strong motivation to participate in the state's economy. However, Figure 9 shows a less optimistic story. The unemployment rate among Latinos in 2014 was 11.2%, which was slightly lower than for blacks (11.5%) but much higher than for Asians (7.7%) and almost double the unemployment rate of whites (5.6%). The economic labor forecast improved for all ethno-racial groups from 2011 to 2014, but Latinos still have significantly higher rates of unemployment, while whites are heading toward what is considered the natural rate of unemployment of 5%.

Figure 9: Unemployment Rates by Ethno-Racial Group in 2014

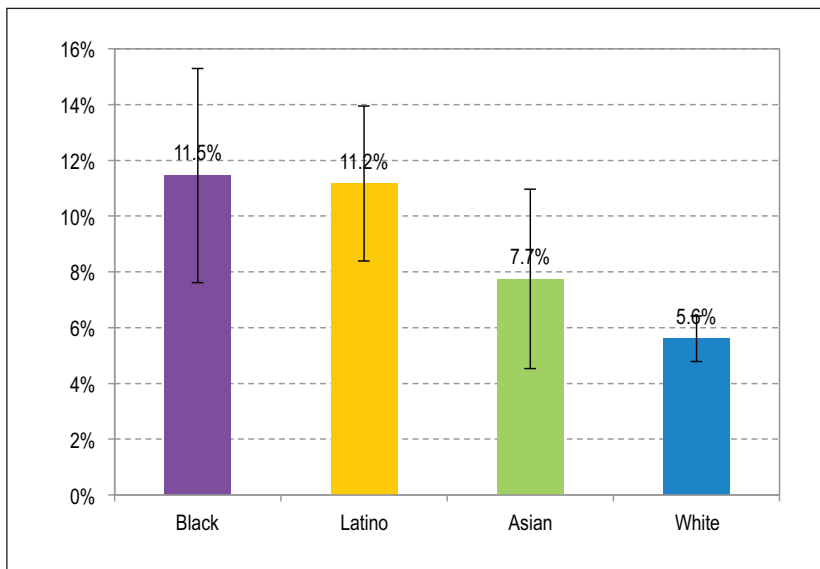
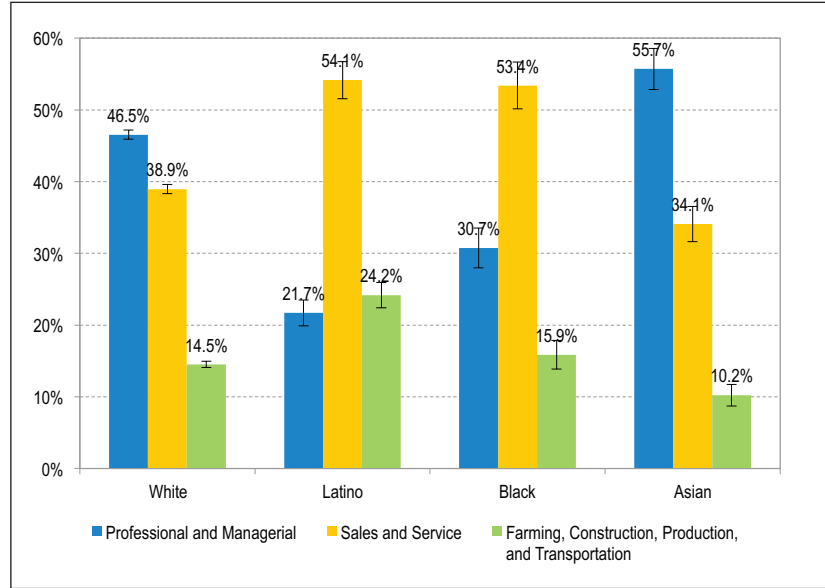


Figure 10 suggests that Latinos serve as complements to other ethno-racial groups in the Massachusetts labor market whose members have higher rates of educational attainment. Latinos are overrepresented in blue-collar jobs (farming, construction, production, and transportation) and underrepresented in white-collar jobs (professional and managerial).

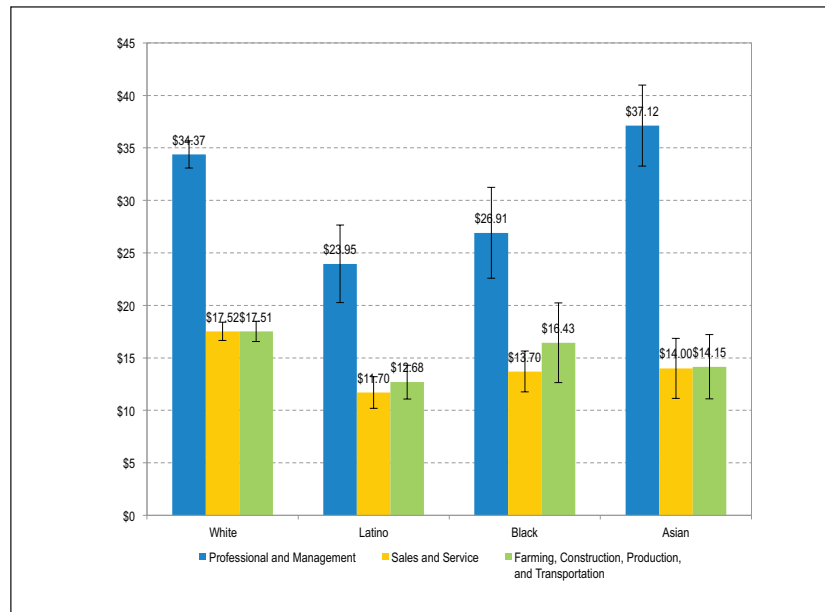
Figure 10: Population Employed by Occupation by Ethno-Racial Group in 2014



EARNINGS

Figure 11 shows wage rates for each of the occupational categories across all ethno-racial groups. Latinos in Massachusetts on average earn less per hour across all ethno-racial groups. Wage inequality can be harmful for the economy, productivity, and community development overall.

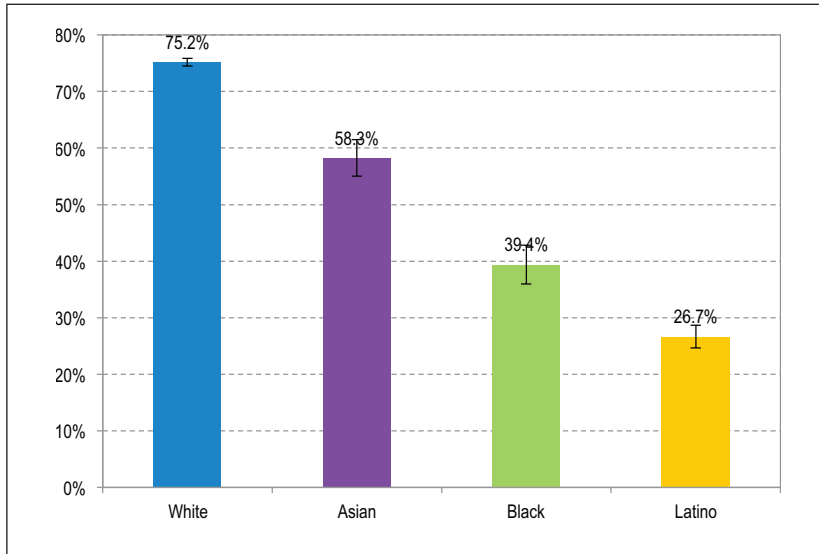
Figure 11: Hourly Wages by Occupation by Ethno-Racial Group in 2014



