

University of Massachusetts Boston

ScholarWorks at UMass Boston

Gastón Institute Publications

Gastón Institute for Latino Community
Development and Public Policy Publications

9-2020

Latinos in Massachusetts: Hondurans

Phillip Granberry

Krizia Valentino

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



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



Latinos in Massachusetts: Hondurans

By Phillip Granberry, PH.D., and Krizia Valentino

September 2020

THE MAURICIO GASTÓN INSTITUTE
FOR LATINO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AND PUBLIC POLICY

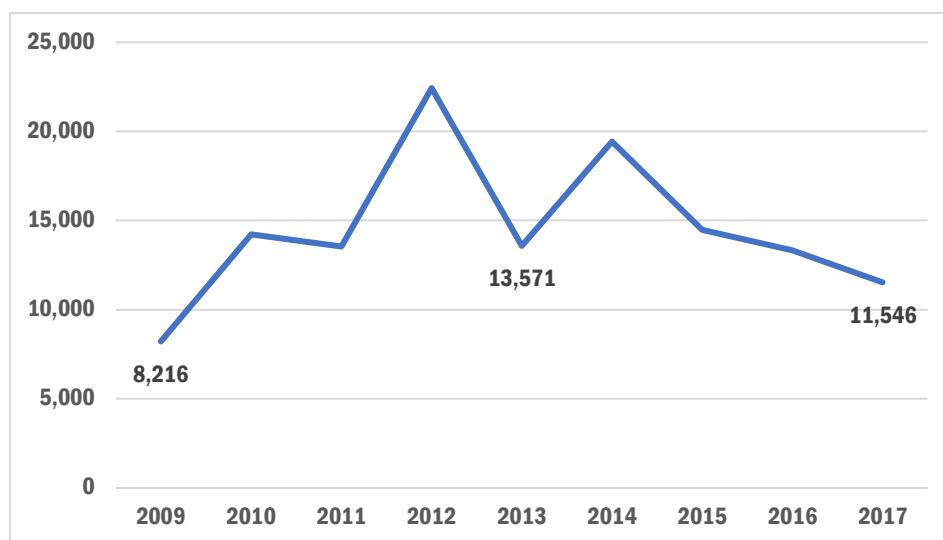
Intro

The Gastón Institute’s 2020 Latinos in Massachusetts series focuses on the ten largest Latino populations located throughout the state.¹ In order of size, these Latino populations are Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Brazilians,² Salvadorans, Guatemalans, Mexicans, Colombians, Cubans, Hondurans, and Ecuadorans. This report analyzes Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) data from the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. Our descriptive analysis uses both household- and individual-level data to estimate population size and percentages and to compare Hondurans to Other Latinos and Non-Latinos in the state.

Hondurans in the Massachusetts Population

Massachusetts was home in 2017 to 918,565 Latinos, of whom 11,564, or 1%, were Honduran. Massachusetts has the 14th largest Honduran population in the United States. Appendix A maps the Hondurans in the United States, while Appendix B maps the Hondurans by cities and towns in Massachusetts. Chelsea has the largest Honduran population followed by Boston, Revere, Lynn, and New Bedford. (These five cities and towns between them have 67% of the Hondurans in the state.) Figure 1 shows that the population grew from 2009 to 2017 by 41%. In this same period, the state’s overall Latino population grew by 39%. By comparison, the state’s total population grew by 4% from 2009 to 2017.

Figure 1: Honduran Population from 2009 to 2017



Source: 2008-2017 American Community Survey

¹ These reports will not identify Latinos in specific cities and towns, as previous years’ reports have done. Instead, the focus is on the most prevalent Latino ethnic groups statewide.

² We use Latino origin and ancestry, based on migration from Latin America, to identify these populations. Thus, Brazilians are included in the category “Latino” although most Brazilians self-report using a racial category – white or black – rather than identifying with the term “Latino.”

Foreign-born Hondurans in Massachusetts, who on average arrived in the United States in 1998, composed 57% of Hondurans in the state as of 2017. With 43% of their population native born, 68% of Hondurans in 2017 were U.S. citizens. By comparison, 35% of Other Latinos in 2017 were foreign born, and 79% of their population were citizens. The Non-Latino population was 14% foreign born, and 94% were citizens.

