



Profiles of Boston's Latinos

The BPDA Research Division presents profiles of the seven largest Latino groups in Boston: Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Salvadorans, Colombians, Mexicans, Guatemalans, and Brazilians. These profiles supplement the report "Powering Greater Boston's Economy: Why the Latino Community is Critical to our Shared Future" prepared by the BPDA Research Division and Boston Indicators in June 2017.

The Boston Planning & Development Agency

We strive to understand the current environment of the city to produce quality research and targeted information that will inform and benefit the residents and businesses of Boston. Our Division conducts research on Boston's economy, population, and commercial markets for all departments of the BPDA, the City of Boston, and related organizations.

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Unless otherwise noted data for this report come from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis.

Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

"Latino" includes people who 1. self-describe their ethnicity as "Hispanic or Latino", or 2. were born in Brazil, or 3. who self-describe their ancestry as Brazilian.

Puerto Ricans

in
Boston



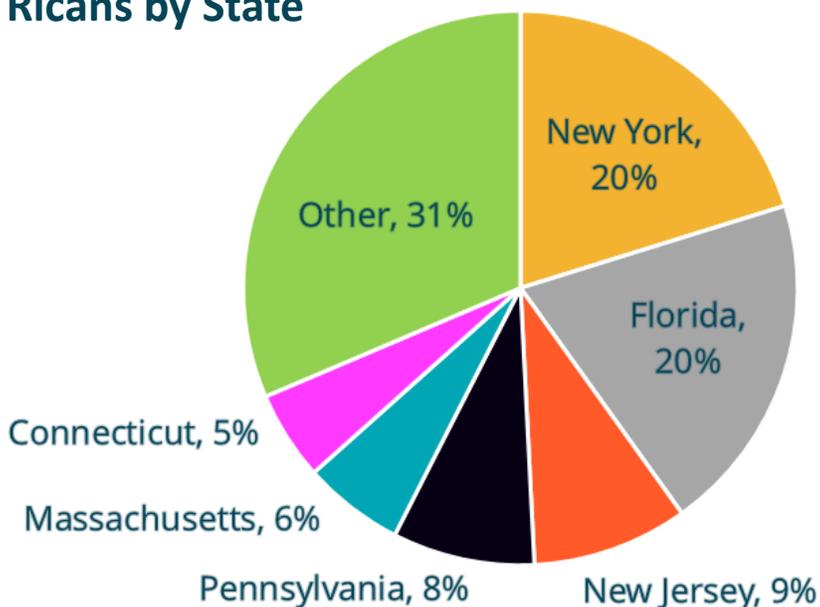
August 3, 2014 - Mayor Martin Walsh delivers remarks to celebrants at the 47th Annual Puerto Rican Pride Festival at City Hall Plaza. (Mayor's Office photo by Don Harney)

After the Spanish-American War in 1898, the United States gained control over the island of Puerto Rico as an unincorporated territory. The Jones Act of 1917 granted residents of the island U.S. citizenship. From 1898 to 1945 an estimated 90,000 Puerto Ricans migrated to the continental United States, and settled primarily in New York City. From the end of World War II into the 1950s Puerto Rican migration increased, and seasonal agricultural workers arrived in the Connecticut River Valley. Puerto Ricans first settled in Springfield and Holyoke before arriving in Boston.

By the 1960s Parcel 19 in the South End was home to approximately 1,500 Puerto Ricans, and the area was slated as an urban renewal project. The neighborhood organized the efforts of *Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción* (IBA) and became the developer of what is today *Villa Victoria*, an affordable housing community.

Puerto Rico has recently experienced increased out-migration to the continental United States due to stagnant economic growth and an ongoing debt crisis. The population of Puerto Rico declined from 3.7 million in 2010 to 3.4 million in 2016.¹ In 2015, 5.3 million Puerto Ricans resided in the continental United States.² With an estimated 317,142 Puerto Ricans residing in Massachusetts, the state has the fifth largest Puerto Rican population behind New York, Florida, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Boston residents make up 12 percent of Puerto Rican population in Massachusetts.

Puerto Ricans by State



¹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 & 2016 Annual Population Estimate, BPDA Research Division Analysis

² U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 1-year American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

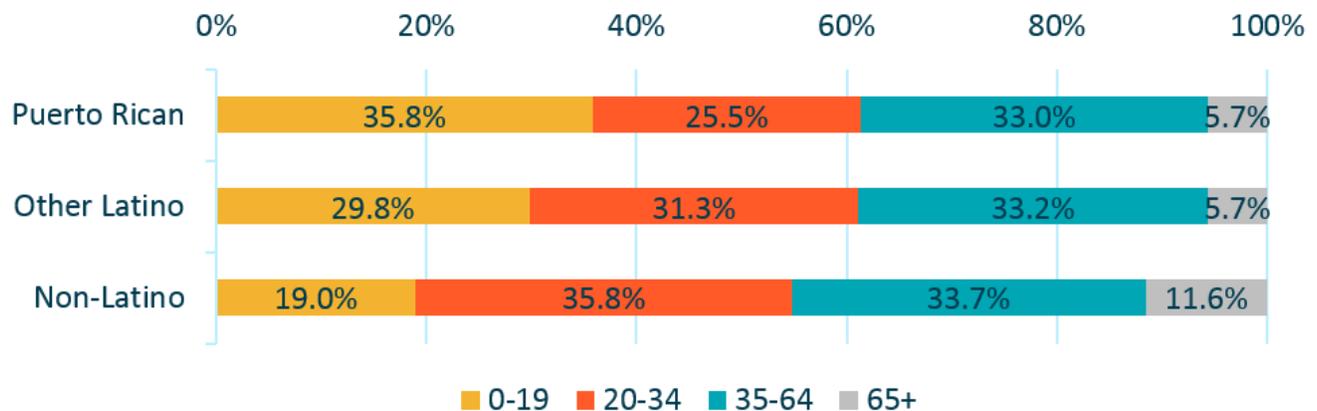
Puerto Ricans in Boston



According to the 2010 Census, Boston was home to 30,506 Puerto Ricans, up slightly from 28,211 in the 2000 Census. The American Community Survey suggests that their population had grown by 2015 to 37,324 (+/-5,057).³ Puerto Ricans are the largest Latino population in the city and make up 28 percent of all Latinos in Boston. Other large Latino populations in Boston include Dominicans (24 percent), Salvadorans (11 percent), Colombians (6 percent), and Mexicans (5 percent). Puerto Ricans can be found in all neighborhoods of Boston, but greater shares live in Dorchester (22 percent), Roxbury (17 percent), and Hyde Park (11 percent).⁴

Puerto Ricans' median age is 27 years, younger than both other Latinos (28) and non-Latinos (32). Over a third of Puerto Ricans are under age 20. Puerto Ricans are evenly split between males and females. Perhaps due to their young age, 63 percent of Puerto Ricans have never married. The majority of Puerto Ricans were born in the continental United States (61 percent), and 37 percent were born in Puerto Rico. Because Puerto Ricans born in Puerto Rico gain U.S. citizenship at birth, less than one percent are noncitizens. Almost 77 percent of Puerto Ricans speak Spanish at home and almost 72 percent speak English very well. Among younger Puerto Ricans under age 35, 86 percent speak English very well.

Age



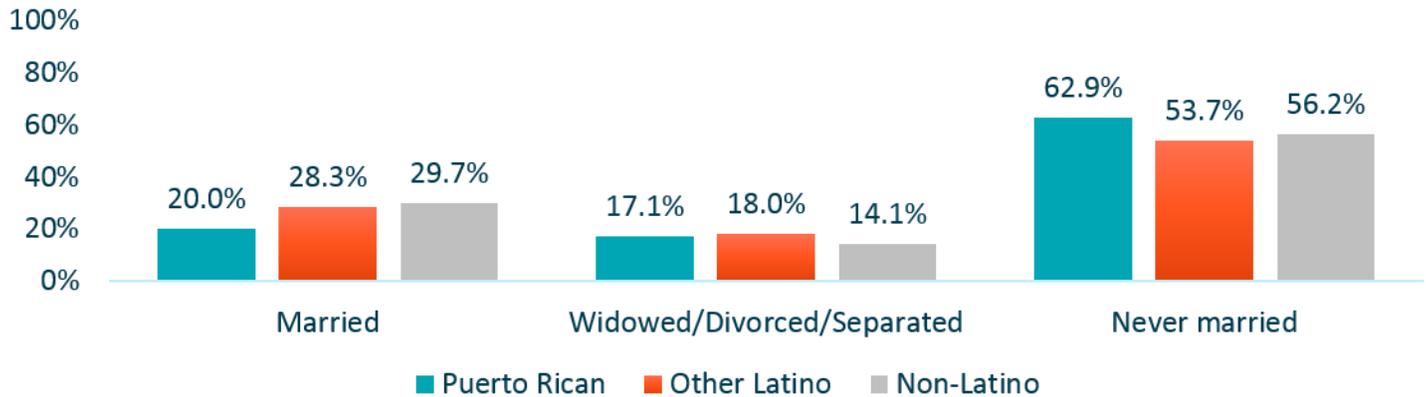
³ U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 & 2010 Decennial Census, 2015 American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

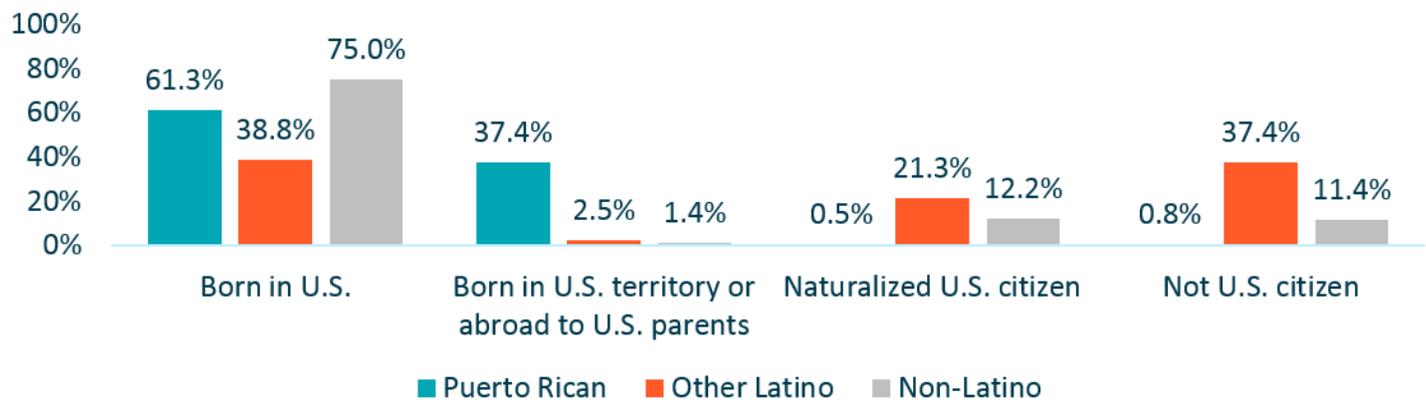
28% of Boston's Latinos are Puerto Rican



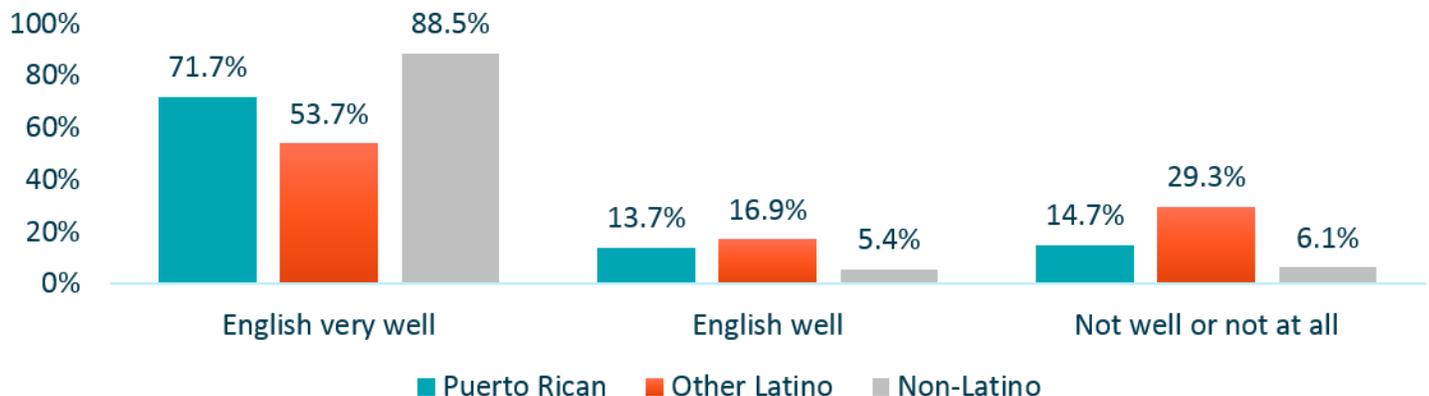
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)



Citizenship

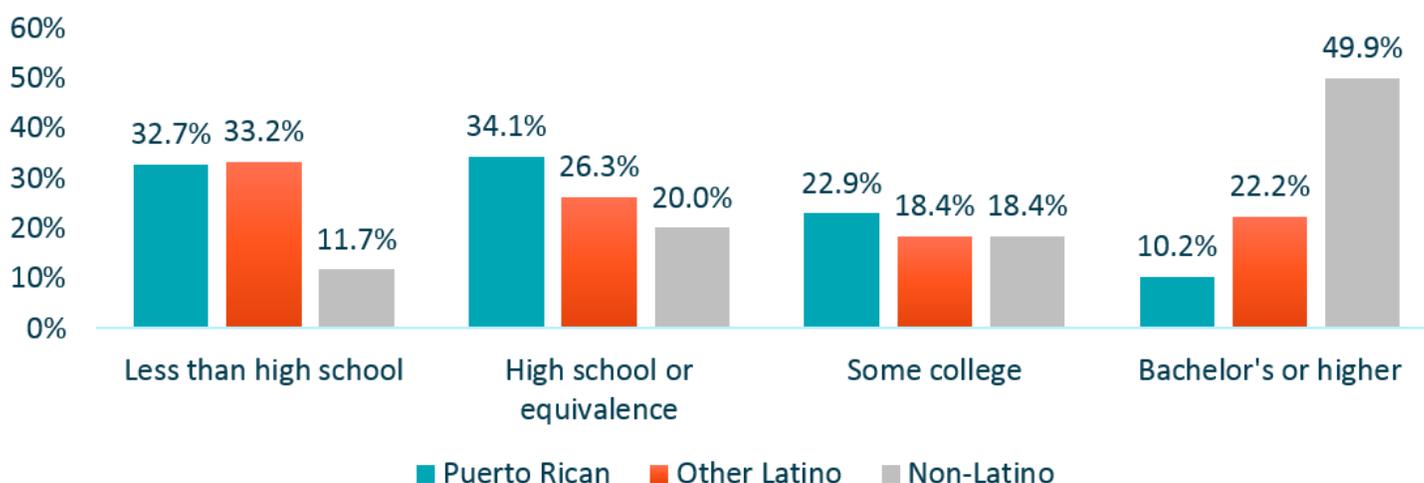


English Proficiency





Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)



Educational Attainment | Similar to other Latinos, approximately one third of adult Puerto Ricans have not completed high school. Only 10 percent of Puerto Rican adults have a Bachelor's or graduate degree, much lower than the 50 percent share for non-Latino adults.

School Enrollment | Puerto Ricans make up 10 percent of Boston residents enrolled in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade, but only 3 percent of Boston residents enrolled in college or university.

Labor Force Participation | A lower share (57 percent) of Puerto Ricans age 16 and over participate in the labor force than other Latinos (71 percent) and non-Latinos (68 percent). Labor force participation is higher for Puerto Rican men than women (59 percent vs. 55 percent).

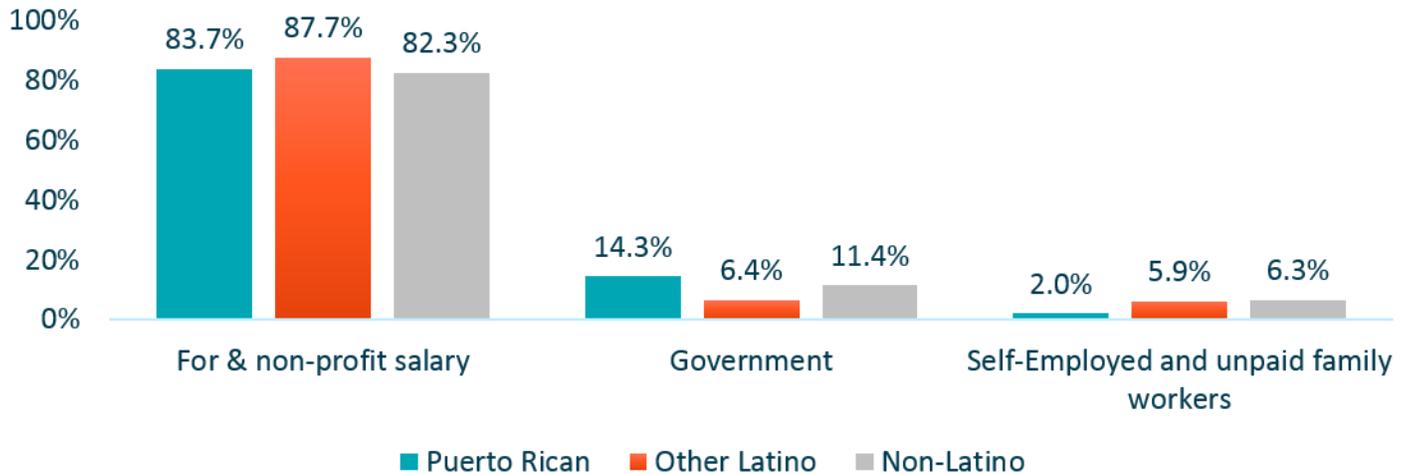
Employment | Over 14 percent of employed Puerto Ricans work for the government, a higher share than other groups. Nearly 30 percent of employed Puerto Ricans work in service occupations, and only 10 percent work in managerial and professional occupations.

Commute | A smaller share of Puerto Ricans (26 percent) work outside of Suffolk County than other Latinos (30 percent) and non-Latinos (33 percent). Puerto Ricans (38 percent) are less likely to use public transportation to travel to work than other Latinos (45 percent) but more likely than non-Latinos (32 percent).



47% of Puerto Ricans are employed

Employment Type (ages 16 and older)



Occupations of Employed Workers



Standard of Living

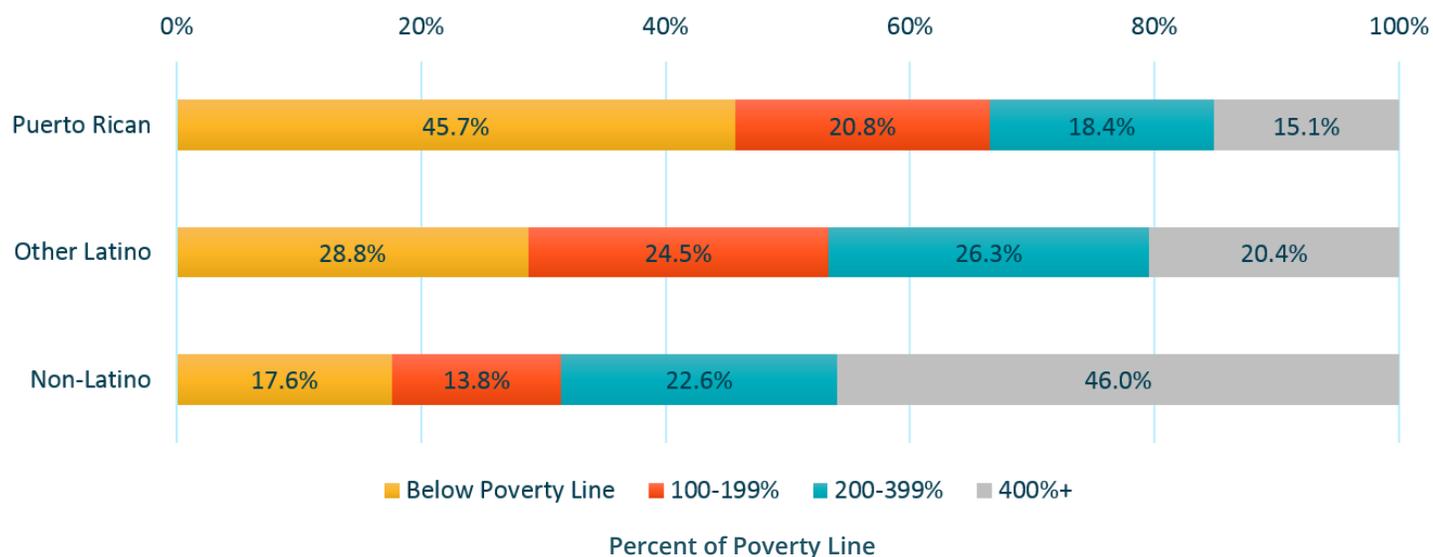


Almost 46 percent of Puerto Ricans live below the Census poverty line, a much higher rate than other groups. Only 15 percent of Puerto Ricans have achieved a middle class standard of living, compared to 20 percent for other Latinos and 46 percent for non-Latinos. A family income four times the poverty line is used as a proxy for a middle-class standard of living. The actual income needed to achieve this standard depends on family composition. For a two-person family in 2015, the poverty line is about \$15,391, and a middle class income would be \$61,564. The median household income for Puerto Rican-headed households is only \$18,423. Despite their low income, 95 percent of Puerto Ricans have health insurance, a higher share than other Latinos.

Puerto Ricans are less likely to own their home (13 percent) than other Latinos (18 percent) and non-Latinos (37 percent).⁵ Over 56 percent of Puerto Rican households are housing burdened and pay more than 30 percent of their income in housing costs, a higher housing burden rate than other groups. Just 54 percent of Puerto Rican households own a car, a lower share than other Latinos (59 percent) or non-Latinos (66 percent).

Approximately 59 percent of Puerto Rican households are families and the average household size is 2.5, larger than the average for non-Latinos, 2.1.

Individual Poverty Rates



⁵ The ACS excludes households that are vacant, being bought, occupied without rent payment, have no household income or are group quarters when reporting owner/renter costs as a percentage of household income. Therefore, the sum of housing-burdened and non-housing-burdened households may not add exactly to the total number of homeowners/renters.

46% of Puerto Ricans in Boston live in poverty

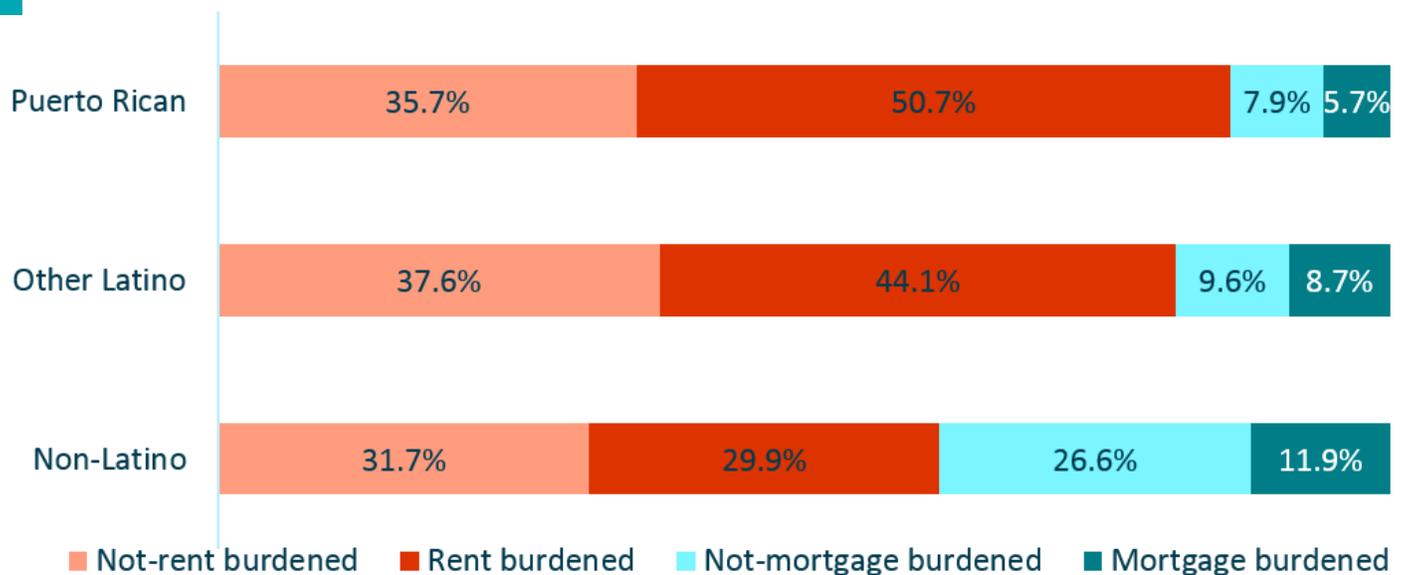


Median Household Income



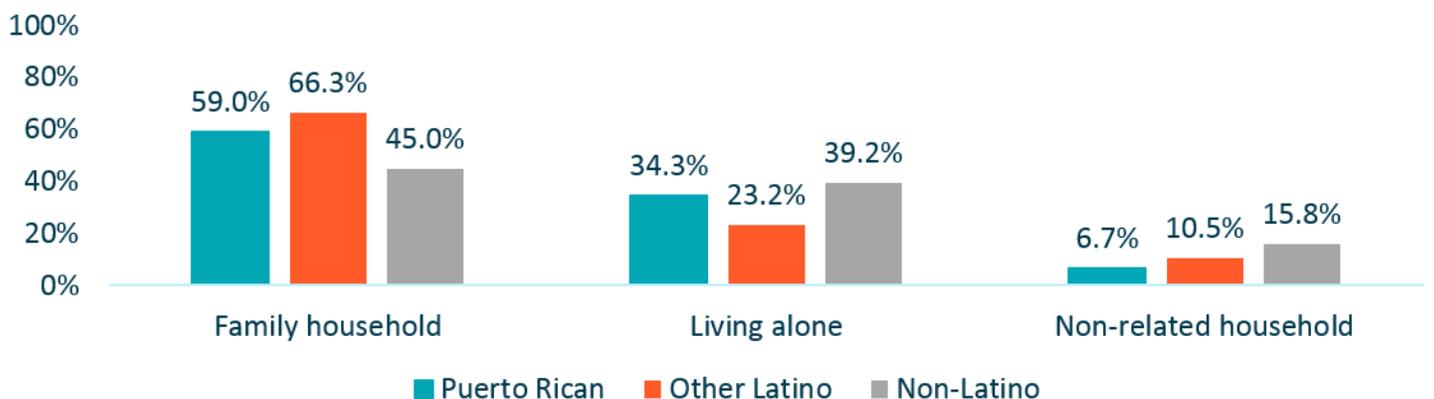
■ Puerto Rican ■ Other Latino ■ Non-Latino

Tenure and Housing Burden



■ Not-rent burdened ■ Rent burdened ■ Not-mortgage burdened ■ Mortgage burdened

Household Type

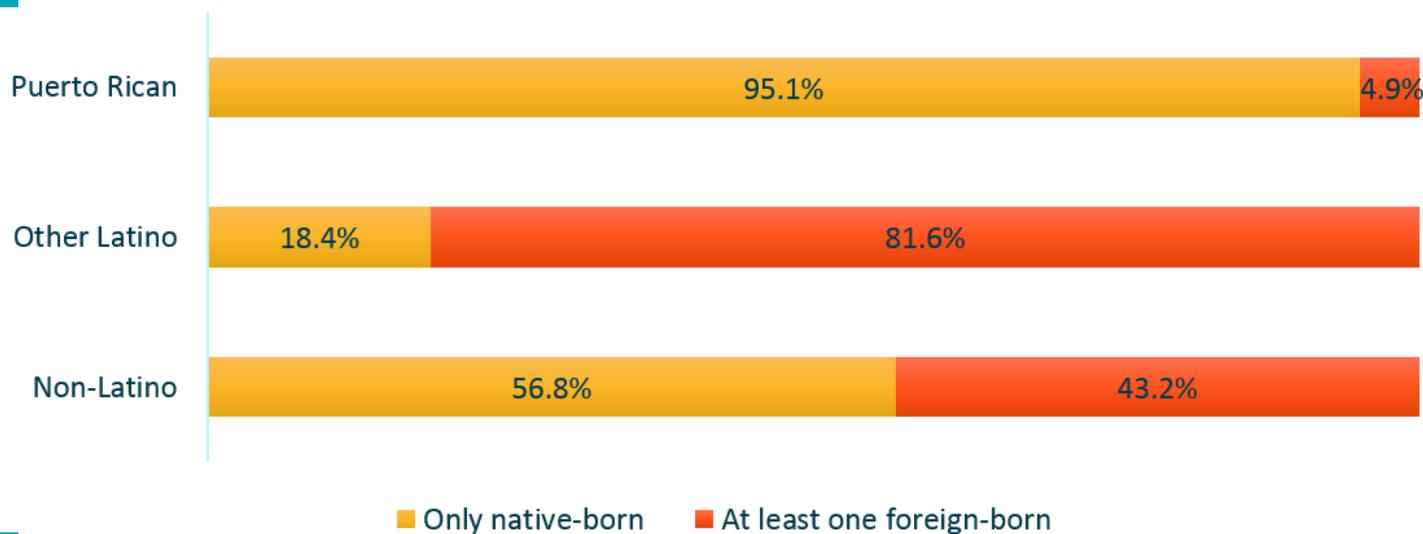


■ Puerto Rican ■ Other Latino ■ Non-Latino

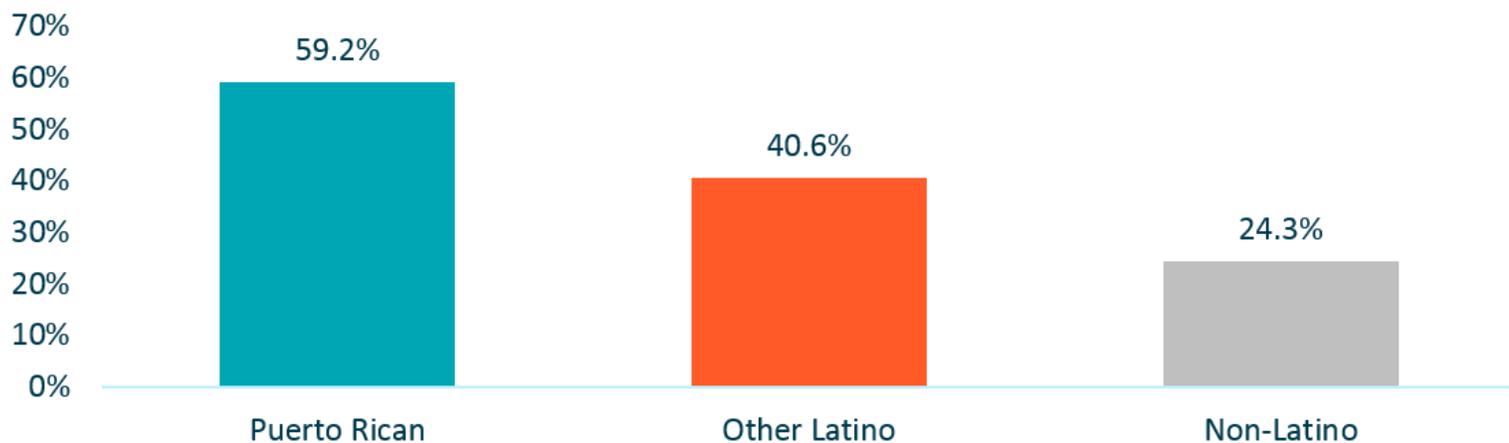
Puerto Rican Children

The 2011-2015 American Community Survey estimates 10,710 Puerto Rican children reside in Boston. Similar to other Latino groups, 42 percent of Puerto Rican households include children, much higher than the 20 percent of non-Latino households that include children. Almost all Puerto Rican children and their parents are native-born U.S. citizens who were born either in the mainland U.S. or in Puerto Rico. However, 5 percent of Puerto Rican children have a foreign-born parent (a parent born outside of the U.S. or Puerto Rico). In contrast, 82 percent of other Latino children have a foreign-born parent. Puerto Rican children are likely to live in poverty (59 percent), but over 99 percent of Puerto Rican children have health insurance.