HOUSING STATUS AND MEDICAL INSURANCE

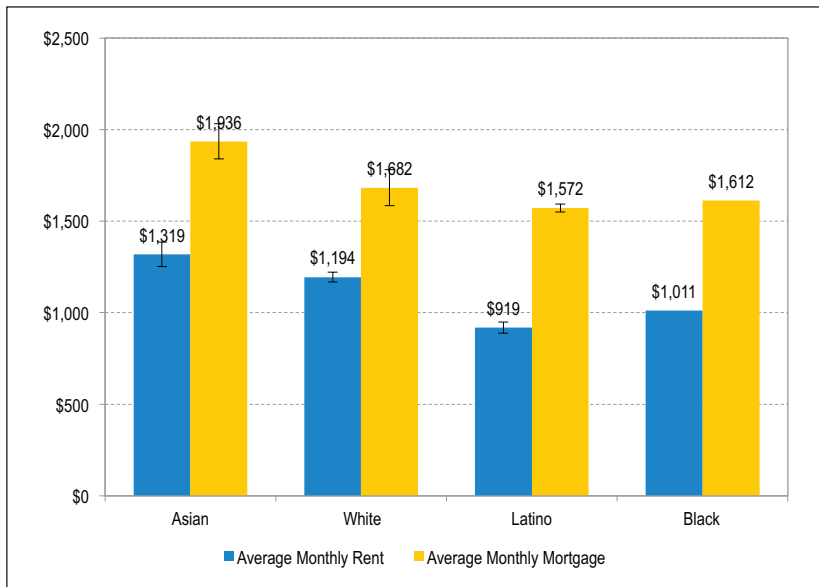
The final measures of Latino participation in Massachusetts are projected to identify how Latinos are rewarded for their economic, social, and political participation. Latinos continue to have the lowest homeownership rates of any ethno-racial group. The Latino homeownership rate of 26.7% means that 73.3% of Latinos are renters.

Figure 12: Homeownership Rates by Ethno-Racial Group



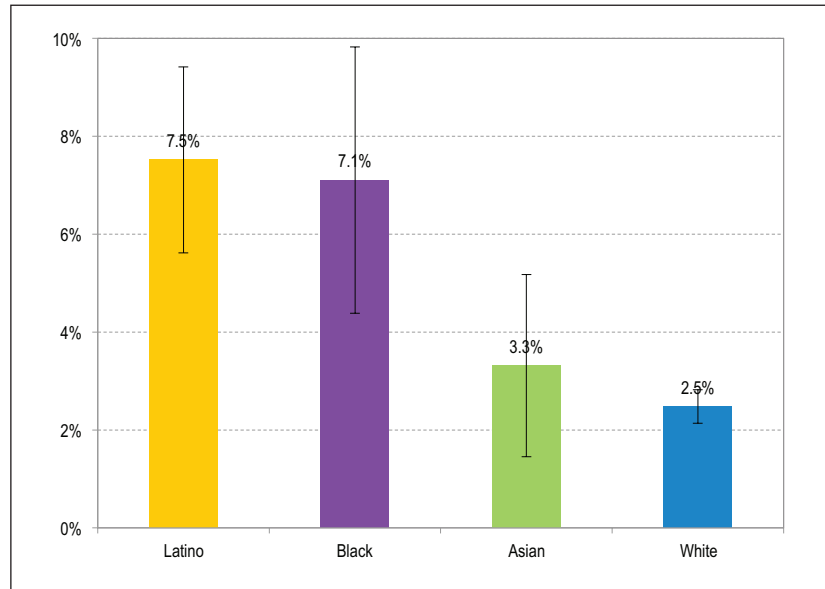
Due to low levels of homeownership, Latinos are highly dependent on the local rental market. On average, the monthly rent paid by Latinos (\$919) is lower than for any other ethno-racial group. Mortgage payments display a similar trend, with Latino homeowners tending to expend less than homeowners from other ethno-racial groups.

Figure 13: Housing Costs by Ethno-Racial Group in 2014



As for all other ethno-racial groups, there was a significant decrease in the percentage of Latinos without medical insurance from 2011 to 2014, but they continued to lead with 7.5% uninsured in Massachusetts (Figure 14). Foreign-born Latinos may contribute to the higher Latino insurance rate in the state.

Figure 14: Medical Uninsurance by Ethno-Racial Group in 2014



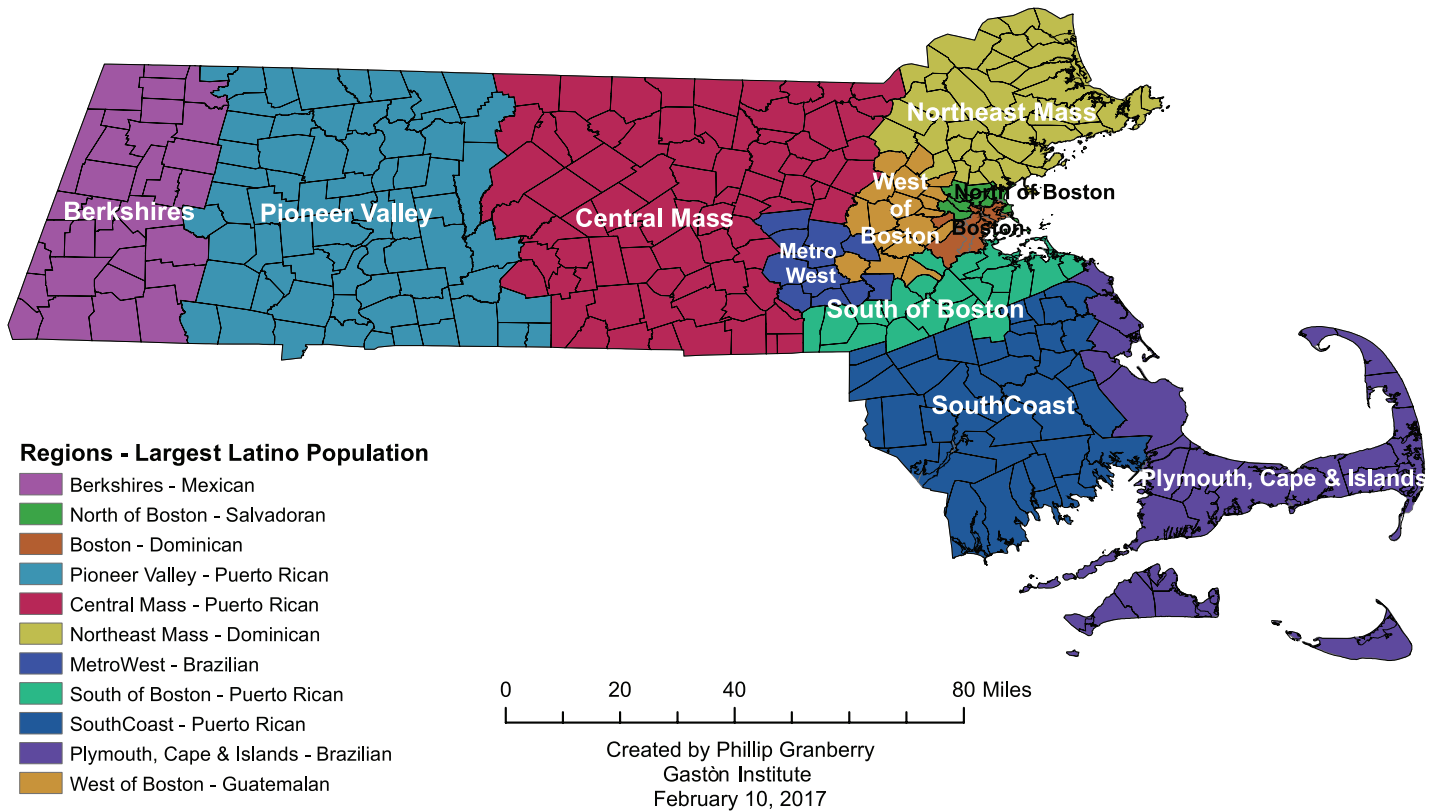
Diverse Latino Populations in the Regions of Massachusetts

The Gastón Institute began producing demographic reports in 1990, when the state's Latino population was 272,000. At that time, 55% of the Latino population was Puerto Rican. In this report, using 2014 American Community Survey data, the state's Latino population has grown to 797,835; while Puerto Ricans remain the largest Latino population, they now comprise only 39% of the state's Latino population. In some regions of the state, a different Latino group – Dominicans, Brazilians, Salvadorans, Guatemalans, or Mexicans – now makes up the largest Latino subpopulation. In each regional sub-section that follows, we show the leading Latino groups and provide a brief snapshot of demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of Latinos in the region.