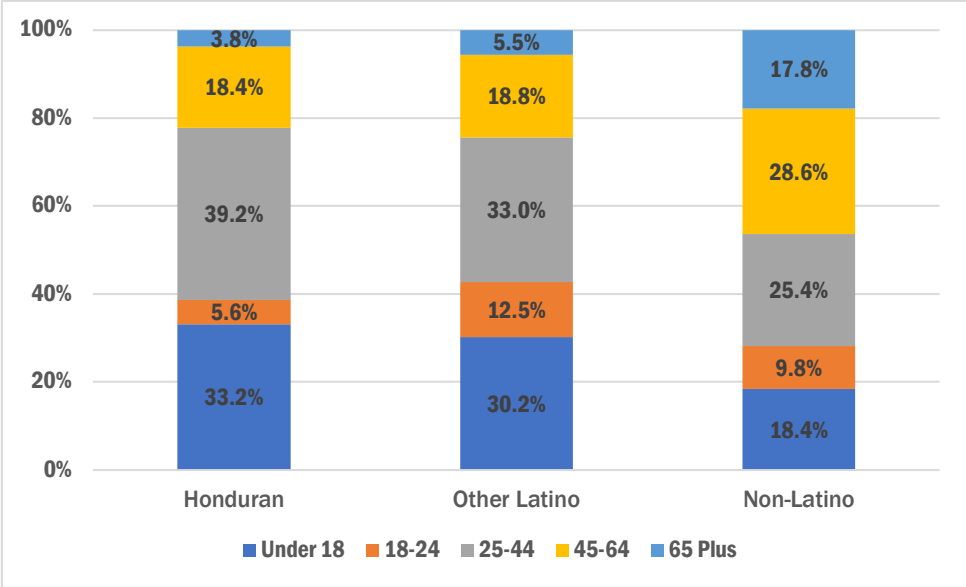
Even though 43% of Hondurans were native born, 58% of Honduran children in 2017 had at least one foreign-born parent compared to 47% of Other Latinos and 24% of Non-Latinos.

Age Distribution and Marital Status

The Honduran population in Massachusetts had a median age of 30 years, slightly older than 29 years for Other Latinos and much younger than for Non-Latinos (41 years). Figure 2 shows that 39% of Hondurans were under age 25 compared to 43% of Other Latinos and 28% of Non-Latinos.

At the same time, the prime working-age years of 25-44 and 45-64 together accounted for similar proportions of Hondurans (58%), Other Latinos (52%), and Non-Latinos (54%). Non-Latinos had a much higher share of the population 65 and older while Hondurans and Other Latinos had similar smaller shares.