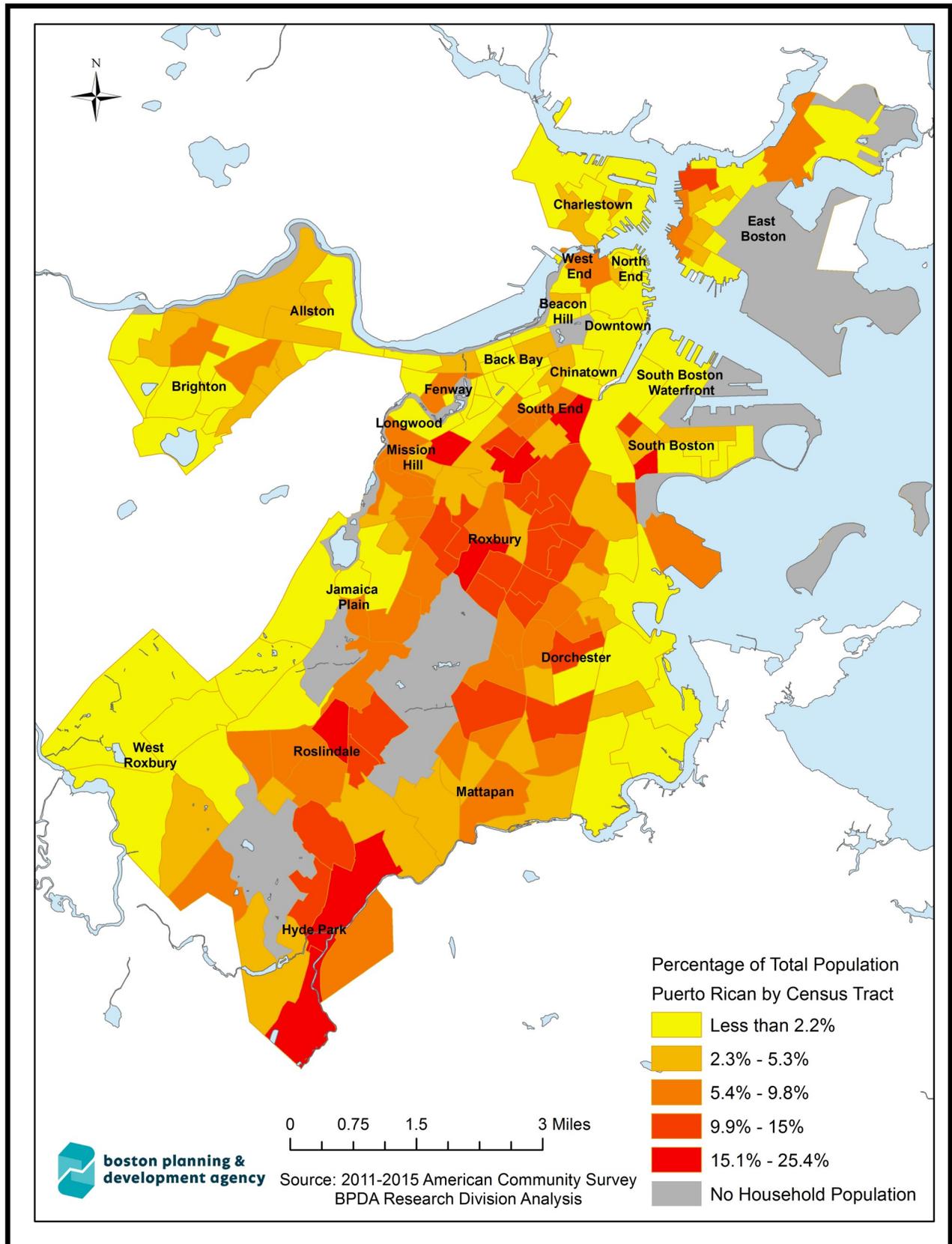
Parent Nativity



Child Poverty



Map of Puerto Ricans in Boston



Dominicans

in Boston



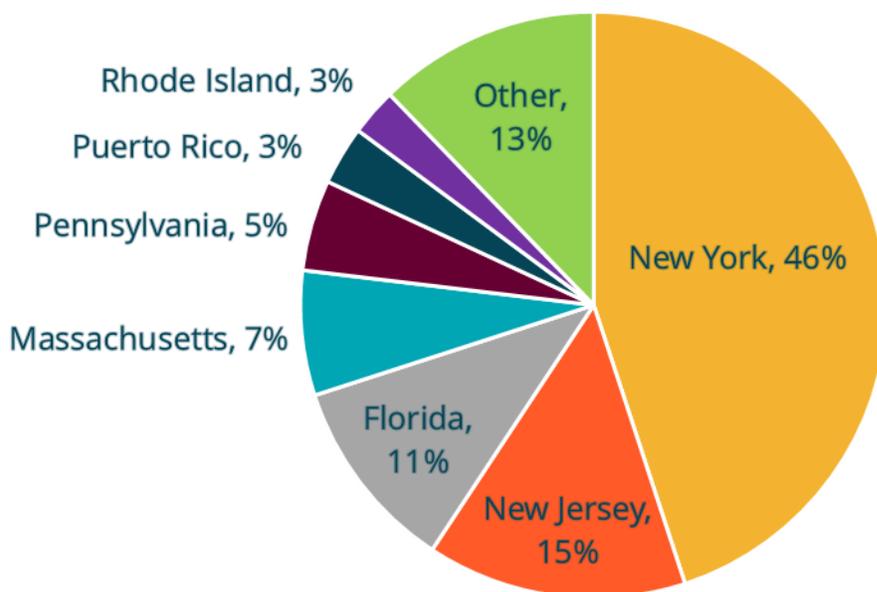
August 14, 2016 - Scenes from the annual Dominican Parade on Boylston St. in Boston. (Mayor's Office Photo by Jeremiah Robinson)

When the Dominican population in the United States started rapidly increasing in the 1980s, it was noted for having a circular migratory pattern with a transnational identity. As the Dominican population has developed a more permanent presence in the United States, its native-born population has increased to 45.9 percent in 2015. Dominicans first arrived in New York, Florida, and Massachusetts. Lawrence, which is over 40 percent Dominican, has a slightly larger Dominican population than Boston.

One visible sign of Boston’s large Dominican population is its annual festival that started in 1985. Showing the increased presence of Dominicans in the city, the parade accompanying the festival moved to the streets of downtown Boston in 2015, and the festival is now held on City Hall Plaza every summer.

In 2015, 1.9 million people with Dominican origin lived in the United States.¹ With an estimated 132,864 Dominicans residing in Massachusetts, the state accounts for 7 percent of all Dominicans in the country. Massachusetts has the fourth largest Dominican population behind New York (46 percent), New Jersey (15 percent), and Florida (11 percent). Boston residents make up 24 percent of the Dominican population of Massachusetts.

Dominicans by State and Territory



¹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 1-year American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

Dominicans in Boston



According to the 2010 Census, there were 25,648 Dominican residents of Boston, up from 15,066 in the 2000 Census. The American Community Survey suggests that Boston's Dominican population had grown by 2015 to 32,126 (+/-5,116).² Accounting for 24 percent of all Latinos in Boston, Dominicans are the second largest Latino population in the city. Other large Latino populations include Puerto Ricans (28 percent), Salvadorans (11 percent), Colombians (6 percent), and Mexicans (5 percent). Dominicans can be found in all neighborhoods of Boston, but greater shares of Dominicans live in Dorchester (22 percent), Roxbury (19 percent), and Jamaica Plain (13 percent).³

Dominicans' median age is 26 years, younger than other Latinos (29) and non-Latinos (32). Over 36 percent of Dominicans are under age 20. Dominicans are predominately female (59 percent), and are less likely to be married than other groups. The majority of Dominicans are foreign born (58 percent), and 48 percent of the foreign-born Dominicans are naturalized U.S. citizens. Over 92 percent of Dominicans speak Spanish at home; 51 percent also speak English very well. Among younger Dominicans ages 5 to 34, the share who speak English very well is higher: 74 percent.

Age Distribution



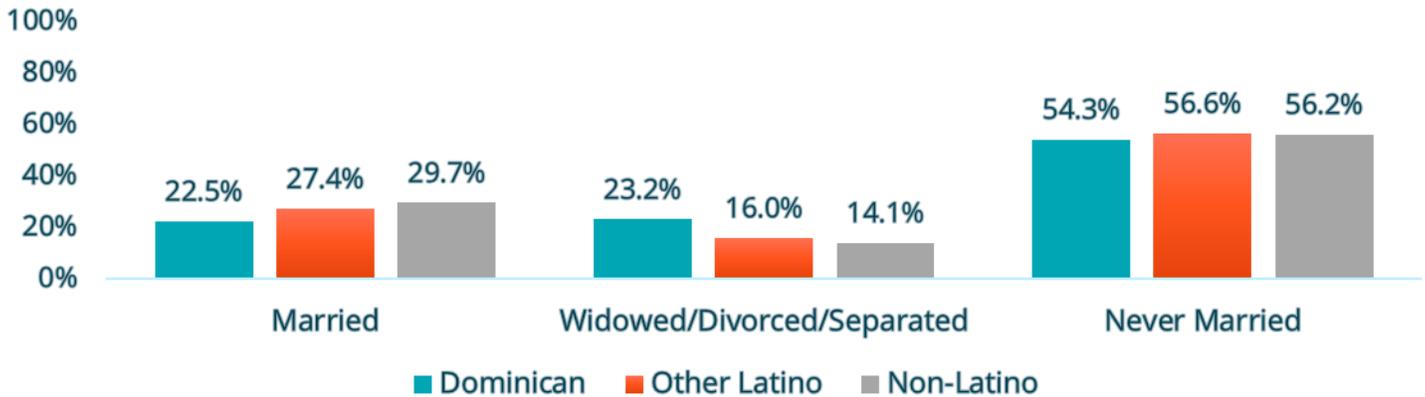
² U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 & 2010 Decennial Census, 2015 American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

³ U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

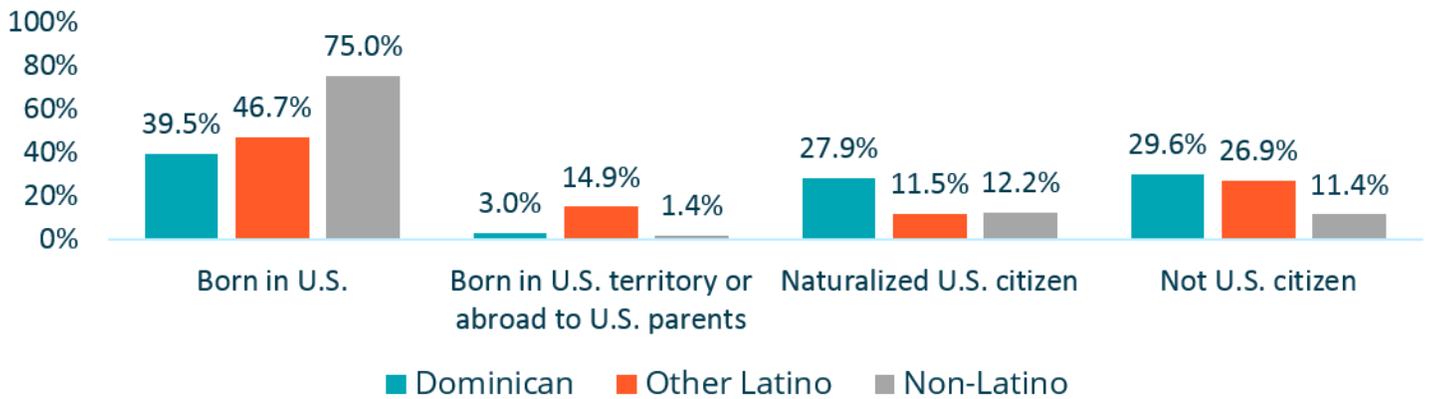
24% of Boston's Latinos are Dominican



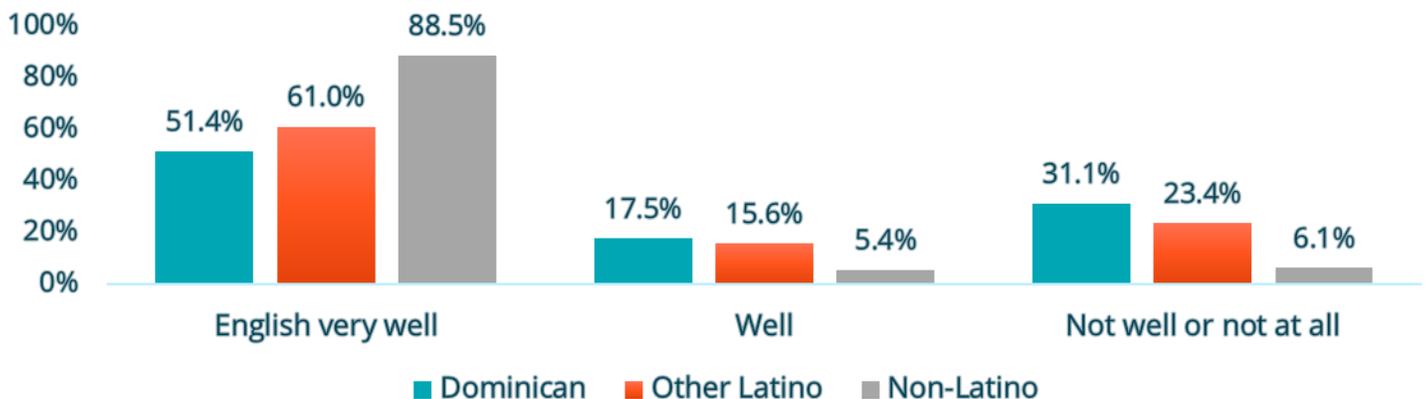
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)



Citizenship

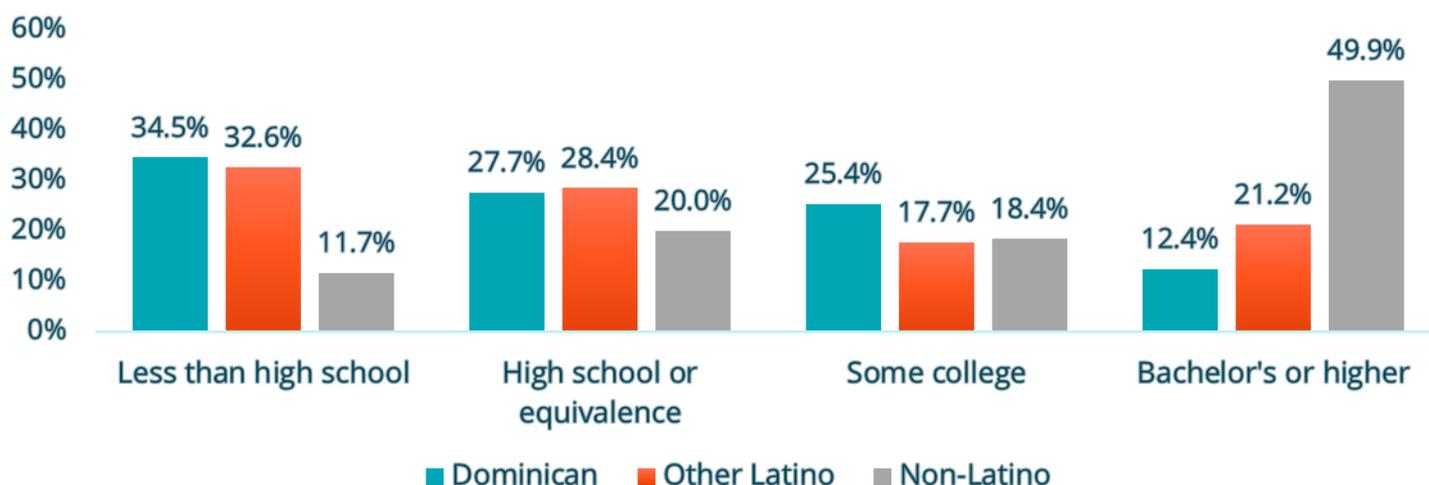


English Proficiency (ages 5 and older)





Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)



Educational Attainment | Many Dominican adults have low levels of educational attainment. Almost 35 percent lack a high school education and only 12 percent have a Bachelor's degree.

School Enrollment | Dominicans make up 11 percent of Boston residents enrolled in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade, but only 4 percent of Boston residents enrolled in college or university.

Labor Force Participation | Almost 68 percent of Dominicans ages 16 and older participate in the labor force, similar to the rates for other groups. Labor force participation is higher for Dominican men than women (71 percent vs. 65 percent).

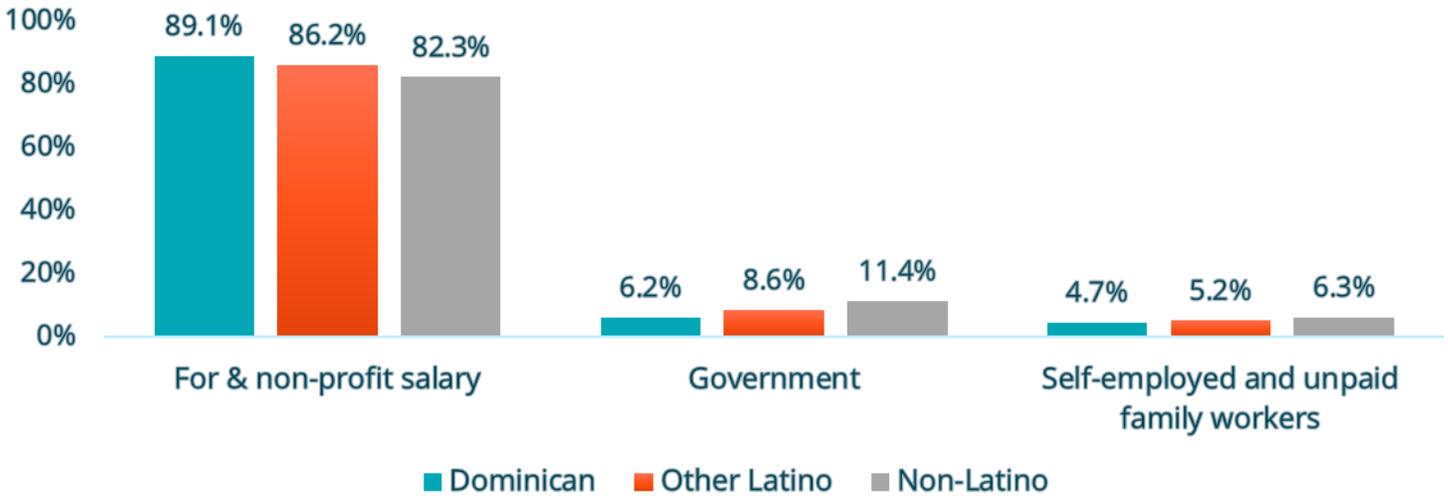
Employment | Almost 90 percent of employed Dominicans work in private sector payroll jobs. Over 42 percent of employed Dominicans work in service occupations. In contrast, only 8 percent of Dominicans work in managerial and professional occupations.

Commuting | A smaller share of Dominicans (27 percent) work outside of Suffolk County than other Latinos (30 percent) and non-Latinos (33 percent). Dominicans are more likely than non-Latinos to take public transportation to work (43 percent compared to 32 percent). Similar shares of Dominicans and non-Latinos (45 percent) travel to work in an automobile.



58% of Dominicans are employed

Employment Type (ages 16 and older)



Occupations of Employed Workers



Standard of Living

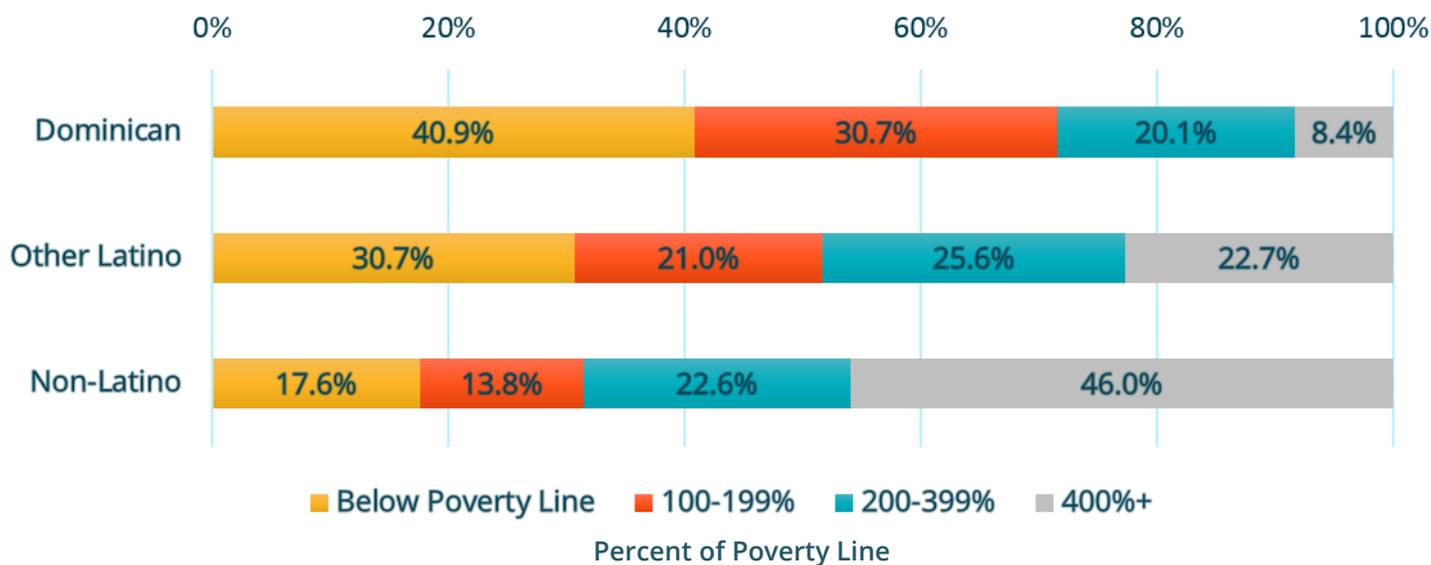


Dominicans in Boston struggle economically. Over 40 percent of Dominicans live below the Census poverty line, and only 8 percent of Dominicans have achieved a middle class standard of living, compared to 23 percent for other Latinos and 46 percent for non-Latinos. A family income four times the poverty line is used as a proxy for a middle-class standard of living. The actual income needed to achieve this standard depends on family composition. For a two-person family in 2015, the poverty line is \$15,391, and a middle class income would need to be at least \$61,564. The median household income for Dominican-headed households is only \$21,100. Despite their low income, 94 percent of Dominicans have health insurance.

Dominicans are less likely to own their home (8 percent), than other Latinos (19 percent) and non-Latinos (37 percent).⁴ More than 52 percent of Dominican households are housing burdened and pay more than 30 percent of their income in housing costs, a higher housing burden rate than other groups. About 62 percent of Dominican households own a car, a higher share than other Latinos (56 percent), but lower than non-Latinos (66 percent).

Approximately 75 percent of Dominican households are families and the average household size is 2.8 larger than the average for non-Latinos, 2.1.

Individual Poverty Rates

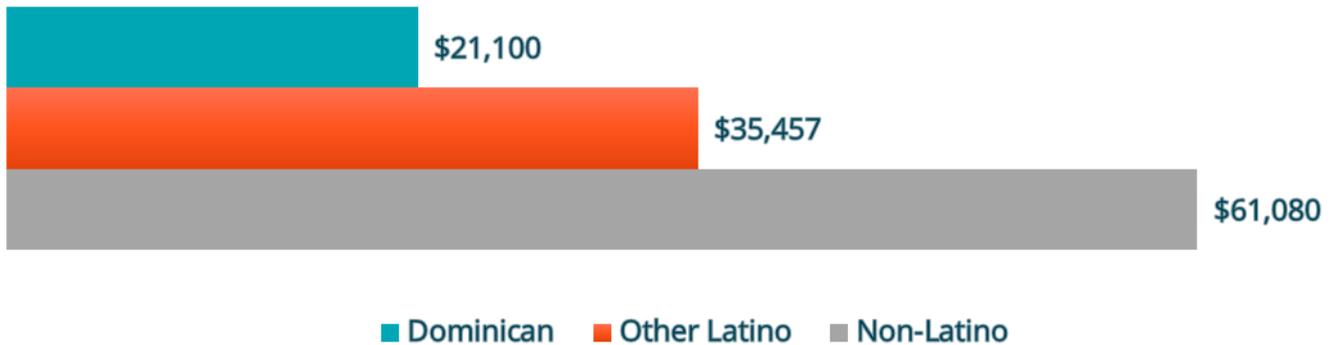


⁴The ACS excludes households that are vacant, being bought, occupied without rent payment, have no household income or are group quarters when reporting owner/renter costs as a percentage of household income. Therefore, the sum of housing-burdened and non-housing-burdened households may not add exactly to the total number of homeowners/renters.

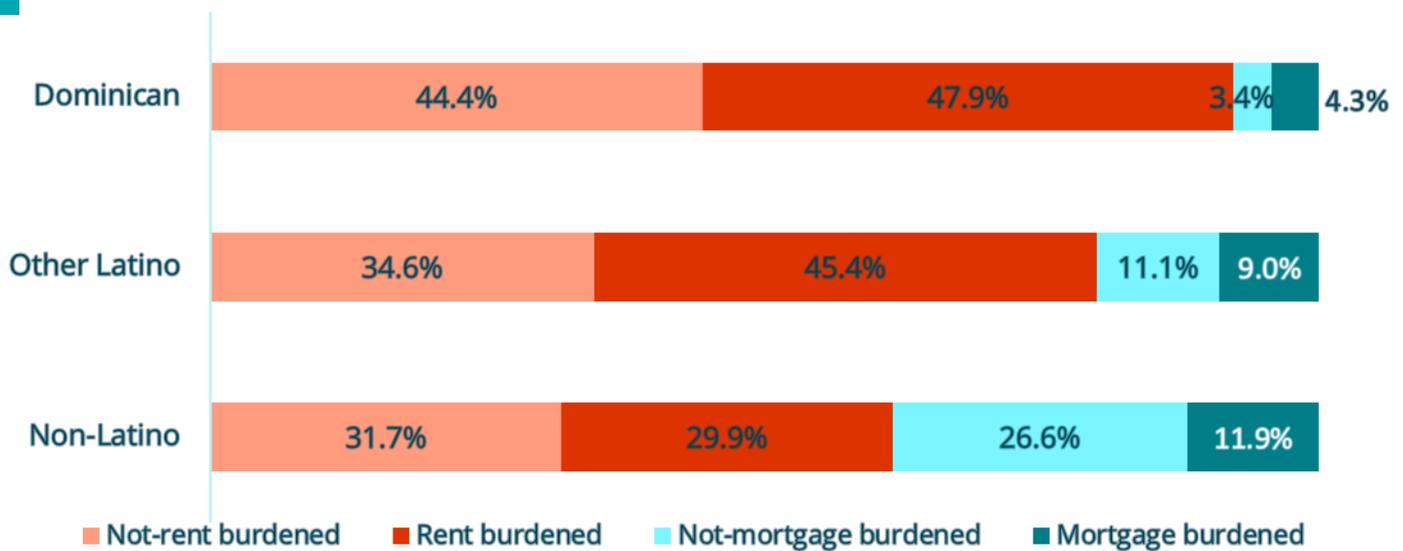
41% of Dominicans in Boston live in poverty



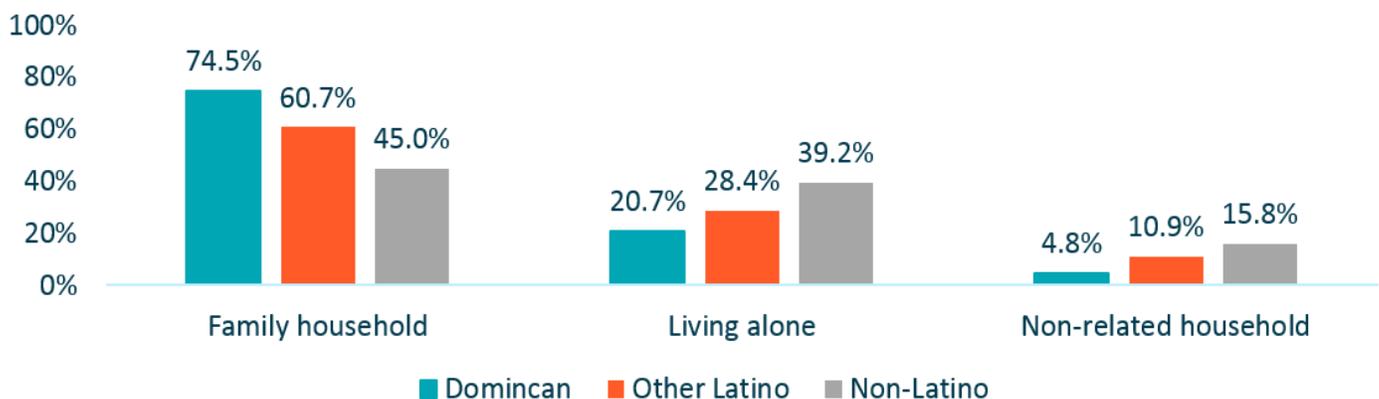
Median Household Income



Tenure and Housing Burden



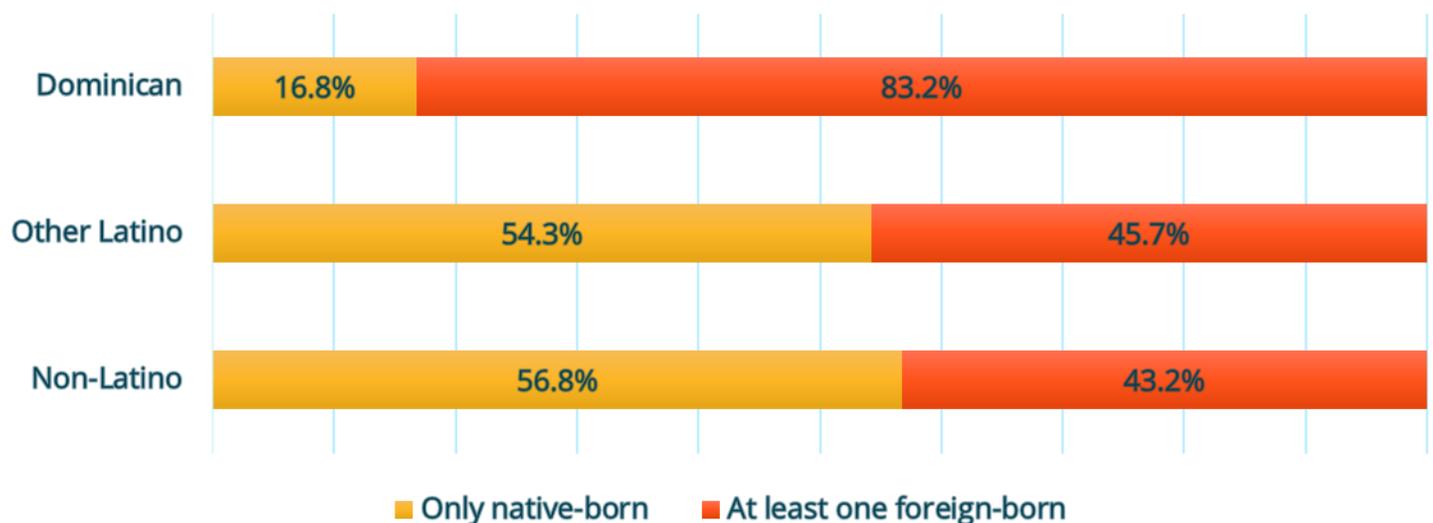
Household Type



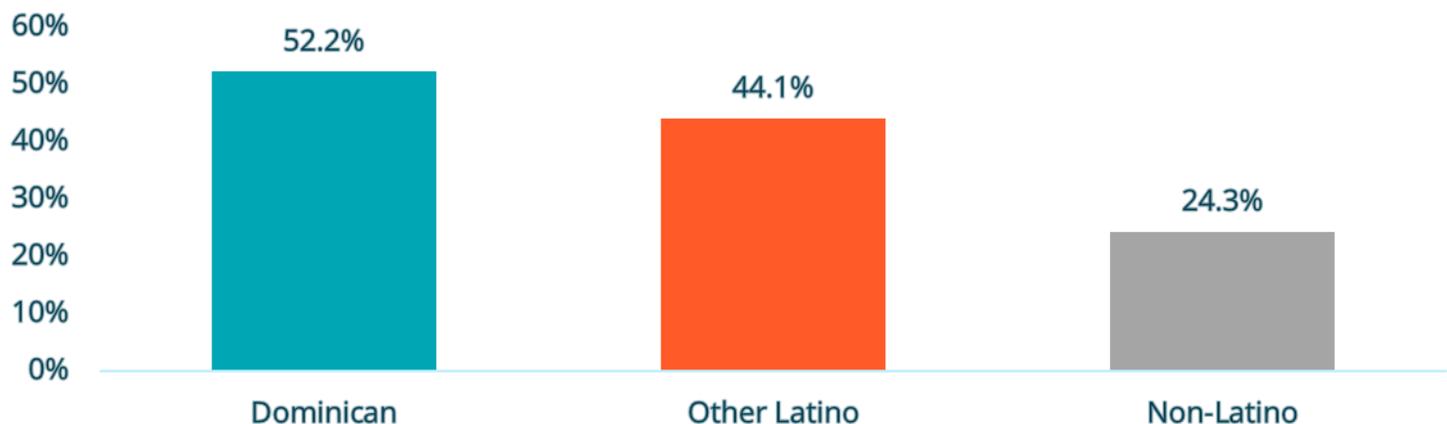
Dominican Children

The 2011-2015 American Community Survey estimates 10,093 Dominican children reside in Boston. Almost 51 percent of Dominican households include children, a higher share than other Latinos (39 percent) and non-Latinos (20 percent). Even though 83 percent of Dominican children are native born, 83 percent of them have at least one foreign-born parent. Dominican children are more likely to live in poverty (52 percent), but over 99 percent of Dominican children in Boston have health insurance.