This regional approach is guided by the distribution and diversity of the Latino population in the state, focusing on country-specific migration based on social networks. That is, newcomers settle in places where there is already a presence of people from their country. This includes Puerto Ricans, who have a long history in Massachusetts and are dispersed throughout all regions of the state.

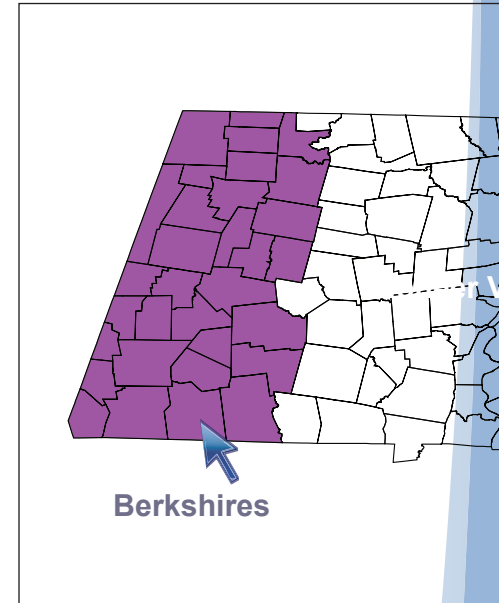
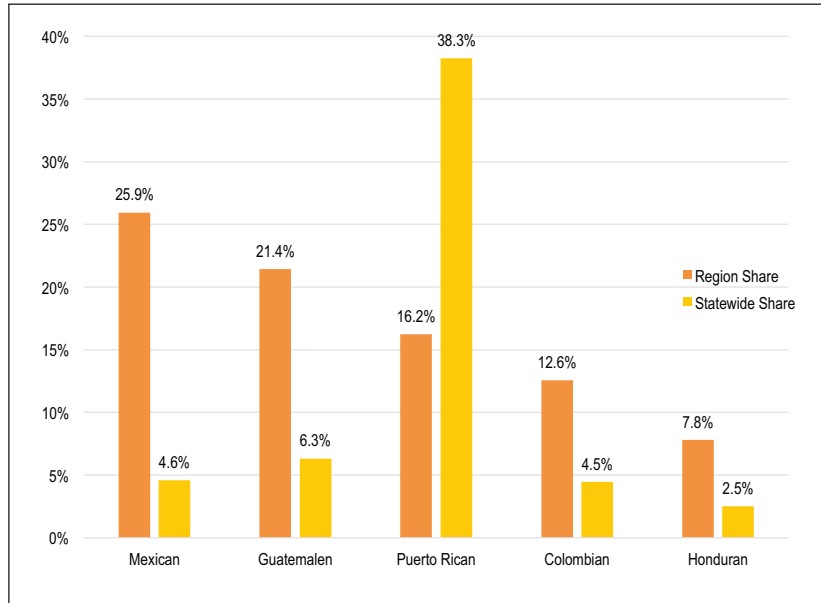
The U.S. Census Bureau projects that Latinos nationwide will grow by 118% by 2060 and comprise 28% of the U.S. population. This growth will result from both nativity and migration. Because growth of the Latino population over the last 25 years has resulted primarily from international migration, we would expect that these Latino populations will grow in these regions as they are facilitated by Latino international migration into the state and nativity of U.S.-born Latinos. At the same time, the current economic crisis in Puerto Rico is sending many families to existing communities in each region, with Hampden County being a top destination nationally for arriving Puerto Ricans from the island.

Latino Regions of Massachusetts



Region 1: Berkshires

5,830 | 4.5%



DEMOGRAPHICS

One of the less densely populated regions in the state (the largest city is Pittsfield), the Berkshires region is home to 5,830 Latinos, who represent 4.5% of the Berkshires population. As the chart shows, Mexicans are the largest subpopulation in the region, followed by Guatemalans, Puerto Ricans, Colombians, and Hondurans. A striking feature of Latinos in the Berkshires is that they are predominantly male (58.4%, compared to 50.8% for Latinos statewide). The median age for Latinos in this region is 19 years, much lower than the statewide Latino median of 27 years (and strikingly lower than the overall figure for the region of 45 years).

EDUCATION, INCOME, AND EMPLOYMENT

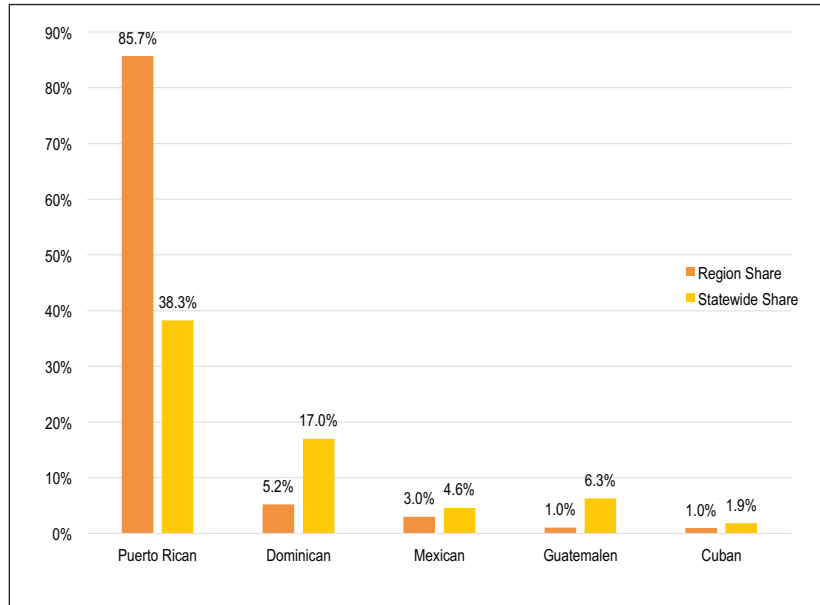
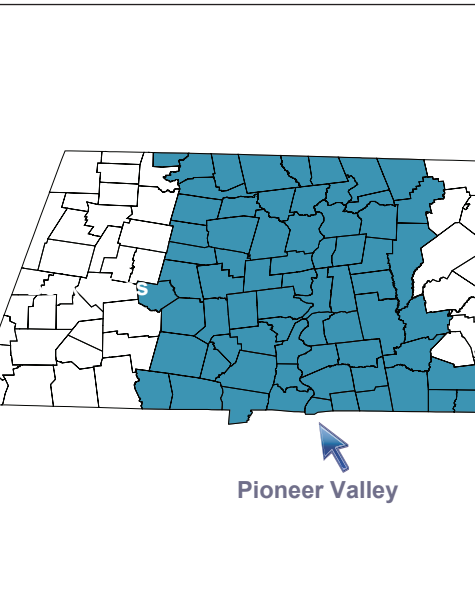
The median income for Latino full-time year-round workers in the Berkshires is \$18,152, only about a third of the overall median in this region of \$42,354. It is also only about half of the Latino statewide median income of \$32,270. The top employment area for Latinos in the Berkshires is services.