Figure 2: Age Categories

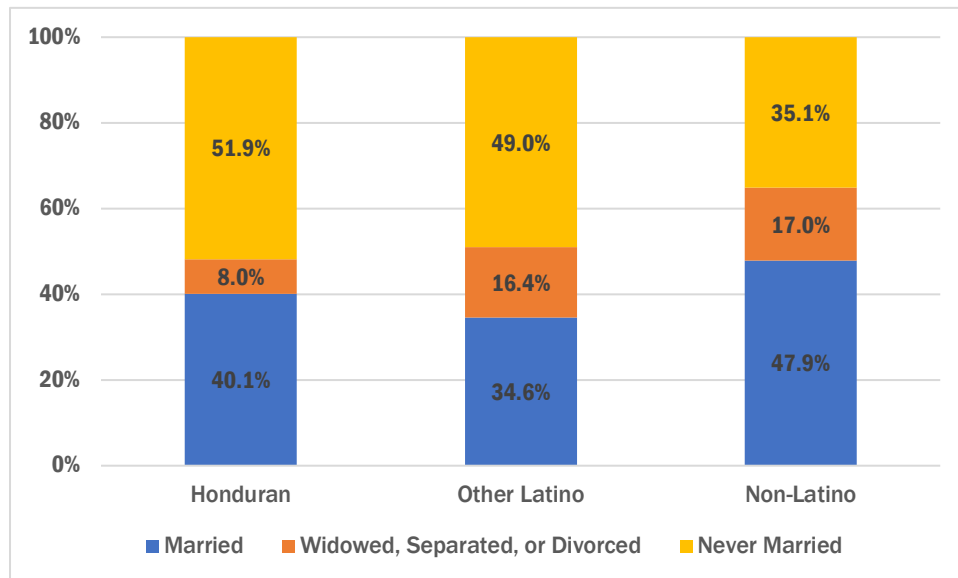


Source: 2017 American Community Survey

Marital Status

Even though the Honduran population was slightly older than Other Latinos, they had a relatively high marriage rate. Figure 3, covering all ages 15 and older, shows that Hondurans' marriage rate (40%) was higher than that for Other Latinos (35%) though lower than that for Non-Latinos (48%)

Figure 3: Marriage Rates of the Population 15 Years and Older



Source: 2017 American Community Survey

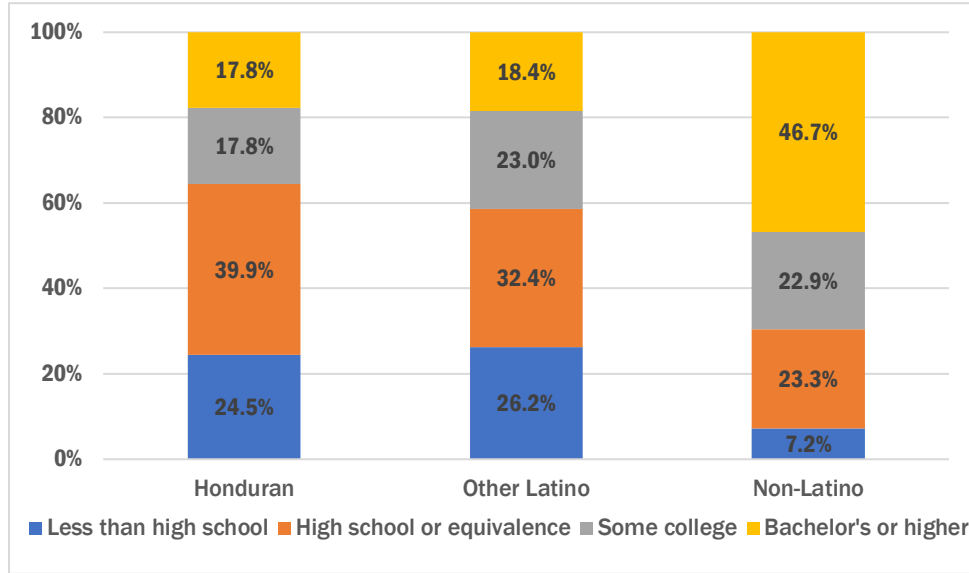
Education

Latinos in Massachusetts have lower levels of educational attainment, and Hondurans match the educational profile of the state's Other Latino population. Figure 4 shows that Hondurans had a slightly lower share of their population with less than a high school diploma: (25%) than Other Latinos (26%), while the figure for Non-Latinos was only 7%. Correspondingly, Hondurans had a similar share of their population with at least a Bachelor's degree as Other Latinos (18%), much lower than for Non-Latinos (47%).

The ages of 18 through 24 are important for obtaining higher education, and 55% of Hondurans in this age group who had not already earned a Bachelor's degree were enrolled in college, compared to 38% for Other Latinos and 61% for Non-Latinos.

English language difficulty is often referenced as a reason for low educational attainment. Of the population age 5 and older, 67% of Hondurans either spoke only English or spoke it very well. This was a higher proportion than for Other Latinos (65%) but much lower than for Non-Latinos (94%).

