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Latinos in Massachusetts: Revere

by Phillip Granberry, PH.D., and Vishakha Agarwal

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**THE MAURICIO GASTON INSTITUTE
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Latinos in Massachusetts Selected Areas: Revere

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Prologue

The city of Revere is known for its rich history of immigration, diversity, and local empowerment. Revere's Latinx populations continue to grow and impact the city in powerful ways, most notably in the intersection between different cultures within the city. As made clear in this report, the Latinx population continues to grow and impact the city economically, including its contributions to the labor force.

Revere is also a welcoming city to foreign-born immigrants, not only those of Latinx origin. Historically, the city was a hub for Italian immigrants who made this city their home. Traces of this legacy are still evident, but the city's population is changing rapidly. Currently, Revere exhibits a rich community of Latinx, North African, and Cambodian residents who are developing deep connections to the fabric of this city, especially in the Shirley Avenue neighborhood. This blending of cultures, and traditions continues making Revere a popular spot for immigrant families to settle.

This report will highlight the important contributions that Latinx residents are bringing into the city of Revere, and what the Latinx presence means for the city's overall present and future.

Daniela Bravo

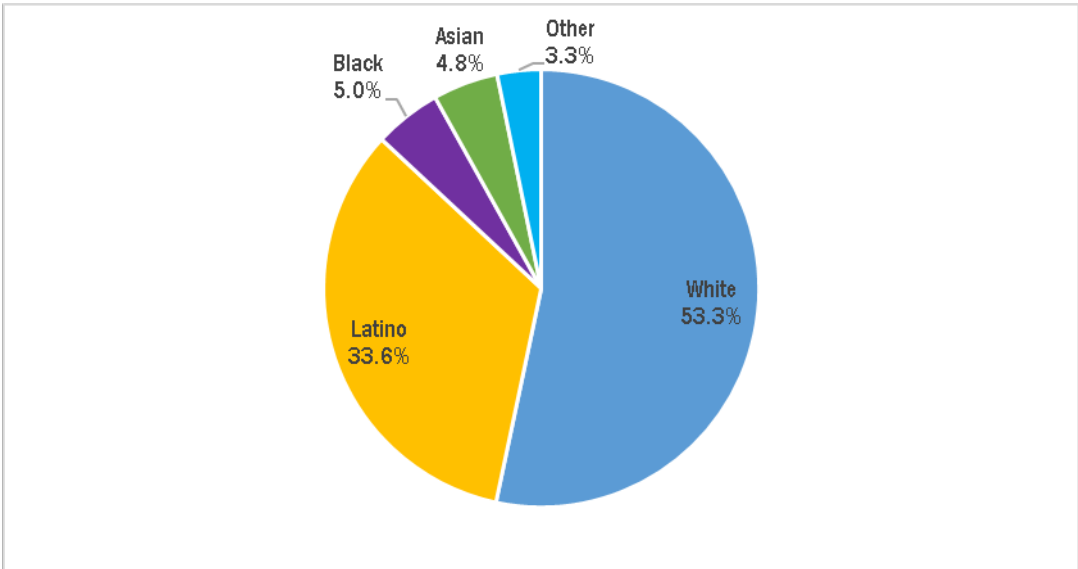
Research Associate

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Revere Overview: The Latino Population

As the second largest city in Suffolk County, Revere’s population in the 2015-2019 American Community Survey is 53,692. The city is home to an estimated 18,042 Latinos, who are the second largest ethno-racial group and make up 34% of the city’s population (Figure 1). Whites are the largest population (53%), and the city has smaller Black (5.0%), Asian (4.9%), and Other (3%) populations.

Figure 1: Population by Ethno-Racial Group in Revere

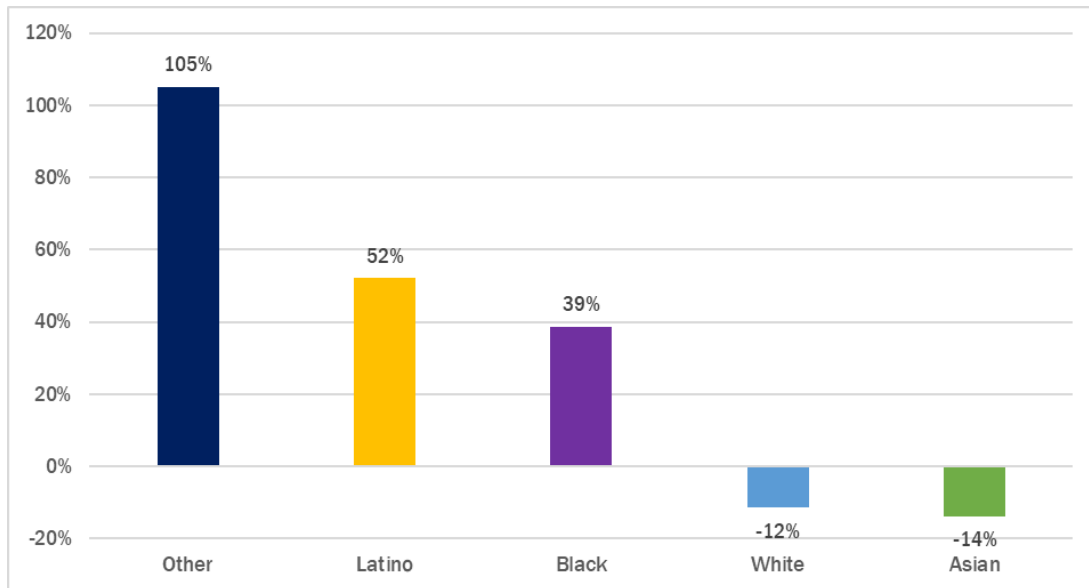


Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey – B03003

A striking feature of Revere is it’s the changing composition of its population. From 2010 to 2019, even as the overall population stayed mostly the same (it increased by only 7%), the Latino population increased by 52% while the White population declined by 12%. This growth of Latinos in Revere outpaces Latinos statewide, who grew by 38% during this period. There was also a significant increase in the smaller Other population (105%), while Blacks increased by 39% and Asians declined by 14%.