HOUSING & MEDICAL INSURANCE

Not surprisingly given the age profile and low earnings, the great majority of Latinos in the Berkshires (83.1%) are renters, with only 16.9% of Latino households owning their own homes. This compares to the homeownership figures both for Latinos statewide (21.4%) and, especially, the overall average for the region (66.6%). Similarly, nearly a fourth (23.4%) of Latinos in the Berkshires lack medical insurance, compared to the statewide Latino uninsurance rate of 7.5% and the overall rate of 4.2% for the region.

120,285 | 17.2%

Region 2: Pioneer Valley



DEMOGRAPHICS

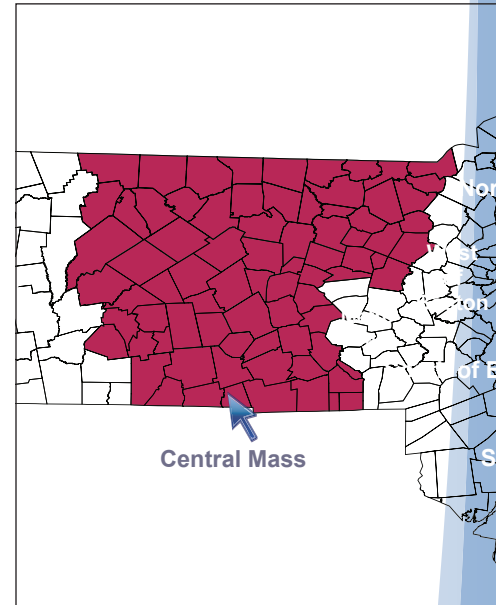
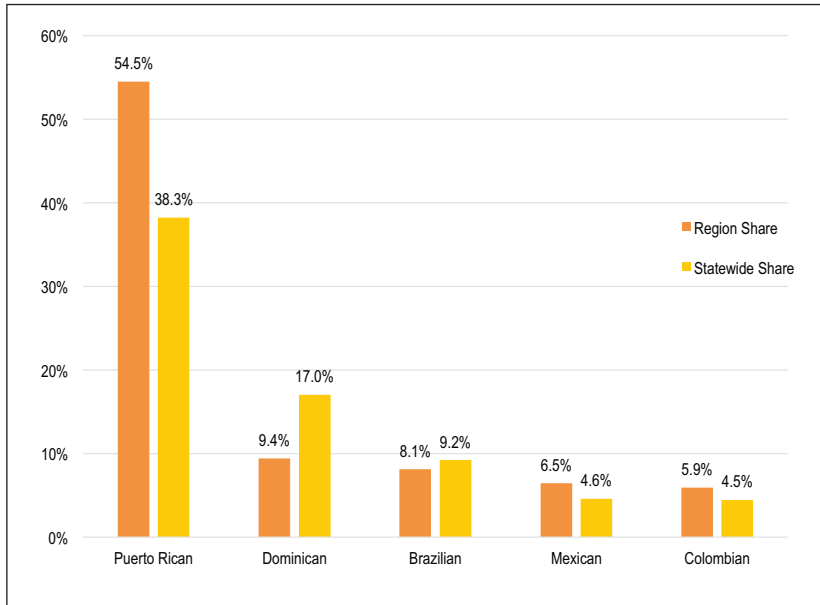
The Pioneer Valley in western Massachusetts includes Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden Counties. This region is home to 120,285 Latinos, representing 17.2% of the region's population. Even though Springfield is the largest city, Holyoke has the largest percentage of Puerto Ricans for any city in the state. In the region as a whole, Puerto Ricans comprise by far the highest percentage of Latinos (85.7%, compared to 5.2% for the second highest, Dominicans). The median age for Latinos in the region is 26, much older than in the Berkshires region but also much younger than the Pioneer Valley's overall median age of 39.

EDUCATION, INCOME, AND EMPLOYMENT

In the Pioneer Valley, the median income for Latino full-time year-round workers is \$30,253, not quite two thirds of the overall regional median of \$45,379. (Statewide, the median income for Latino workers is just under 60% of the overall median.) Only 12.8% of Latinos ages 25 year or older have earned a Bachelor's degree, compared to the overall regional average of 31.7%. The top occupational category among Latinos in the Pioneer Valley is services.

HOUSING AND MEDICAL INSURANCE

A slightly higher percentage of Latinos in the Pioneer Valley than in the Berkshires are homeowners (15.7% compared to 12.8%) but the overall regional average (61.4%) is more than four times higher. Latinos in this region have a medical uninsurance rate of 4.5%, much lower than the Latino statewide rate (7.5%).



DEMOGRAPHICS

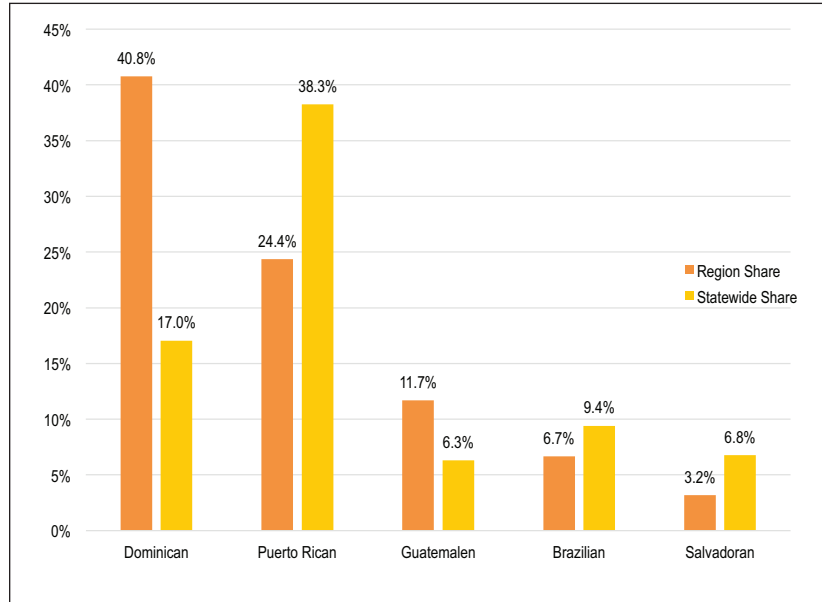
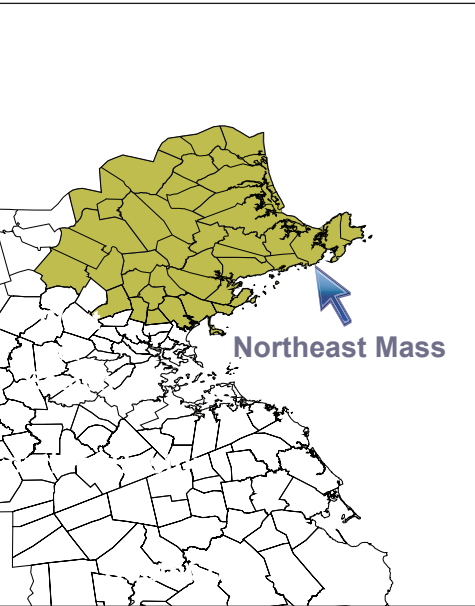
Central Mass includes Worcester, Leominster, Fitchburg, Gardner, Southbridge, and Lowell; and its 128,352 Latinos represent 11.1% of the region’s population. Puerto Ricans, while not as dominant as in the Pioneer Valley, comprise well over half (54.5%) of the Latino population. The median age for Latinos in this region is 28 years, which is the same as Latinos statewide, but younger than 40.3 years for the region’s overall population. It may be noteworthy that the data also show there are 3,700 Ecuadorians and 2,690 Uruguayans in Central Mass.

EDUCATION, INCOME, AND EMPLOYMENT

In this region, the median income for Latino full-time year-round workers is \$30,253, slightly lower than for Latinos statewide and much lower than the overall average in the region (\$53,447). The share of Latinos 25 years or older with a Bachelor’s degree is close to 14%, compared to 16.8% for Latinos statewide and 37.3% of all adults in the Central Mass region. The top occupational category for Latinos in the region is services.

