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Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas: Leominster

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Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas Leominster

by Phillip Granberry, PhD, Trevor Mattos

July, 2017

THE MAURICIO GASTON INSTITUTE
FOR LATINO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AND PUBLIC POLICY

Leominster

The Latino Population

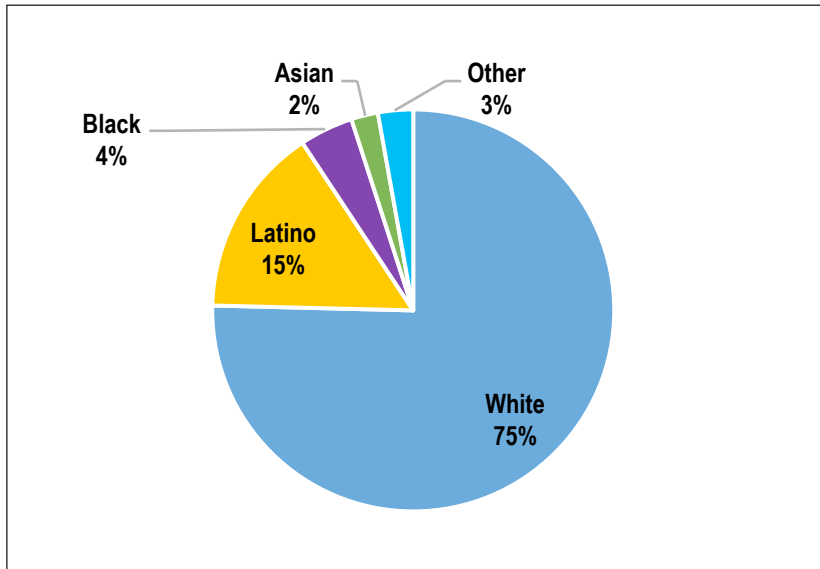
This report provides a descriptive snapshot of selected economic, social, educational, and demographic indicators pertaining to Latinos in Leominster. It reflects a commitment by UMass Boston's Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy to provide periodic updates on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

The report on Leominster 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 Leominster 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.

Leominster is a city with a population of 41,176 people, including 6,304 Latino residents, who compose 15% of the city. The majority of the city identify as non-Latino whites, making up 75% of the population, while black and Asian residents make up just 4% and 2%, respectively (Figure 1). It is noteworthy that the citywide proportion of Latino residents matches that of the Commonwealth (15%).

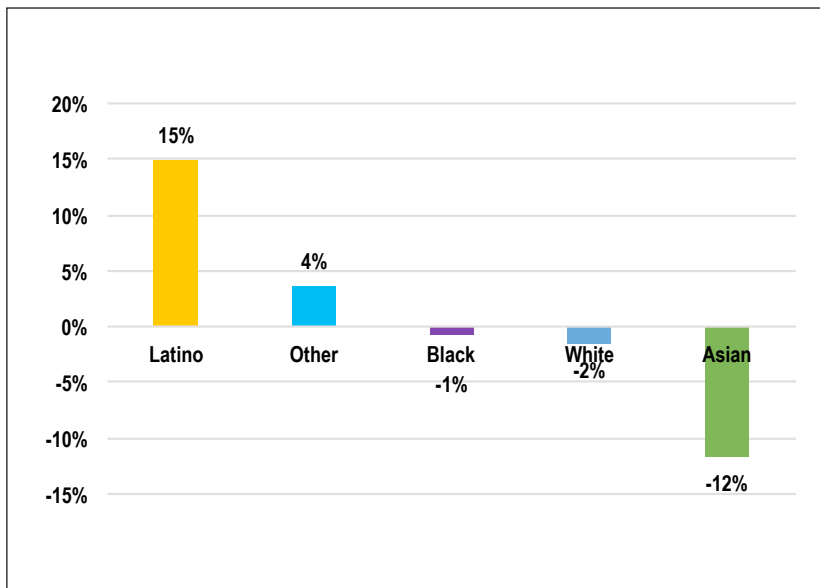
Figure 1: Population Percentages by Ethno-Racial Group in Leominster



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

Between 2010 and 2015, Leominster has seen significant demographic shifts in its population. The largest growth occurred in the Latino community, which grew by 15%, followed by the “other” group, made up of Native Americans, Pacific Islanders, and other smaller ethno-racial groups. Those in the “other” group grew by 4%. The black, white, and Asian communities in Leominster decreased in size, by 1%, 2%, and 12%, respectively (Figure 2). Latino population growth in Leominster trailed statewide growth for this group by 6 percentage points. Similarly, statewide growth was positive and significant for black (11%), Asian (19%), and “other” (19%) ethno-racial groups, in contrast with trends in Leominster (Figure 2).

