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Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas: Chicopee

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Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas

Chicopee

by Phillip Granberry, PhD, Trevor Mattos

July, 2017

THE MAURICIO GASTON INSTITUTE
FOR LATINO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AND PUBLIC POLICY

Chicopee

The Latino Population

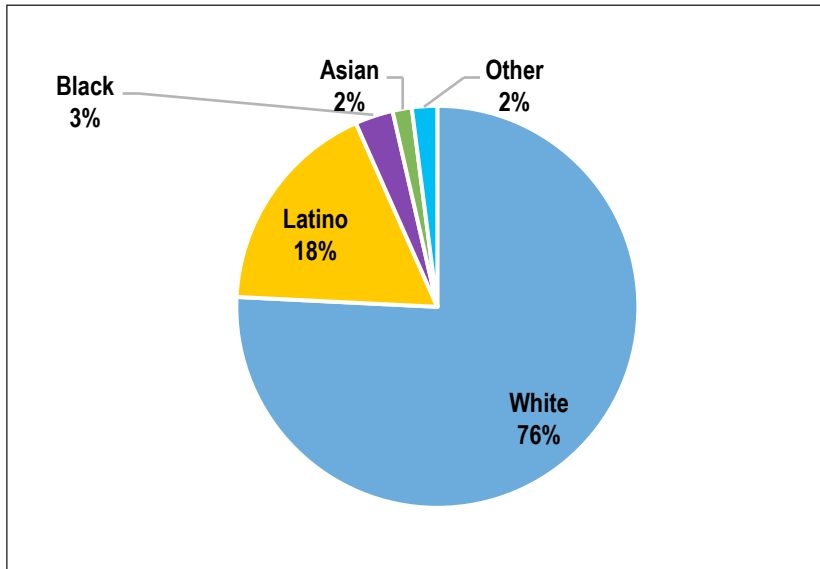
This report provides a descriptive snapshot of selected economic, social, educational, and demographic indicators pertaining to Latinos in Chicopee. It reflects a commitment by UMass Boston's Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy to provide periodic updates on the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

The report on Chicopee is part of a larger series that covers cities and towns 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 who the Census identified as Hispanic or Latino. The US Census first identified individuals with an ethnicity category of Hispanic or Latino or not Hispanic or Latino. Then, the US Census allowed individuals to select a race. This analysis uses the term "Latino" to identify those that selected an ethnicity. The Census designation of black or African American alone is referenced as black. The category of Asian alone is referenced as Asian. A smaller other ethno-racial category is identified for the initial population estimate of Chicopee and this consists those who identified with multiple race categories or some other race and 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 city of Chicopee has a population of 56,186, which includes nearly ten thousand Latino residents. The overwhelming majority of the city identifies as non-Latino white, while Latinos are the second largest group, comprising 18% of the city population. Black, Asian, and 'other' populations make up only 7% of the city collectively (Figure 1). Given Chicopee's proximity to Springfield, it is unsurprising that the concentration of Latinos is higher than it is statewide.

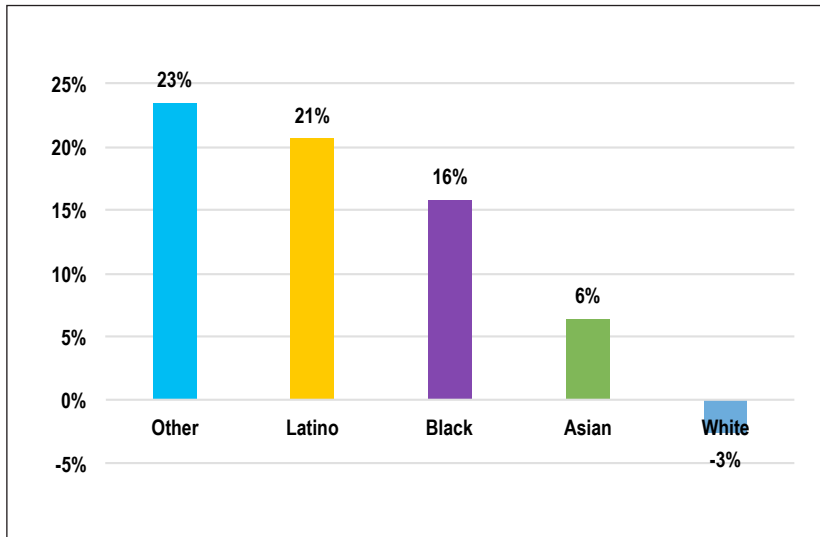
Figure 1: Population Percentages by Ethno-Racial Group in Chicopee



Source: 2011– 2015 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – B03002

Chicopee underwent significant population shifts between 2010 and 2015. Perhaps the most noteworthy change is observed in the Latino community, whose 21% during this time which amounts to a population increase of 1,687. While positive percentage changes for “other,” black, and Asian populations are relatively large, each of these ethno-racial groups are quite small and so numeric changes are nominal. Latino population growth in Chicopee matched statewide growth for this period.