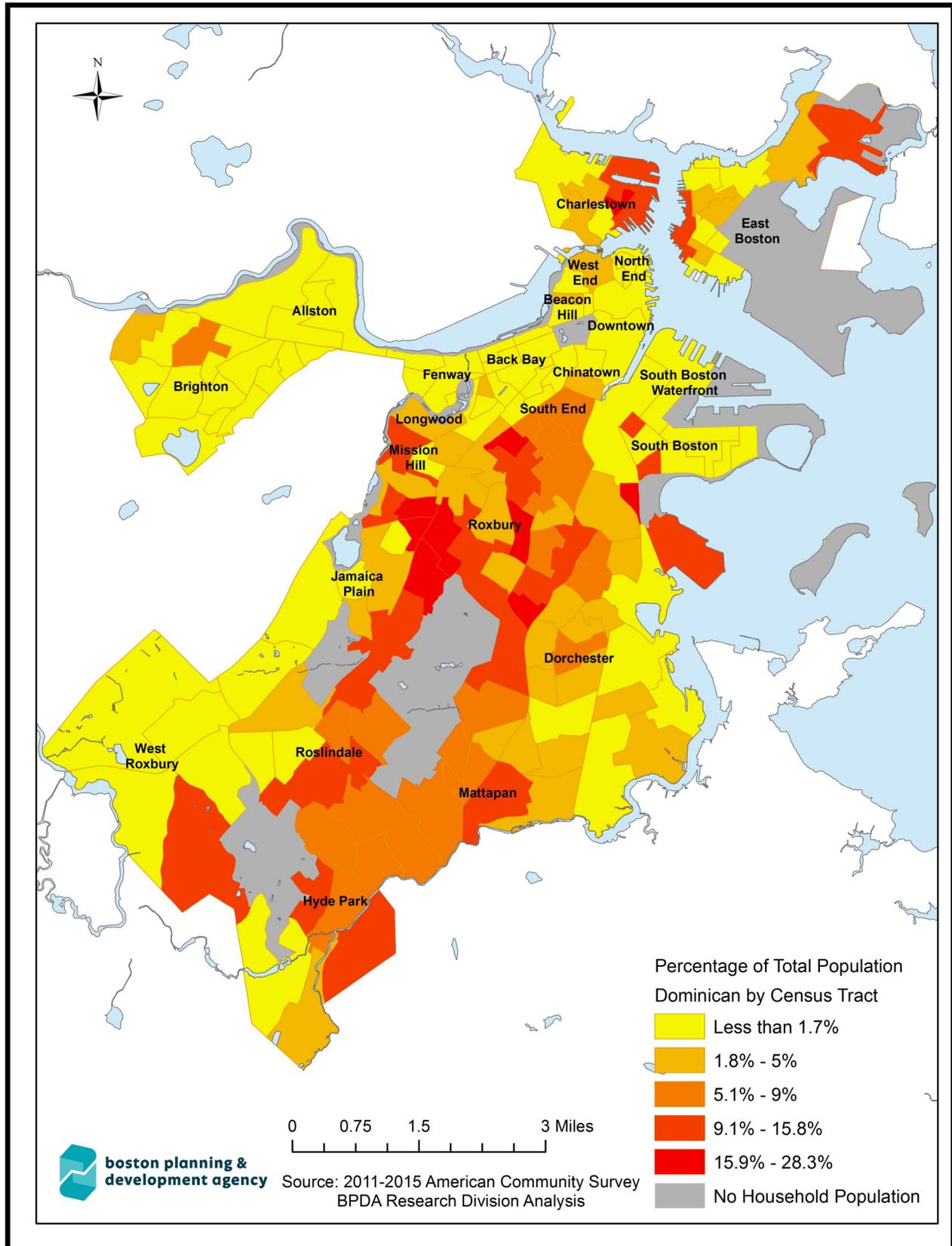
Parent Nativity



Child Poverty



Map of Dominicans in Boston



Salvadorans

in
Boston



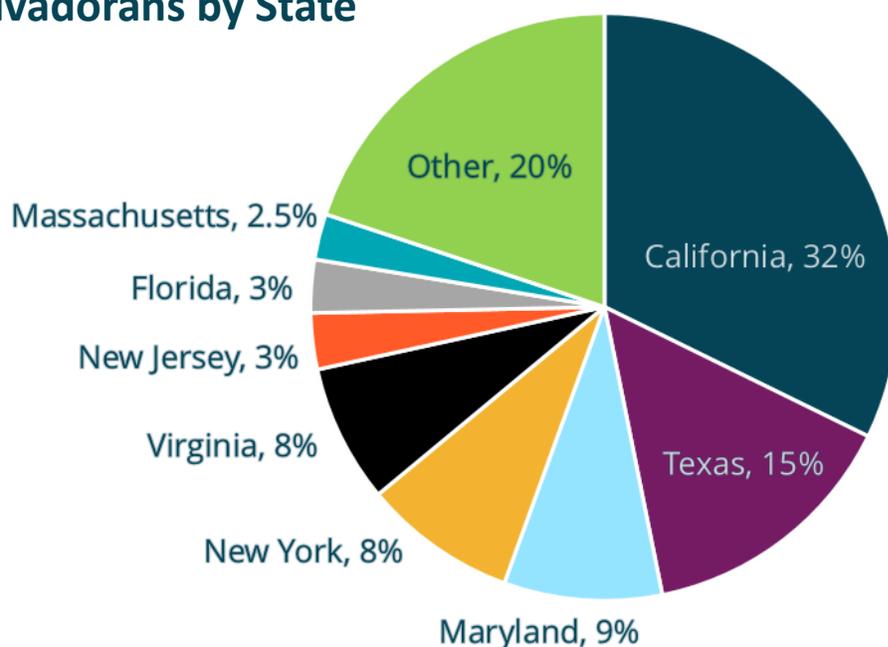
Banda El Salvador at the 2013 Rose Parade in Pasadena, California. Photo by Prayitno Photography, retrieved from flickr.com/photos/prayitnophotography (Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic).

In the 1980s when Salvadoran population started rapidly increasing in the United States, it was related to people being displaced by a decade-long civil war. The U.S. Justice Department did not grant refugee status to Salvadorans, and many entered the country without visas. In response to these displaced persons fleeing from political violence and human rights violations in countries like El Salvador, and their having no legal immigration status in The United States, a collaboration of religious and immigrant organizations worked with cities like Cambridge to become “sanctuary cities.”

Even though Los Angeles was the primary destination for Salvadorans during the Salvadoran civil war, sanctuary initiatives help explain the migration of Salvadorans to other parts of the country like Massachusetts.

In 2015, 2.2 million people with Salvadoran origin lived in the United States.¹ With an estimated 54,631 Salvadorans residing in Massachusetts, the state accounts for 2.5 percent of all Salvadorans in the country. Massachusetts has the eighth largest Salvadoran population. California (32.2 percent) and Texas (14.6 percent) are states with the largest Salvadoran populations. In the Northeast, New York (8.4 percent) and New Jersey (3.1 percent) have larger Salvadoran populations. Boston is home to 27 percent of the state’s Salvadoran population.

Salvadorans by State



¹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 1-year American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

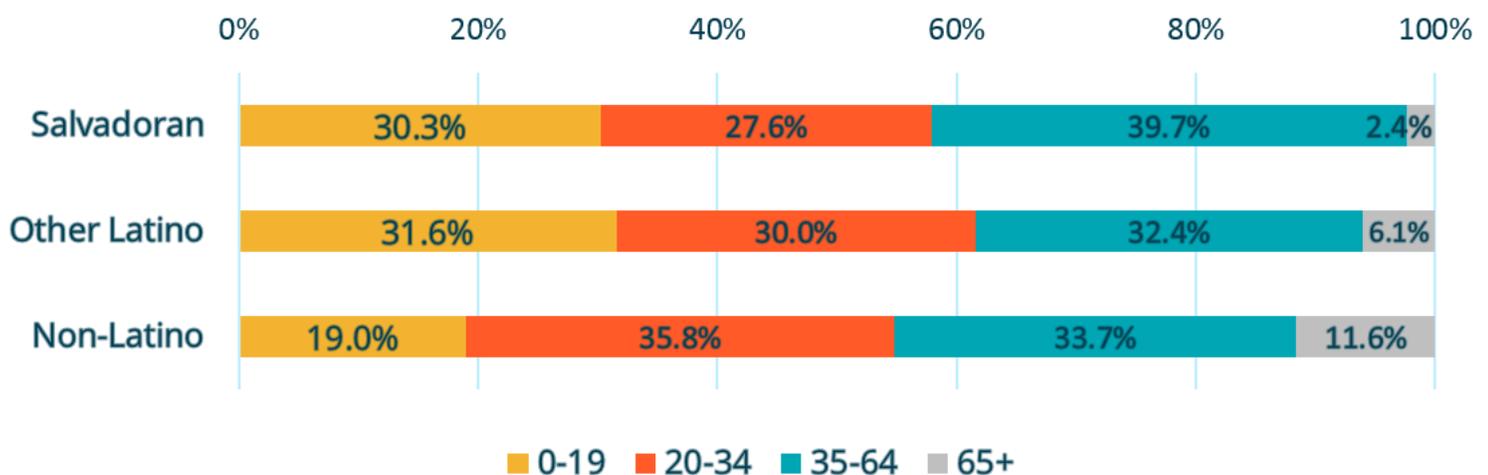
Salvadorans in Boston



According to the 2010 Census, Boston had 10,850 Salvadoran residents, up from 6,067 in the 2000 Census. The American Community Survey reports that Boston's Salvadoran population had grown by 2015 to 14,980 (+/-3,846).² Accounting for 11 percent of all Latinos in Boston, Salvadorans are the third largest Latino population in the city. Other large Latino populations include Puerto Ricans (28 percent), Dominicans (24 percent), Colombians (6 percent), and Mexicans (5 percent). Salvadorans are concentrated in East Boston (87 percent), and smaller shares live in Dorchester (6 percent), and Roxbury (2 percent).³

Salvadorans' median age is 30 years, older than other Latinos (27) but younger than non-Latinos (32). Unlike other groups, Salvadorans are predominately male (55 percent). A larger share of adult Salvadorans are married—36 percent. The majority of Salvadorans are foreign born (70.7 percent), and 62.3 percent are not U. S. citizens. Almost 97 percent of Salvadorans speak Spanish at home and only 28 percent speak English very well. A somewhat higher share of younger Salvadorans under age 35 speak English very well (46 percent).

Age Distribution



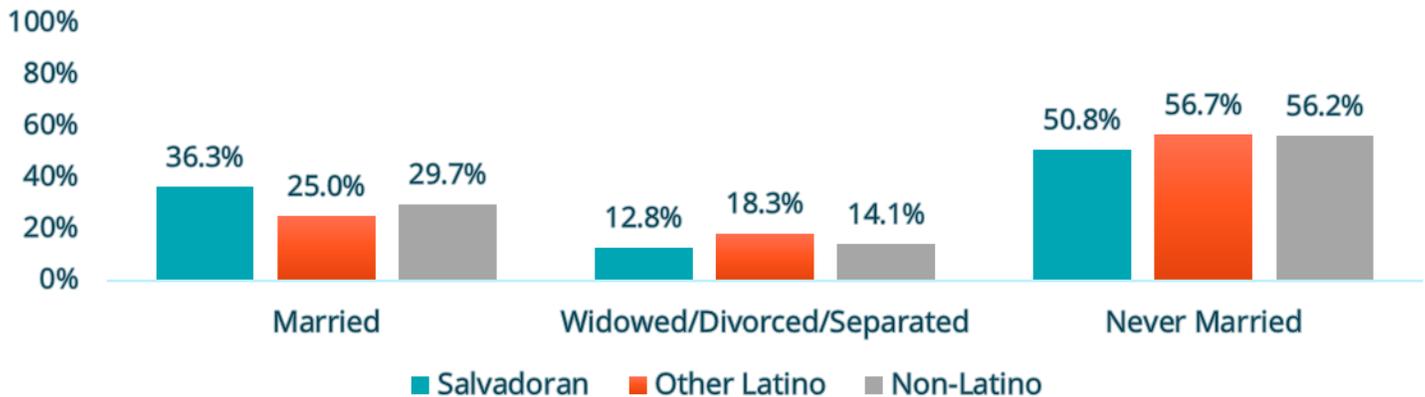
² U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 1-year American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

³ U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

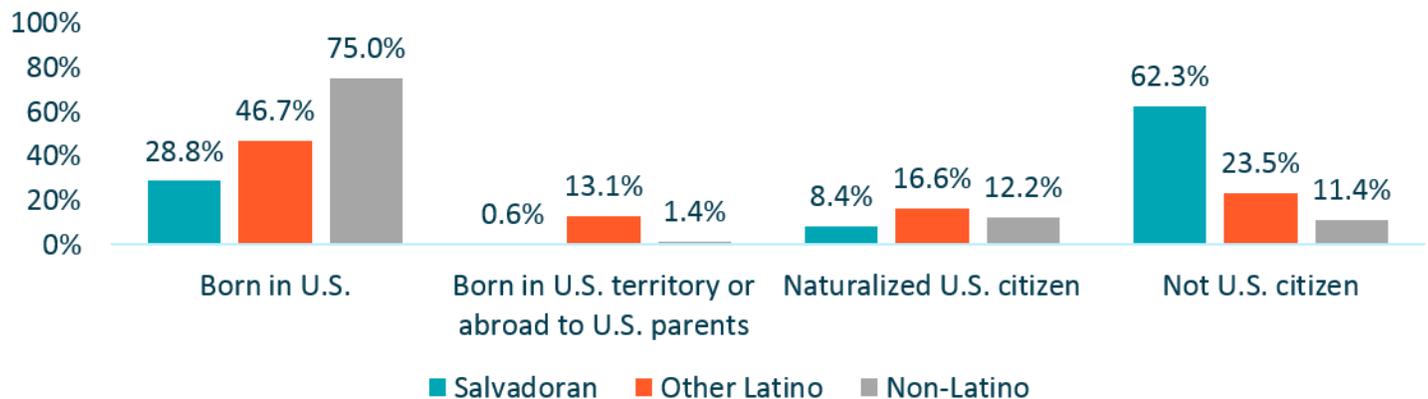
11% of Boston's Latinos are Salvadoran



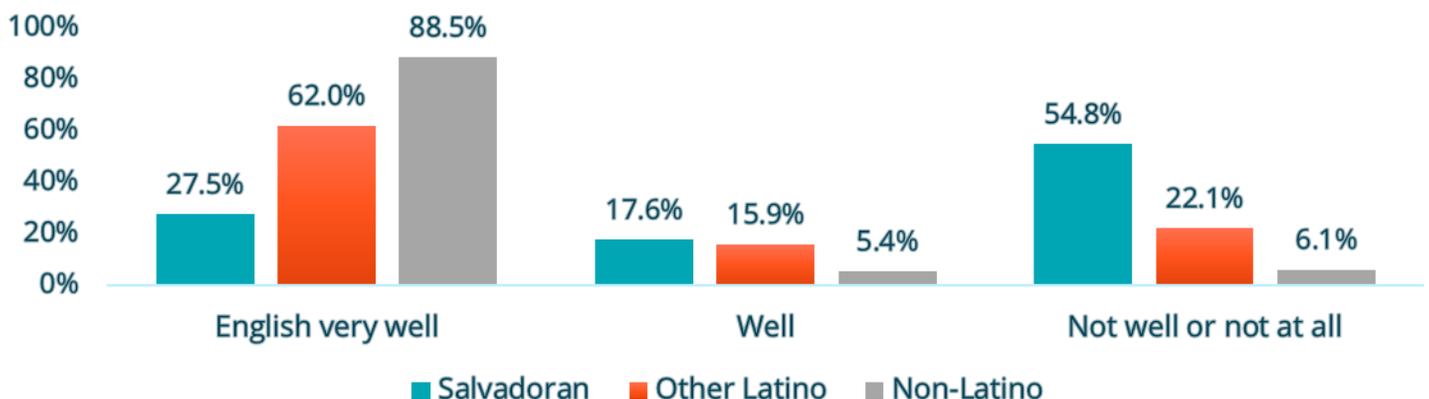
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)



Citizenship

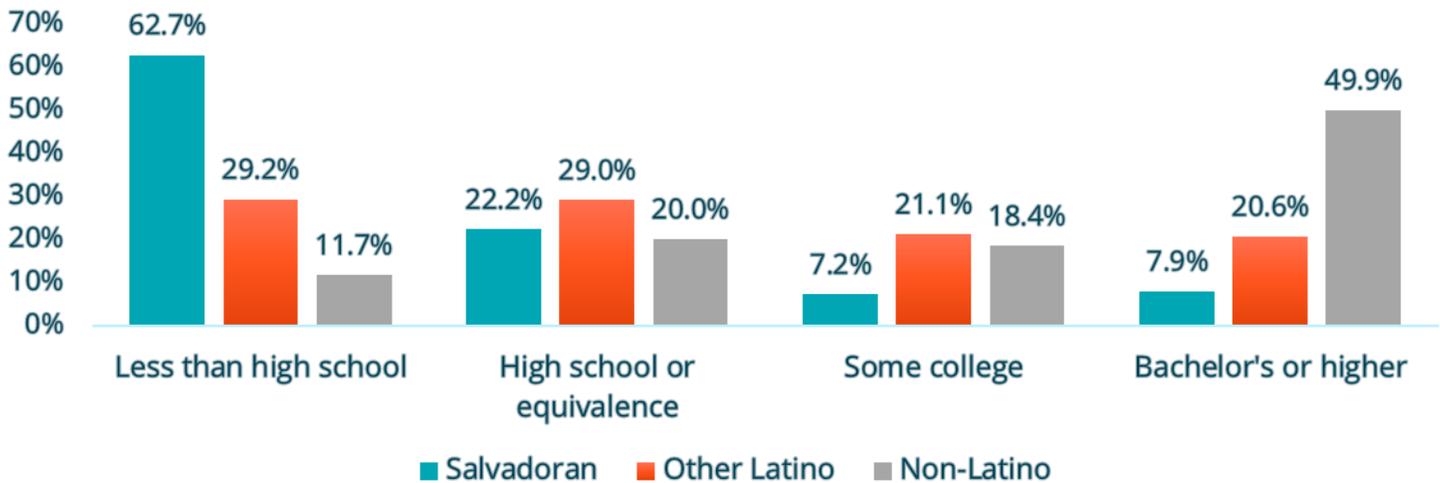


English Proficiency (ages 5 and older)





Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)



Educational Attainment | Salvadorans have a low level of educational attainment. Approximately two thirds of adult Salvadorans have not completed high school, and only 8 percent have a Bachelor's degree or higher.

School Enrollment | Salvadorans make up 3 percent of Boston residents enrolled in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade, but less than a third of a percent of Boston residents enrolled in college or university.

Labor Force Participation | A higher share of adult Salvadorans (79 percent) participate in the labor force than other Latinos (66 percent) and non-Latinos (68 percent). Labor force participation is higher for Salvadoran men than women (84 percent vs. 73 percent).

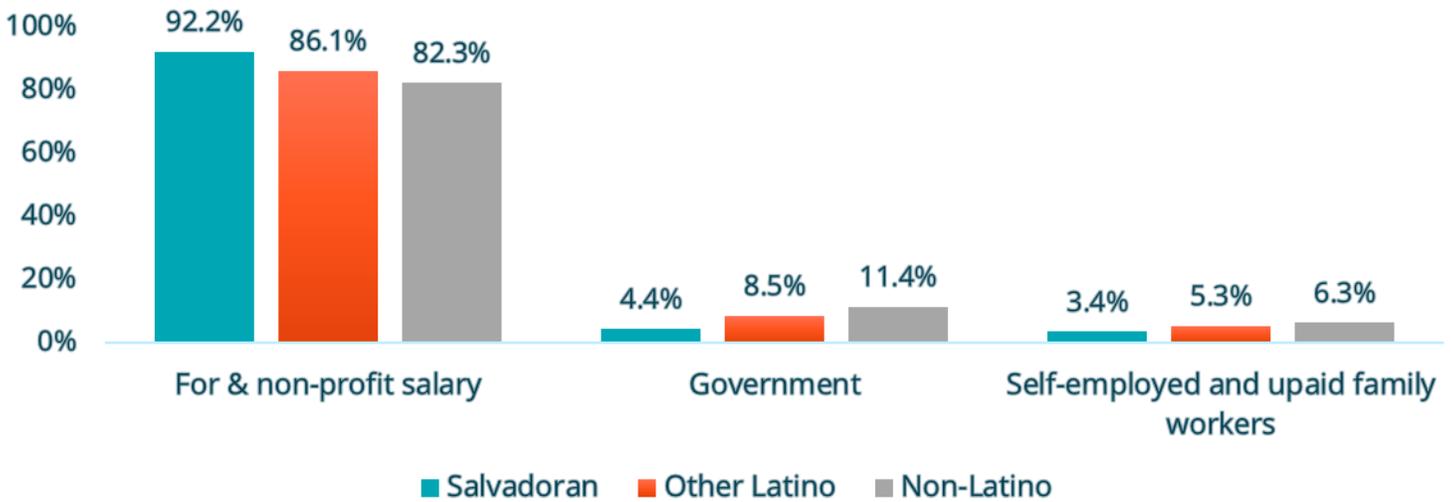
Employment | Over 92 percent of employed Salvadorans work in private sector payroll jobs, with only 3 percent being self-employed. Nearly 55 percent of employed Salvadorans work in service occupations, and only 5 percent work in managerial and professional occupations.

Commute | A larger share of Salvadorans (35 percent) work outside of Suffolk County than other Latinos (29 percent) and non-Latinos (33 percent). Salvadorans are much more likely to travel to work on public transportation—59 percent compared to 42 percent for other Latinos and 32 percent for non-Latinos.

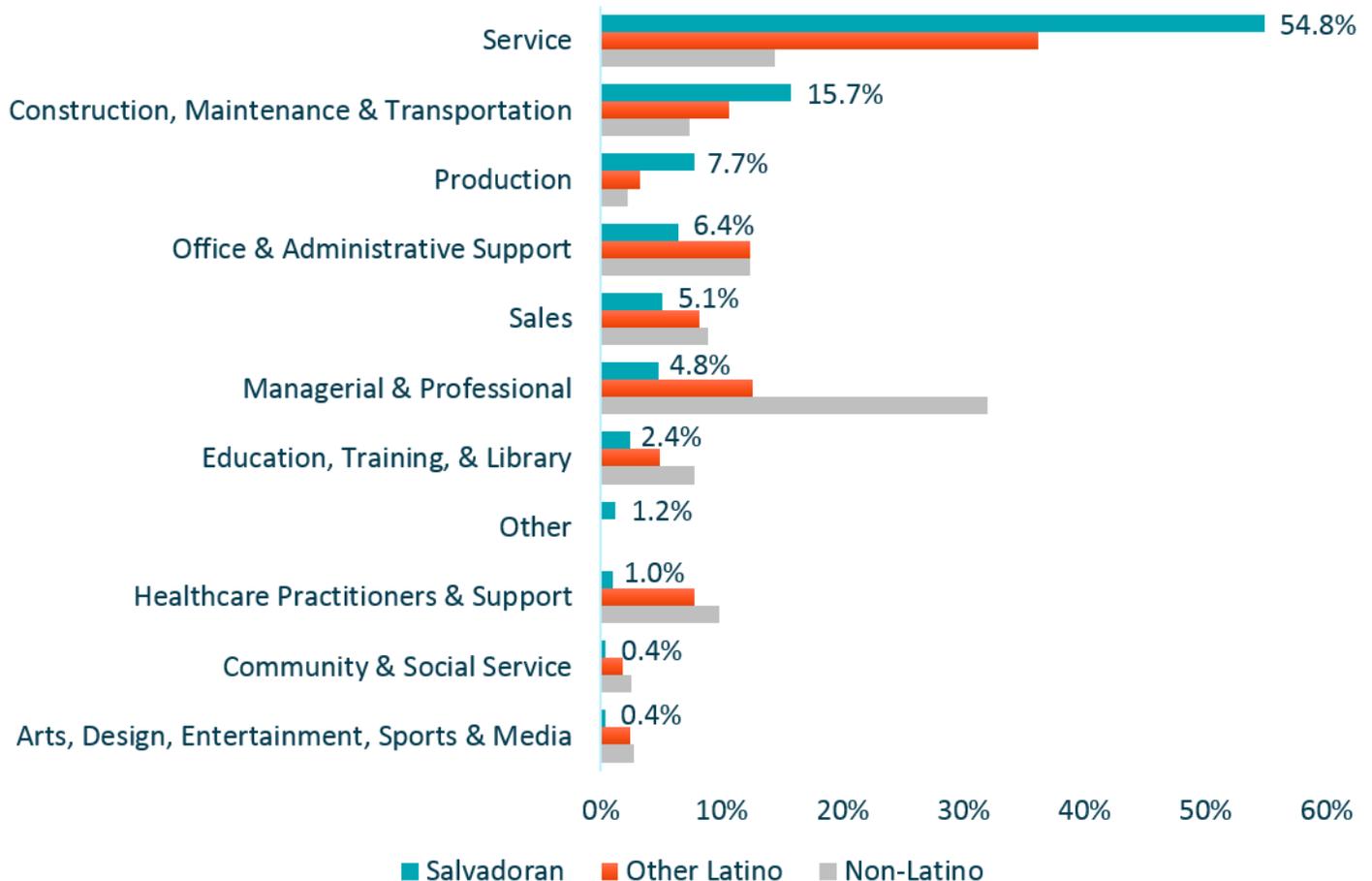


72% of Salvadorans are employed

Employment Type (ages 16 and older)



Occupations of Employed Workers



Standard of Living

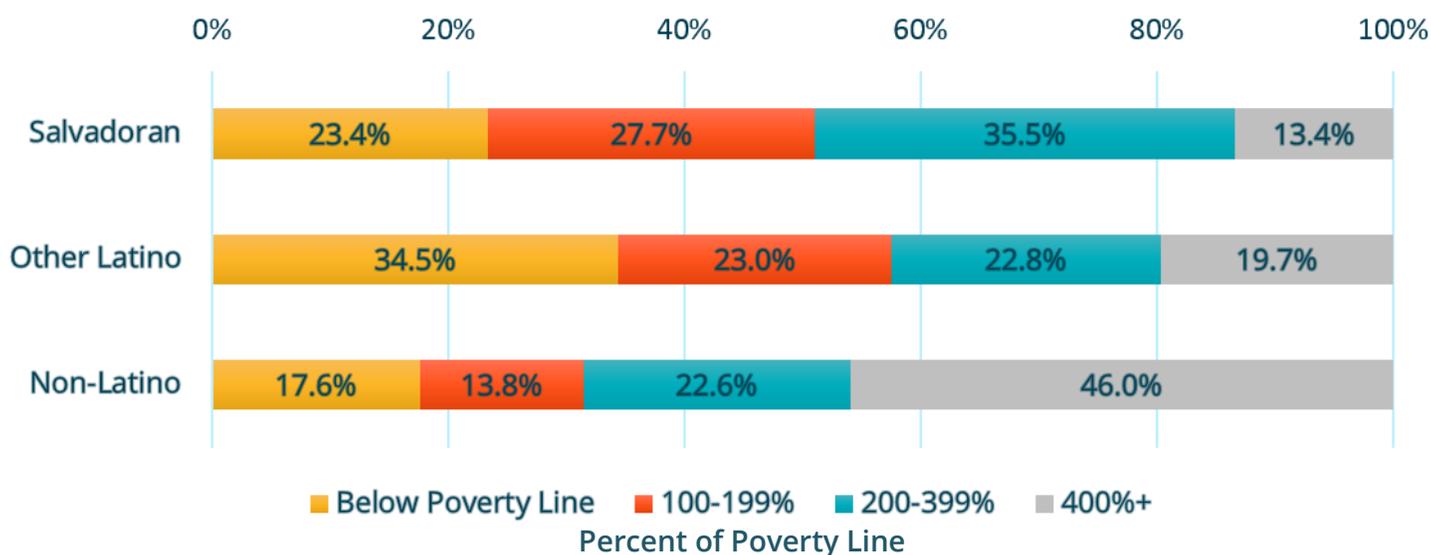


Despite their low levels of educational attainment and English proficiency a lower share of Salvadorans live below the Census poverty line than other Latinos. However, only 13 percent of Salvadorans have achieved a middle class standard of living, compared to 20 percent for other Latinos and 46 percent for non-Latinos. A family income four times the poverty line is used as a proxy for a middle-class standard of living. The actual income needed to achieve this standard depends on family composition. For a two-person family in 2015, the poverty line is \$15,391, and a middle class income would need to be at least \$61,564. The median household income for Salvadoran-headed households is \$54,728. Despite median incomes that may be considered lower middle class and their high share of payroll employment, 14 percent of Salvadorans lack health insurance.

Salvadorans are more likely to own their home own home (23 percent), than other Latinos (16 percent) but less likely than non-Latinos (37 percent).⁴ More than 52 percent of Salvadoran-headed households are housing burdened and who pay more than 30 percent of their income in housing costs, a similar housing burden rate to other Latinos. Almost 63 percent of Salvadoran households own a car, a higher share than other Latinos (57 percent).

Most Salvadoran households are families (80 percent) and the average household size is 3.9, much large than the average for non-Latinos, 2.1.

Poverty Rates

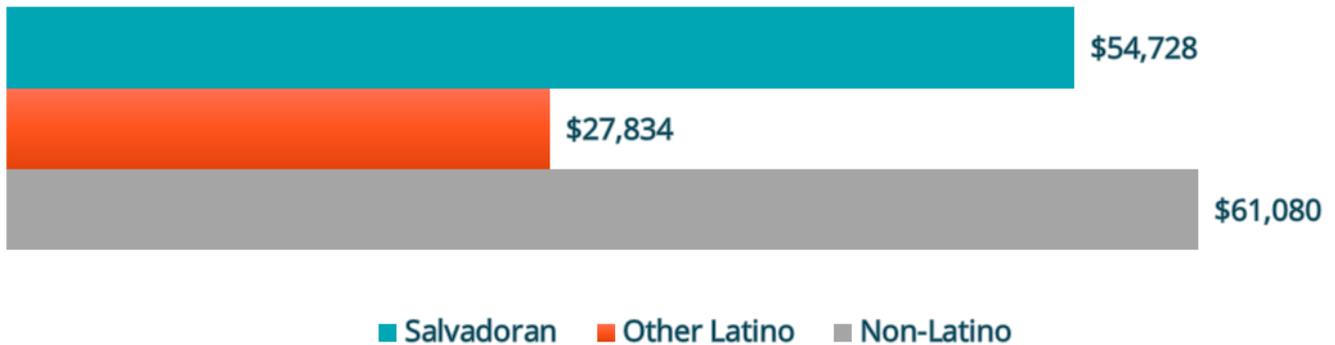


⁴ The ACS excludes households that are vacant, being bought, occupied without rent payment, have no household income or are group quarters when reporting owner/renter costs as a percentage of household income. Therefore, the sum of housing-burdened and non-housing-burdened households may not add exactly to the total number of homeowners/renters.