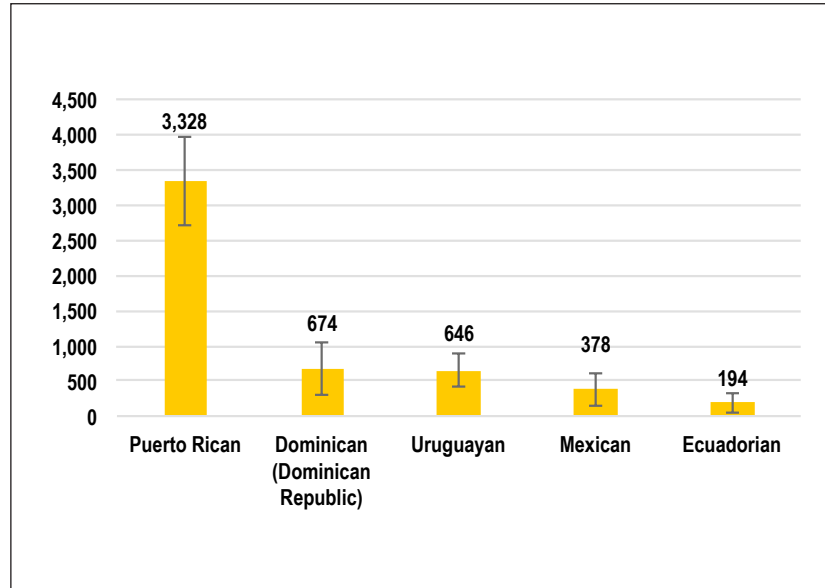
Figure 2: Population Change by Ethno-Racial Group from 2010 to 2015



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

More than half of Latinos in Leominster are Puerto Rican (3,328 out of 6,304). The next largest groups include the Dominicans (Dominican Republic, 674), Uruguayans (646), Mexicans (378), and Ecuadorians (194). These trends track fairly well with statewide numbers, which show that Puerto Ricans and Dominicans make up a substantial majority of Latinos throughout the state of Massachusetts.

Figure 3: Ancestry of the Top Latino or Hispanic Subpopulations

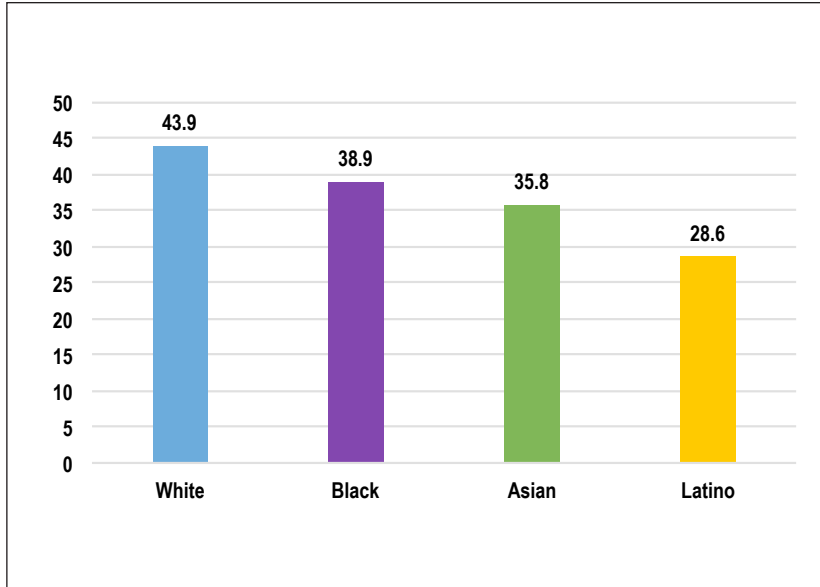


Source: 2011–2015 5-Year ACS Estimates – B03001

Median Age and Marital Status

Latinos are the youngest major ethno-racial group statewide, and this is true in Leominster as well, with a median age of 28.6 years (slightly higher than the statewide Latino median of 27 years). The disparity in Leominster between Latinos and other groups, especially whites, is striking, as Figure 4 shows. All groups in Leominster have higher median ages than their counterparts statewide.