Figure 4: Educational Attainment of the Population 25 Years and Older

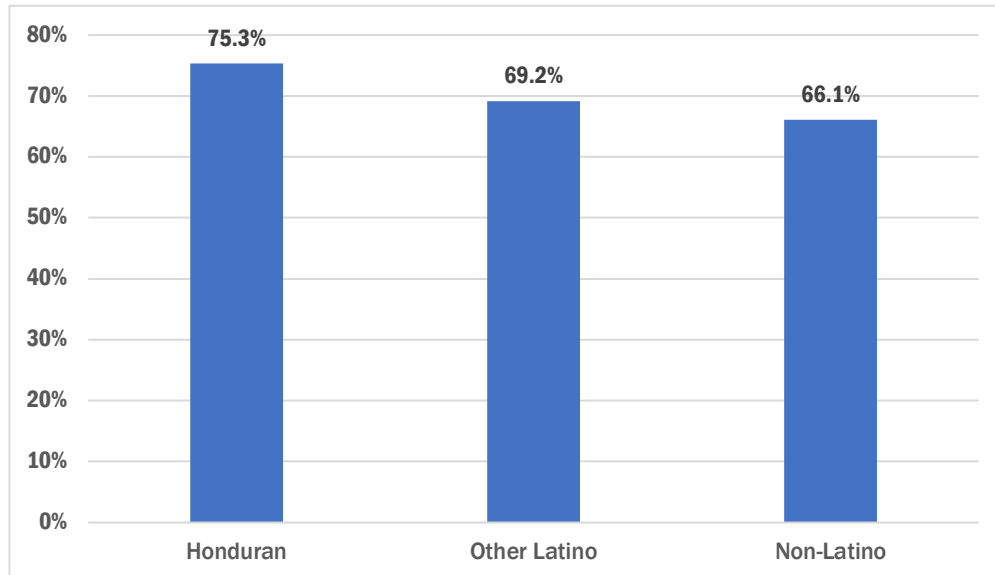


Source: 2017 American Community Survey

Labor Force Participation

Hondurans had higher labor force participation (75%) than did Other Latinos (69%) and Non-Latinos (66%). Among Hondurans, men had even higher labor force participation (82%) than women (70%). Younger Hondurans had higher labor force participation, which was 80% for those ages 25-44. This was similar to Other Latinos (80%) and lower than for Non-Latinos (86%) in the age group.

Figure 5: Labor Force Participation of the Population 16 and Older

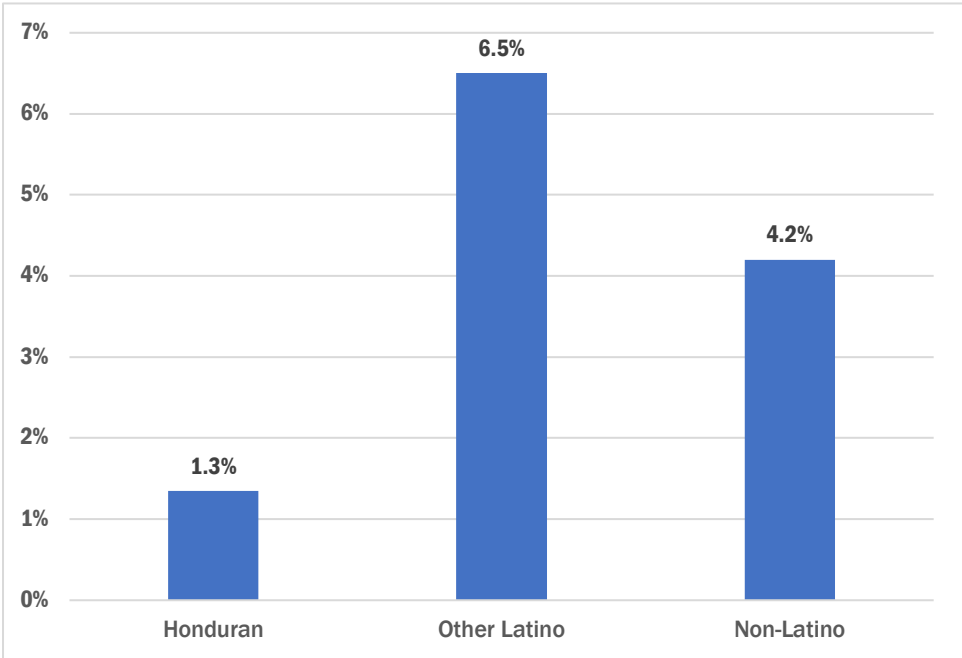


Source: 2017 American Community Survey

Unemployment

In 2017, the ACS estimated Massachusetts unemployment at 4.5% overall, but at 1.3% for Hondurans. This was much lower than for Other Latinos (6.5%) and even for Non-Latinos (4.2%).