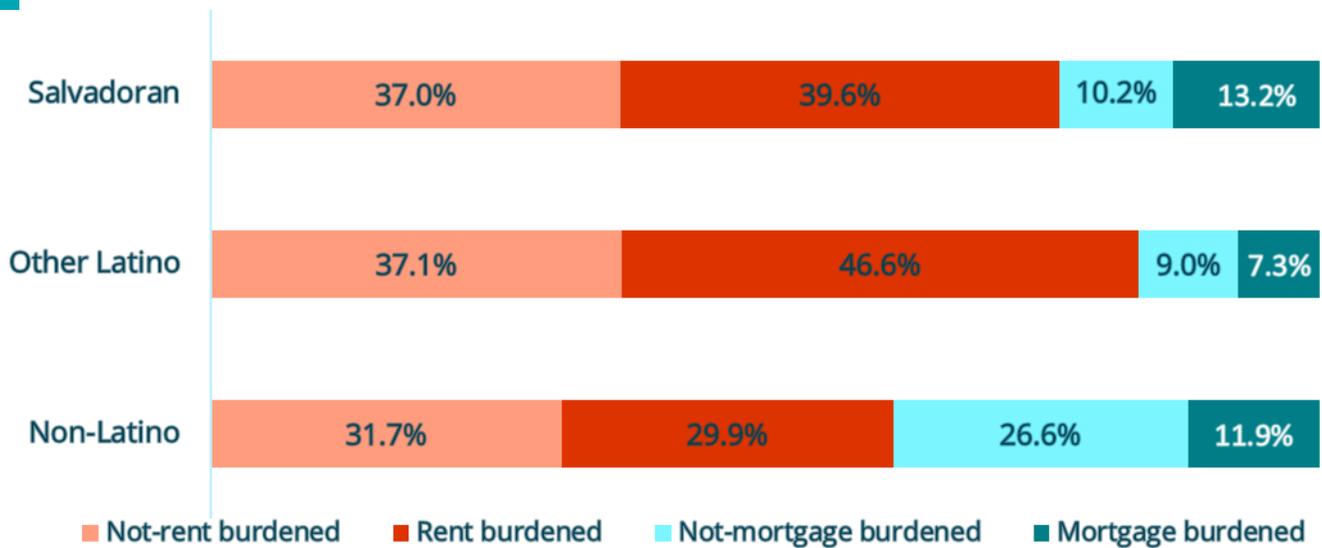
23% of Salvadorans in Boston live in poverty



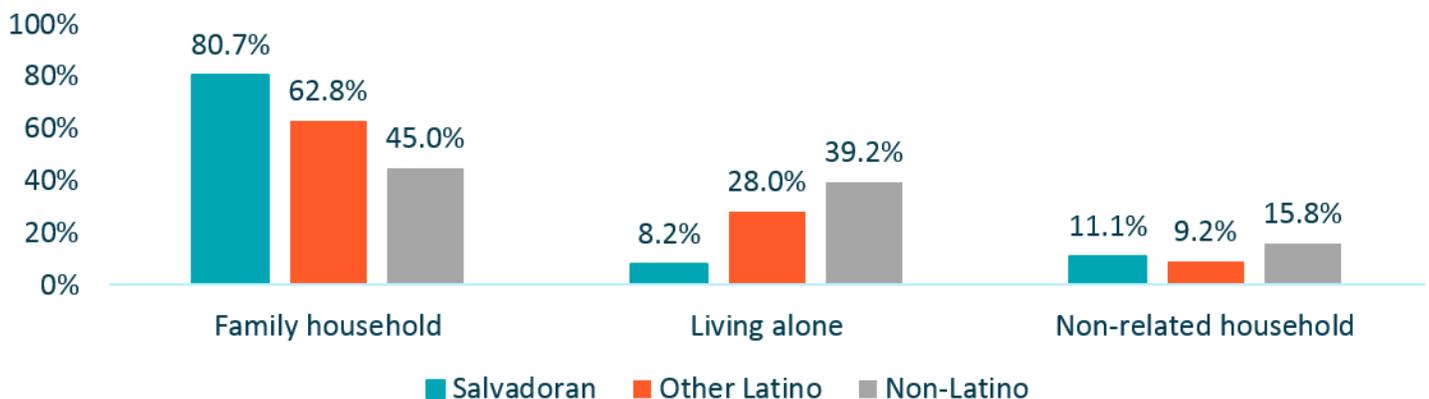
Median Household Income



Tenure and Housing Burden



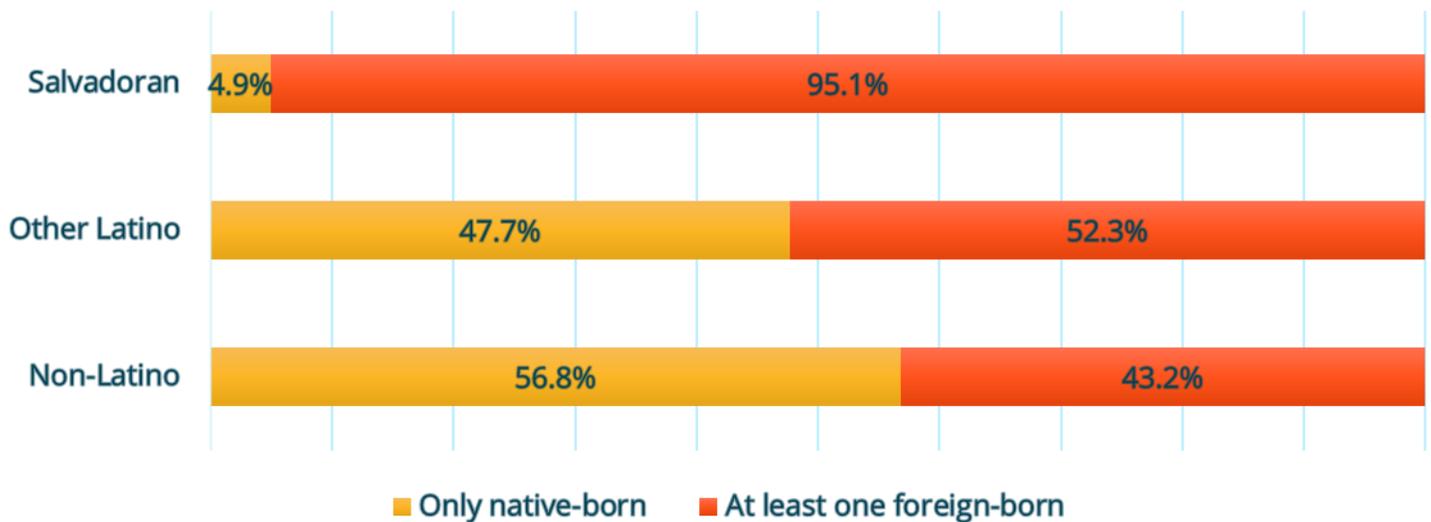
Household Type



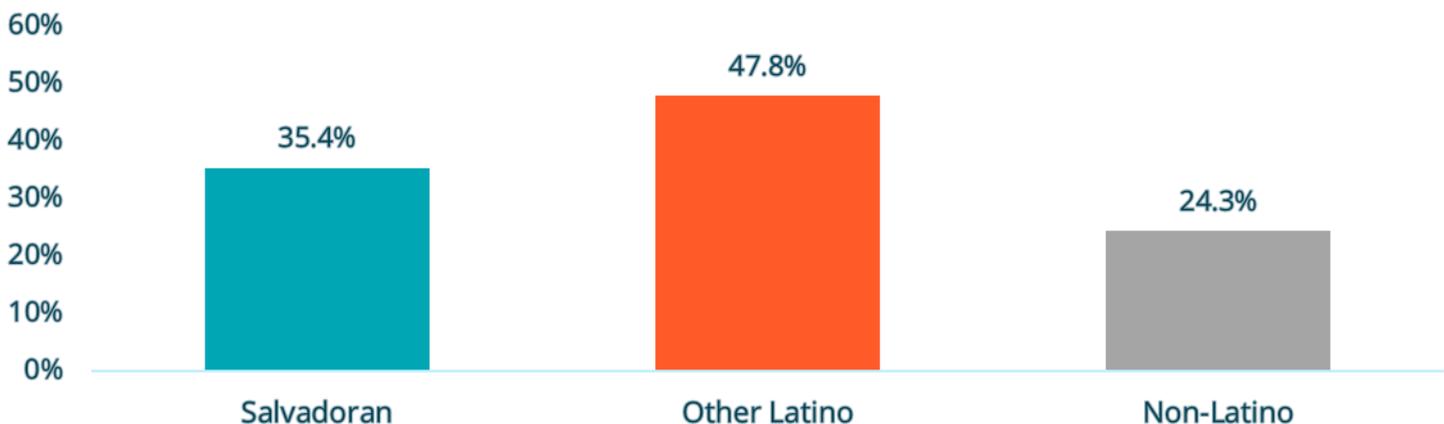
Salvadoran Children

The 2011-2015 American Community Survey estimates 3,570 Salvadoran children reside in Boston. A high share of Salvadoran households include children—58 percent compared to 20 percent of non-Latino households. Even though 86 percent of Salvadoran children are native born, 95 percent of them have at least one foreign-born parent. Salvadoran children are less likely to live in poverty than other Latinos, and over 99 percent of Salvadoran children in Boston have health insurance.

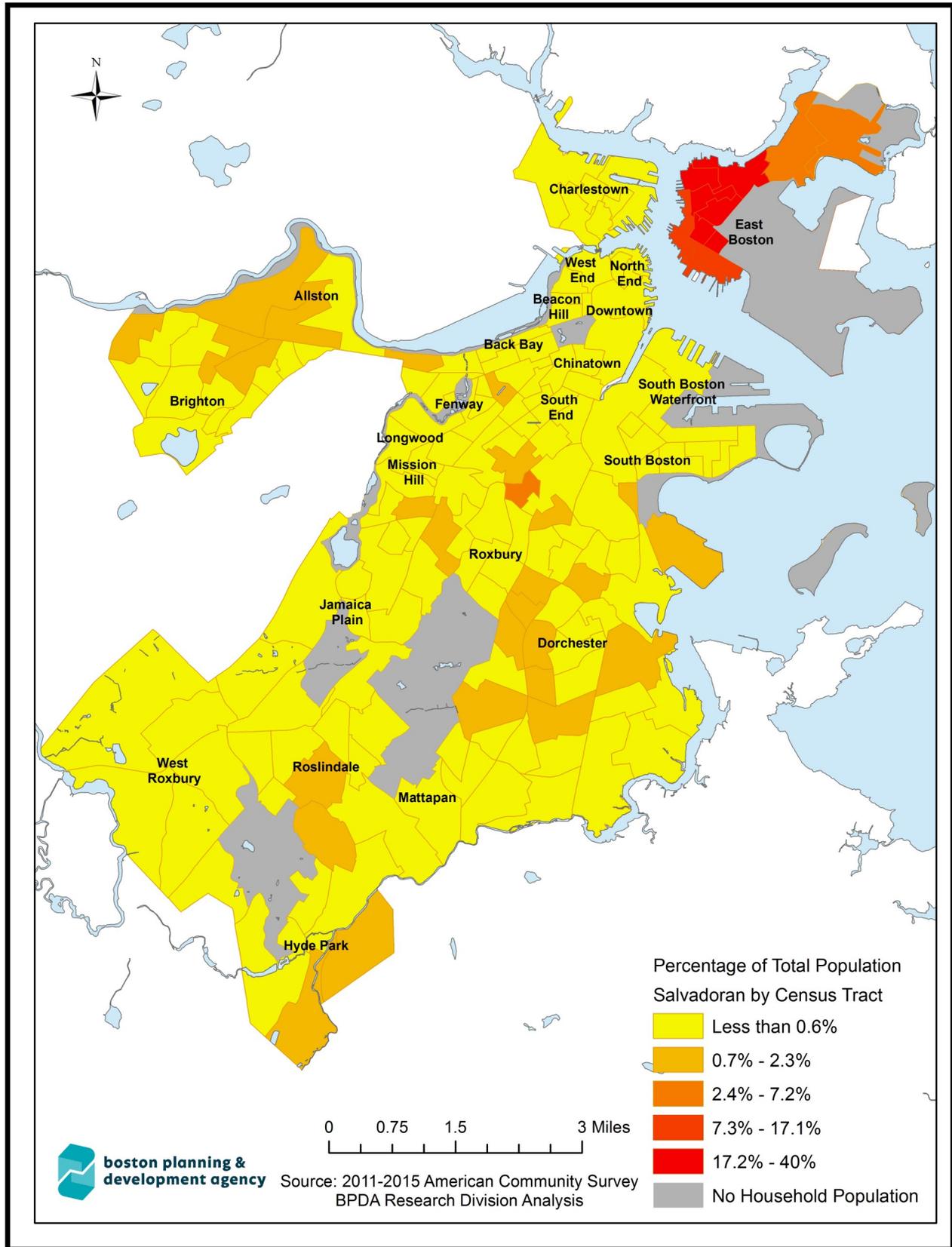
Parent Nativity



Child Poverty



Map of Salvadorans in Boston



Colombians

in
Boston



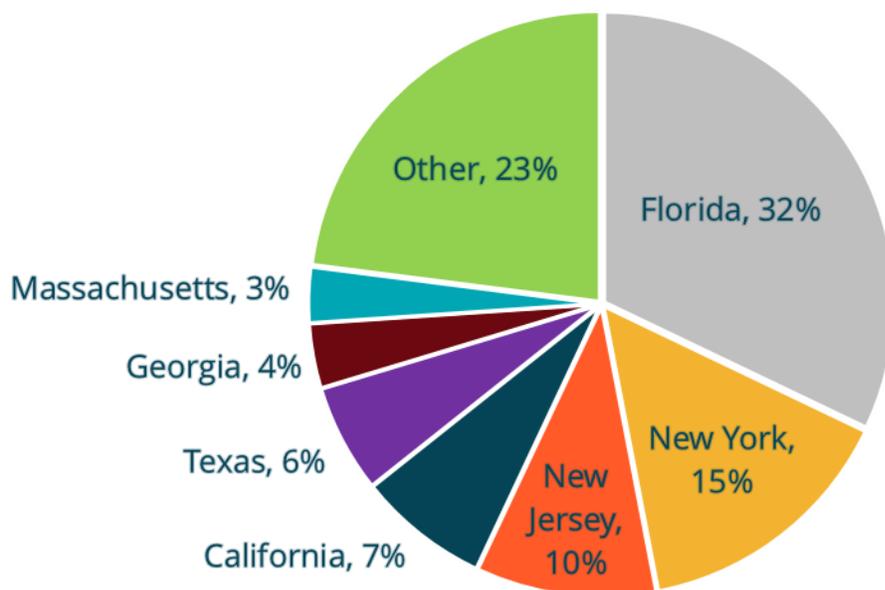
Vivian Gutierrez de Pineres, a U.S. Air Guard recruit originally from Colombia, takes the Oath of Allegiance to the United States on July 20, 2016 in Tucson, Arizona, making her a naturalized citizen (U.S. Air Force Photo by Maj. Gabe Johnson, ANG Public Affairs).

Even though Colombians migrated to the United States throughout the 20th century, their migration intensified during certain periods due to changing conditions in the country. In the 1950s, migration increased due to a civil war; in the 1980s, due to drug-related violence; and in the mid-1990s, due to collapsing of social institutions. The 1980s migration was from more rural areas, and the 1990s migration was from more urban areas and consisted of more professionals. As a result, the Colombian population in the United States represents diverse segments of the country's population.

In 2015, 1.1 million people with Colombian origin lived in the United States.¹ With an estimated 33,492 Colombians residing in Massachusetts, the state accounts for 3.1 percent of all Colombians in the country.

Massachusetts has the seventh largest Colombian population. Florida (32.1 percent) and New York (14.9 percent) are states with the largest Colombian populations. In the Northeast, in addition to New York, New Jersey (10.0 percent) has a large Colombian population. Boston is home to 25 percent of Massachusetts' Colombian population.

Colombians by State



¹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 1-year American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

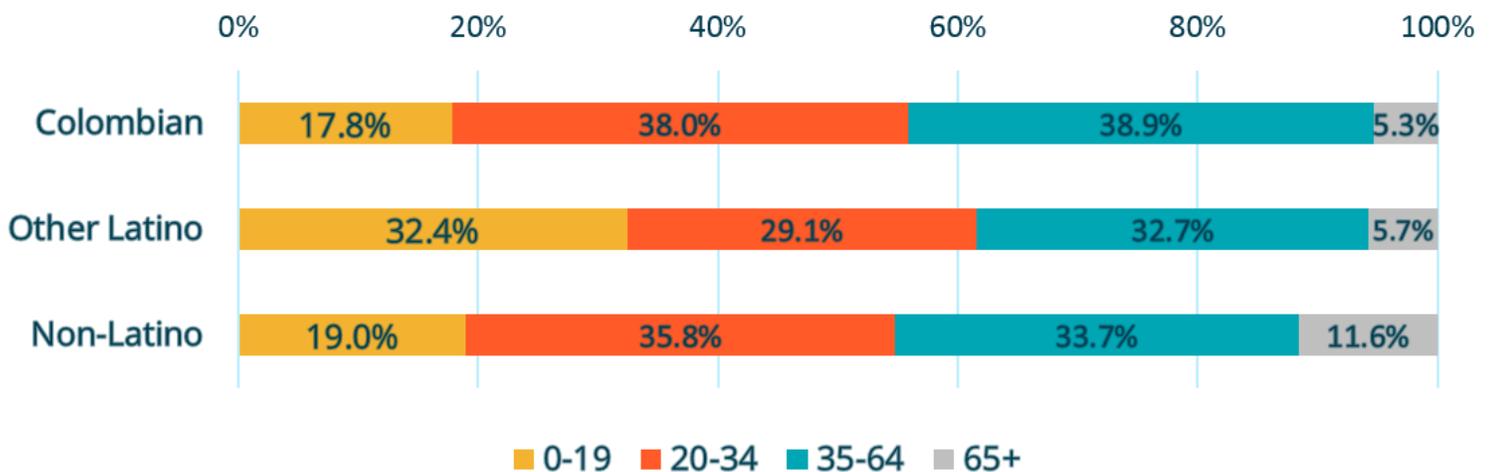
Colombians in Boston



According to the 2010 Census, Boston had 6,649 Colombian residents, up from 4,677 in the 2000 Census. The American Community Survey reports that Boston’s Colombian population grew by 2015 to 8,440 (+/-2,676).² Accounting for 6 percent of all Latinos in Boston, Colombians are the fourth largest Latino population in the city. Other large Latino populations include Puerto Ricans (28 percent), Dominicans (24 percent), Salvadorans (11 percent), and Mexicans (5 percent). Colombians are concentrated in East Boston (61 percent), and smaller shares live in Brighton (4 percent), Dorchester (4 percent), and Hyde Park (4 percent).³

Colombians’ median age of 33 years is older than both other Latinos (27) and non-Latinos (32). Colombians are predominately male (52 percent) compared to other Latinos and non-Latinos, both 48 percent. A higher share of Colombians are married—32 percent. The majority are foreign born (76 percent), and only 34 percent of foreign-born Colombians are naturalized citizens. Nearly 90 percent of Colombians speak Spanish at home, and only 45 percent speak English very well. Among younger Colombians under age 35, 68 percent speak English very well.

Age Distribution



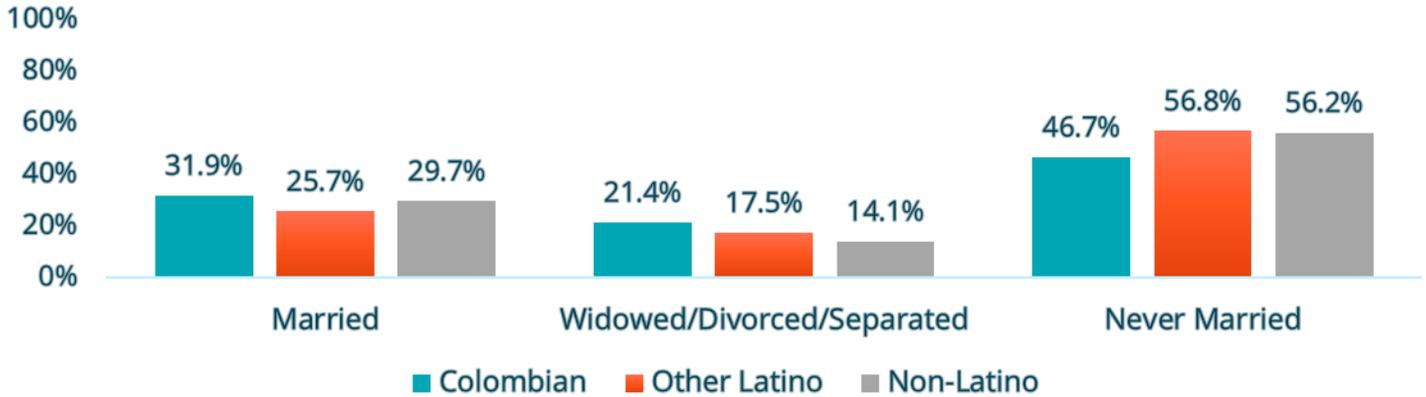
² U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 1-year American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

³ U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

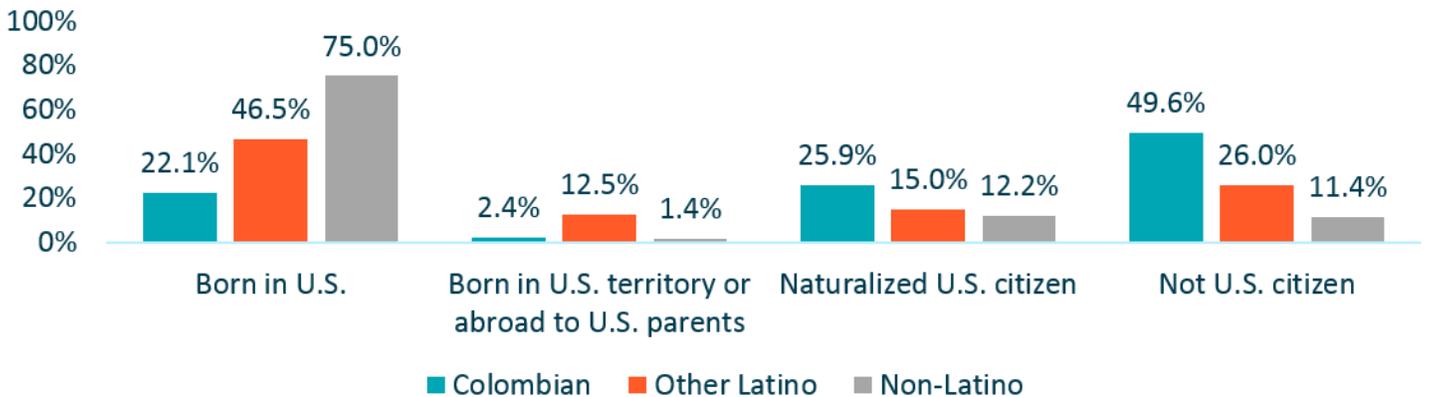
6% of Boston's Latinos are Colombian



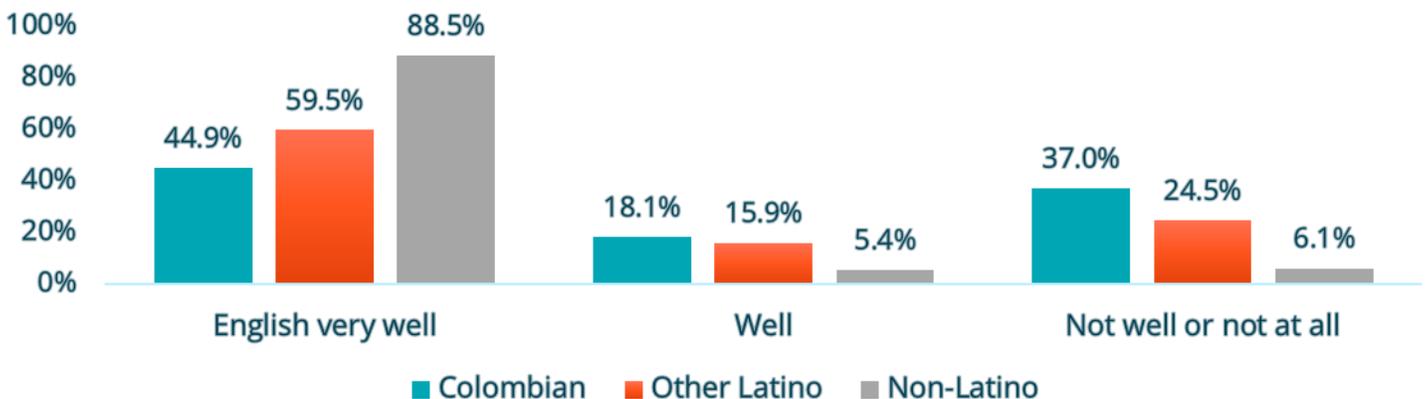
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)



Citizenship

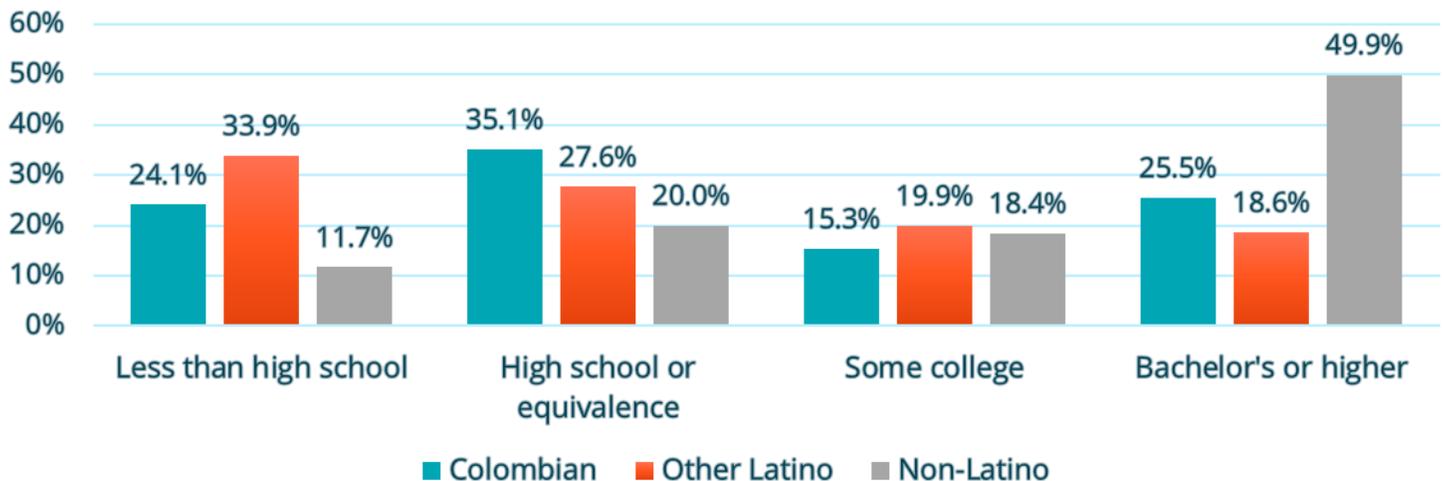


English Proficiency (ages 5 and older)





Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)



Educational Attainment | The educational attainment of Colombians varies widely among individuals. About a quarter of adult Colombians have not completed high school, but another quarter of adult Colombians have a Bachelor's degree or higher.

School Enrollment | Colombians make up about one percent of both Boston residents enrolled in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade, and Boston residents enrolled in college or university.

Labor Force Participation | A much higher share of adult Colombians participate in the labor force—80 percent compared to 66 percent for other Latinos (66 percent) and 68 percent for non-Latinos. Labor force participation is higher for Colombian men than women (82 percent vs. 78 percent).

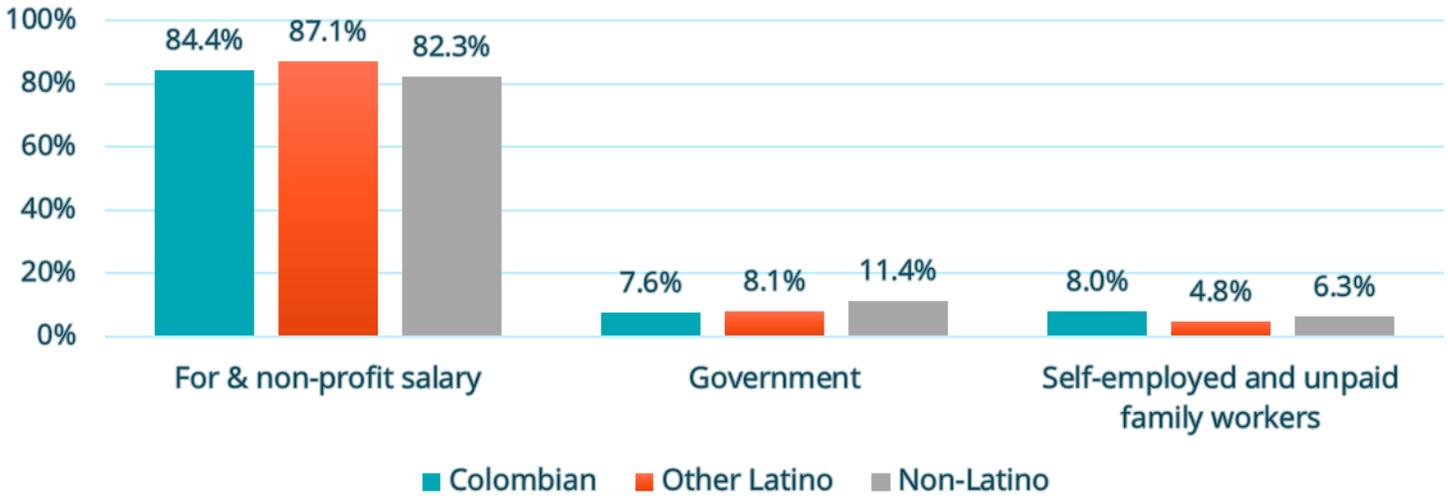
Employment | About 8 percent of employed Colombians are self-employed, a higher share than other groups. Over 57 percent of employed Colombians work in service occupations, and only 8 percent work in managerial and professional occupations.

Commute | A smaller share of Colombians (28 percent) work outside of Suffolk County than other Latinos (30 percent) and non-Latinos (33 percent). Colombians (56 percent) are more likely to travel to work by public transportation than other Latinos (43 percent) or non-Latinos (32 percent).

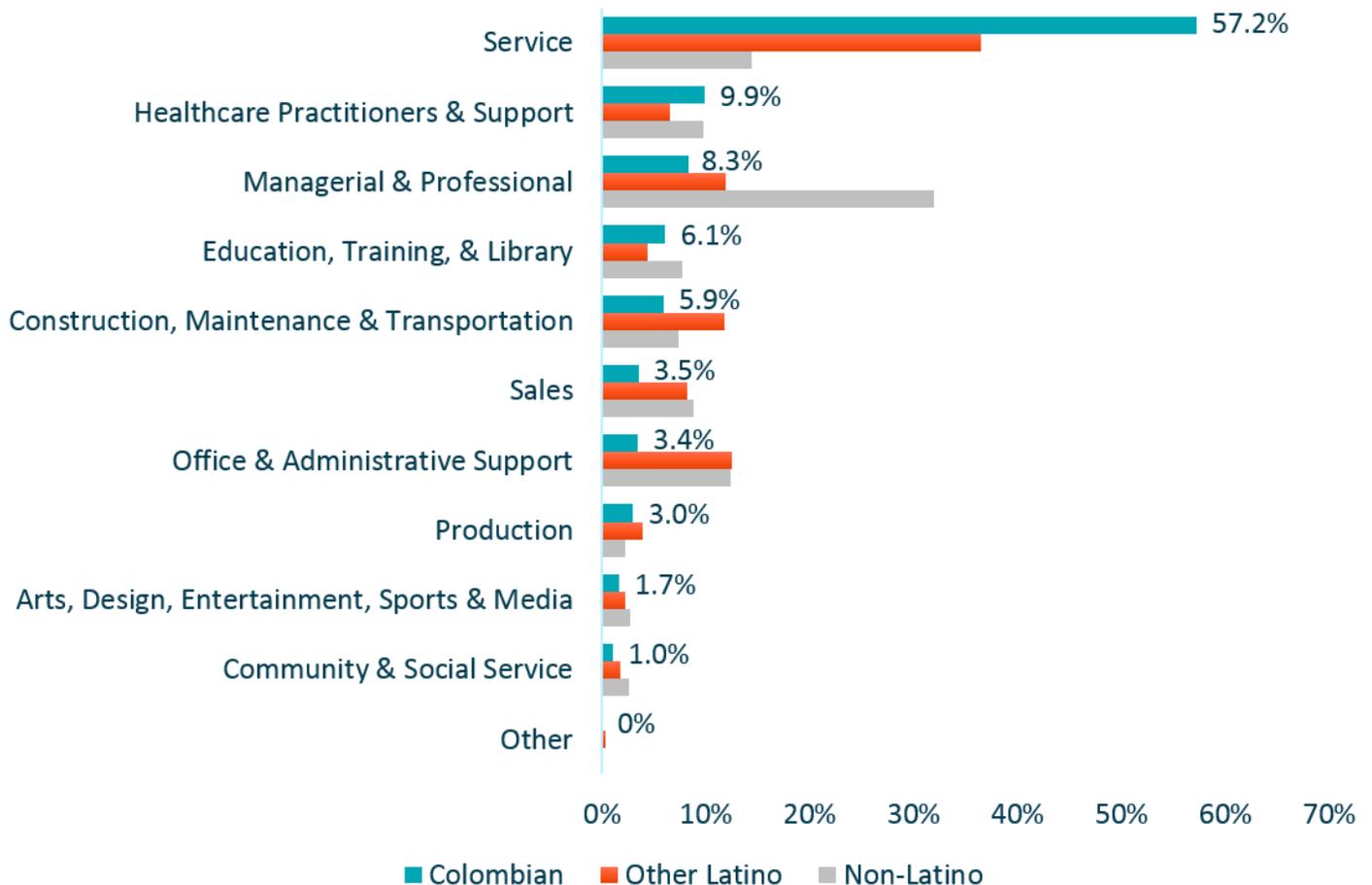


76% of Colombians are employed

Employment Type (ages 16 and older)



Occupations of Employed Workers



Standard of Living

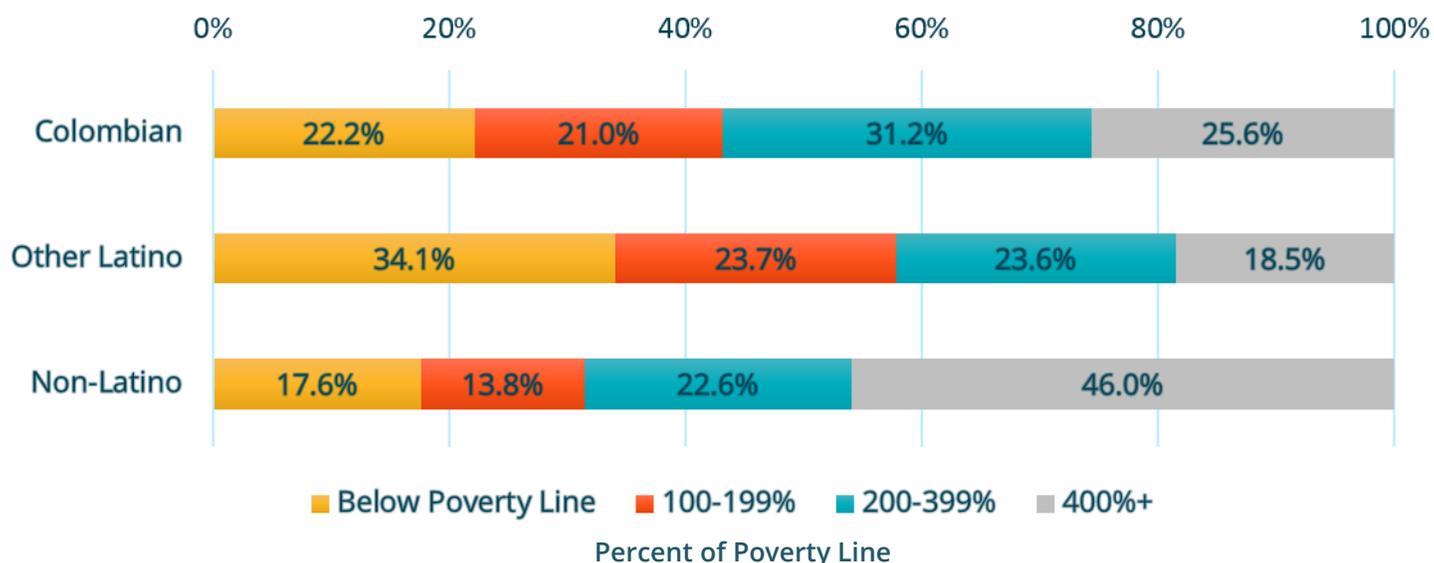


Approximately 22 percent of Colombians live below the Census poverty line, a lower share compared to other Latinos. Only 26 percent of Colombians have achieved a middle class standard of living. A family income four times the poverty line is used as a proxy for a middle-class standard of living. The actual income needed to achieve this standard depends on family composition. For a two-person family in 2015, the poverty line is \$15,391, and a middle class income would need to be at least \$61,564. The median household income for Colombian-headed households is \$48,903. Despite median incomes that may be considered lower middle class, a high share (14 percent) of Colombians do not have health insurance, perhaps because of the high rate of self-employment.