Revere has long been a destination for international migrants, and today it has a greater concentration of foreign-born (39%) than the Commonwealth as a whole (17%). Among Latinos in Revere, 60% are foreign-born and 38% are not citizens. Salvadorans, Colombians, and Brazilians are the largest foreign-born populations in the city.

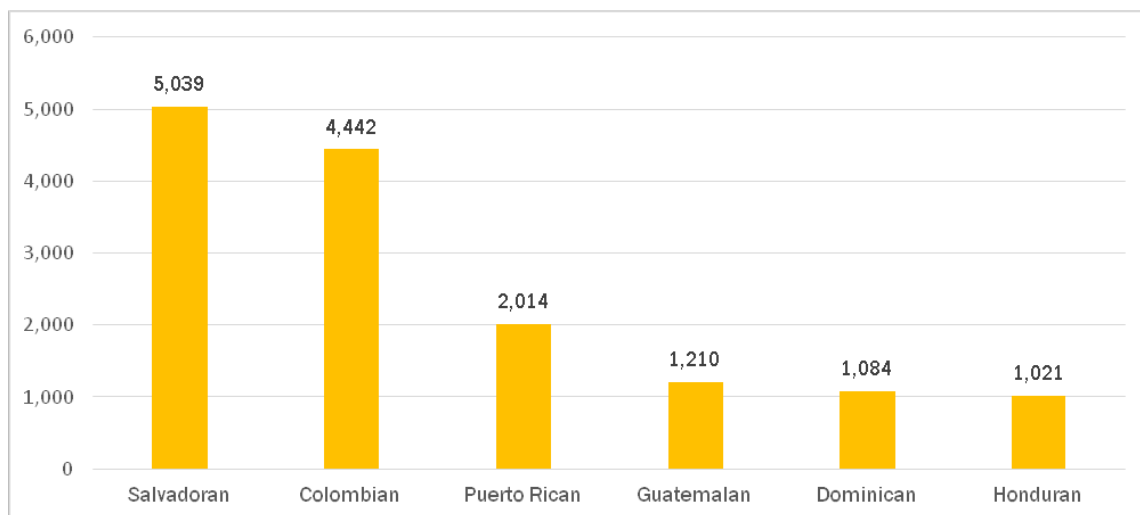
Figure 2: Population Change by Ethno-Racial Group from 2010 to 2019



Source: 2006-2010 & 2015-2019 American Community Surveys –B03003

When examining the origin of Latinos in Revere, it is important to note that Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens; they are not included in foreign-born estimates in the preceding paragraph. As Figure 3 shows, the largest Latino population in the city consists of Salvadorans (5,039), followed by Colombians (4,442), Puerto Ricans, Guatemalans, Dominicans, and Hondurans. Statewide, the largest Latino populations are Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Salvadorans, Mexicans, Guatemalans, Colombians, Hondurans, Cubans, and Ecuadorians.

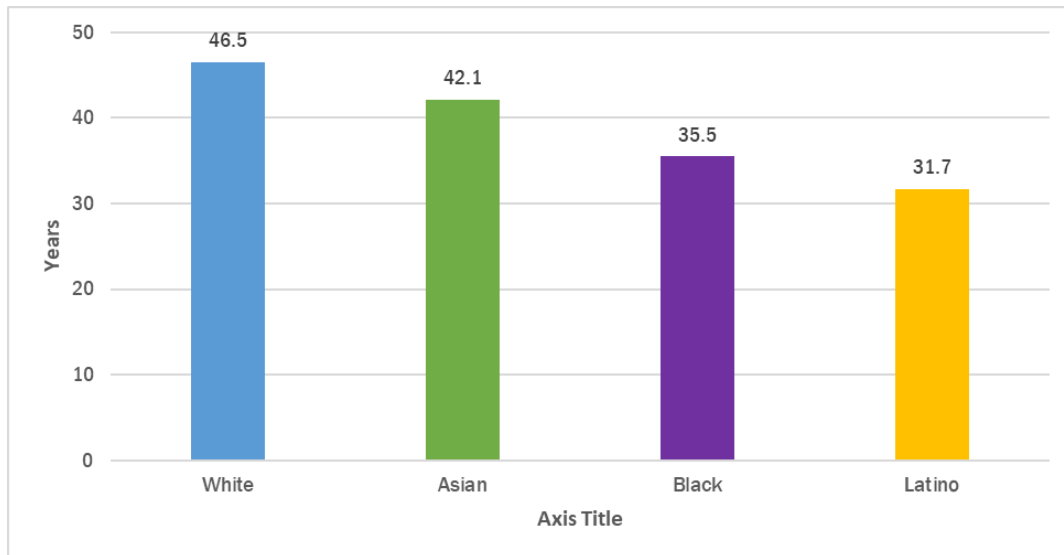
Figure 3: Origins of the Top Latino Populations



Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey - B03001

Median Age and Marital Status

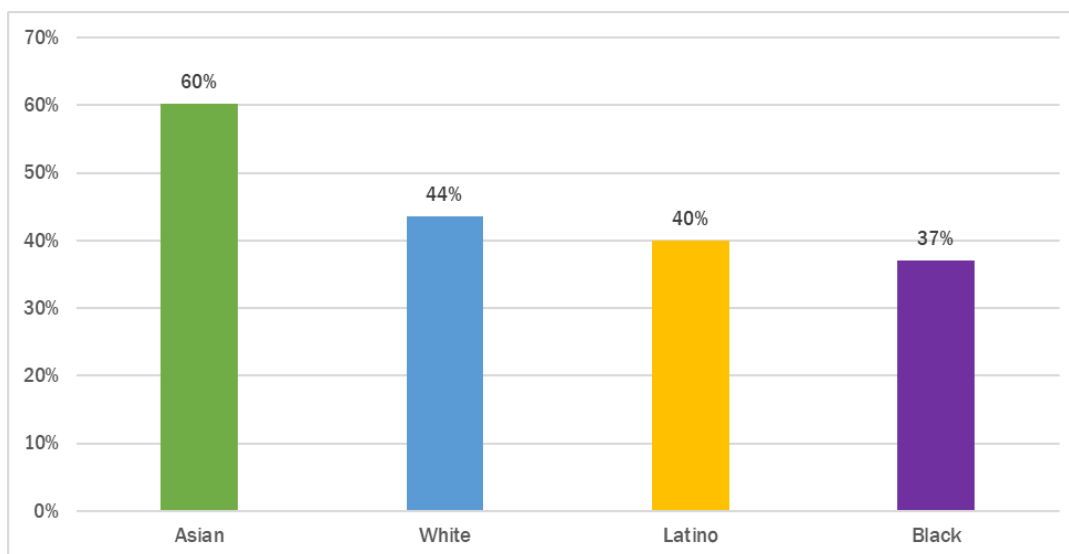
Figure 4: Median Age by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey - B01002

The median age of Revere's population is 39.2 years but varies by ethno-racial groups. Revere's Latino population, with a median age of 31.7 years, is older than the statewide Latino median age of 28.1 years. As Figure 4 shows, Latinos in Revere are much younger than Whites (46.5 years) and Asians (42.1) but with a median age closer to Blacks (35.5).

Figure 5: Marriage Rates by Ethno-Racial Group (15 Years and older)



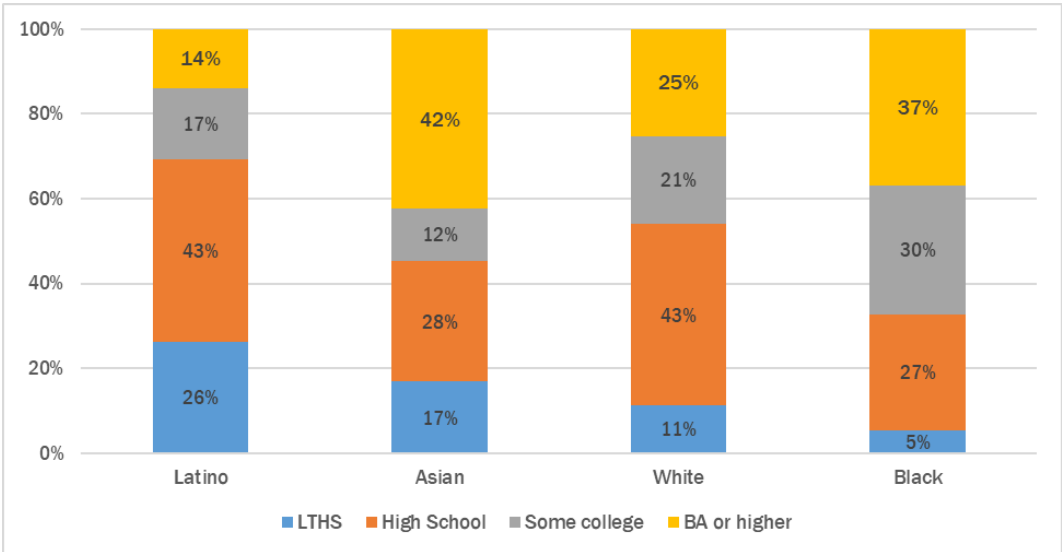
Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey - B12002

The marriage rate in Revere for persons 15 years and over is 46%. As shown in Figure 5, the marriage rate for Latinos (40%) is lower than for all other ethno-racial groups in the city except Blacks (37%). However, the Latino marriage rate in Revere is higher than for Latinos statewide (32%).

Education

Educational attainment in Revere is lower than in the Commonwealth as a whole. In Massachusetts 44% of the population ages 25 and older have a Bachelor’s degree or higher compared 23% in Revere. As Figure 6 shows, Latinos have the lowest percentage of their population with at least a Bachelor’s degree: 14%, compared to 25% for Whites, 37% for Blacks, and 42% for Asians. Statewide, 20% of adult Latinos have at least a Bachelor’s degree. At the other end of the educational scale, Latinos have the highest percentage of their adult population lacking a high school diploma: 26%, compared to 5% for Blacks, 11% for Whites, and 17% for Asians. The statewide rate for Latinos lacking a high school diploma is 27%.