HOUSING & MEDICAL INSURANCE

The percentage of Latinos in this region who own their homes (22.9%) is very close to the statewide Latino figure of 21.4%. For all households of the region, 65.9% are homeowners. The Latino medical uninsurance rate is 5.8%, lower than the statewide Latino uninsurance rate of 7.5%. The overall rate for the region is 3.2%.



DEMOGRAPHICS

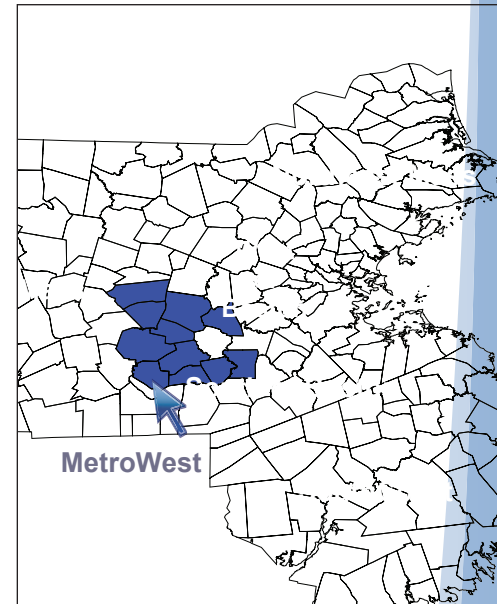
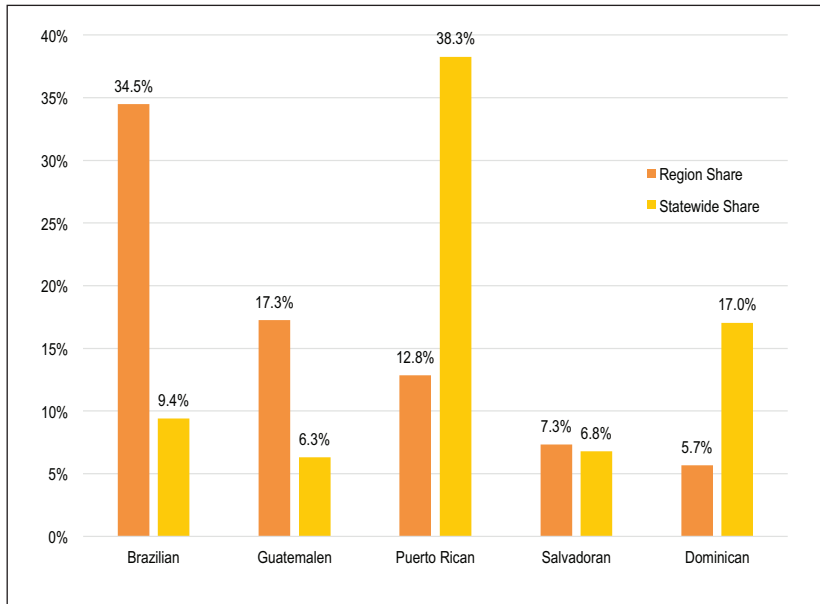
In Northeast Mass, whose largest cities and towns are Lawrence, Haverhill, Lynn, and Salem, the Latino population of 160,562 represents 15.7% of the region’s population. No group makes up more than half of the Latino population, but Dominicans (40.8%) come close, followed by Puerto Ricans and Guatemalans. The median age of Latinos in this region is 26, slightly younger than Latinos statewide (27 years), and significantly younger than the overall average for the region (41 years). It may be noteworthy that the data also show there are 1,487 Venezuelans and 1,223 Ecuadorians in the Northeast Mass region.

EDUCATION, INCOME, AND EMPLOYMENT

For Northeast Mass, the median income for Latino full-time year-round workers is \$30,253. This is slightly lower than the statewide Latino average of \$32,270 and just over half of the overall average for the Northeast region. The share of Latinos age 25 and older with a Bachelor’s degree (13.7%) is scarcely one third of the overall average for the region (39.9%). The top occupational category for Latinos in this region is the service sector.

HOUSING AND MEDICAL INSURANCE

The homeownership rate for Latinos in the Northeast Mass region (21.1%) is on par with the statewide Latino average but much lower than the 65.5% figure for all households in this region. The percentage of Latinos without medical insurance is 6.8%, slightly lower than the statewide Latino rate of 7.5% but much higher than the 3.1% overall rate for the region.



DEMOGRAPHICS

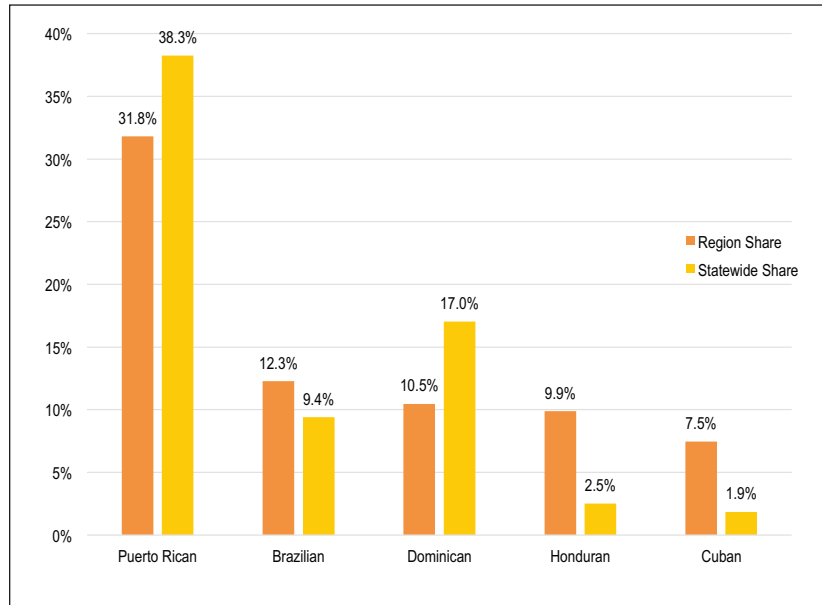
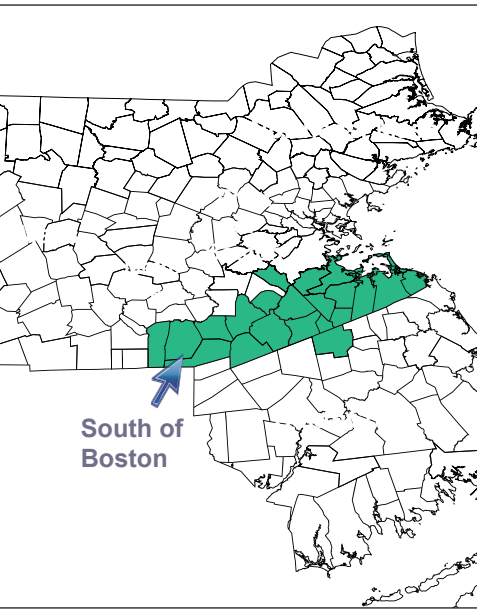
In the MetroWest region, the Latino population is 32,350, representing 12.2% of the region’s population. Framingham and Marlborough are the largest towns in this region. Brazilians, with 34.5% of the Latino population, are the dominant group, followed by Guatemalans and Puerto Ricans. Latinos in the region are typically female (51.1%) similar to their statewide percentage of 50.8. The median age for Latinos in this region is 32 years, younger for the region (overall median 41 years) but older than Latinos statewide (27 years). The data also show that there are 1,405 Bolivians and 1,054 Chileans in MetroWest.