Colombians are less likely to own their own home (13 percent), than other Latinos (17 percent) and non-Latinos (37 percent).⁴ More than half of Colombian households (53 percent) are housing burdened and pay more than 30 percent of their income in housing costs. Just 46 percent of Colombian households own a car, a lower share than other Latinos (58 percent) and non-Latinos (66 percent).

Approximately 57 percent of Colombian households are families and the average household size is 2.7, larger than the average for non-Latinos, 2.1.

Poverty Rates

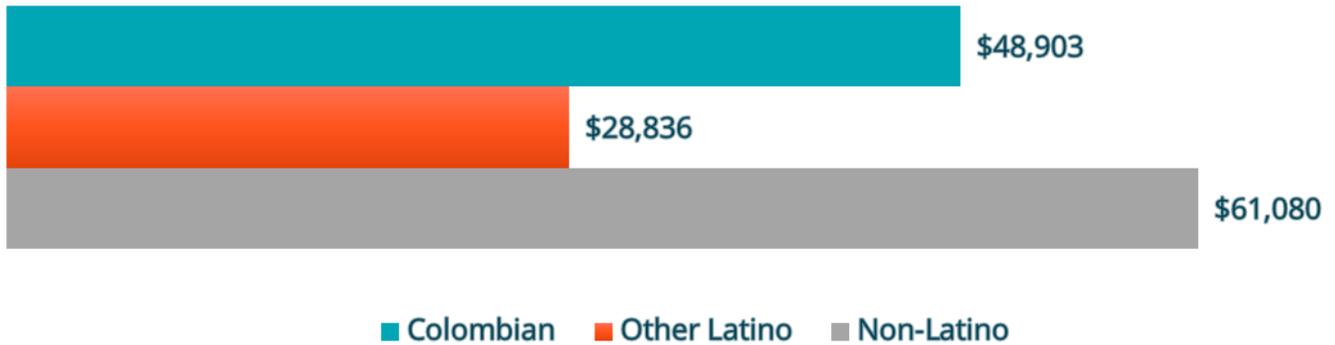


⁴ The ACS excludes households that are vacant, being bought, occupied without rent payment, have no household income or are group quarters when reporting owner/renter costs as a percentage of household income. Therefore, the sum of housing-burdened and non-housing-burdened households may not add exactly to the total number of homeowners/renters.

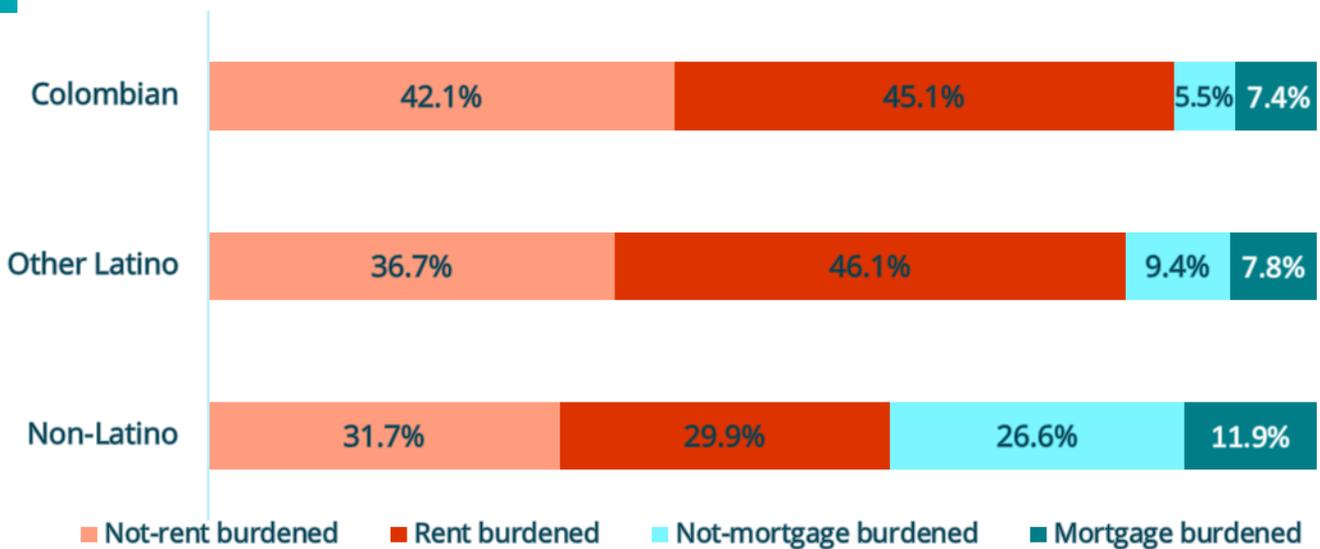
22% of Colombians in Boston live in poverty



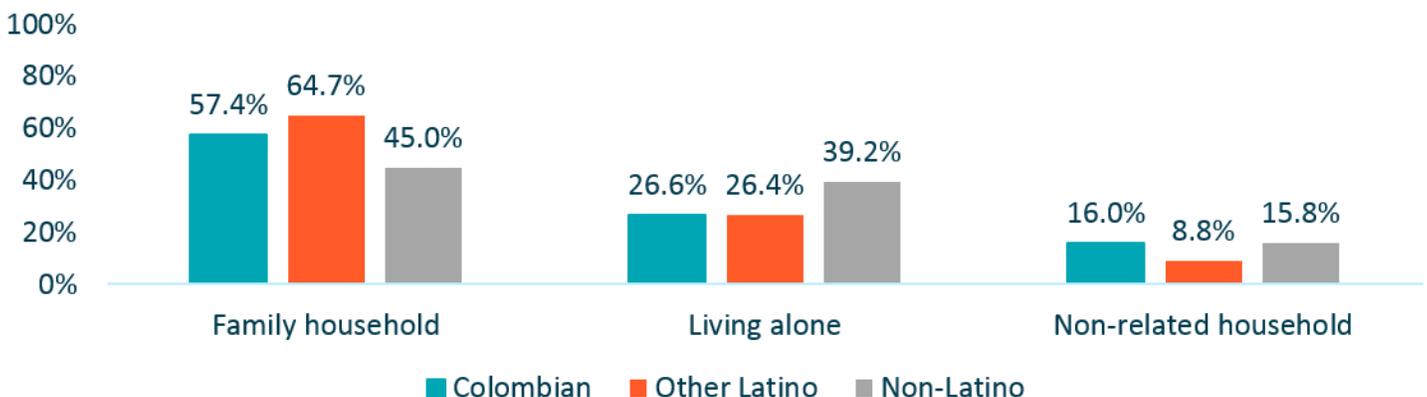
Median Household Income



Tenure and Housing Burden



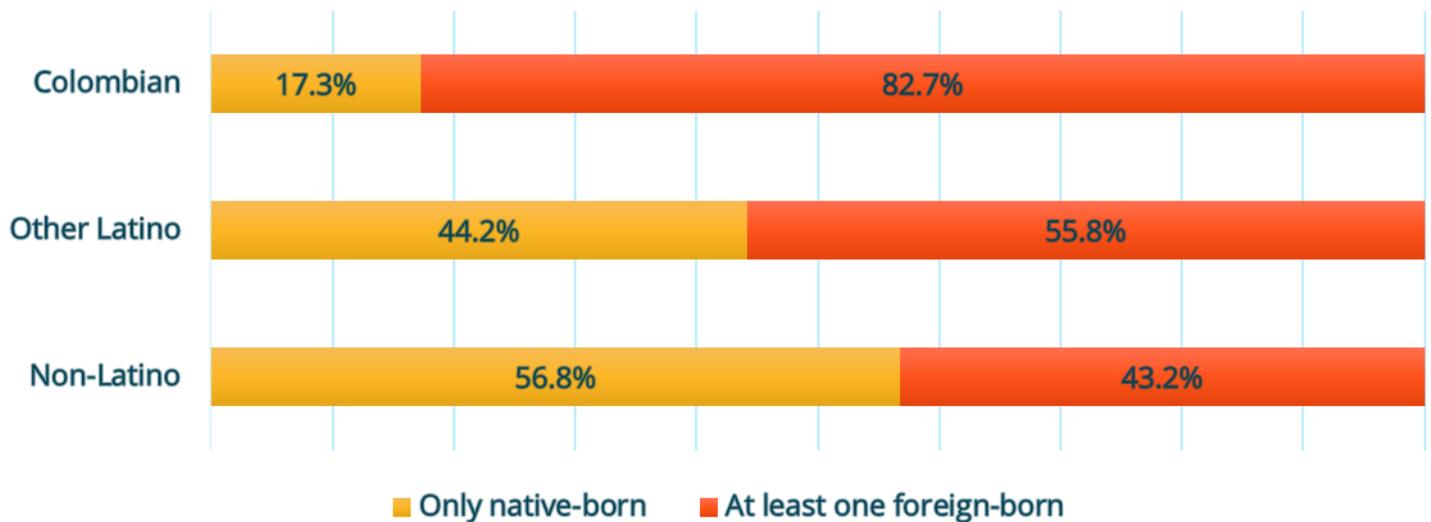
Household Type



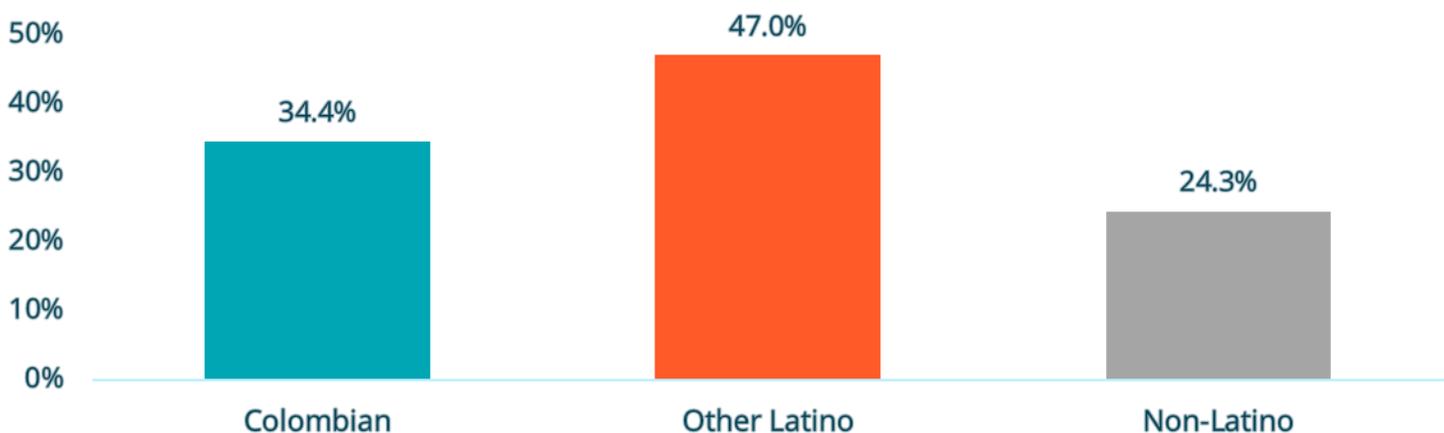
Colombian Children

The 2011-2015 American Community Survey estimates 1,345 Colombian children reside in Boston. A smaller share of Colombian households include children compared to other Latinos– 31 percent compared to 43 percent. Even though 78 percent of Colombian children are native born, 83 percent have at least one foreign-born parent. Colombian children are less likely to live in poverty (34 percent), and over 99 percent of Colombian children have health insurance.

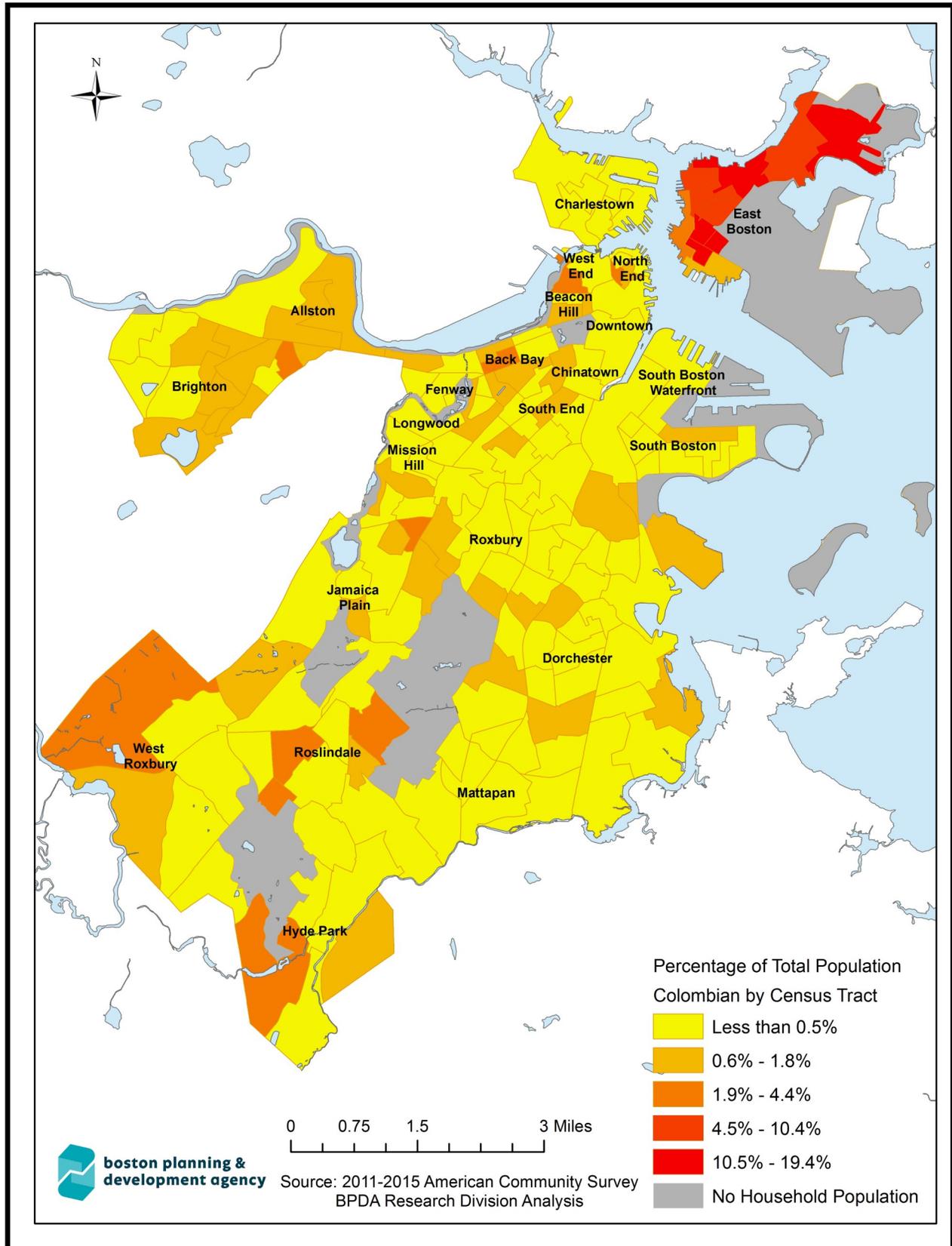
Parent Nativity



Child Poverty



Map of Colombians in Boston



Mexicans

in
Boston



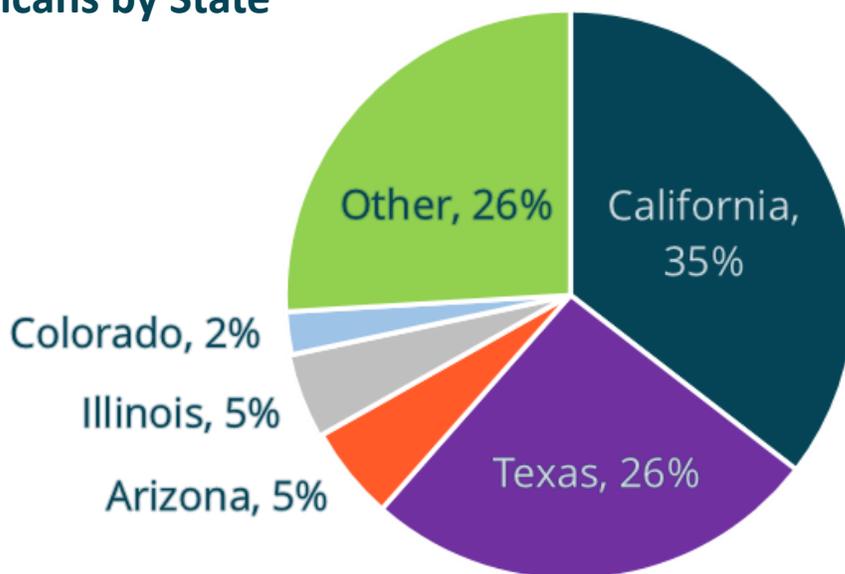
Mexican and American flags are held high during an immigration protest in Washington, DC on March 26, 2006. Phot by Narith5, retrieved from flickr.com/photos/naritheole (Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic).

Due to an economic crisis that hit Mexico in the early 1980s followed by implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement in the 1990s, the Mexican-origin population in the United States ballooned from 9 million to nearly 32 million between 1980 and 2010. The Mexican-born population increased fivefold during this period, from 2.2 million to 11.5 million. Prior to 1990, the Mexican population in the United States frequently returned to Mexico and thus remained in Southwestern states. With the change in U.S. immigration policy in 1986 that increased border control, the Mexican population in the United States limited their return trips to Mexico and expanded their U.S. residency beyond the Southwest.

As the demand for Mexican labor in the United States changed from primarily agricultural labor to services, more Mexican women began arriving and greater shares of Mexicans moved to U.S. cities. These trends help explain the four-fold increase of Mexicans in Boston since 1980.

In 2015, 35.8 million people with Mexican origin lived in the United States.¹ California (35 percent) and Texas (26 percent) are states with large Mexican populations. By comparison, New York has 1 percent of the U.S. Mexican population. Massachusetts ranks 38th in its share of Mexicans with 50,586 Mexican residents. Boston has 14 percent of the Mexican population of Massachusetts.

Mexicans by State



¹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 1-year American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

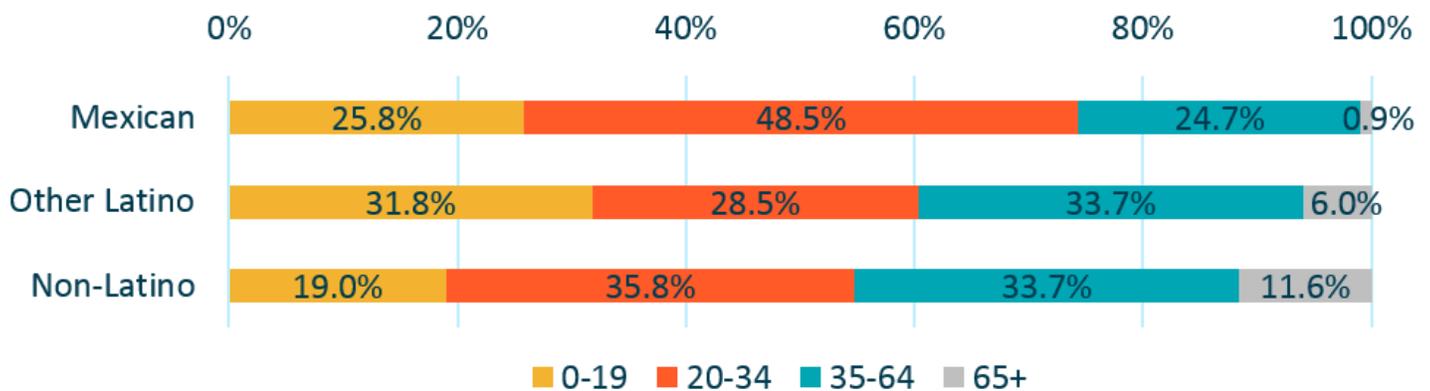
Mexicans in Boston



According to the 2010 Census, Boston was home to 5,961 Mexicans, up from 4,967 in the 2000 Census. The American Community Survey report that Boston's Mexican population grew by 2015 to 6,834 (+/-1,745).² Mexicans are the fifth largest Latino population in the city making up 5 percent of all Latinos in Boston. Other larger Latino populations include Puerto Ricans (28 percent), Dominicans (24 percent), Salvadorans (11 percent), and Colombians (6 percent). Mexicans can be found in all neighborhoods of Boston, but greater shares of Mexicans live in East Boston (28 percent), Brighton (12 percent), and Dorchester (8 percent).³

Mexicans' median age is 25 years, younger than other Latinos (28) and non-Latinos (32). Mexicans are predominately female (53 percent), which is a greater share than other Latinos (51 percent) and non-Latinos (52 percent). Greater shares of Mexicans 15 years and older have never married (67 percent) than other Latinos and non-Latinos. The majority of Mexicans are native born (57 percent), and 68 percent are U.S. citizens. About 68 percent of Mexican speak Spanish at home, and about 73 percent speak English very well. Most younger Mexicans under age 35 speak English very well (83 percent).

Age



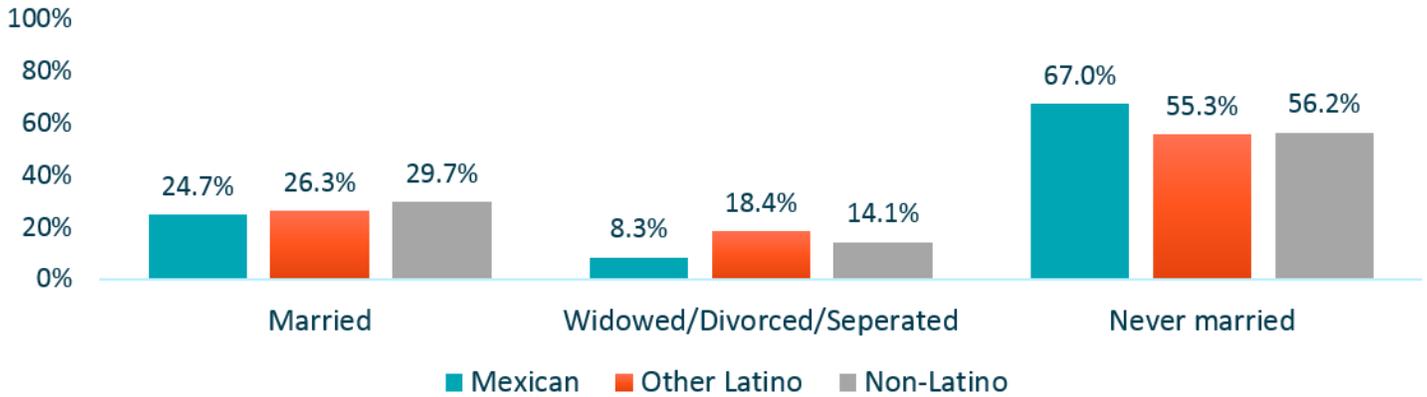
² U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 1-year American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

³ U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

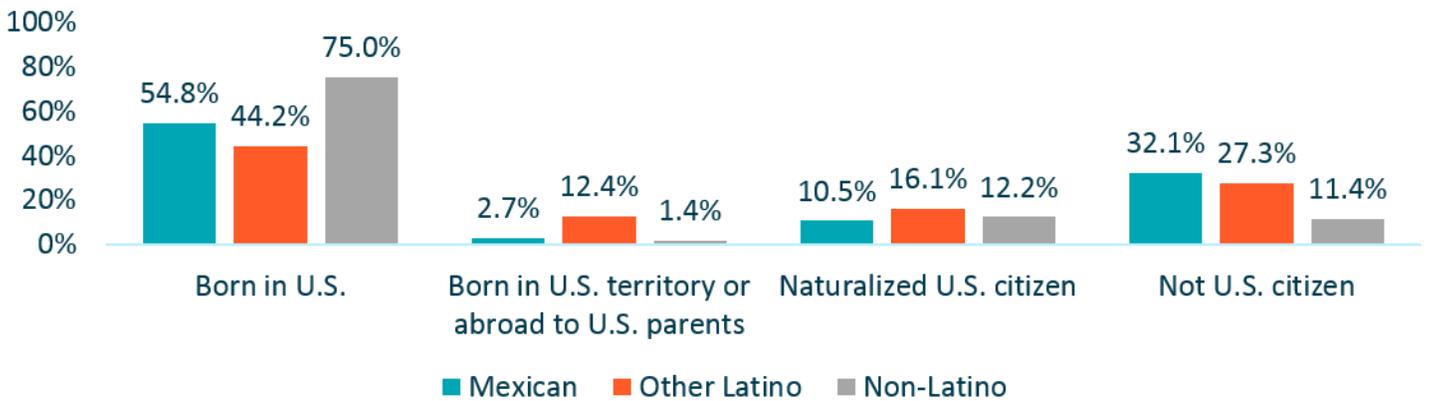
5% of Boston's Latinos are Mexican



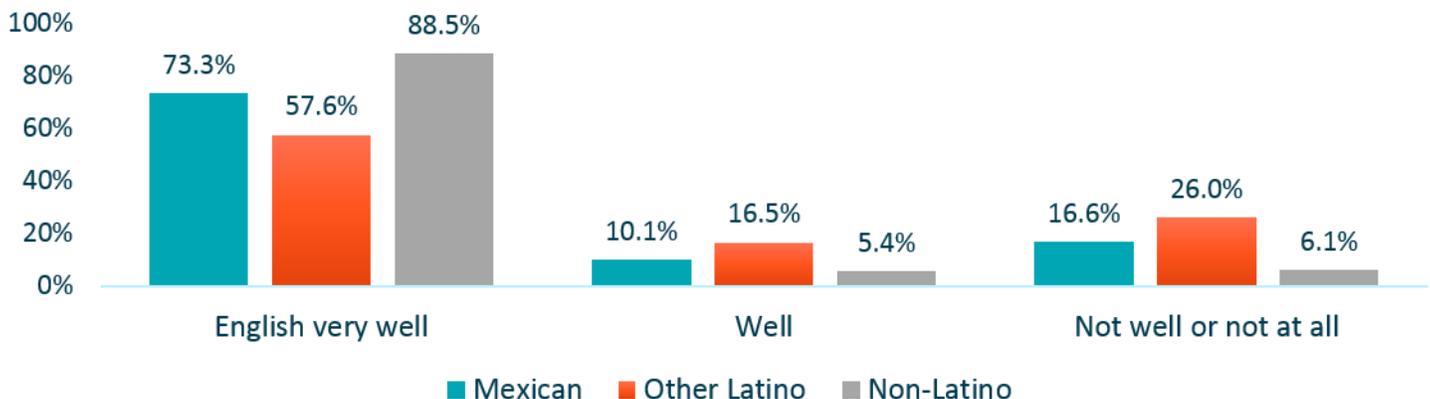
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)



Citizenship

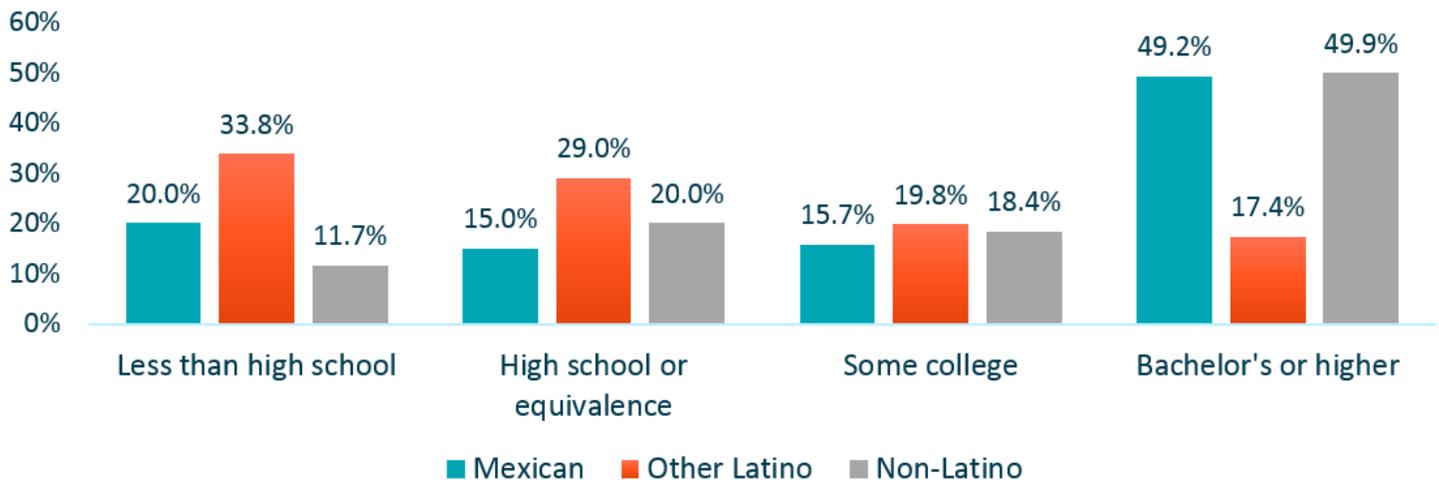


English Proficiency (ages 5 and older)





Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)



Educational Attainment | The educational profile of Mexicans ages 25 and older is more similar to non-Latinos than other Latinos. Almost half (49 percent) of adult Mexicans have a Bachelor's or graduate degree.

School Enrollment | Unlike most other Latino groups, Mexicans are more highly represented in Boston's college and university enrollment (2 percent) than in its pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade enrollment.

Labor Force Participation | Almost 68 percent of Mexicans age 16 and older participate in the labor force, a similar rate to other groups. Labor force participation rates are higher for Mexican men than Mexican women—75 percent vs. 61 percent.