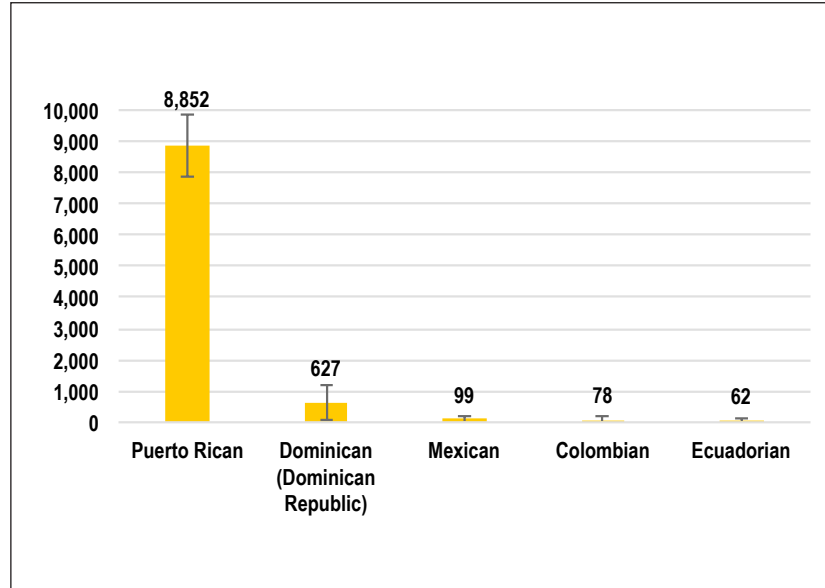
Figure 2: Population Change by Ethno-Racial Group from 2010 to 2015



Source: 2011– 2015 & 2006– 2010 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – B03002

The Latino community in Chicopee, much like neighboring Springfield, is very much dominated by Puerto Ricans, who number 8,852. The second largest group is the Dominicans, though they make up less than 10% of the Latino population. Mexicans, Colombians, and Ecuadorans are the next three largest groups, though each group numbers less than 100 persons (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Ancestry of the Top Latino or Hispanic Subpopulations

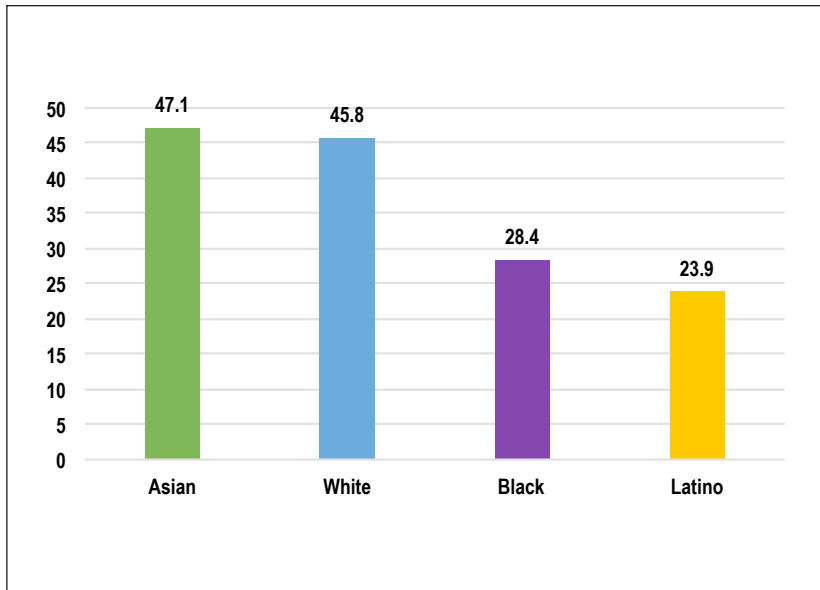


Source: 2011–2015 5-Year ACS Estimates – B03001

Median Age and Marital Status

As in other communities across the state, the Latino group is the youngest of all major ethno-racial groups, with a median age of 23.9 years. Latinos in Chicopee average even younger than statewide, where the median age is 27 years for Latinos. Blacks in Chicopee are also quite young, when compared to the older white and Asian groups, for whom the median age is over 45 years (Figure 4).