Figure 6: Educational Attainment by Ethno-Racial Group (Adults 25 years and older)

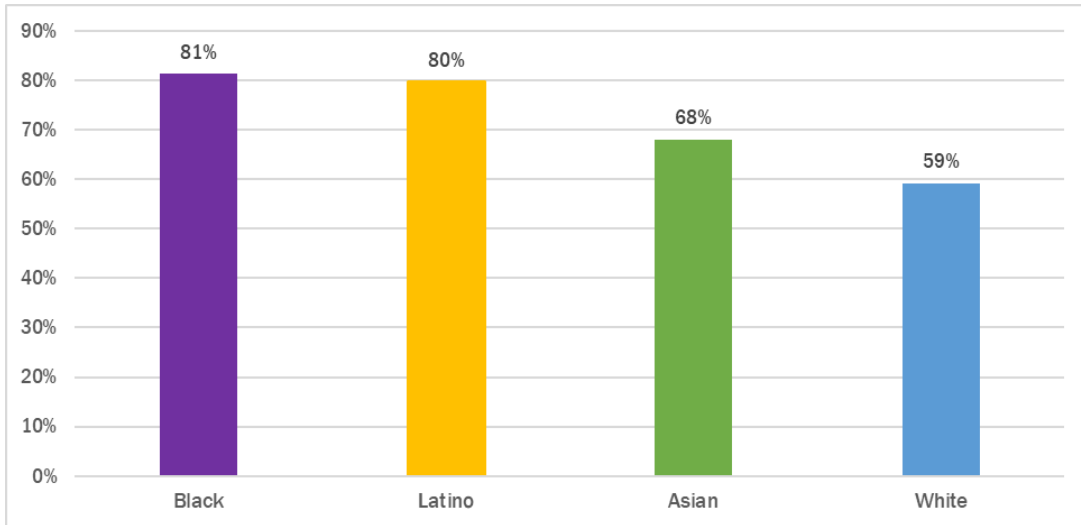


Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey - B15002

Labor Force Participation

Latinos have a high labor force participation rate in Revere (80%), higher than Latinos statewide (67%). As Figure 7 shows, they have a similar rate to Blacks in Revere (81%) and higher than for Asians (68%) and Whites (59%).

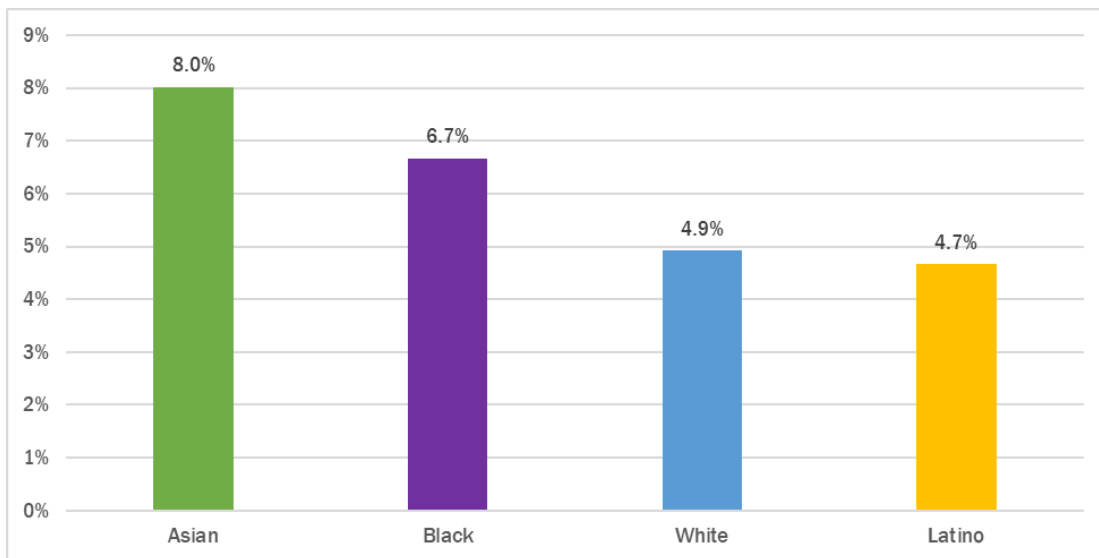
Figure 7: Labor Force Participation among Individuals 16 Years and Older



Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey - C23002

The overall unemployment rate in Revere during 2015-2019 was 5.4%, higher than the statewide unemployment rate of 3.2%. The Latino unemployment rate in Revere of 4.7% is lower than for Whites (4.9%), Blacks (6.7%), and Asians (8.0%). When Latinos in Revere participate in the labor force, they fare much better than Latinos statewide, who during this period experienced a 6.0% unemployment rate.