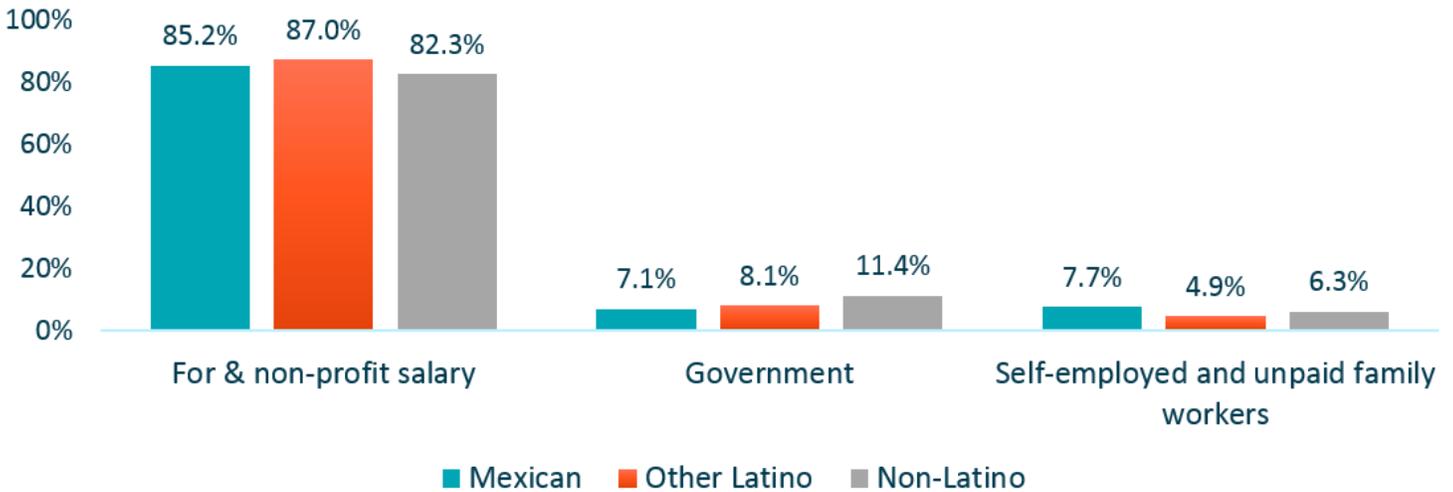
Employment | Almost 8 percent of Mexicans in Boston are self-employed, a higher rate than other groups. Unlike other Latino groups, the largest occupation group for Mexicans is managerial and professional occupations (27 percent).

Commute | Smaller shares of Mexicans and other Latinos (29 percent) work outside of Suffolk County compared to non-Latinos (33 percent). Mexicans are less likely to commute to work by car—34 percent compared to 41 percent for other Latinos and 45 percent for non-Latinos.

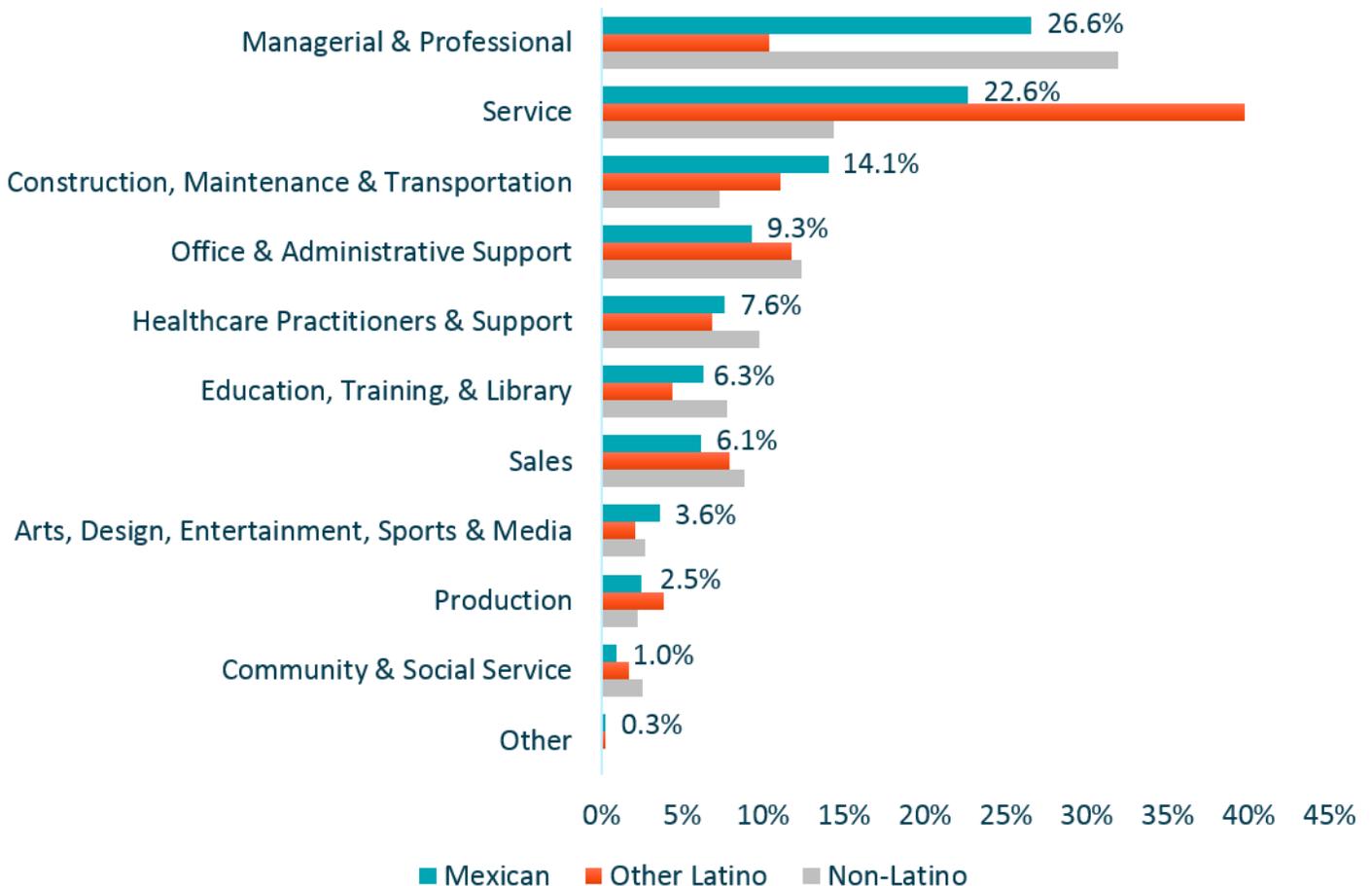


62% of Mexicans are employed

Employment Type (ages 16 and older)



Occupations of Employed Workers



Standard of Living

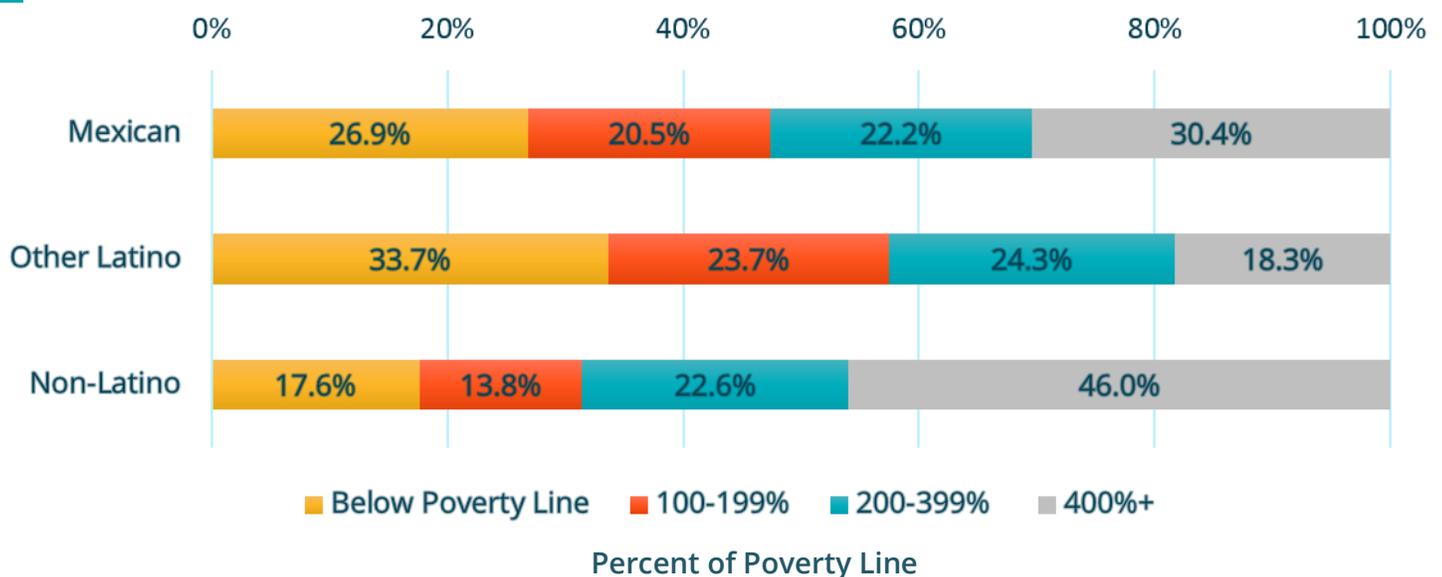


About 27 percent of Mexicans live below the Census poverty line, and approximately 30 percent have achieved a middle class standard of living. . A family income four times the poverty line is used as a proxy for a middle-class standard of living. The actual income needed to achieve this standard depends on family composition. For a two-person family in 2015, the poverty line is \$15,391, and a middle class income would need to be at least \$61,564. The median household income for Mexican-headed households is \$42,924. Despite their lower middle class median income, a higher share of Mexicans lack health insurance (9 percent).

Similar shares of Mexicans and other Latinos own their home (16 percent), lower than the home ownership rate for non-Latinos (37 percent).⁴ More than 61 percent of Mexican households are housing burdened and pay more than 30 percent of their income in housing costs, a higher housing cost burden than other groups. Less than half of Mexican households in Boston own a car, a lower rate than other Latinos (58 percent) and non-Latinos (66 percent).

Mexican households are more likely to consist of unrelated roommates living together—25 percent, and less likely to be families, 42 percent. The average Mexican household size is 2.3, smaller than the average for other Latinos, 2.7.

Individual Poverty Rates

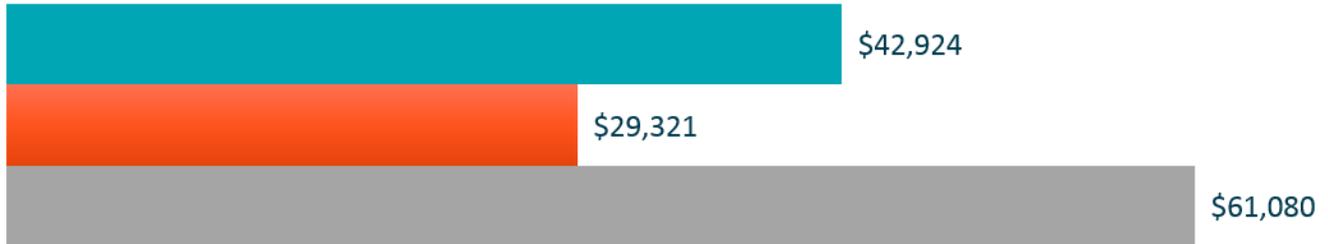


⁴ The ACS excludes households that are vacant, being bought, occupied without rent payment, have no household income or are group quarters when reporting owner/renter costs as a percentage of household income. Therefore, the sum of housing-burdened and non-housing-burdened households may not add exactly to the total number of homeowners/renters.

27% of Mexicans in Boston live in poverty

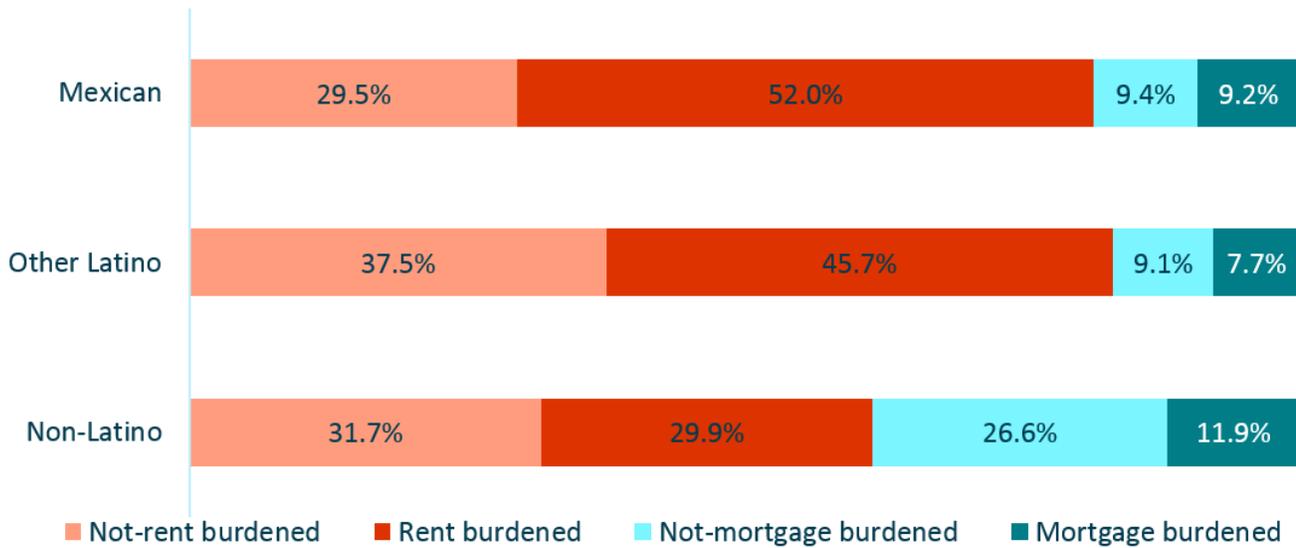


Median Household Income



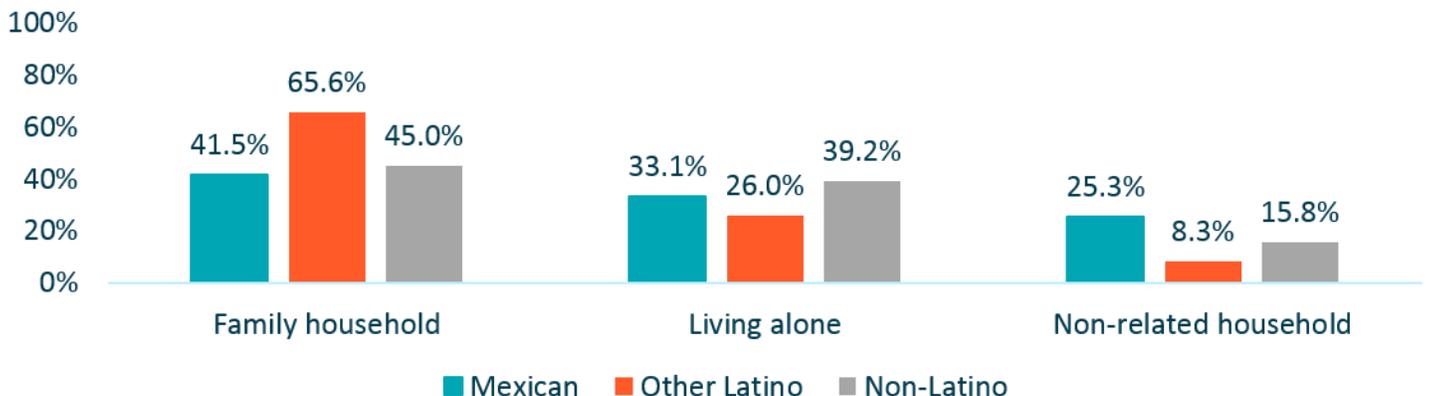
■ Mexican ■ Other Latino ■ Non-Latino

Tenure and Housing Burden



■ Not-rent burdened ■ Rent burdened ■ Not-mortgage burdened ■ Mortgage burdened

Household Type

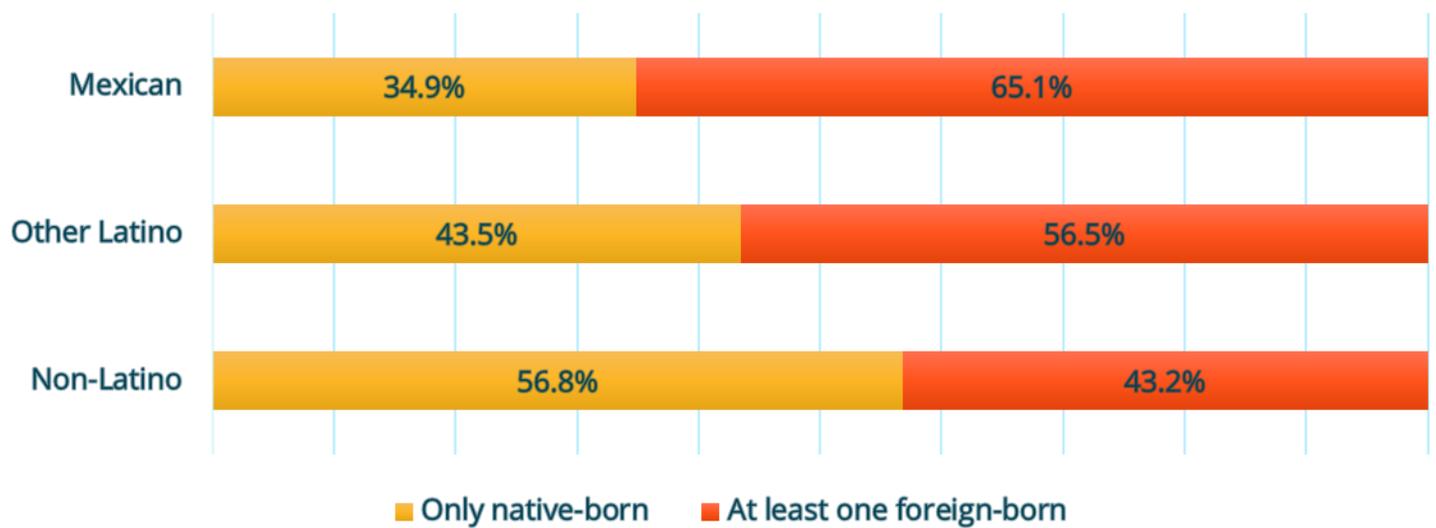


■ Mexican ■ Other Latino ■ Non-Latino

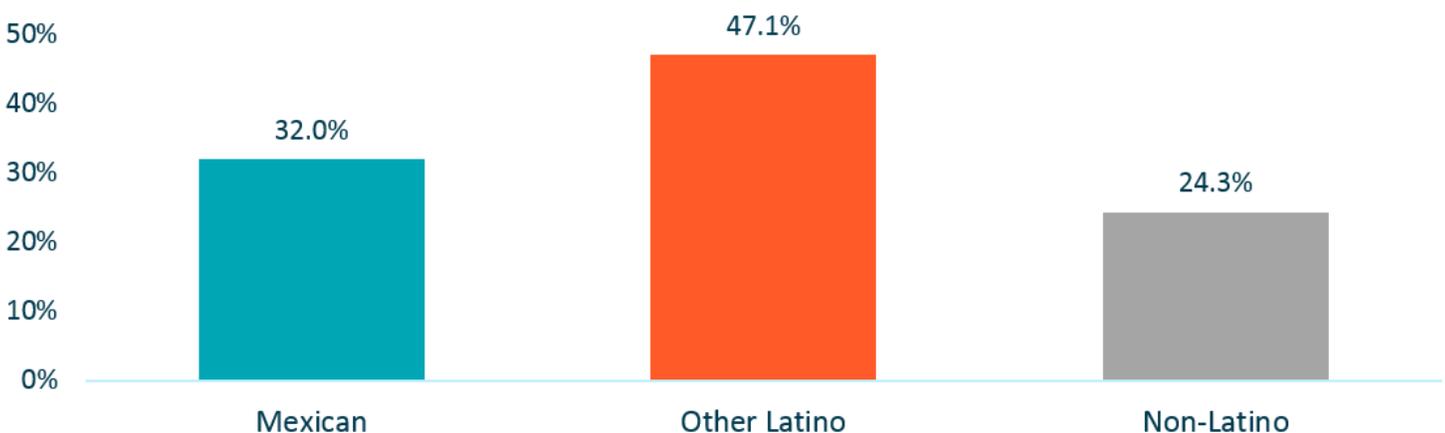
Mexican Children

The 2011-2015 American Community Survey estimates 1,388 Mexican children reside in Boston. Just 29 percent of Mexican households include children, lower than 43 percent for other Latinos. Even though 85 percent of Mexican children are native born, 65 percent of them have at least one foreign-born parent. Mexican children are less likely to live in poverty (32 percent, and over 99 percent of Mexican children in Boston have health insurance.

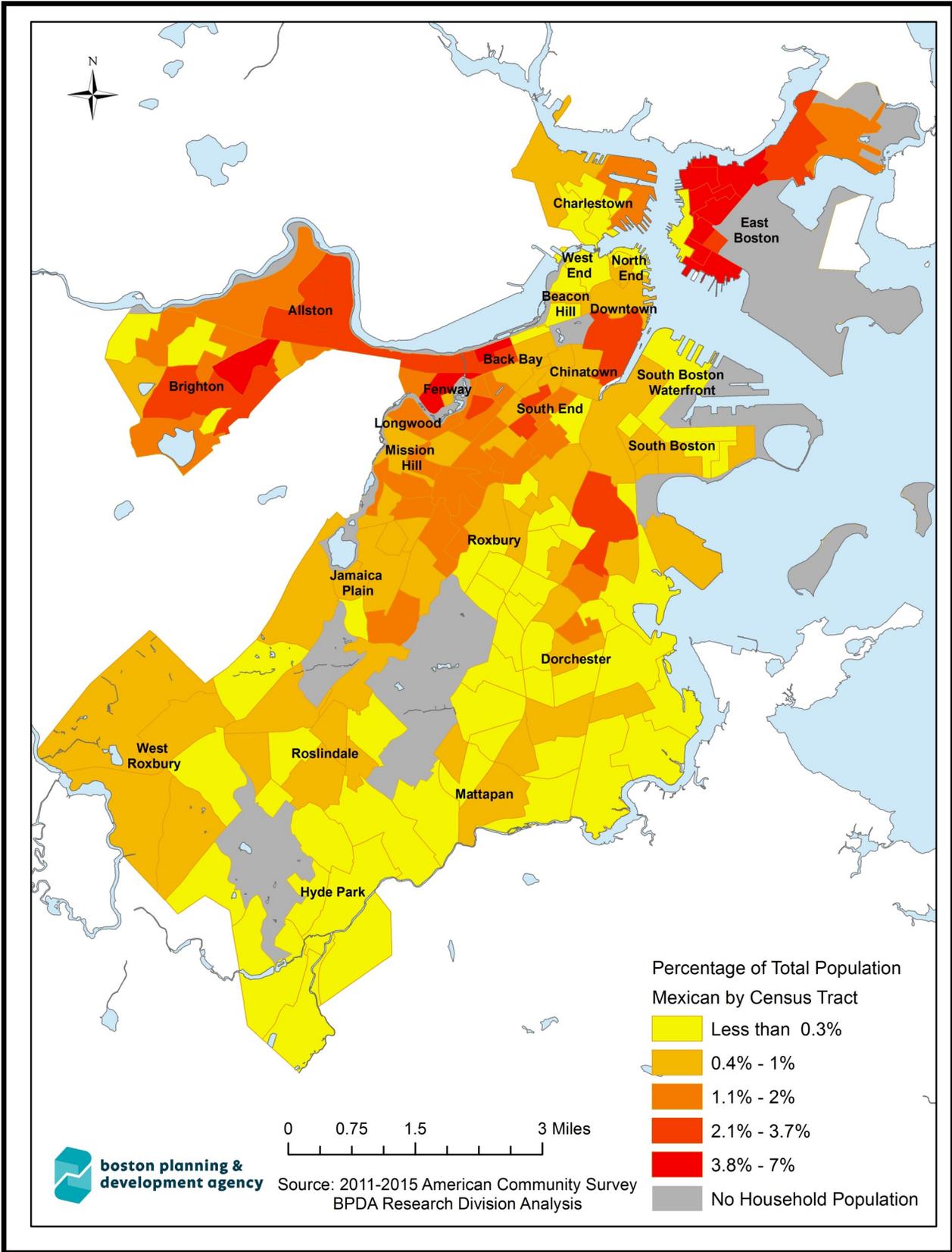
Parent Nativity



Child Poverty



Map of Mexicans in Boston



Guatemalans

in Boston



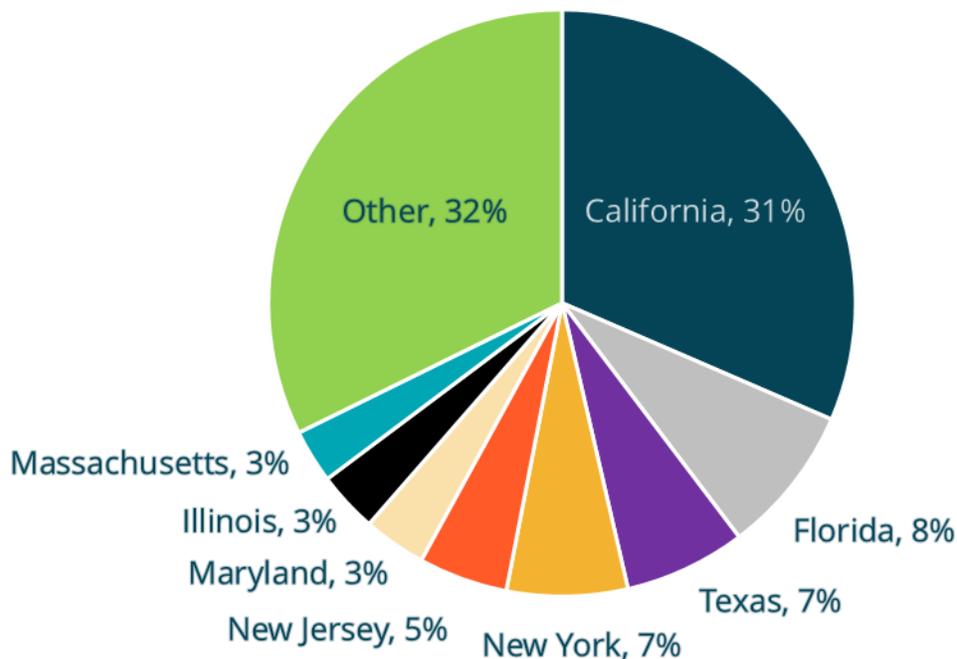
As part of the day "Celebrating Our Identity," the Guatemalan community celebrated its culture with a fundraiser dinner. (Casa Guatemala, photo by Cameros Fotografia).

Even though Guatemalans migrated to the United States throughout the 20th century, their migration intensified in the 1980s and 1990s. Guatemala’s indigenous population, known as the Maya Quiché, were the target of military repression and emigrated to the U.S. in the later years of a decades-long civil war. The Maya Quiché population in Massachusetts can be found in Southeastern Massachusetts around New Bedford. In Boston, the Guatemalan population is more likely to be non-indigenous.

In 2015, 1.4 million people with Guatemalan origin lived in the United States.¹ With an estimated 40,526 Guatemalans residing in Massachusetts, the state accounts for 3 percent of all Guatemalans in the country.

California (31 percent) and Florida (8 percent) are states with the largest populations. In the Northeast, New York (7 percent) and New Jersey (5 percent) have large Guatemalan populations. Massachusetts has the eighth largest Guatemalan population. Boston is home to 11 percent of Massachusetts’ Guatemalans.

Guatemalans by State



¹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 1-year American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

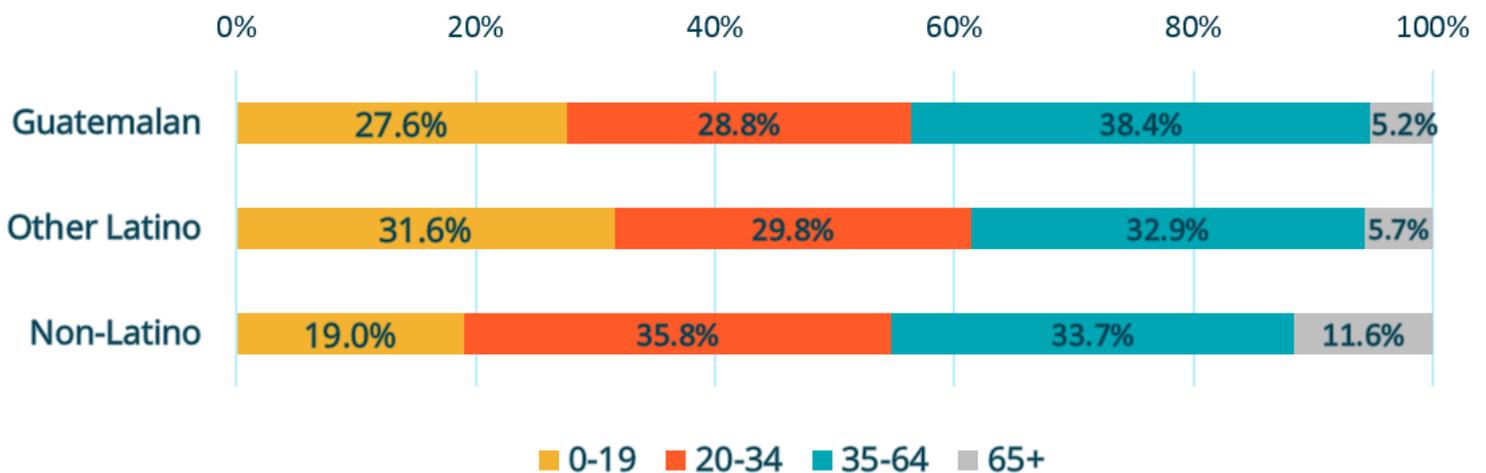
Guatemalans in Boston



According to the 2010 Census, Boston was home to 4,451 Guatemalans, up from 2,554 in the 2000 Census. The American Community Survey reports that the Guatemalan population of Boston Boston's Guatemalan population in 2015 was about the same as in 2010. (4,435 +/-2,141).² Guatemalans are the sixth largest Latino population in the city, accounting for 3 percent of Boston's Latinos. Other larger Latino populations include Puerto Ricans (28 percent), Dominicans (24 percent), Salvadorans (11 percent), Colombians (6 percent), and Mexicans (5 percent).

Guatemalans' median age of 30 years is older than other Latinos (28) but younger than non-Latinos (32).³ Unlike other Latinos and non-Latinos in Boston, Guatemalans are predominately male (56 percent). A higher percentage of Guatemalans are married (40 percent). The majority are foreign born (65.6 percent), and only 26 percent of foreign-born Guatemalans are naturalized U. S. citizens. Over 95 percent of Guatemalans speak Spanish at home, and only 35 percent speak English very well. Among younger Guatemalans under age 35, 56 percent speak English very well.