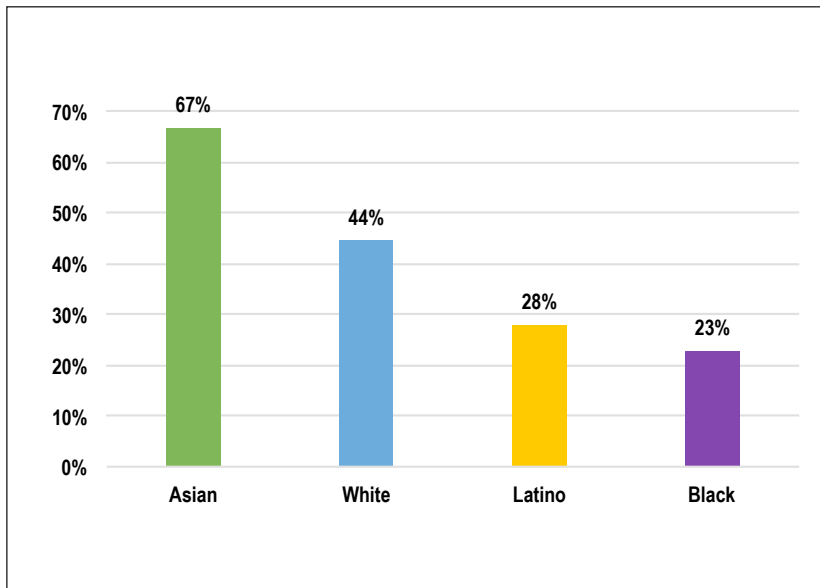
Figure 4: Median Age by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2011–2015 5-Year ACS Estimates – B01002

Marriage rates in Chicopee are highest among the Asians (67%) and lowest in the black community (23%). White residents of Chicopee have a marriage rate of 44% and Latinos have a rate of 28%, somewhat lower than the Latino marriage rate across the state (32%).

Figure 5: Marriage Rates by Ethno-Racial Group

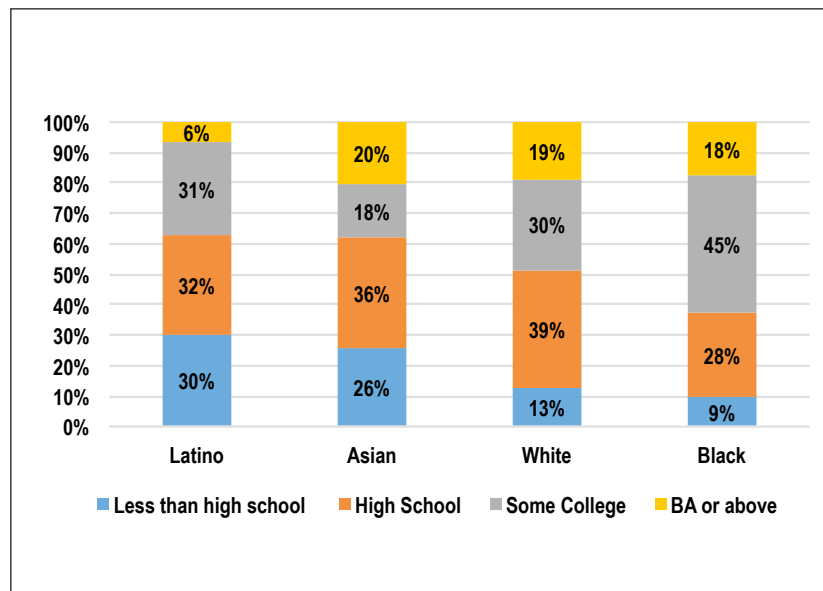


Source: 2011–2015 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – B12002

Education

Educational attainment is particularly low for Latinos in Chicopee when compared to statewide numbers. In Chicopee only 6% of Latinos have obtained higher education, while statewide 17% completed a bachelor's degree or higher. Latinos in Chicopee have lower educational attainment than all other groups. Asian, white, and black residents each have rates of obtaining higher education near 20%. When considering those at the bottom of the educational attainment distribution, we observe that Latinos have the highest concentration of residents who did not complete high school (30%), followed by Asian, white, and black residents. Interestingly, while Asians have a large number of residents who did not complete high school, they also have the highest share of degree holders (Figure 6).