Figure 6: Unemployment

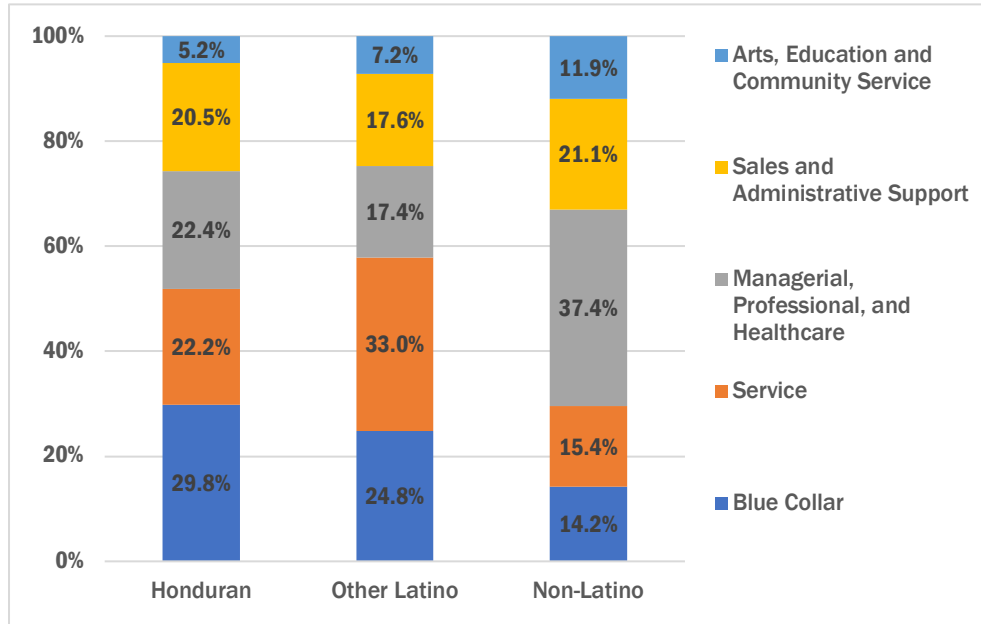


Source: 2017 American Community Survey

Occupations

Over 52% of employed Hondurans (and a larger proportion of Other Latinos, 58%) worked in service and blue-collar occupations, compared to less than 30% for Non-Latinos. In contrast, the percentage in managerial and professional occupations was 22% for Hondurans, 18% for Other Latinos, and 37% for Non-Latinos. These discrepancies suggest that Hondurans (and to a greater extent Other Latinos), with lower average levels of educational attainment, fill segments of the labor market that are very different than those of Non-Latinos.