Age Distribution



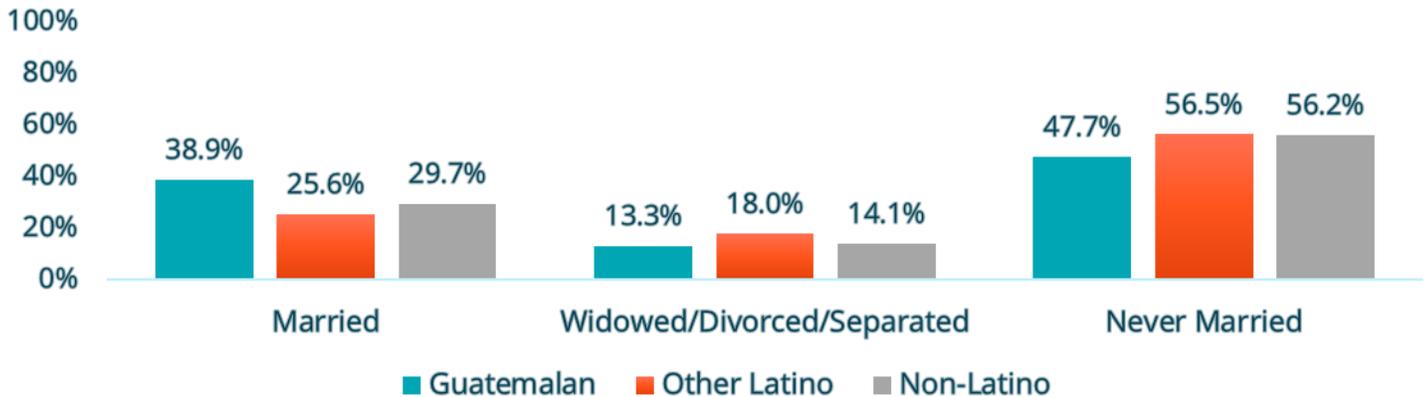
² U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 & 2010 Decennial Censuses, 2015 American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

³ U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

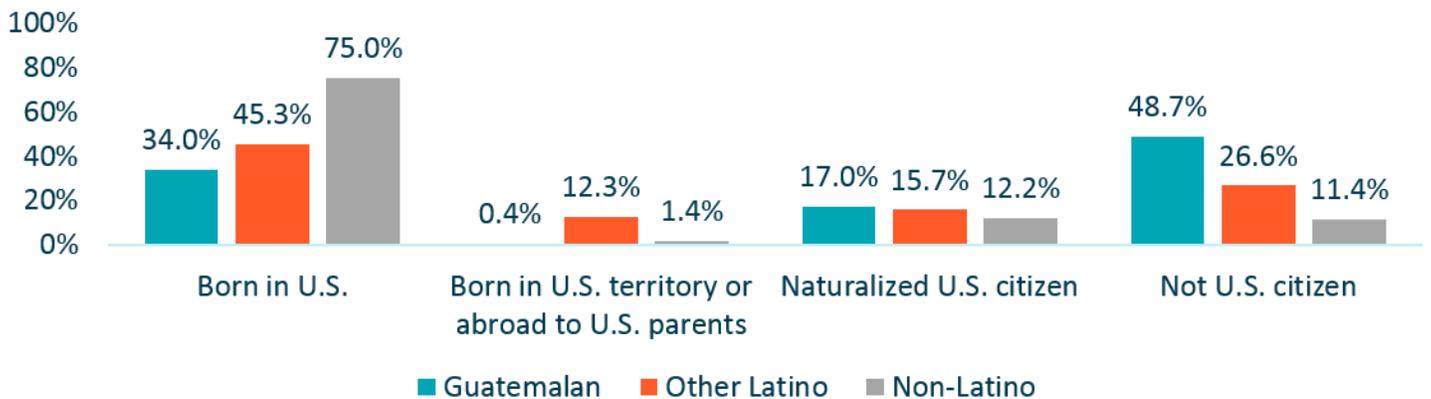
3% of Boston's Latinos are Guatemalan



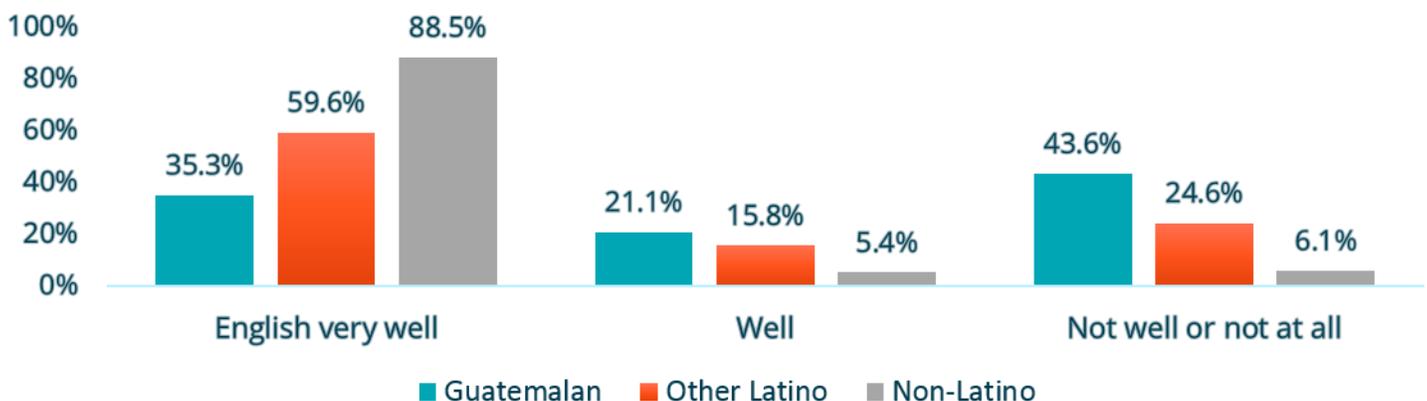
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)



Citizenship



English Proficiency (ages 5 and older)



Standard of Living

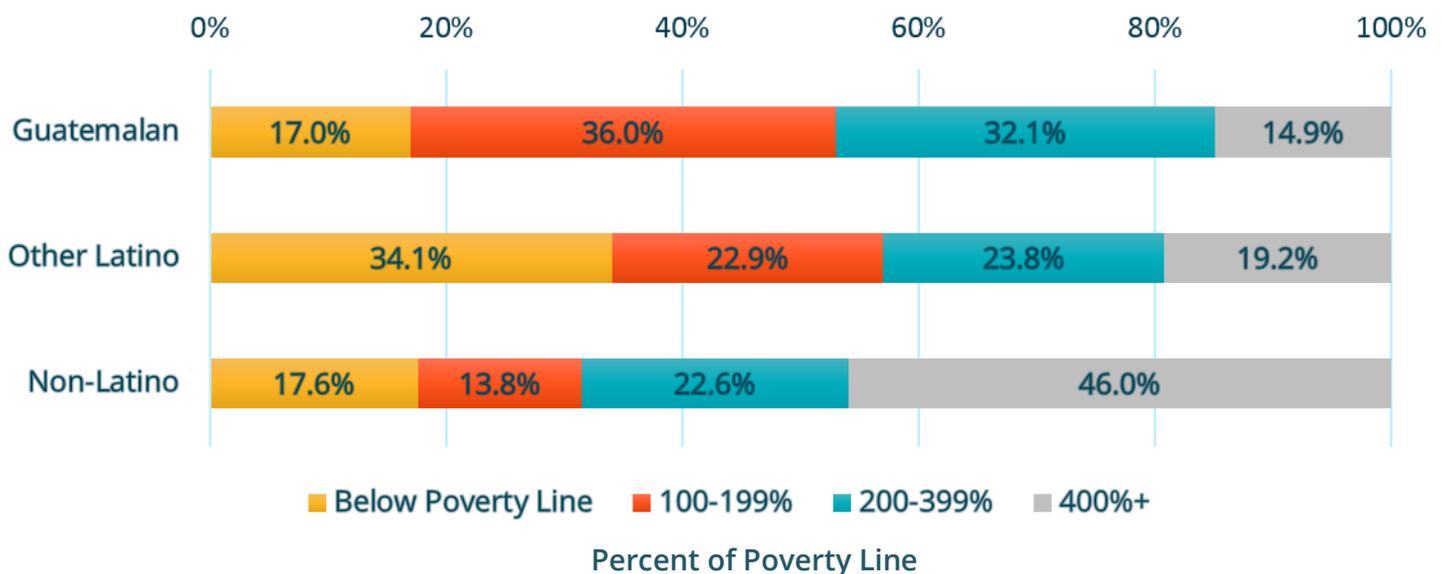


A similar share of Guatemalans (17 percent) compared to non-Latinos (18 percent) live below the Census poverty line. In contrast, only 15 percent of Guatemalans have achieved a middle class standard of living, compared to 46 percent for non-Latinos. A family income four times the poverty line is used as a proxy for a middle-class standard of living. The actual income needed to achieve this standard depends on family composition. For a two-person family in 2015, the poverty line is \$15,391, and a middle class income would need to be at least \$61,564. The median household income for Guatemalan-headed households is \$36,143. Despite low poverty rates, 12 percent of Guatemalans lack health insurance, a higher rate than other groups.

Guatemalans are less likely to own their own home (12 percent), than other Latinos (17 percent) and non-Latinos (37 percent).⁴ A large share of Guatemalan households (61 percent) are housing-burdened and pay more than 30 percent of their income in housing costs.

A large share (74 percent) of Guatemalan households are family households, and just over half (52 percent) include children, a higher rate than other Latinos (42 percent) and much higher than non-Latinos (20 percent).

Individual Poverty Rates



⁴ The ACS excludes households that are vacant, being bought, occupied without rent payment, have no household income or are group quarters when reporting owner/renter costs as a percentage of household income. Therefore, the sum of housing-burdened and non-housing-burdened households may not add exactly to the total number of homeowners/renters.

17% of Guatemalans in Boston live in poverty

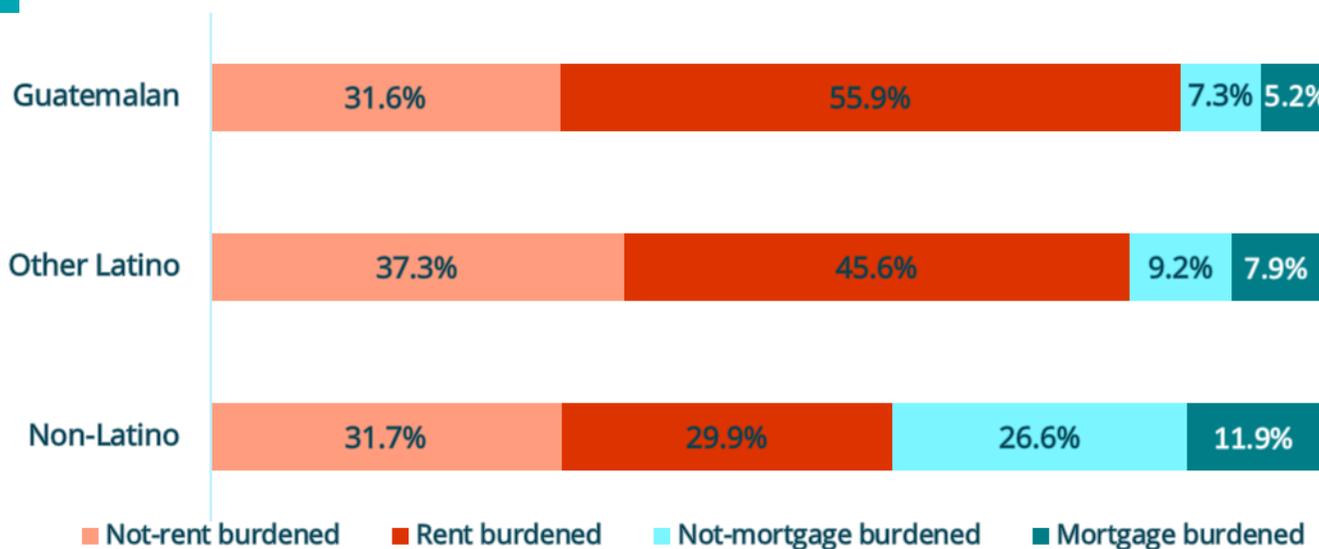


Median Household Income



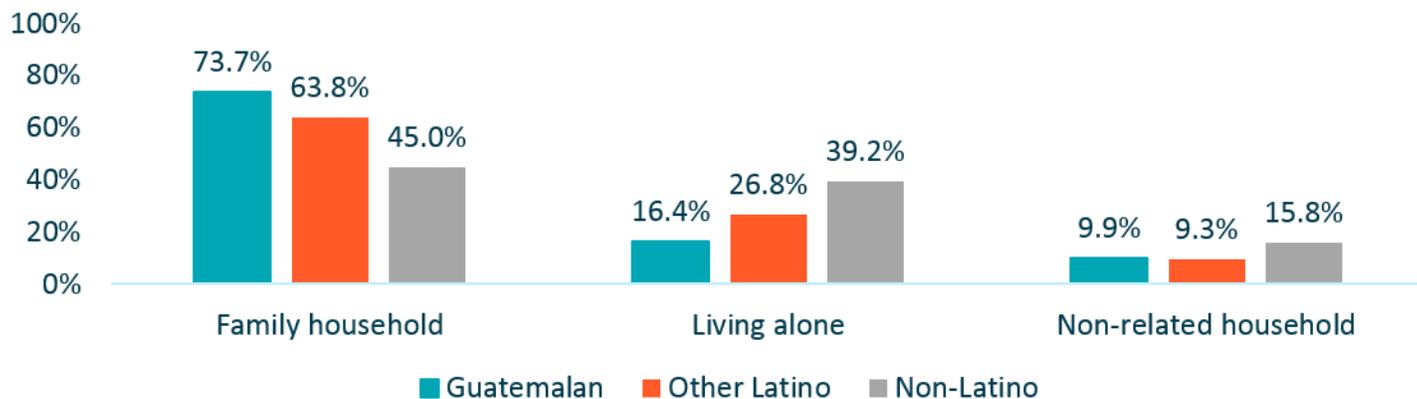
■ Guatemalan ■ Other Latino ■ Non-Latino

Tenure and Housing Burden



■ Not-rent burdened ■ Rent burdened ■ Not-mortgage burdened ■ Mortgage burdened

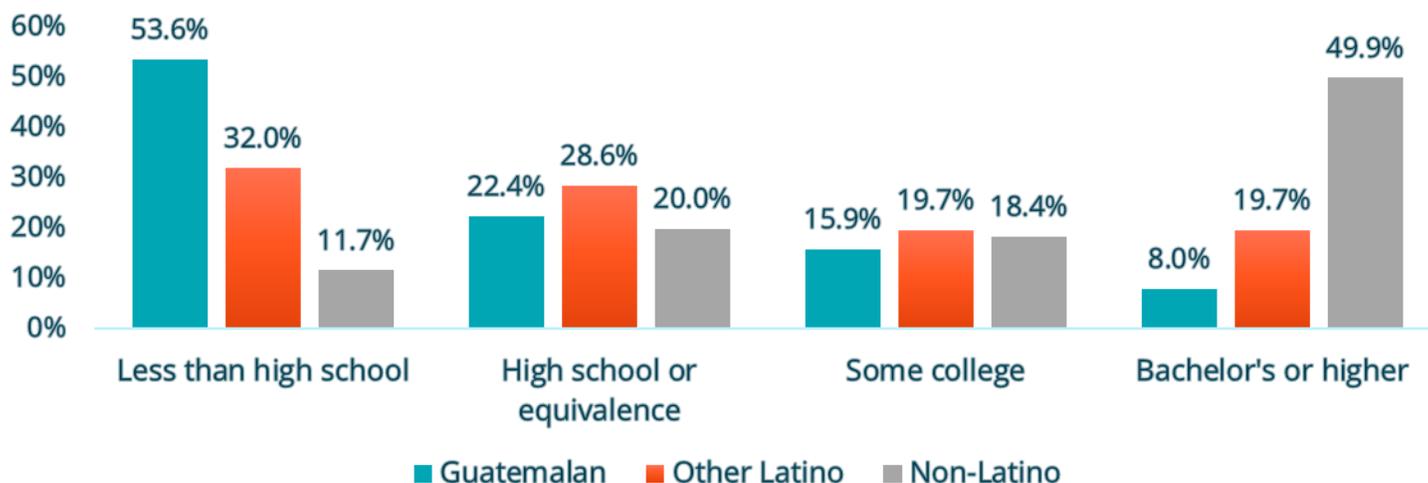
Household Type



■ Guatemalan ■ Other Latino ■ Non-Latino



Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)



Educational Attainment | Guatemalan adults have low levels of formal education. Almost 54 percent lack a high school education, and only 8 percent have a Bachelor's degree or higher.

School Enrollment | Guatemalans make up one percent of Boston residents enrolled in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade, but only .2 percent of Boston residents enrolled in college or university.

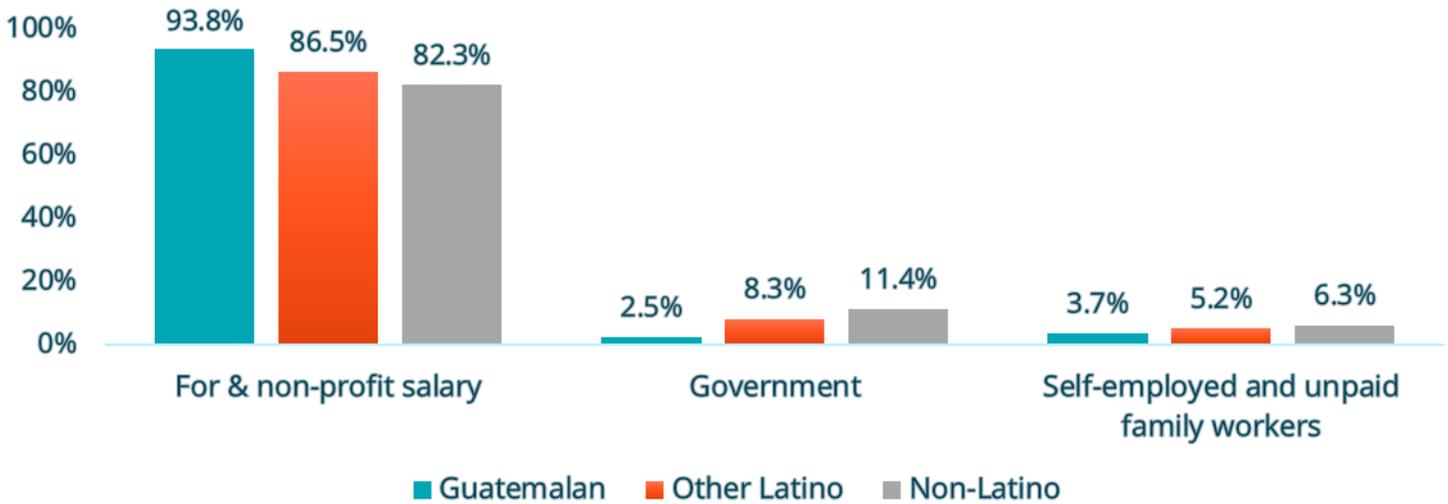
Labor Force Participation | A higher share (77 percent) of Guatemalans age 16 and over participate in the labor force than other Latinos (67 percent) and non-Latinos (68 percent). Labor force participation is much higher for Guatemalan men than women (90 percent vs. 60 percent).

Employment | Almost 94 percent of employed Guatemalans hold private-sector payroll jobs and few Guatemalans work for the government or are self-employed. More than 43 percent of employed Guatemalans work in service occupations, and an additional 28 percent work in blue collar jobs such as construction, transportation, production, installation, and maintenance occupations. Only 10 percent of employed Guatemalans work as managers or healthcare practitioners or in professional occupations such as computers, science, or engineering.

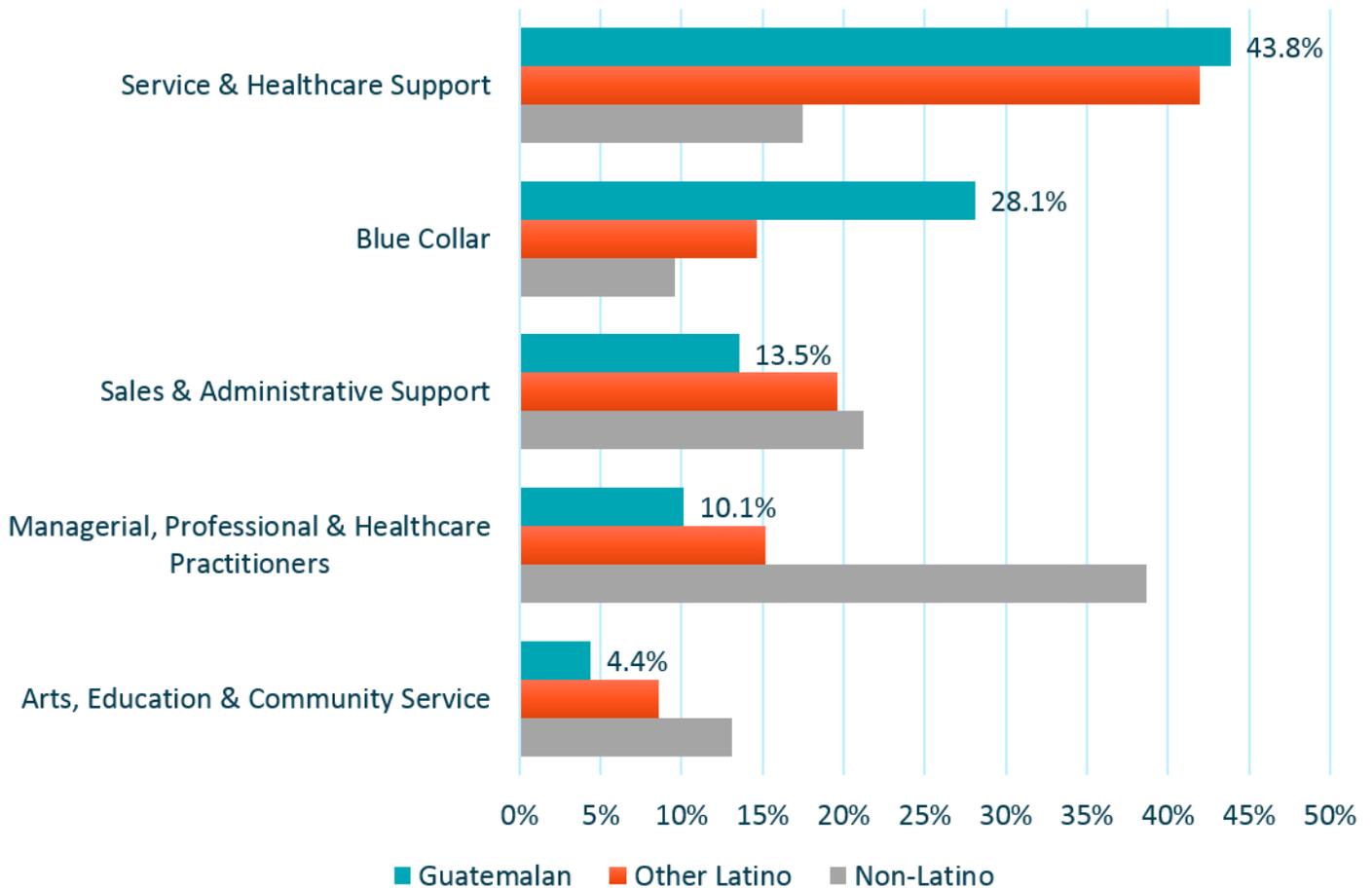


66% of Guatemalans are employed

Employment Type (ages 16 and older)



Occupations of Employed Workers

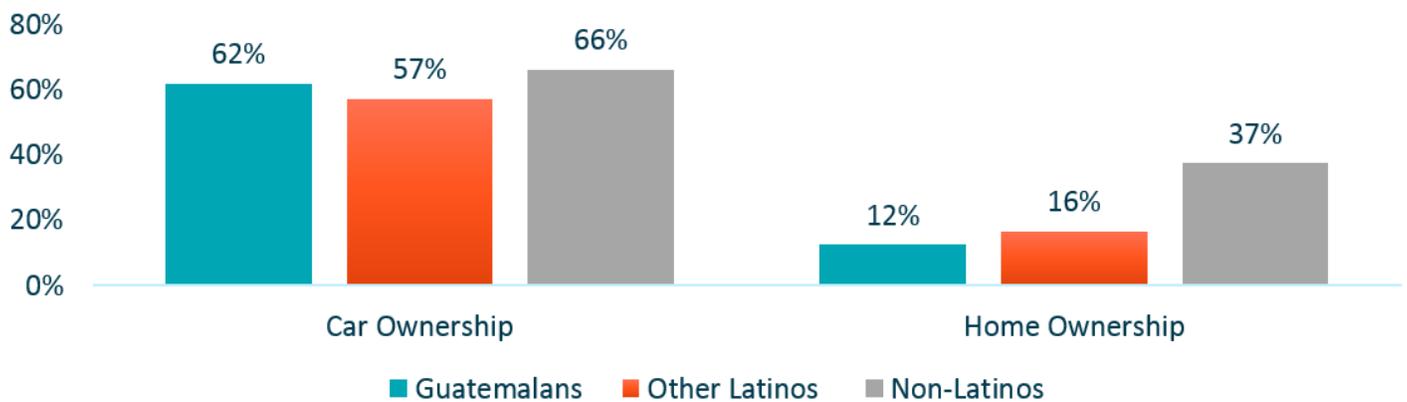


Transportation

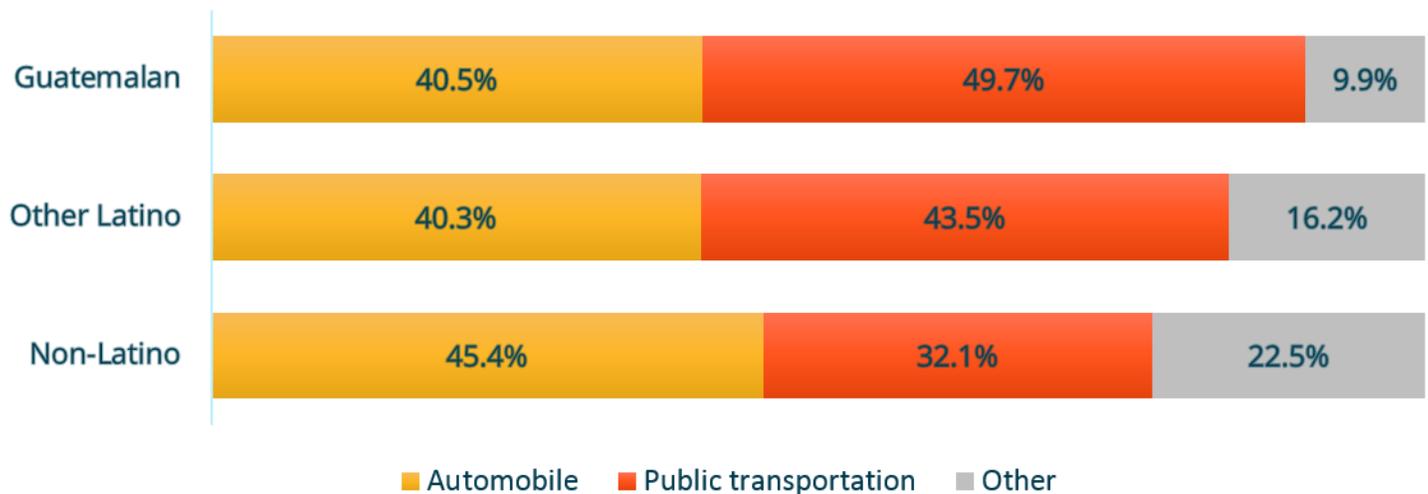


Guatemalan residents of Boston are concentrated in East Boston (34 percent), and smaller shares live in Dorchester (21 percent) and Jamaica Plain (13 percent). About 68 percent of employed Guatemalans work in Suffolk County (Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop). The average Guatemalan commute time to work is 29 minutes, which is shorter than the average commute time for other Latinos (32 minutes). About half of employed Guatemalans commute to work on public transportation, and 41 percent commute by automobile. Almost 62 percent of Guatemalan households own a vehicle compared to 57 percent of other Latinos and 66 percent of non-Latinos.

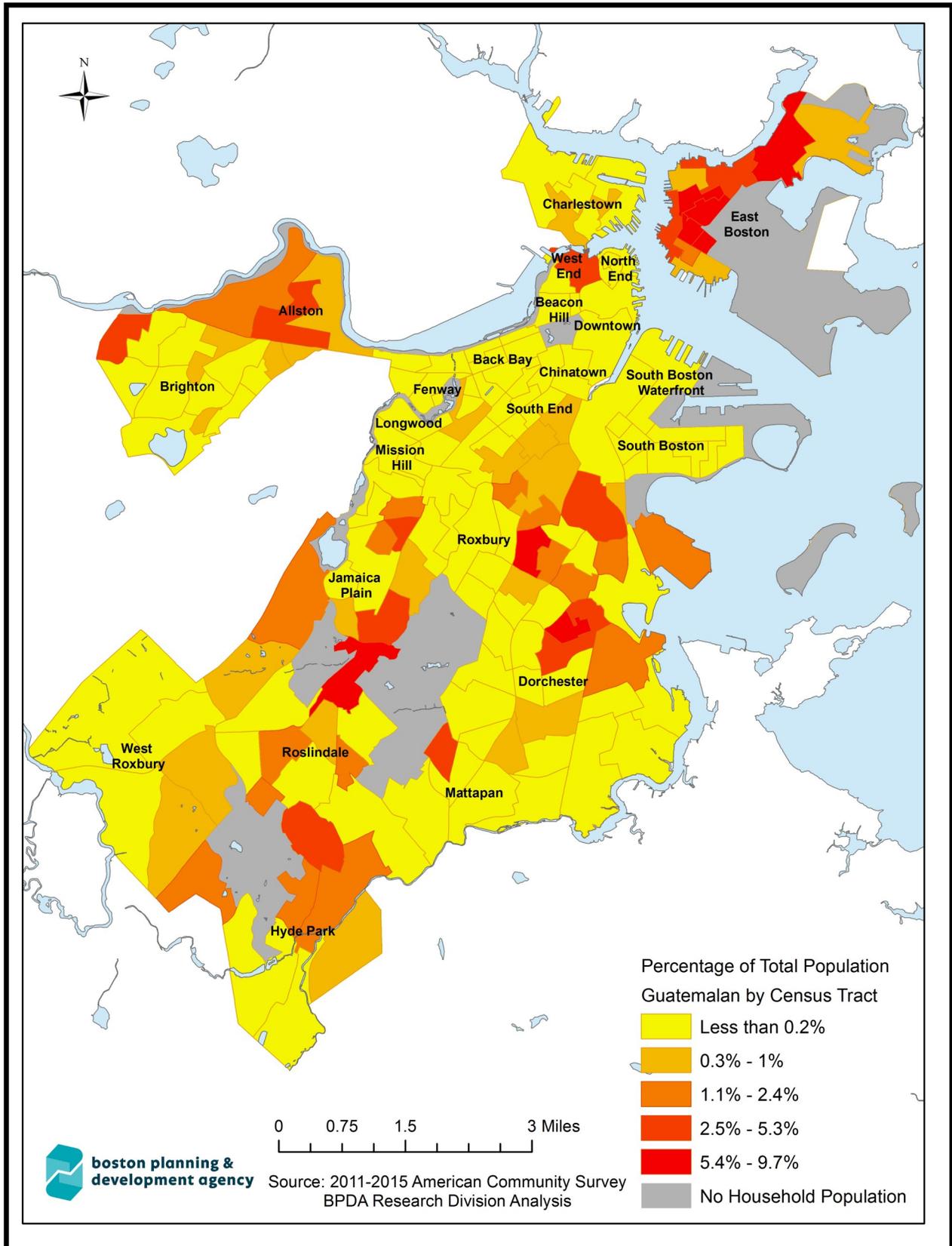
Car and Home Ownership



Transportation Mode to Work



Map of Guatemalans in Boston



Brazilians

in
Boston



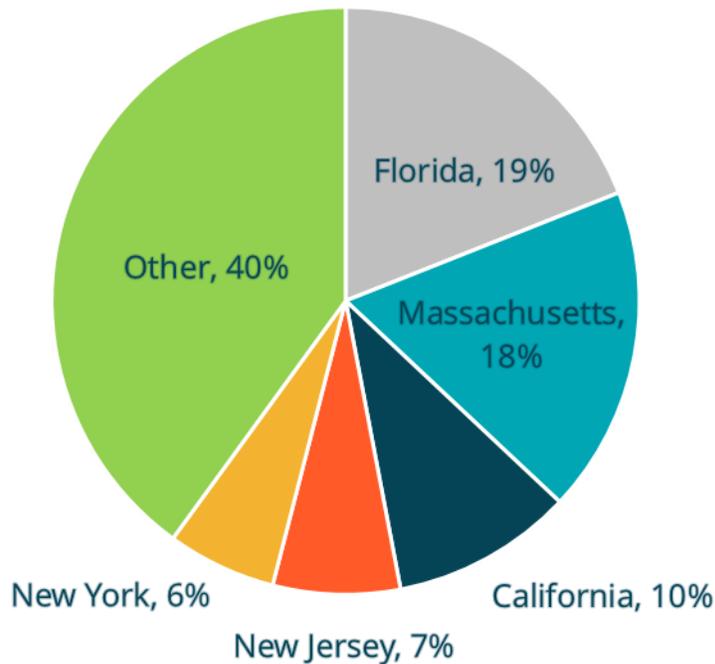
The Dewey Square mural (2012), by the Brazilian artist duo Os Gêmeos (twins Otávio and Gustavo Pandolfo), spray painted on a 25-metre wide wall on the occasion of their exhibition at the ICA in Boston (Photo by Bosc D'Anjou, retrieved from [flickr.com/photos/boscdanjou/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/boscdanjou/)).

Large-scale migration from Brazil began after the military coup in 1964 when thousands of Brazilians went into exile. Although most of these exiles returned to Brazil after the amnesty of 1979, the number of economic emigrants grew in the late 1980's when an economic crisis hit Brazil. The United States has been one of the main destinations of Brazilian emigration.

In 2015, 502,650 people with Brazilian origin lived in the United States.¹ With an estimated 90,903 Brazilians residing in Massachusetts, the state accounts for 18 percent of all Brazilians in the country.

Massachusetts has the second largest Brazilian population behind Florida (19 percent). Brazilian immigrants were initially attracted to existing Portuguese-speaking communities in Massachusetts. Nationally, California (10 percent) and Texas (5 percent) are other states with large Brazilian populations. In the Northeast, New Jersey (7 percent), New York (6 percent) and Connecticut (5 percent) also have large Brazilian populations.