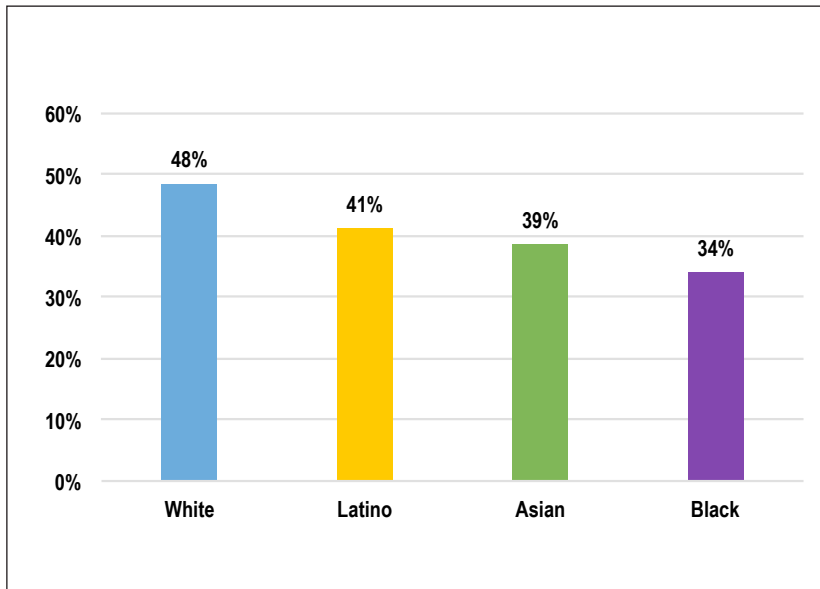
Figure 4: Median Age by Ethno-Racial Group



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

Marriage rates in Leominster are highest in the white community (48%). Latino residents have the second highest marriage rate, at 41%, followed by Asian and black residents, with 39% and 34%, respectively (Figure 5). The statewide marriage rate for Latinos is nearly 10 percentage points lower, at 32%.