Figure 7: Occupational Distribution of Employed Workers



Source: 2017 American Community Survey

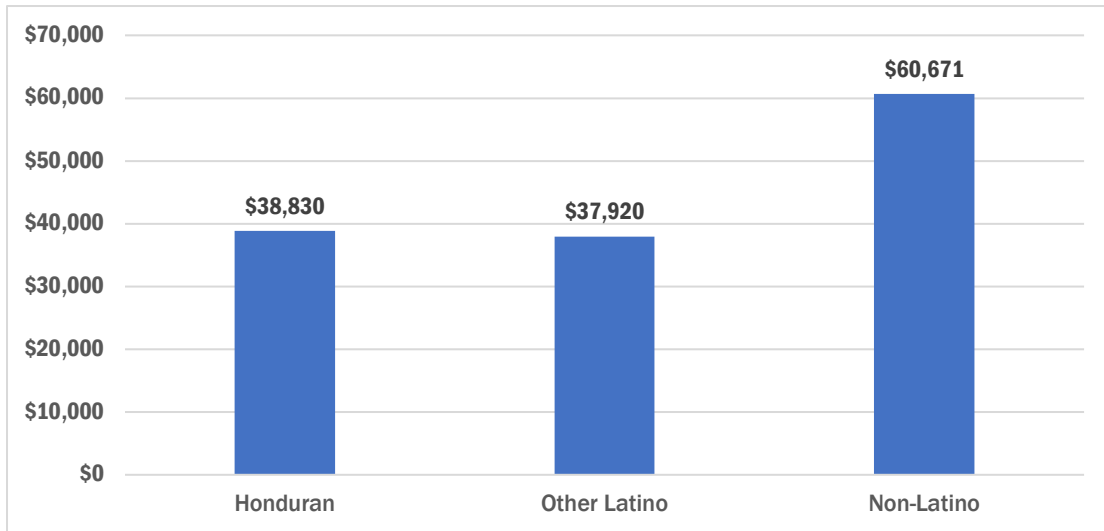
Wages

Given the previous occupational information in Figure 7, we would expect them to earn similar wages to Other Latinos. Full-time Honduran workers in 2017 had a median wage income of \$38,830, which was approximately \$1,000 more than for Other Latinos but \$22,000 less than for Non-Latinos. This overall Latino wage income disparity between Latinos and Non-Latinos persisted when analyzed by nativity, age, and educational attainment.

Poverty

Given their lower wage income, it is surprising that only 14% of Hondurans in 2017 were below the poverty threshold. This is lower than for Other Latinos (23%) though higher than for Non-Latinos (8%). Only 13% of Honduran children in 2017 were living below the poverty threshold, compared to 31% for Other Latinos' children (and 9% for Non-Latino children).

Figure 8: Median Wage Income of Full-Time Workers



Source: 2017 American Community Survey

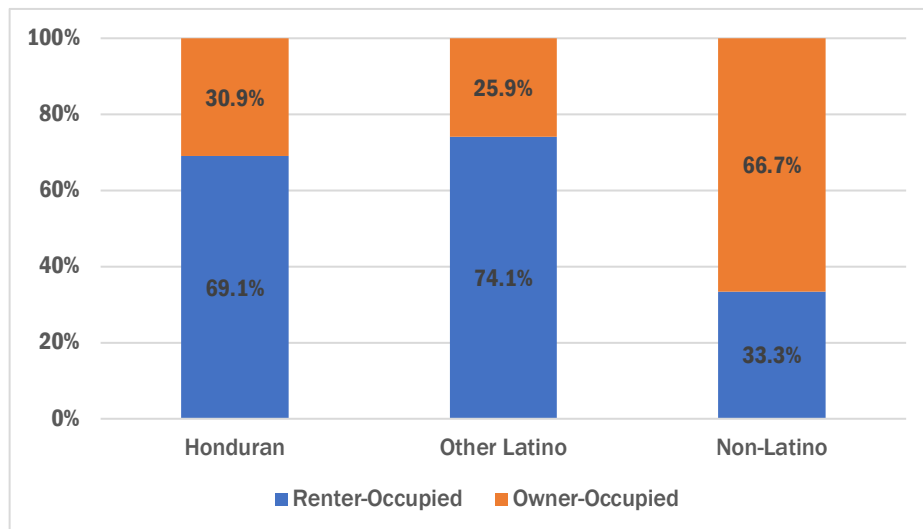
Standard of Living

The final measures of Hondurans' participation in Massachusetts are projected to identify how they are rewarded for their economic, social, and political participation. We look at homeownership, household income, housing costs, and medical insurance.

Homeownership

Hondurans in 2017 had a higher homeownership rate (31%) than for Other Latinos (26%) but much lower than that for Non-Latinos (67%). This means that 69% of Hondurans were renters.