Figure 8: Unemployment Rates by Ethno-Racial Group

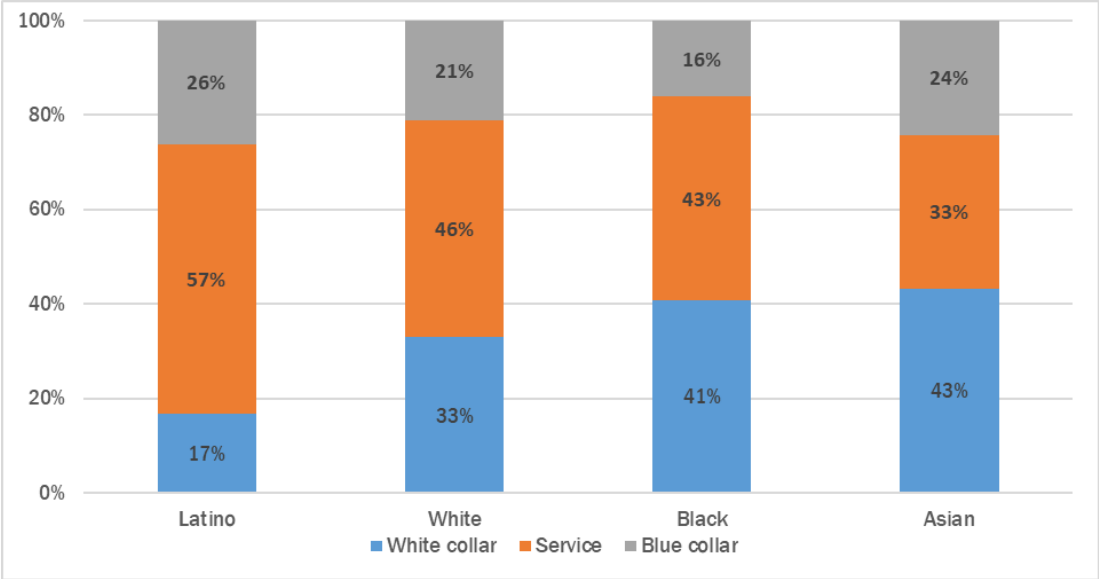


Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey - C23002

Figure 9 highlights that Latinos work in traditionally low-wage jobs. Latinos are underrepresented in what are traditionally considered white-collar jobs, with only 17%

working in these management, business, science, and arts occupations. Correspondingly, they are overrepresented in the service sector, with 57% working in services and sales occupations, and in what are traditionally considered blue-collar jobs, with 26% working in natural resources, construction, maintenance, production, transportation, and material moving occupations. Statewide, 26% of Latinos work in white collar jobs, 49% work in service jobs, and 25% work in blue collar jobs.

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

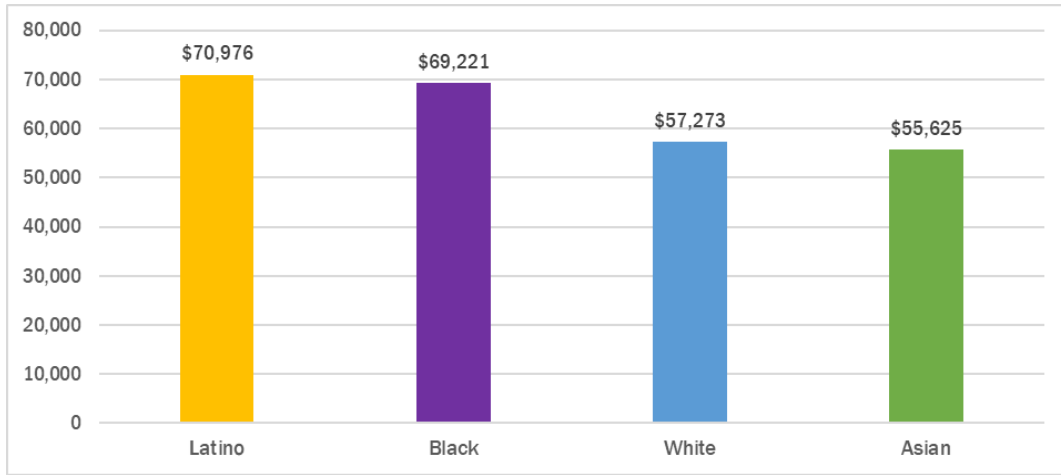


Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey - B24010

Income

Revere’s median income is \$62,568, which is considerably lower than the statewide median income of \$81,215. Latinos in Figure 10 have the highest median household income of \$70,976 in the city. Latinos in Revere are also more economically successful than Latinos in other parts of the Commonwealth, as the statewide Latino median income is \$44,885. There is about a \$1,000 difference in the median incomes of Latinos and Blacks, with Latinos earning higher. While, Latinos, on average, earn significantly more than White and Asian residents in Revere.