Figure 5: Marriage Rates by Ethno-Racial Group

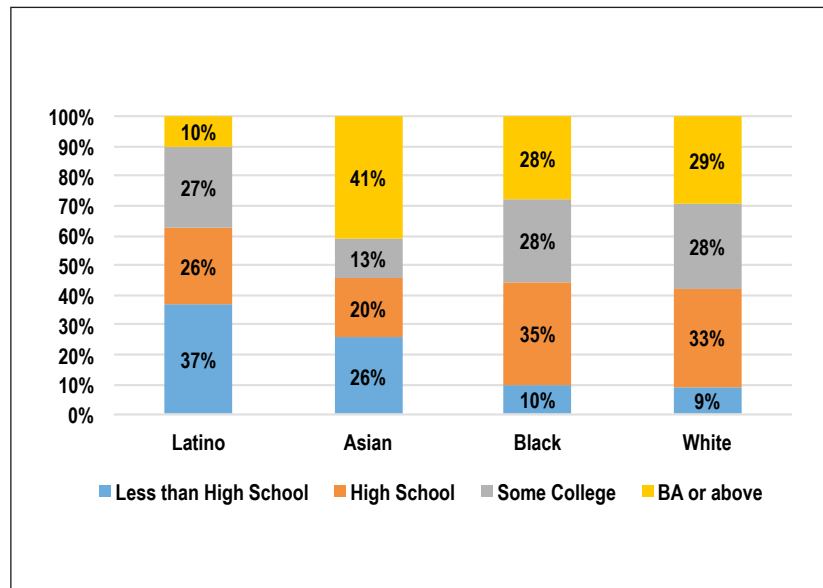


Source: 2011–2015 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – B12002

Education

Educational attainment for Latinos in Leominster is substantially lower than it is for Latinos statewide. In Leominster, 10% of Latinos obtained a Bachelor's degree or higher, while statewide this figure is 17%. In Leominster, Latinos trail every other major ethno-racial group in this regard. The group with the second lowest higher educational attainment is black residents, of whom 28% obtained a Bachelor's degree or higher. Consistent with these trends, we also observe that Latinos have the largest percentage of those who fail to complete high school (37%). Interestingly, Asians have very large shares of residents on both ends of the spectrum – 41% have higher education, while 26% did not complete high school. No other group has such high concentrations at both extremes.

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

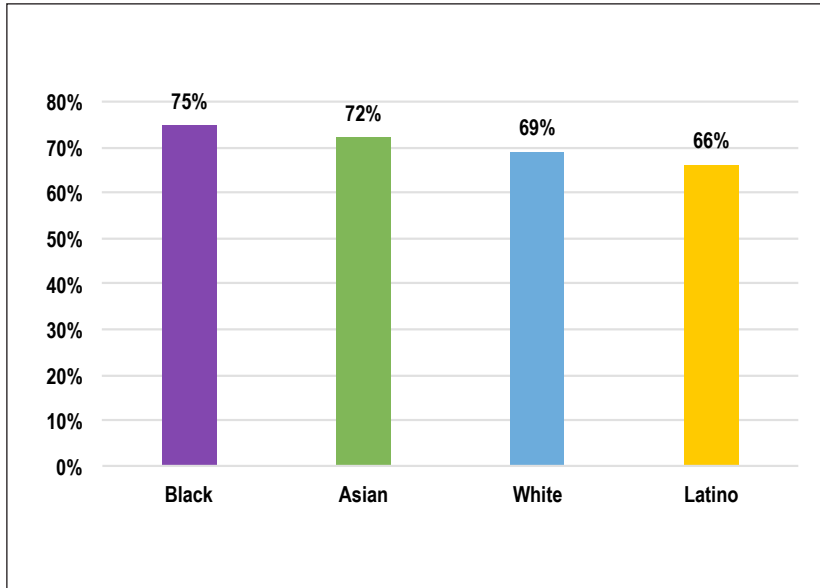


Source: 2011–2015 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – C15002

Labor Force Participation

Labor force participation rates are lowest for Latino residents of Leominster, at 66%. Black residents have the highest participation rate (75%), followed by Asians (72%) and whites (69%). Statewide, Latino labor force participation is nearly equal to what it is in Leominster, measured at 67% across the Commonwealth.

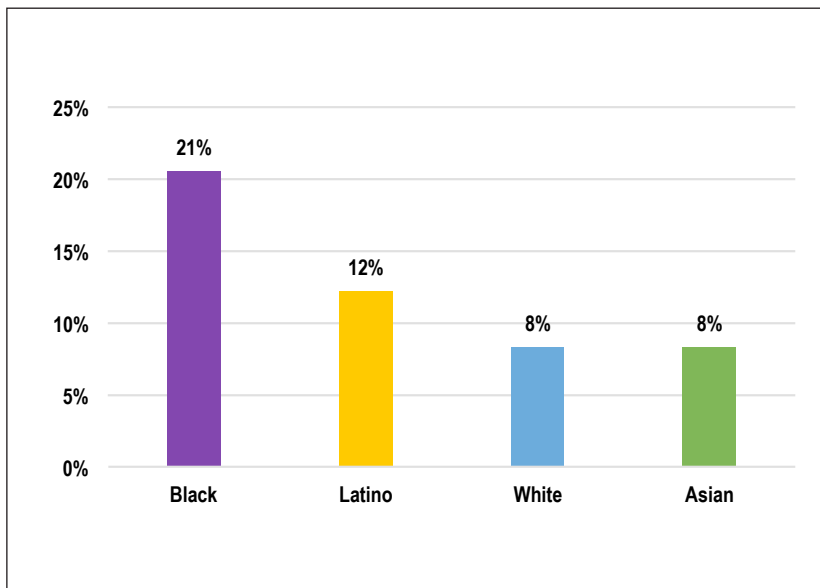
Figure 7: Labor Force Participation among Individuals 16 years and Older by Ethno-Racial Group



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

Unemployment in Leominster is highest for black residents (21%). Latinos have the second highest unemployment rate (12%), which matches statewide unemployment for this group. Whites and Asians have equal rates of unemployment: 8%.