EDUCATION, INCOME, AND EMPLOYMENT

The median income for Latino full-time year-round workers in this region is \$30,253, about the same as in most other regions of the state but strikingly low for the region (overall median income \$60,506). Likewise, the share of Latinos who are 25 years or older with a Bachelor’s degree (19.8%) is slightly greater than the statewide Latino average (16.8%) but less than half the overall median for the MetroWest region (51.9%). The top occupations for Latinos in this region are in the service sector.

HOUSING AND MEDICAL INSURANCE

Only 17.2% of Latino households in this region own their homes, less than the 21.4% figure for Latinos statewide and almost exactly one fourth of the 68.2% overall figure for the region. The total number of Latinos without medical insurance is 18.7% much higher than the Latino uninsurance rate of 7.5% for the state and more than four times the overall uninsurance rate for the region (4.3%)



DEMOGRAPHICS

In the South of Boston region, whose largest cities and towns are Brockton, Quincy, and Randolph, the Latino population of 32,412 accounts for only 5.1% of the region’s population. Nearly a third (31.8%) of the Latinos are Puerto Ricans, followed by Brazilians, Dominicans, and Hondurans, who account for about 10% each. The median age for Latinos is 31 years, older than the statewide Latino median (27 years) but much younger than the overall median of 41 years for the region.

EDUCATION, INCOME, AND EMPLOYMENT

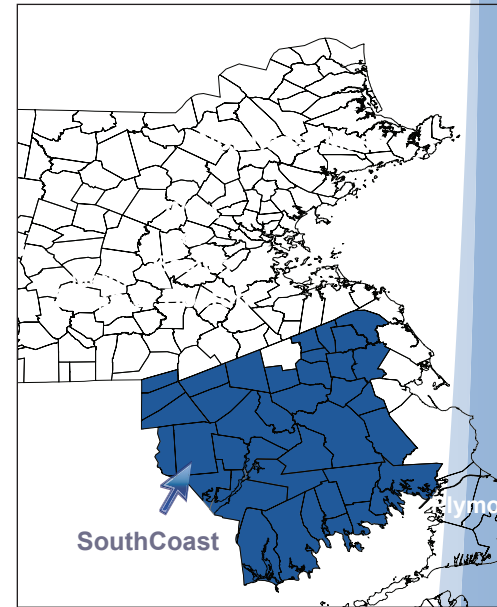
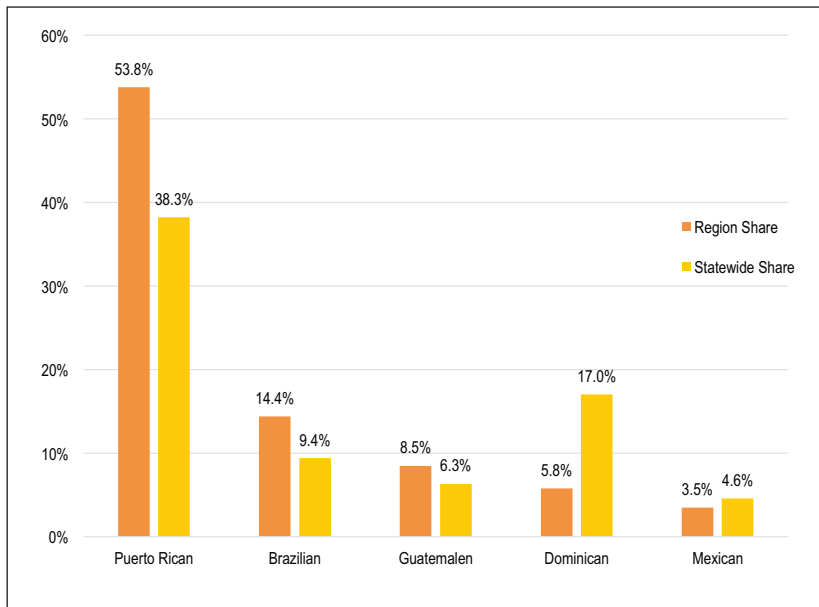
Full-time year-round Latino workers in this region have a median income of \$40,337, much higher than the statewide Latino median (\$32,270) but little more than half of the overall figure of \$57,480 for the region. Likewise, the share of Latinos 25 years or older who have a Bachelor’s degree, 28.3%, is much higher than the 16.8% figure for Latinos statewide but lower than the overall regional figure of 42.5%. The top occupational category for Latinos in the region is the service sector.

HOUSING AND MEDICAL INSURANCE

A much higher proportion of Latinos in this region than in most other regions own their own homes (37.6%) compared to 21.4% for Latinos statewide, though this figure is eclipsed by the overall homeownership percentage of 67.1% for the region. The percentage of Latinos without medical insurance is 4.6%, lower than the statewide Latino uninsurance rate of 7.5% but higher than the overall percentage for the region (2.8%).

Region 7: SouthCoast

49,435 | 6.2%



DEMOGRAPHICS

In the SouthCoast region, whose largest cities are Fall River and New Bedford, the Latino population is 49,435, representing 6.2% of the region's population. Puerto Ricans (53.8%) make up well over half of the Latino population, with Brazilians (14.4%) the only other group with more than 10%. Latinos in the region are predominantly male (52.1%). This differs from Latinos statewide, who are 50.8% female. The median age for Latinos is 26 years, slightly younger than for Latinos statewide (27 years) and much younger than for the region's overall population (41 years).

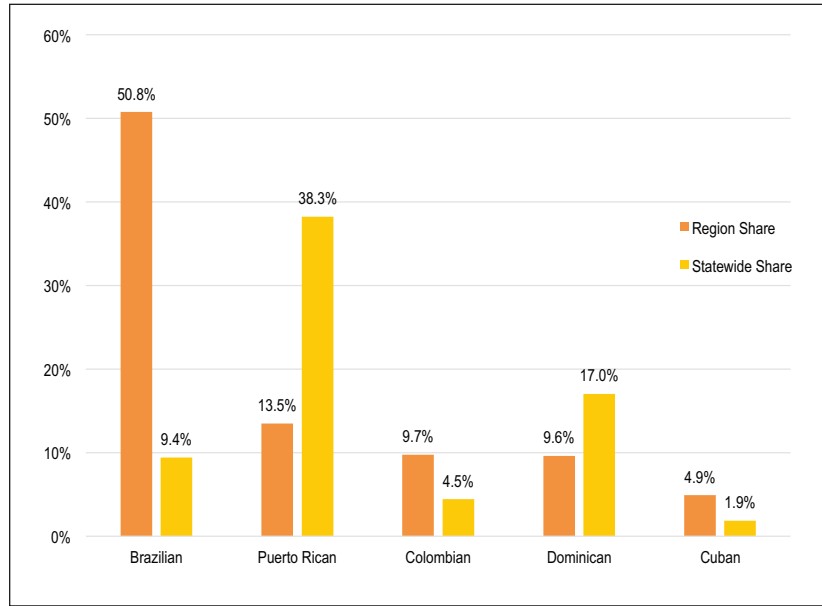
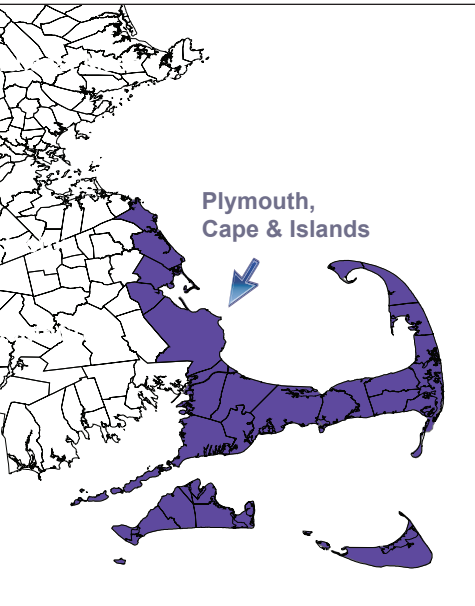
EDUCATION, INCOME, AND EMPLOYMENT

The SouthCoast's Latinos have a median income for full-time year-round workers of \$32,270, the same as Latinos statewide but lower than for all workers in the region (\$50,421) and in Massachusetts (\$54,455). The share of Latinos 25 years or older who have a Bachelor's degree is 9.6%, compared with 16.8% for Latinos statewide and 28.2% for the region's overall adult population. The top occupational category for Latinos in the region is the service sector.