Figure 10: Median Earnings by Ethno-Racial Group

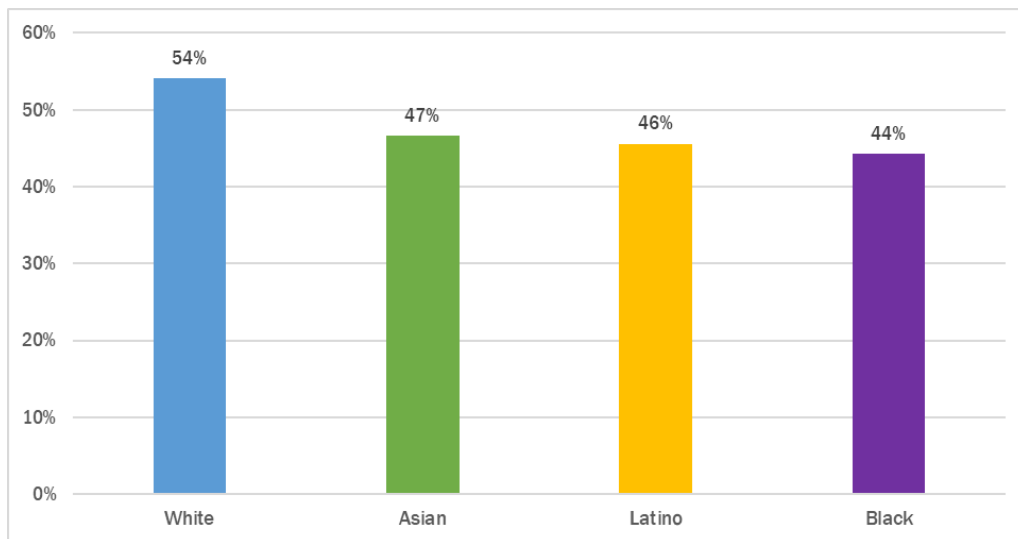


Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey - S1903

Housing Status and Medical Uninsurance

The final measures of Latino participation in Revere are intended to identify how well Latinos are being rewarded for their economic, social, and political participation. Revere has a lower homeownership rate (50%) than the statewide rate (62%) as measured by occupied housing units. As shown in Figure 11, Latinos have a 46% homeownership rate, which is significantly higher than the 26% rate for Latinos statewide but lower than for all other ethno-racial groups in the city except Blacks (44.2%).

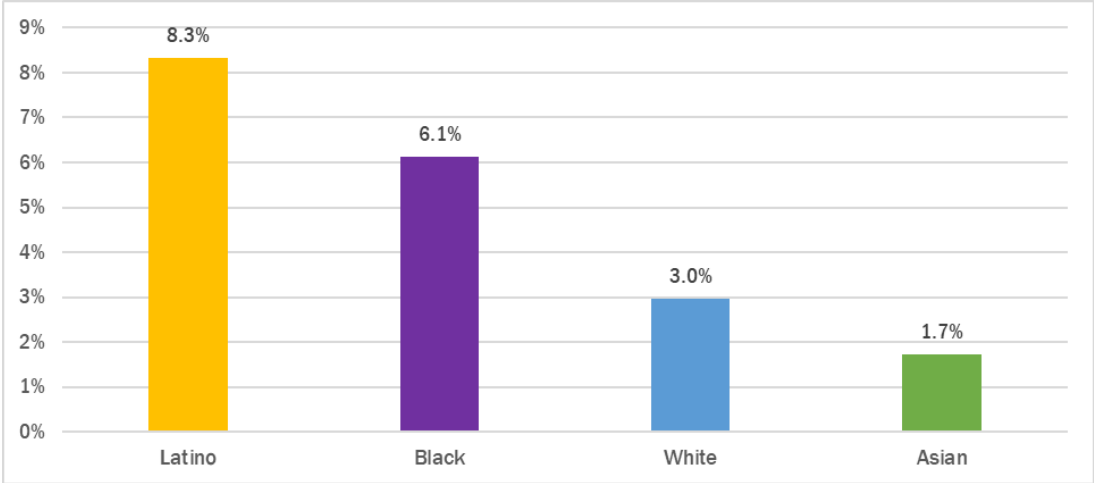
Figure 11: Homeownership Rates by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey - B25003

Revere’s overall rate of medical uninsurance (5.1%) is higher than the statewide average of 2.7%. Figure 12 shows that Revere’s Latinos have an 8.3% uninsurance rate. This is higher than for all other ethno-racial groups. Statewide, the medical uninsurance rate among Latinos is 5.3%.

Figure 12: Medical Uninsurance by Ethno-Racial Group

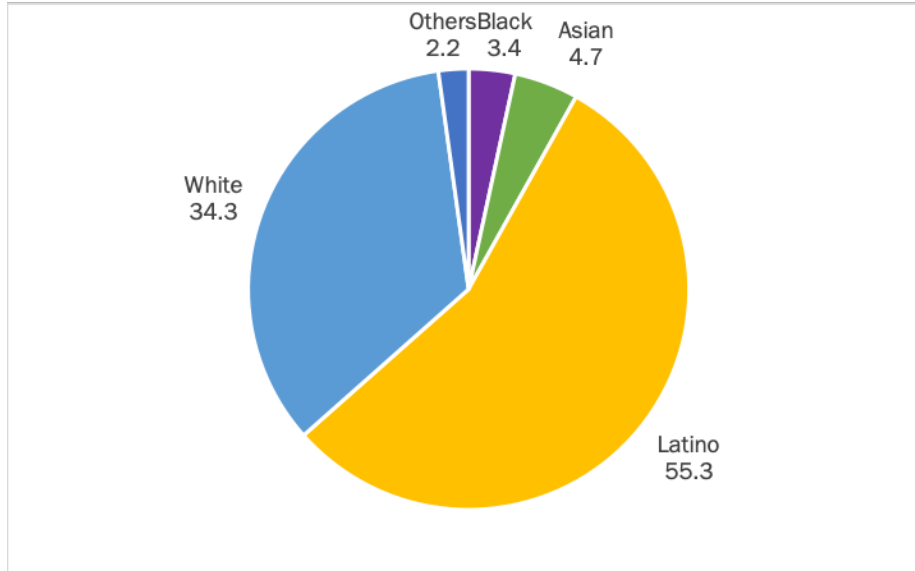


Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey - B27001

Spotlight on Revere Public Schools

Revere Public Schools are the focus of this next section. Revere Public Schools enrolled 7,544 students in School Year 2018-2019. Latinos make up 55.3% of the school population, as compared to a 20.8% of the statewide school population. White students make up the next largest group at 34.3%, followed by Asians (4.7%) and Blacks (3.4%), as shown in Figure 13. These data are from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for the school year 2018-2019.