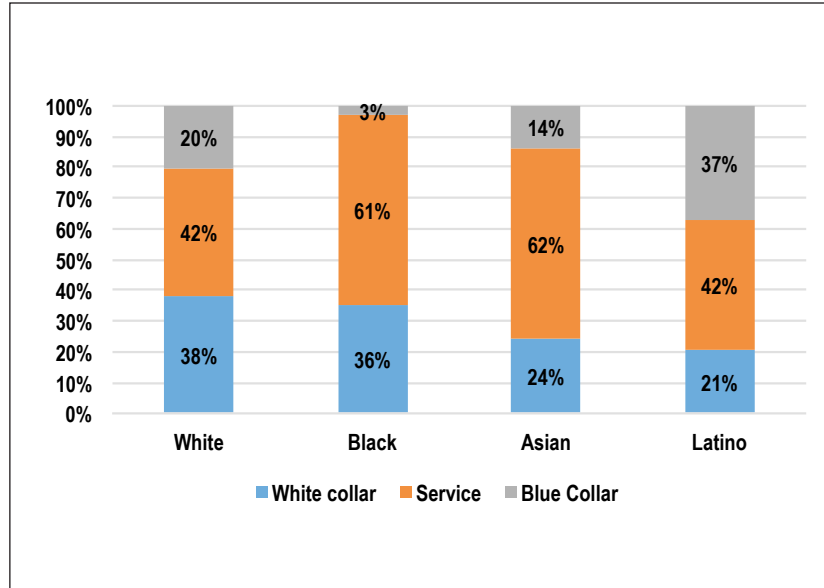
Figure 8: Unemployment Rates by Ethno-Racial Group (ages 16+)



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

In Leominster, white collar workers are most highly concentrated in the white community – 38% of whites hold such jobs. Black residents have the next highest proportion serving in white collar positions (36%). Asian and Latino groups have lower representation in these occupations – 24% of Asians and 21% of Latinos. Among Latinos, this is quite consistent with trends statewide, where 23% of Latinos work in white collar positions.

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

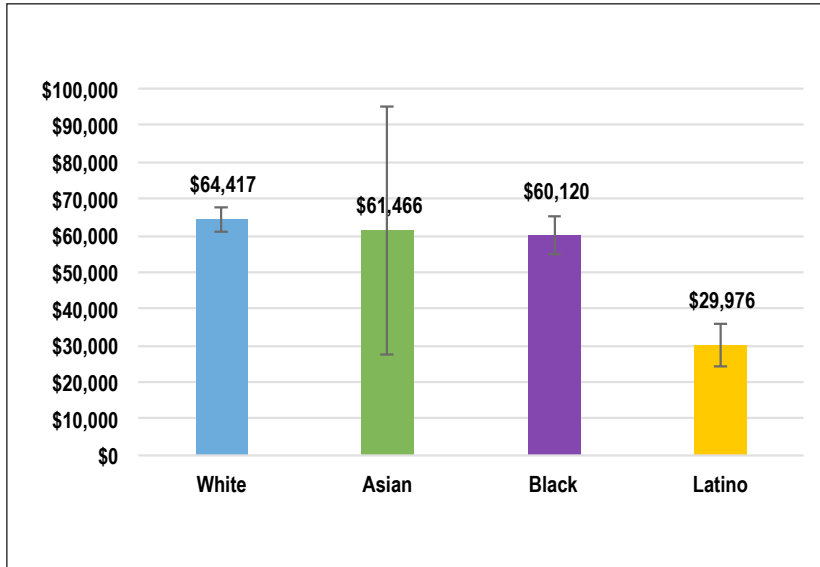


Source: 2011–2015 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – C24010

Earnings

Citywide, Leominster residents earn about \$10,000 less per year than we observe across the state – \$58,955 versus \$68,563. Latinos are the lowest earners in the city, with a median household income of \$29,976 (compared to \$36,171 statewide). As Figure 10 shows, this is less than half of what the residents in any other ethno-racial group in Leominster earn.