HOUSING AND MEDICAL INSURANCE

The proportion of Latinos in the SouthCoast region who own their homes is higher than for Latinos statewide (27.3% compared to 21.4%). For all households in the SouthCoast region, 66.9% are homeowners. The total number of Latinos without medical insurance is 11%, greater than the statewide Latino uninsured rate of 7.5%. For all residents of this region, the uninsurance rate is 4%.

Region 8: Plymouth, Cape & Islands



DEMOGRAPHICS

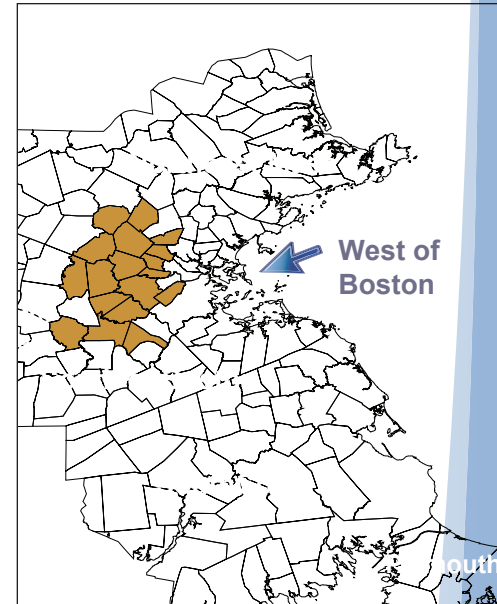
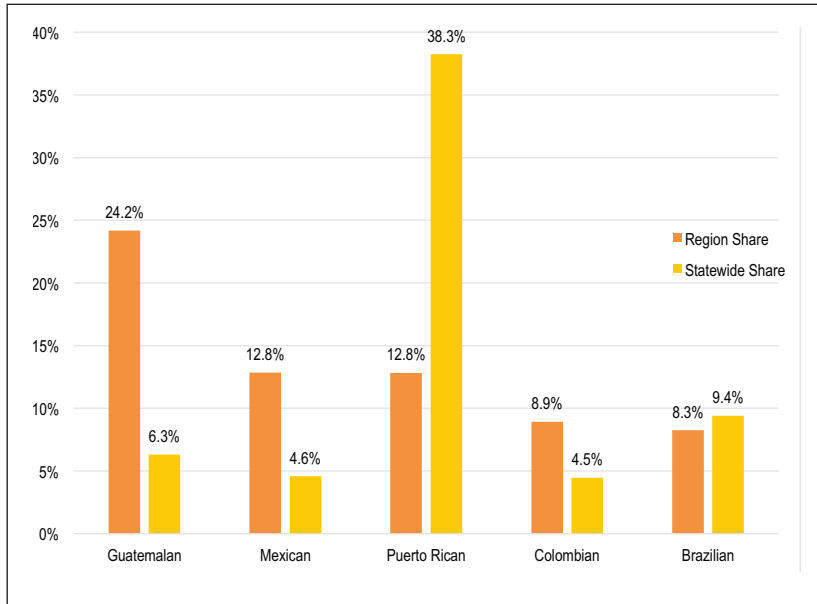
In Plymouth, Cape & Islands, the Latino population is 17,723 representing 4.7% of the population. Brazilians are by far the largest Latino subpopulation with 54.8% of the region’s Latino population, followed at a distance by Puerto Ricans and Colombians. The median age for Latinos is 30 years, slightly older than the median for Latinos statewide (27 years) but much younger than the overall median of 48 years for the region.

EDUCATION, INCOME, AND EMPLOYMENT

Latinos’ median income in the region is \$30,253, slightly below the statewide Latino median (\$32,270) and well below the overall figure of \$54,455 for the region. The share of Latinos age 25 years or older with a Bachelor’s degree is 22.4%, higher than the statewide Latino figure of 16.8% of Latinos statewide and slightly below half of the overall figure for the region (45.0%). The top occupational category for Latinos in the region is the service sector.

HOUSING AND MEDICAL INSURANCE

A sizeable minority of Latinos in this region are homeowners (40.9%, compared to the statewide Latino figure of 21.4%). For all households in the region, 79.0% are homeowners. However, a high proportion of Latinos in the region lack medical insurance (16.5%, compared to the statewide Latino figure of 7.5% and the overall figure of 3.2% for the region).



DEMOGRAPHICS

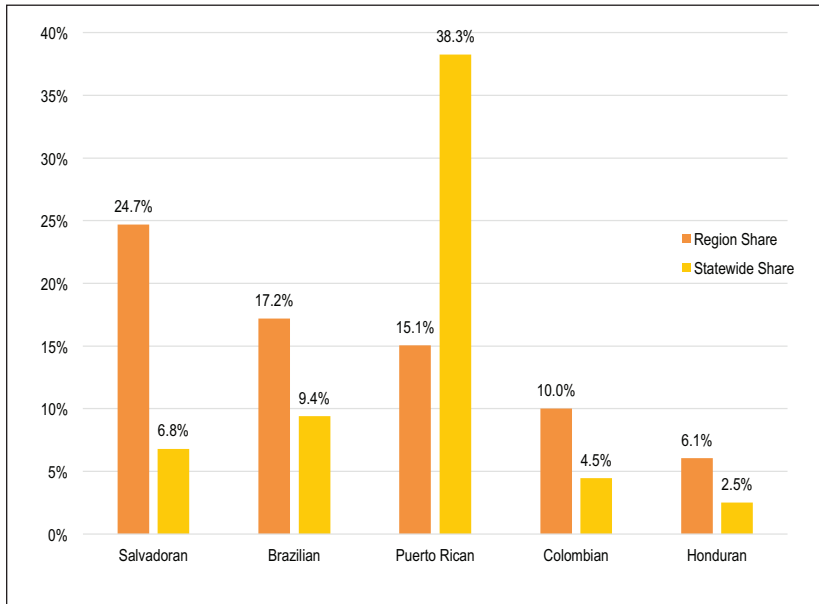
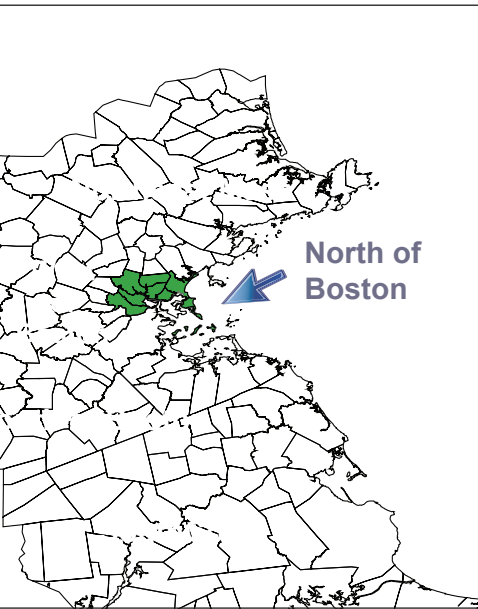
The West of Boston region’s largest city is Waltham. The Latino population is 33,206, representing 6.3% of the region’s population. This is the only region of the state in which Guatemalans (24.2%) are the largest Latino subpopulation, but Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Colombians, and Brazilians also form sizeable subgroups. Latinos in this region are predominantly female at 53.5%, a higher percentage than for any other region. The median age for Latinos is 28 years, slightly higher than for Latinos statewide (27 years) but lower than the region’s overall population (39 years). The data also show that there are 1,543 Chileans in the West of Boston region.