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

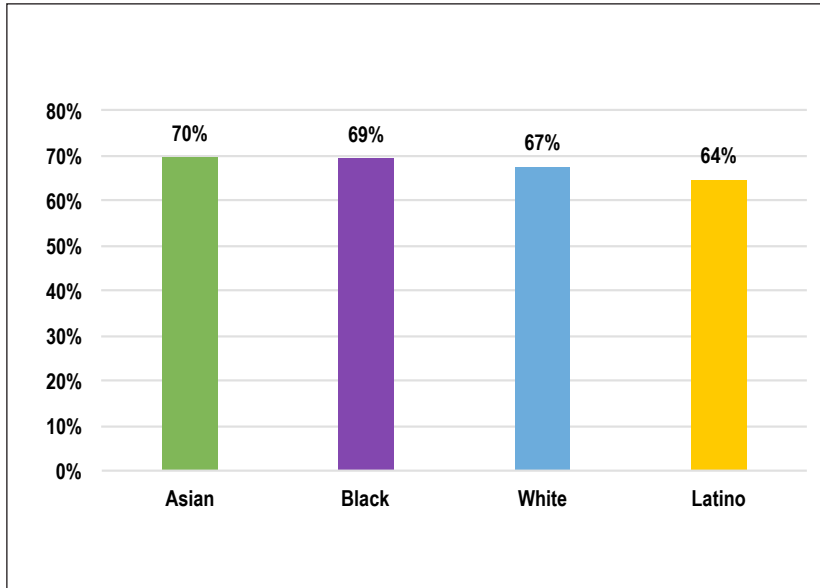


Source: 2011–2015 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – C15002

Labor Force Participation

Latinos in Chicopee have the lowest labor force participation rate in the city, at 64%, which is slightly lower than Latinos' statewide participation figure of 67%. Asian residents have the highest participation rate (70%), followed by black and white residents. The variation is quite small though, as all rates fall between 64% and 70% (Figure 7).

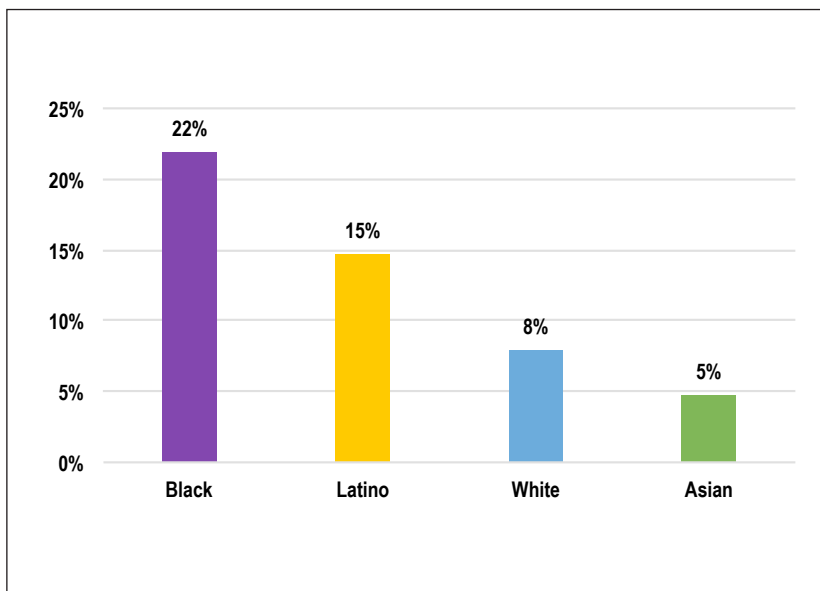
Figure 7: Labor Force Participation among Individuals 16 years and Older by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2011–2015 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – C23002

Unemployment in Chicopee is much higher in the black community (22%) than for any other group – more than quadruple the Asian unemployment rate, in fact. Latinos have the second highest unemployment rate, at 15%, which is slightly higher than the statewide Latino figure of 12%. Whites and Asians have unemployment rates of 8% and 5%, respectively (Figure 8).