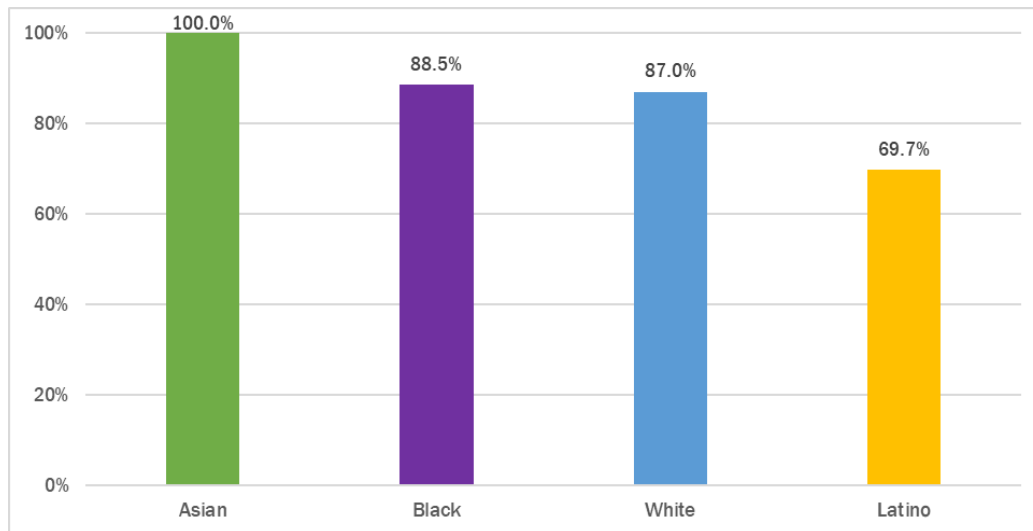
Figure 13: School Enrollment by Ethno-Racial Composition



Source: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, SY 2018-2019

Revere Public Schools' four-year high school graduation rate in School Year 2018-2019 was 78.5%, lower than the state's rate of 88%. Latino students have the lowest graduation rate in the Revere Public Schools, at 70%, while Asians have a 100% percent graduation rate (Figure 14). The graduation rate among Black students (89%) in Revere is slightly higher than their White counterparts (87%).

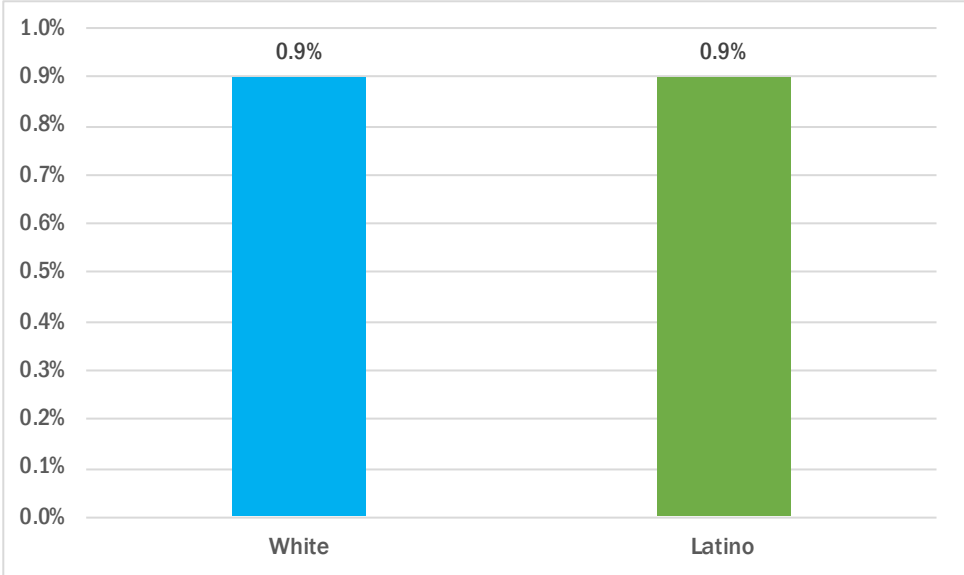
Figure 14: Four-Year Graduation Rates by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, SY 2018-2019

Revere Public Schools' out-of-school suspension rate is 0.9%, and this is lower than the state's rate of 3.0%. Latino and White students had a suspension rate of 0.9% in School Year 2018-2019 (Figure 15). Data for Asians and Black students are not available.