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

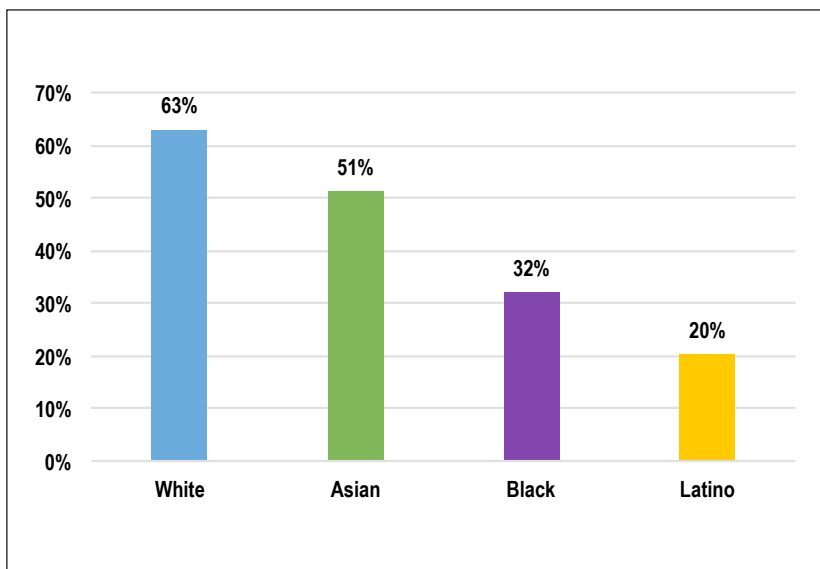


Source: 2011–2015 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates – B19013

Housing Status and Medical Uninsurance

The overall rate of homeownership in Leominster is 55%, compared to the 62% statewide rate. The Leominster rate is especially low for Latinos, whose ownership rate is less than one third that of white residents: 20% as compared to whites' 63%. Statewide, only 24% of Latinos are homeowners. Asian residents of Leominster enjoy an ownership rate of 51%, followed by black residents with a rate of 32% (Figure 11).

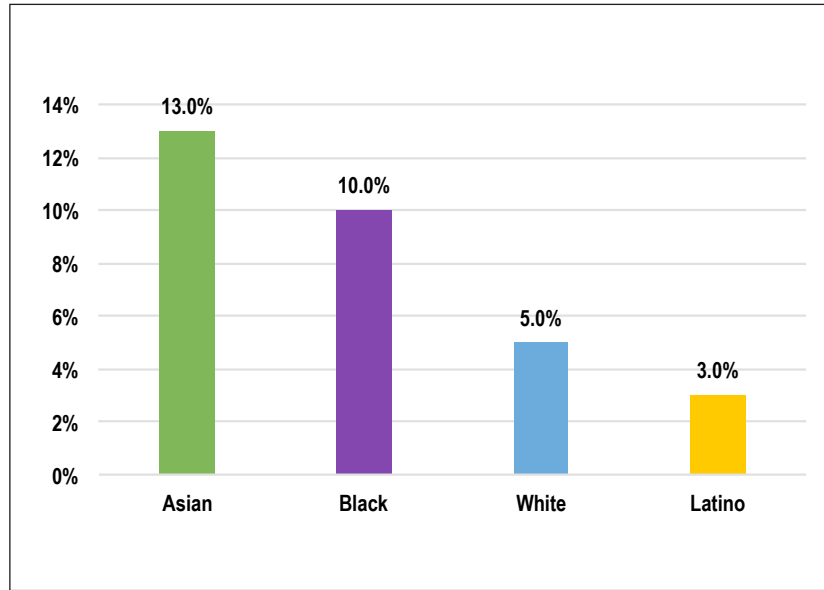
Figure 11: Homeownership Rates by Ethno-Racial Group



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

In contrast with many other towns and cities with Latino communities across the state, only 3% of Latinos in Leominster lack health insurance. This is lower than the statewide uninsurance rate of 3.6%. In Leominster, Asians have the highest uninsurance rate (13%), followed by blacks (10%) and whites (5%).

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.