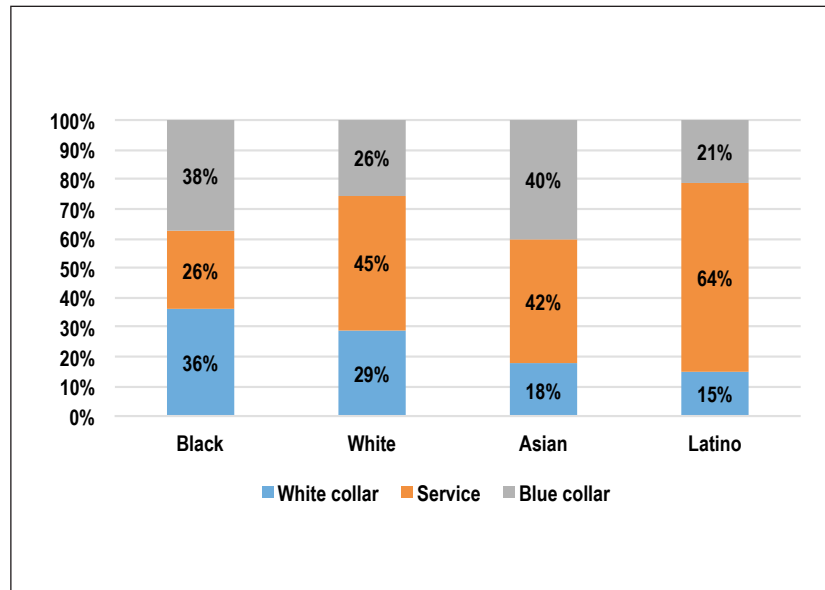
Figure 8: Unemployment Rates by Ethno-Racial Group (ages 16+)



Source: 2011–2015 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – C23002

Latino workers in Chicopee are least represented in white collar positions (15%). This trails statewide trends, where 23% of Latinos work in white collar positions. Interestingly, black residents have the highest share of white collar workers (36%). Whites and Asians follow with 29% and 18% in white collar, respectively. Latinos have by far the heaviest concentration of service sector workers, while Asian and black workers have the most blue collar workers (Figure 9).

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

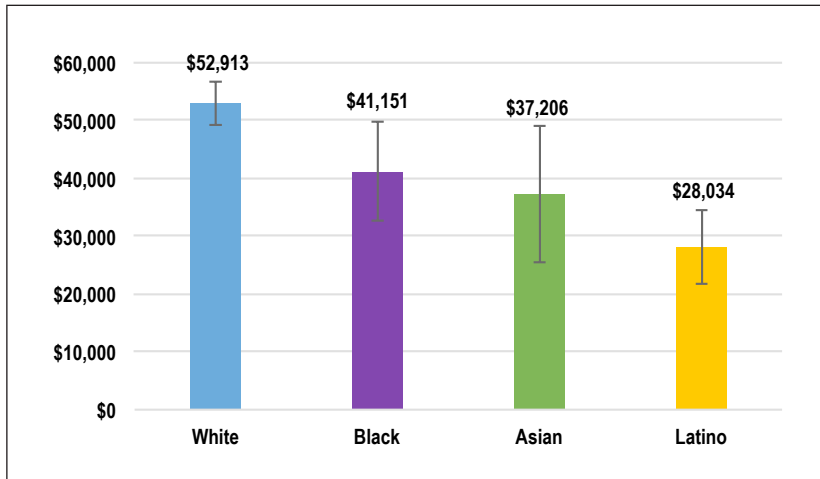


Source: 2011–2015 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – C24010

Earnings

Median household income in Chicopee is more than \$20,000 less than it is across the Commonwealth (\$68 thousand versus \$47 thousand per year). Latinos have the lowest income, at \$28,034 (much lower than the statewide Latino median of \$36,171), while white residents have the highest income, at \$52,913. Black and Asian residents of Chicopee have incomes near \$40 thousand per year (Figure 10).