Brazilians by State



The foreign-born Brazilian population in Metropolitan Boston increased rapidly during the 1990s and peaked before the recession of 2008-2009. Brazilians settled in cities and towns in eastern Massachusetts, especially in Boston, Framingham, Everett, and Somerville. Boston is now home to 5 percent of Massachusetts' Brazilian population.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 1-year American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

Brazilians in Boston

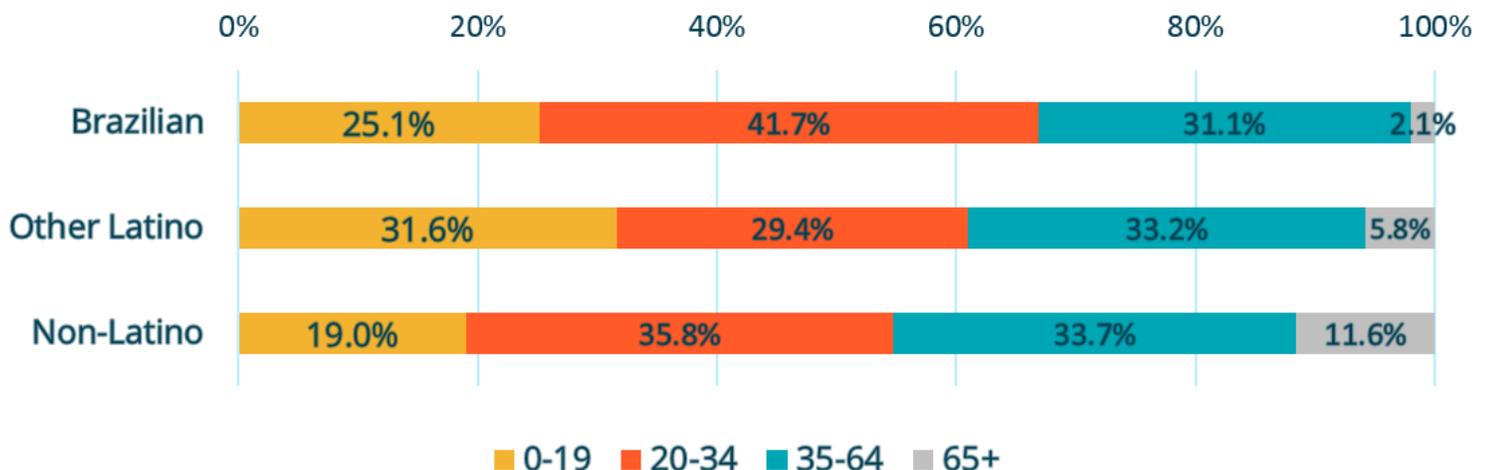


The American Community Survey reports that Boston's Brazilian population was 4,208 in 2015, down from 5,015 in 2010.² Accounting for 3 percent of all Latinos in Boston, Brazilians are the seventh largest Latino population in the city. Other Latino populations include Puerto Ricans (28 percent), Dominicans (24 percent), Salvadorans (11 percent), Colombians (6 percent), Mexicans (5 percent), and Guatemalans (3 percent).

Brazilians' median age of 29 years is older than other Latinos (28) but younger than non-Latinos (32).³ Brazilians are predominately female (55 percent), more so than other Latinos and non-Latinos, both of which are 52 percent female. About 41 percent of Brazilians are married, a higher share than the other groups.

The majority of Brazilians are foreign born (73 percent), and 30 percent of foreign-born Brazilians are naturalized U.S. citizens. Portuguese is the official language of Brazil, and 72% of Brazilians in Boston speak Portuguese at home. In addition, 61 percent of Brazilians over age five speak English very well. Younger Brazilians under age 35 are more likely to speak English very well (73 percent).

Age Distribution



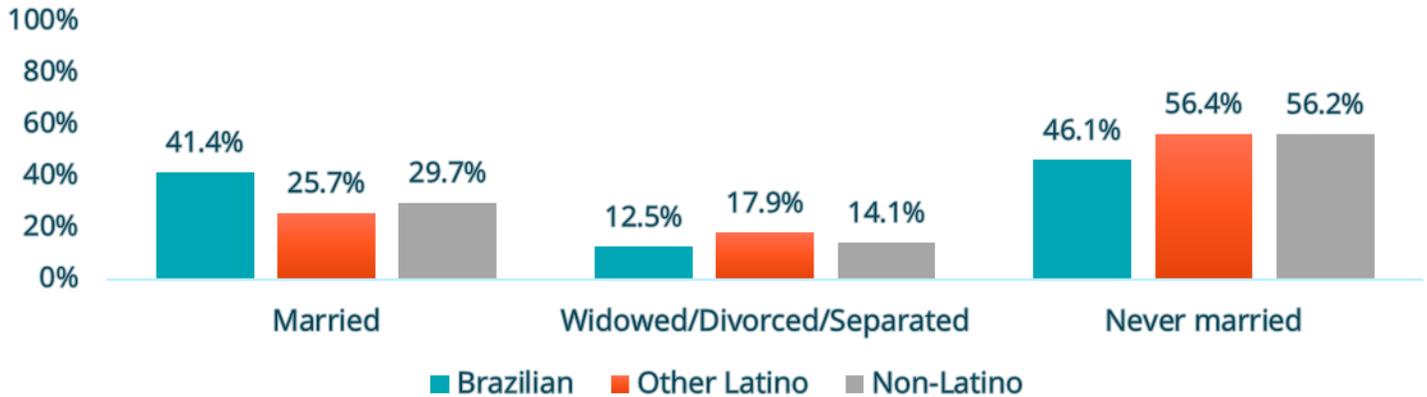
² U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 & 2015 1-year American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

³ U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

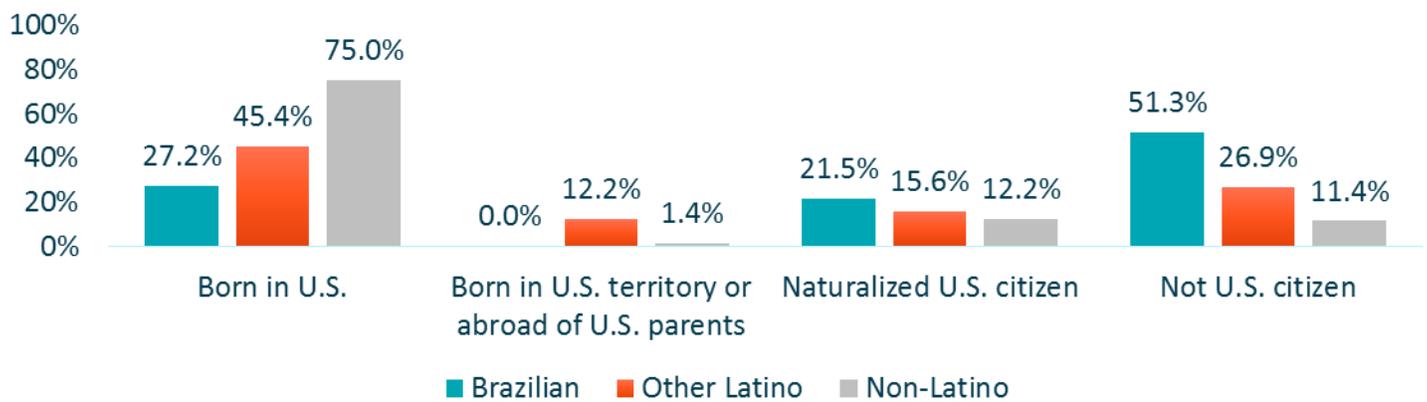
3% of Boston's Latinos are Brazilian



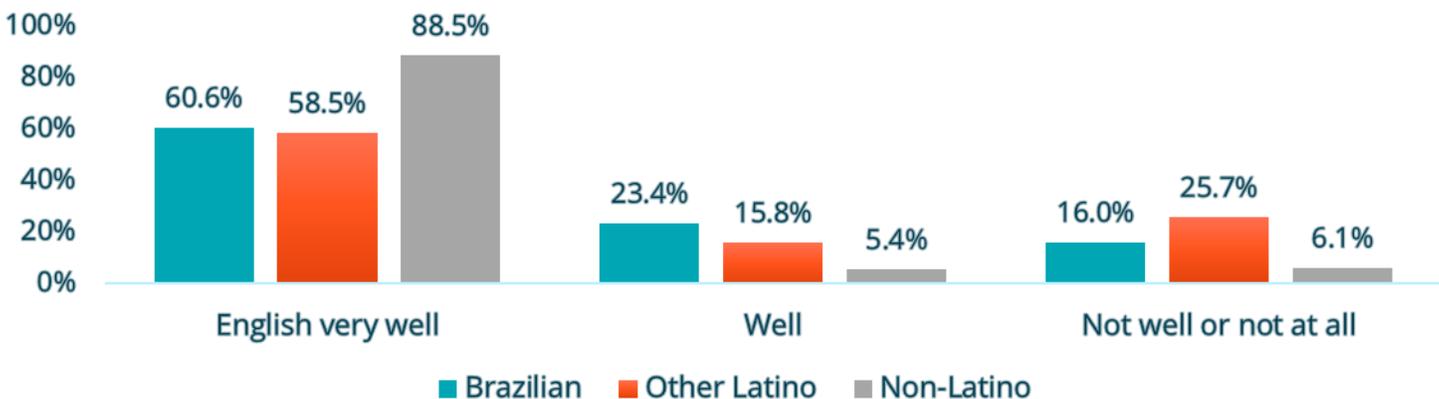
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)



Citizenship



English Proficiency (ages 5 and older)



Standard of Living

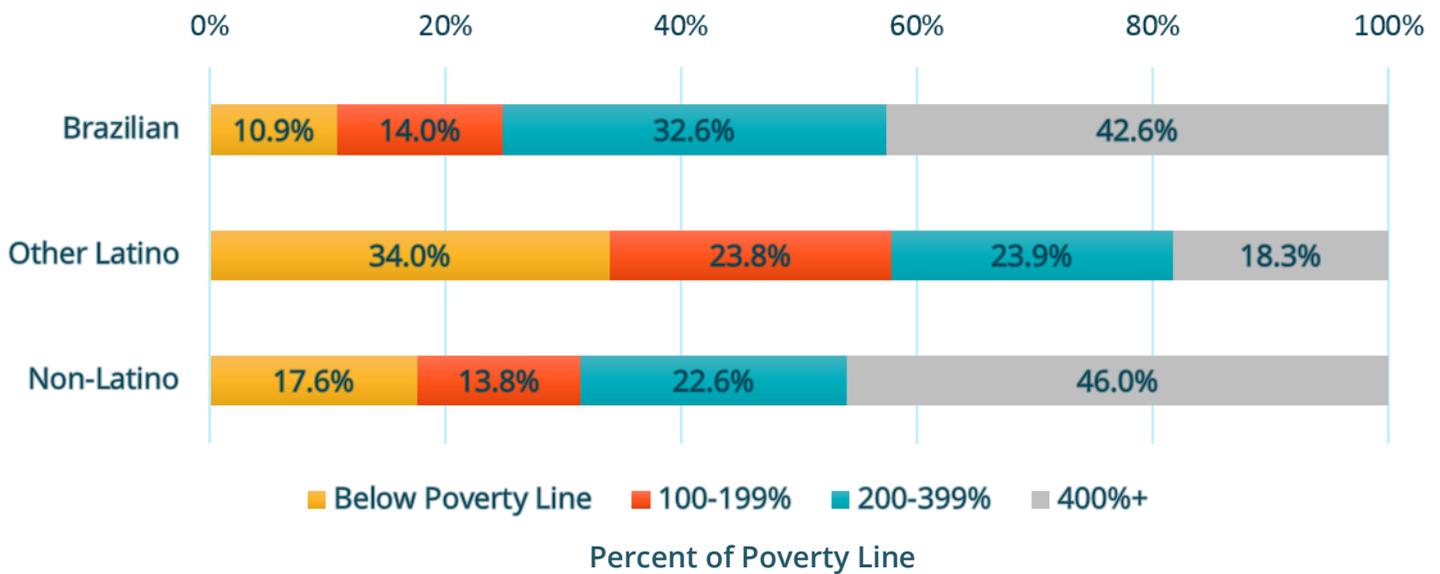


Brazilians in Boston have a higher standard of living than other Latino groups. Only 11 percent of Brazilians live below the Census poverty line, and 43 percent have achieved a middle class standard of living. A family income four times the poverty line is used as a proxy for a middle-class standard of living. The actual income needed to achieve this standard depends on family composition. For a two-person family in 2015, the poverty line is \$15,391, and a middle class income would need to be at least \$61,564. The median household income for Brazilian-headed households is \$61,000, and only 6 percent of Brazilians lack health insurance.

Brazilians have higher rates of home ownership (26 percent) than other Latino groups (16 percent). However, Brazilians are less likely to own their own home than non-Latinos, who have a home ownership rate of 37 percent.⁴ Almost 41 percent of Brazilians in Boston are housing burdened, meaning they must spend more than 30 percent of their household income on housing costs. This is a lower rate of housing burden than either non-Latinos or other Latino groups.

Approximately 68 percent of Brazilian households are families, and 39 percent of the households include children, compared to 20 percent of non-Latino households. The average household size is 2.6, larger than 2.1 for non-Latino households.

Individual Poverty Rates

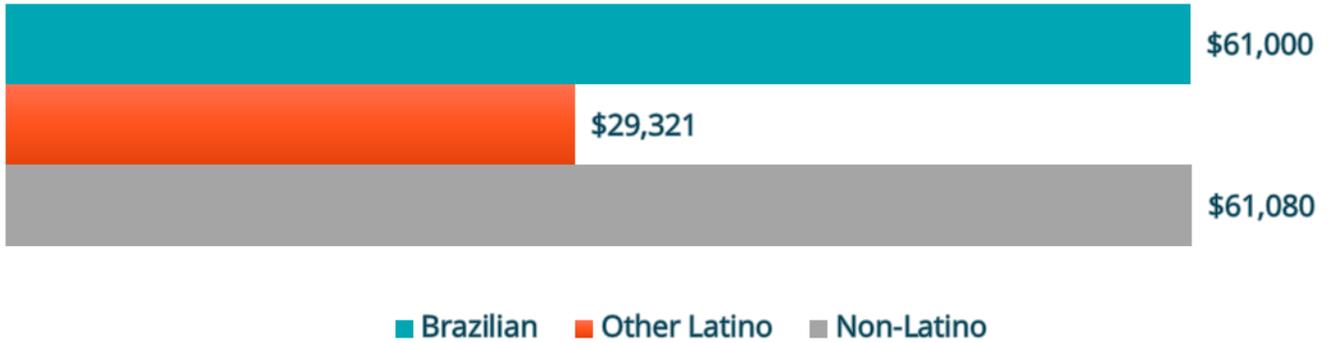


⁴ The ACS excludes households that are vacant, being bought, occupied without rent payment, have no household income or are group quarters when reporting owner/renter costs as a percentage of household income. Therefore, the sum of housing-burdened and non-housing-burdened households may not add exactly to the total number of homeowners/renters.

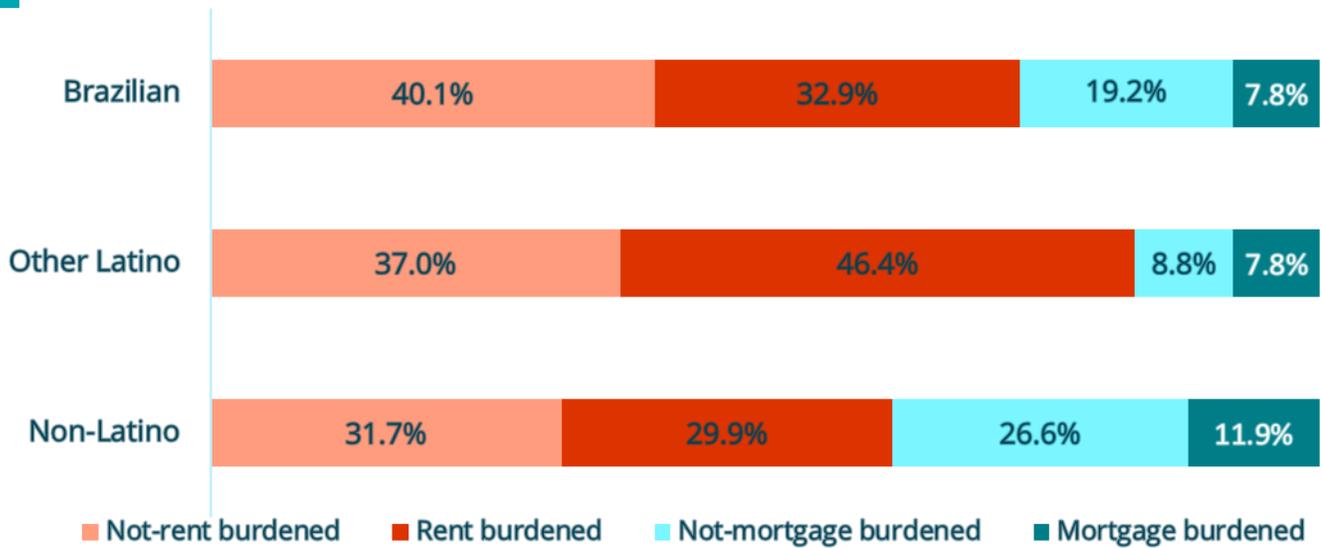
11% of Brazilians in Boston live in poverty



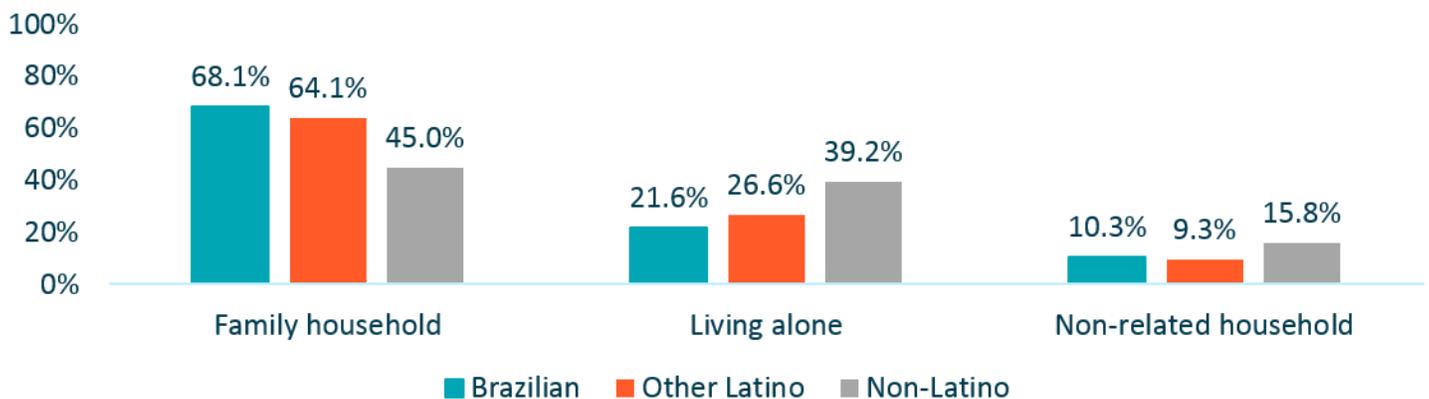
Median Household Income



Tenure and Housing Burden

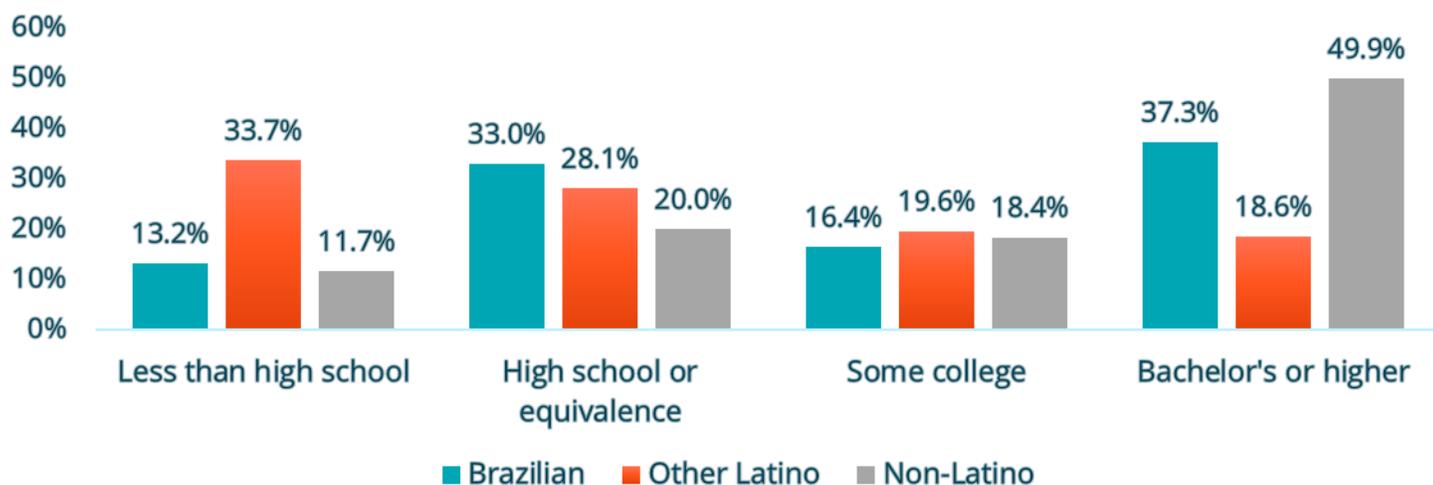


Household Type





Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)



Educational Attainment | The relatively high standard of living of Boston Brazilians is supported by their educational attainment. Only 13 percent of Brazilians lack a high school education, and 37 percent have a Bachelor’s degree or higher. While this level of education is lower than non-Latinos, it is higher than other Latino groups.

School Enrollment | Brazilians make up less than one percent of both the pre-kindergarten through grade twelve enrollment and the college and university enrollment of Boston residents.

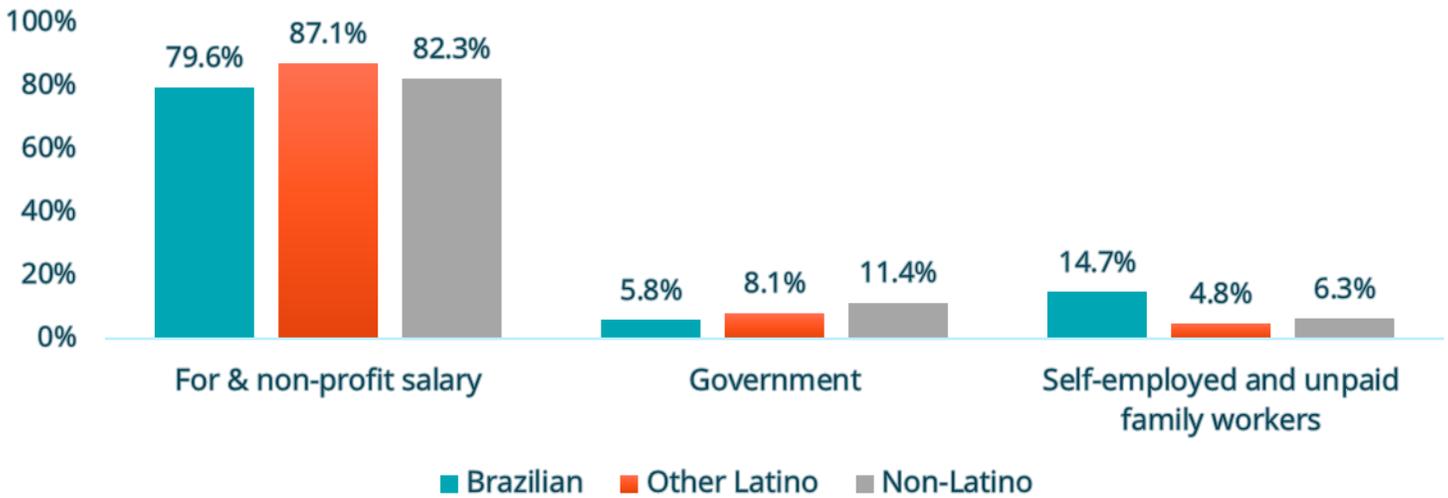
Labor Force Participation | About 71 percent of Brazilians ages 16 and over participate in the labor force. Labor force participation is higher for Brazilian men than women (81 percent vs. 60 percent).

Employment | A larger share of employed Brazilians (15 percent) are self-employed. More than 44 percent of employed Brazilians work in service occupations. Other leading occupational categories for Brazilians are managerial, professional, and healthcare practitioners (26 percent) and blue collar occupations (18 percent). Blue collar occupations include construction, transportation, production, installation, and maintenance occupations.

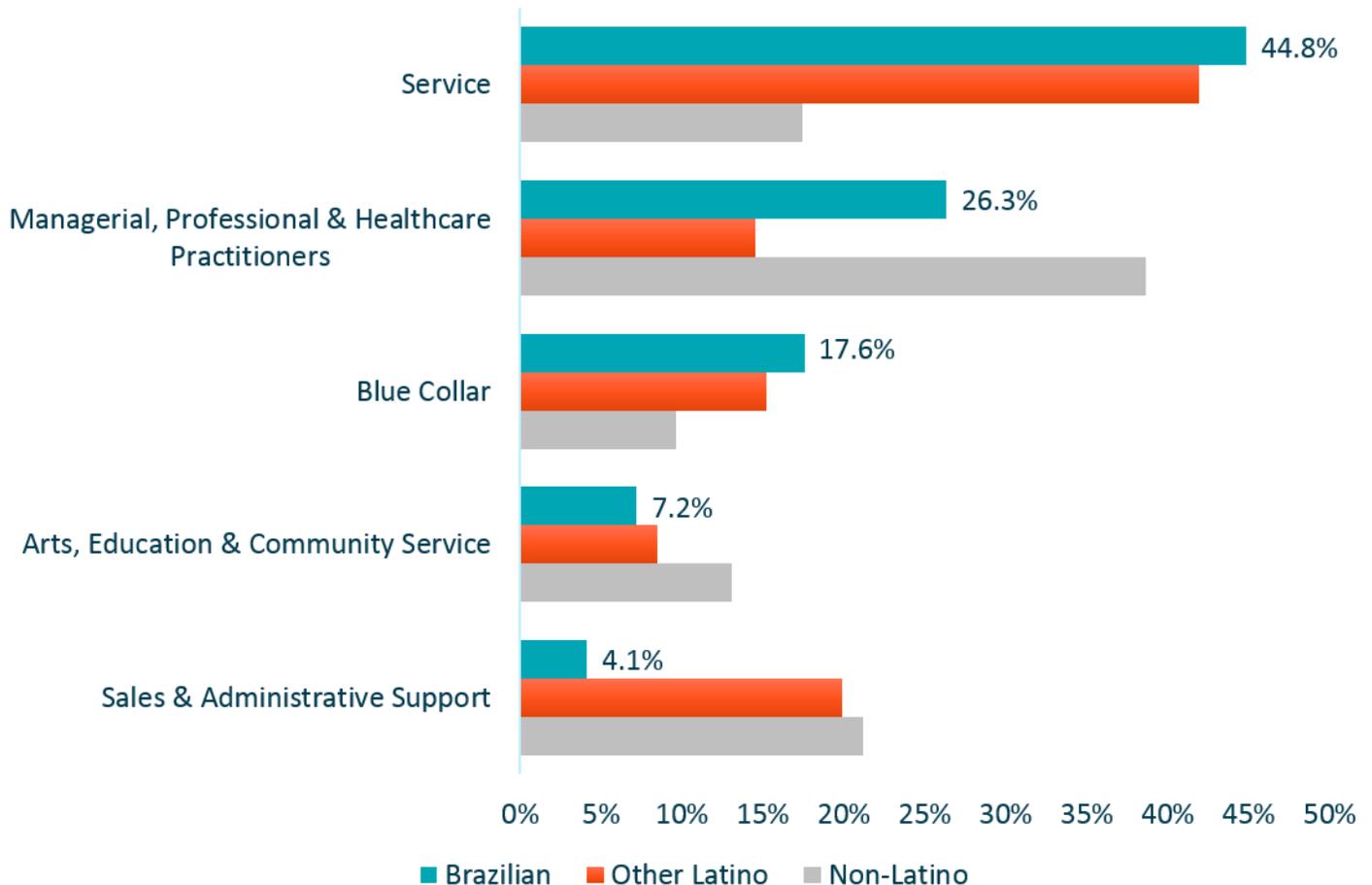


66% of Brazilians are employed

Employment Type (ages 16 and older)



Occupations of Employed Workers

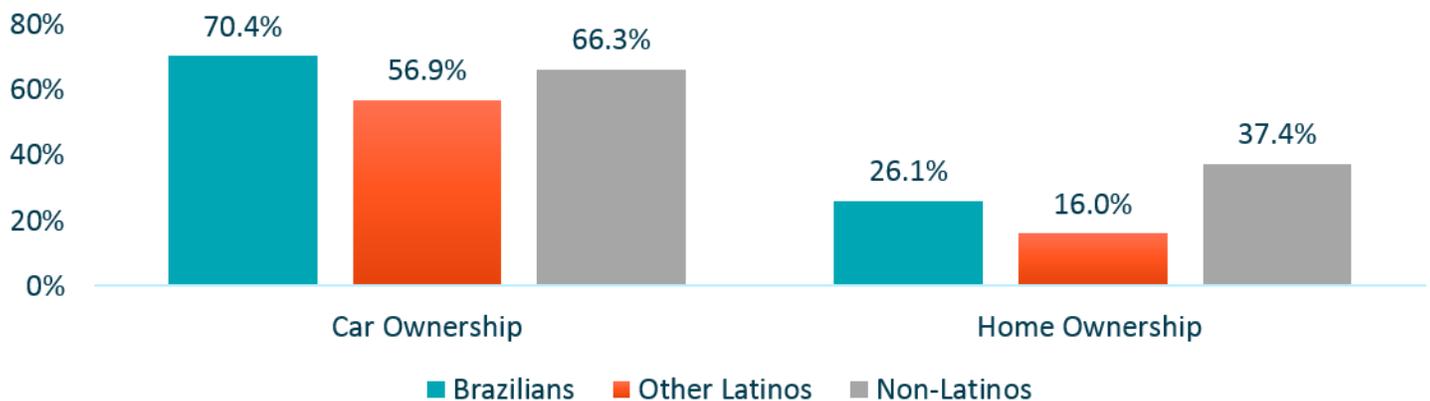


Transportation

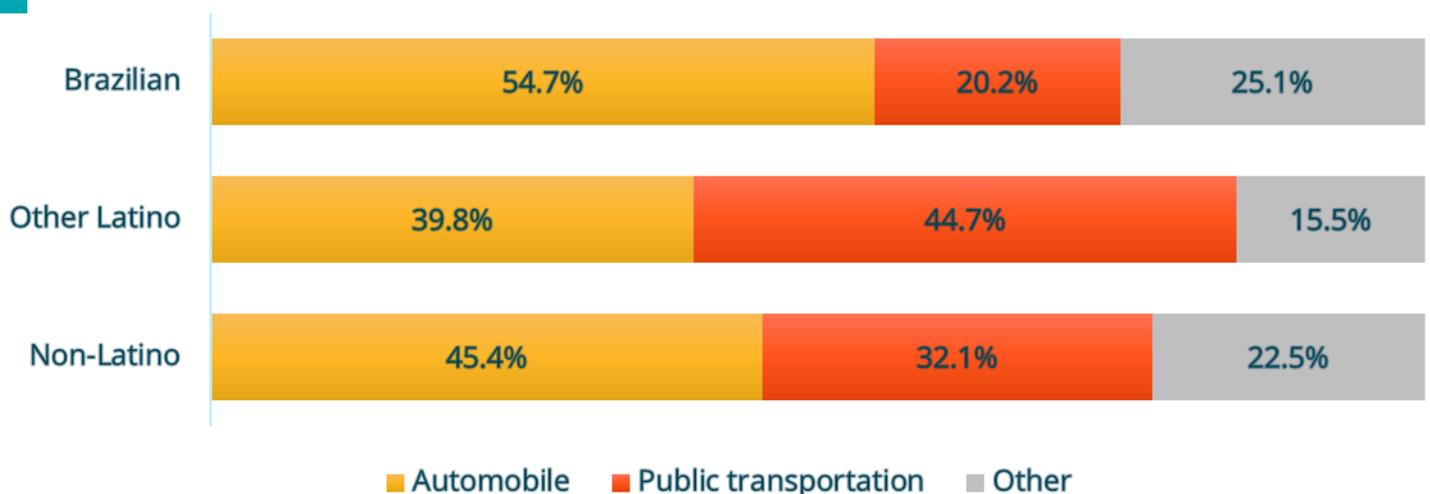


Brazilians are concentrated in East Boston, Allston, Brighton, and West Roxbury, as well as Jamaica Plain, Hyde Park, and South Boston. A smaller share of Brazilians (24 percent) work outside of Suffolk County than other Latinos (30 percent) and non-Latinos (33 percent). The average Brazilian commute time to work is 27 minutes, shorter than other groups. Only 20 percent of Brazilians travel to work on public transportation compared to 32 percent of non-Latinos and 45 percent of other Latinos. In contrast, 70 percent of Brazilian household own a car, and 55 percent of employed Brazilians commute by car.

Car and Homeownership



Transportation Type



Map of Brazilians in Boston