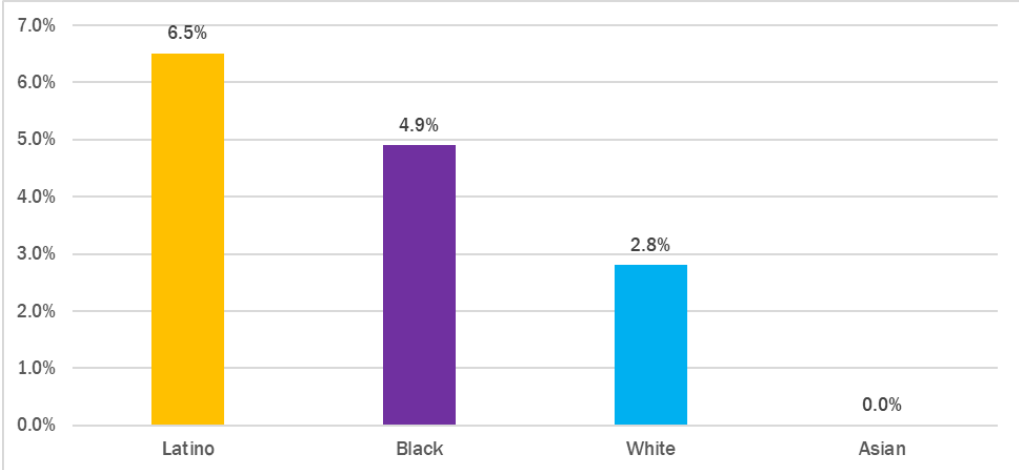
Figure 15: Out-of-School Suspensions by Ethno-Racial Group



Source: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, SY 2018-2019

Revere Public Schools' dropout rate is 4.9%, much higher than the state's rate of 1.8%. Latino students had the highest dropout rate in School Year 2018-2019, 6.5%. Asian students have a 0% dropout rate, while White students in Revere have dropout rates of 2.8%, much lower than Latino and Black students (Figure 16).

Figure 16: Dropout Rates by Ethno-Racial Group

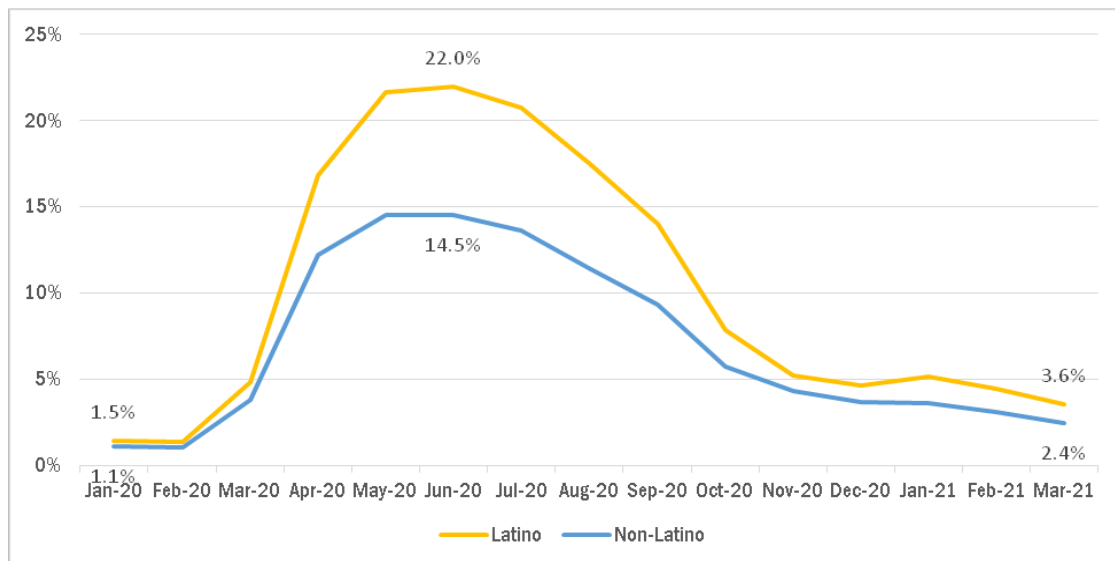


Source: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, SY 2018-2019

Impact of COVID-19

Starting in March 2020, when COVID-19 hit Revere, unemployment claims rapidly increased, from a low point of 1.5% for Latinos in early 2020. In June 2020, both Latinos and non-Latinos filed high numbers of unemployment claims, their rates rising to 22.0% and 14.5%, respectively. (These percentages are calculated by dividing the number of reported claims by the population age 18 and older.) From that peak, there was a mostly steady decline in the unemployment claims among both groups, standing in March 2021 at 3.6% for Latinos and 2.4% for non-Latinos.

Figure 17: Unemployment Claims (ages 18+)



Source: Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor & Workforce Development

About the Gastón Institute

Established in 1989, the Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy was created by the Massachusetts Legislature in response to a need for improved understanding about the Latino experience in the commonwealth. Now in its 30th year, the Gastón Institute continues its mission of informing the public and policymakers about issues vital to the state's growing Latino community and providing information and analysis necessary for effective Latino participation in public policy development. To learn more about the Gastón Institute, visit www.umb.edu/gastoninstitute.

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 worked with various community-based organizations assisting recently arrived U.S. immigrants before earning a Ph.D. in Public Policy from UMass 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.

Vishakha Agarwal is a Ph.D. Candidate in Public Policy in the McCormack Graduate School at UMass Boston. Vishakha's research focuses on children's everyday classroom experiences, well-being, and education. Her dissertation examines how interactions between teachers and students and among students impact students' classroom experiences and, in turn, informs their subjectivity. She also holds a Bachelor's of Science (Research) in Economics from Shiv Nadar University, India, and a Master's of Science in Public Policy from UMass Boston.



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