EDUCATION, INCOME, AND EMPLOYMENT

Full-time year-round Latino workers in this region have a median income of \$38,320. This is notably higher than for Latinos statewide (\$32,270), but strikingly lower than the overall median for the region (\$75,632). The share of Latinos age 25 or older who have a Bachelor’s degree is 36.5%, which at one and the same time is about twice the statewide Latino average and half of the overall average for the region. The top occupational category for Latinos in the region is the service sector.

HOUSING AND MEDICAL INSURANCE

Slightly below a quarter of Latino households in the region own their homes: 24.2%, a bit higher than the 21.4% figure for Latinos statewide and much lower than the 65.6 figure for the overall population of the region. The total number of Latinos without medical insurance is 5.4%, lower than for Latinos statewide (7.5%) but higher than the overall figure of 2.6% for the region.



DEMOGRAPHICS

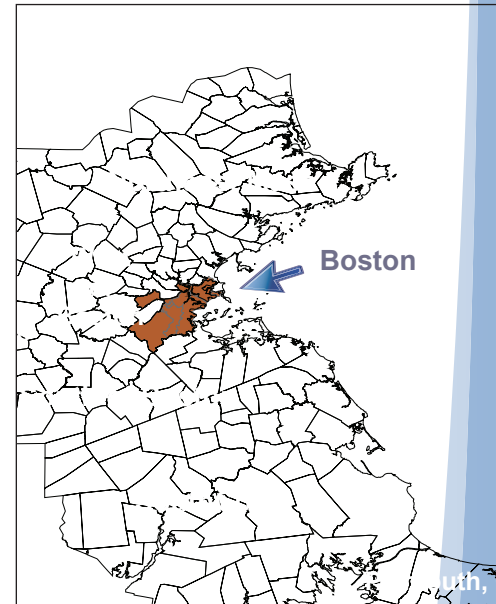
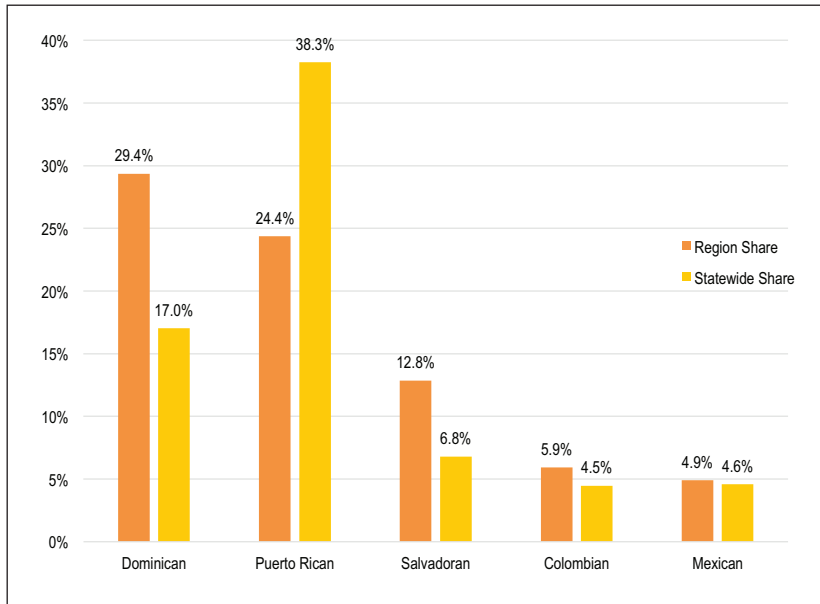
The North of Boston region is home to Chelsea, Revere, Somerville, and Everett. The Latino population is 93,087, representing 20.1% of the population. Salvadorans constitute 24.7% of the Latino population, with Brazilians and Puerto Ricans not far behind. The median age for Latinos is 31 years, compared 27 years for Latinos statewide and 33 years for the region overall. The data also show that there are 2,974 Chileans and 1,330 Ecuadorians in the North of Boston region.

EDUCATION, INCOME, AND EMPLOYMENT

Full-time year-round Latino workers in this region earn a median income of \$34,287, slightly higher than for Latinos statewide (\$32,270) and about two thirds of the overall figure for the region (\$50,421). The share of Latinos age 25 or older who have a Bachelor’s degree (15.9%) is quite low compared to other regions and to the overall figure for the North of Boston region (45.0%). The top occupations for Latinos are in the service sector.

HOUSING AND MEDICAL INSURANCE

The proportion of Latinos in this region who are homeowners (21.9%) is slightly higher than the statewide Latino percentage and lower than the overall percentage for the region of 40.2%. The proportion of Latinos without medical insurance is 6.4%, a bit lower than the and statewide Latino uninsurance rate (7.5%) and higher than the overall rate of 4.1% for the region.



DEMOGRAPHICS

The city of Boston has the third largest Latino population (124,593) and the second highest Latino regional percentage (19%, trailing only the 20.1% of the North of Boston Region). Dominicans are the largest Latino subpopulation, representing 29.4% of the Latino population, with Puerto Ricans and Salvadorans also contributing large numbers. The median age for Latinos is 27 years, the same as for Latinos statewide, and not much younger than the city’s overall median of 31 years. Boston is also home to 1,994 Panamanians, 1,357 Costa Ricans, and 1,108 Venezuelans.

EDUCATION, INCOME, AND EMPLOYMENT

In Boston the median income of Latino full-time year-round workers is \$35,295, similar to that of Latinos statewide (\$32,270), though considerably lower than the median for the city’s overall population (\$54,455). The share of Latinos age 25 years or older who have a Bachelor’s degree is 19.6%, higher than for Latinos statewide (16.8%) but lower than the city’s overall figure of 45.9%. The top occupational category for Latinos is the service sector.

HOUSING AND MEDICAL INSURANCE

Fewer than one fifth of Latinos in Boston are homeowners (17.3%), lower than the percentage for Latinos statewide (21.4%) and the overall percentage for the city (35.3%). Nearly one tenth of the city’s Latinos lack medical insurance (9.0%), compared to the overall figure of 5.0% for the city.

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. Demographic profiles highlighting Latino subgroups will be produced on an ongoing basis.

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. In addition for this statewide report, we added a section on the Latino populations in 11 regions of the state. These regions do not necessarily coincide with any other regional geography created by other institutions. These regions were created by examining the Latino population in 52 Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMA). A PUMA is a census geographic designation that contains at least 100,000 persons, cover the entirety of the United States, and are geographically contiguous. The primary purpose in creating these regions was to highlight the diversity of the Latino population. As a result, these regions vary in geographic and population size.

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. 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 Latinos and the sexual health communication of Puerto Rican mothers with their children. In addition to his research and teaching in the Gastón Institute and Economics Department at UMass Boston, he is Senior Researcher in demography for the Boston Planning and Development Agency.

Ivan Lozano is currently an AIS Performance Analyst at State Street Bank and Trust. Prior to his current role, he was a research assistant at the Gastón Institute for two years under the supervision of Professor Phillip Granberry, where his research focused on immigration policy, income and racial inequality. Ivan holds a BA in Economics from University of Massachusetts Boston and plans to attend graduate school in economics in the near future.

Trevor Mattos holds a M.P.P. in Public Policy from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and is currently a Graduate Research Assistant at the Gastón Institute, while pursuing a Master's degree in Applied Economics at UMass Boston. His work primarily focuses on analysis of socio-demographic and economic conditions in Latino communities across Massachusetts.

www.umb.edu/gastoninstitute

[@GastonInstitute](https://twitter.com/GastonInstitute)

gastoninstitute@umb.edu

Find Us on Facebook