Figure 10: Median Earnings by Ethno-Racial Group in 2015

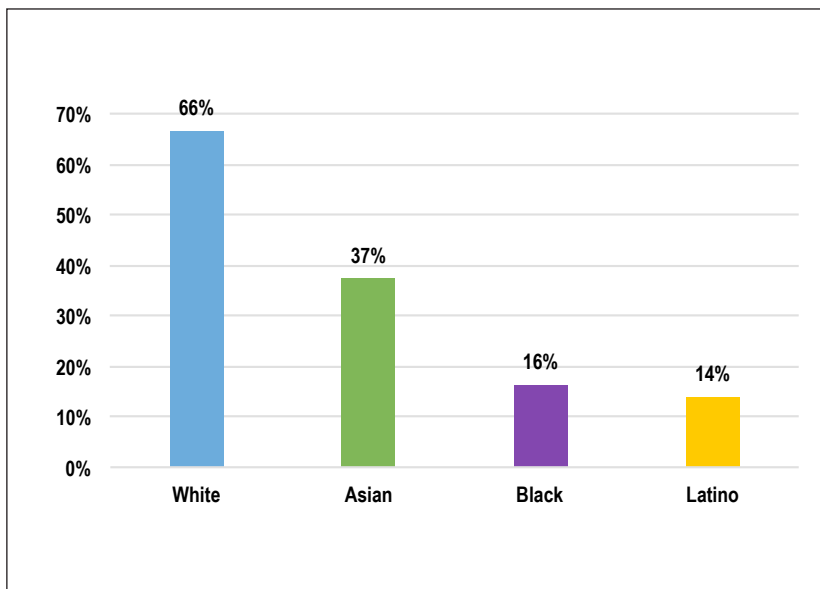


Source: 2011–2015 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – B19013

Housing Status and Medical Uninsurance

Homeownership rates in Chicopee are slightly lower than they are statewide. In Chicopee, the rate of homeownership is 57%. This compares to a statewide rate of 62%. Disparities in ownership within Chicopee are extreme. In the white community, the homeownership rate is 66%, more than four times the rate in the Latino community, which is 14%. For Latinos, ownership is higher across the state, at 24%. Asian and black residents in Chicopee also have much lower rates of homeownership, at 37% and 16%, respectively (Figure 11).

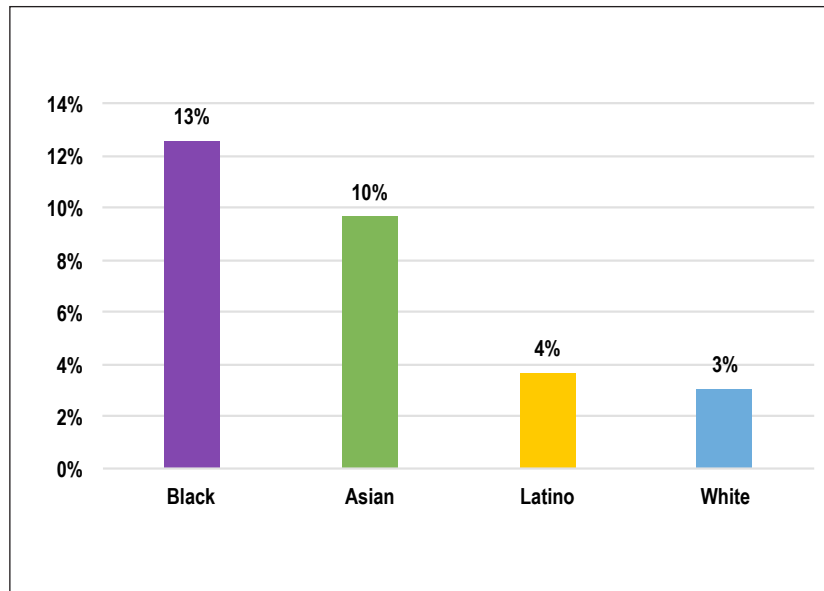
Figure 11: Homeownership Rates by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2011–2015 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – B25003

Distinct from other parts of the state, the proportion of Latinos in Chicopee who lack health insurance is very low, only 4%. This is only very slightly higher than the statewide uninsurance rate for Latinos of 3.6%. In Chicopee, whites have the lowest uninsurance rate, at 3%, while black and Asian residents have much higher rates of uninsurance. Significantly more than other groups, 13% of black residents and 10% of Asians lack health insurance (Figure 12).

Figure 12: Medical Uninsurance by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2011–2015 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – C27001

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 non-Latino whites, non-Latino blacks, and non-Latino Asians, though they are identified as “white,” “black”, and “Asian” in these profiles.

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.

Because these estimates contain a “margin of error,” they may vary from one year’s report to another but still fall within this “margin of error.” Only when another estimate is outside of this margin of error can we identify a population change over time. Even with the limitation of this “margin of error,” these reports use the best demographic data of Latinos in the city and towns of Massachusetts.

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.

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.