Figure 9: Homeownership

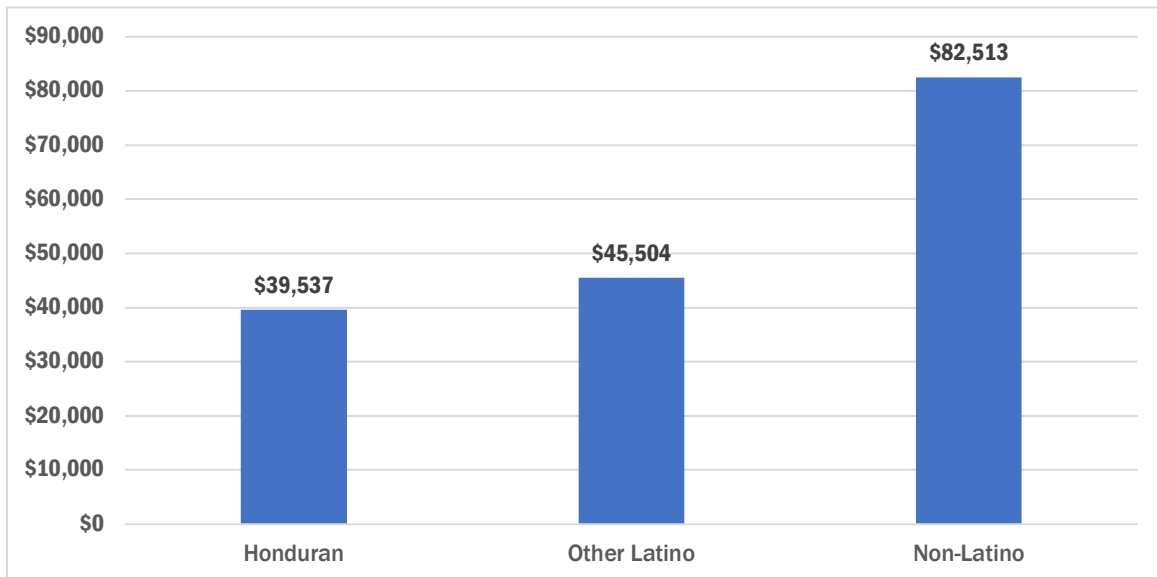


Source: 2017 American Community Survey

Household Income

Household income is another aid in assessing a population’s standard of living. It accounts for the incomes of all people ages 15 years or older occupying the same housing unit, regardless of relation. Hondurans’ median household income was \$39,537. This was lower than for Other Latino households (\$45,504) and much lower than for Non-Latinos (\$82,513).

Figure 10: Median Household Income

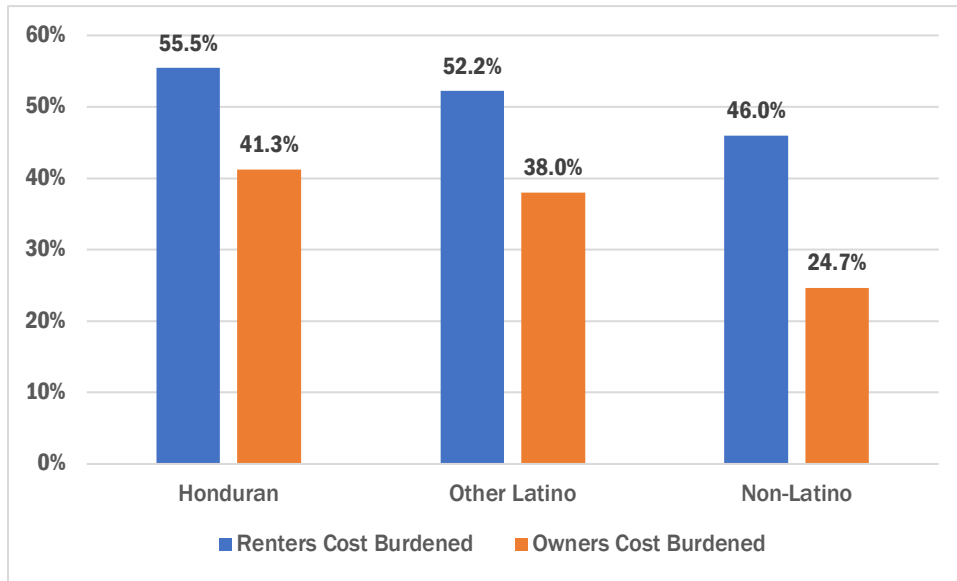


Source: 2017 American Community Survey

Housing Cost Burden

A housing cost burdened household spends more than 30% of its monthly income on a rent or mortgage payment. In Massachusetts, noted for its high housing costs, 47% of all renting households in 2017 were housing cost burdened. This figure was 56% for Honduran households, 52% for Other Latino households, and 46% for Non-Latino households. Among homeowners, 41% of Honduran household were housing cost burdened. This was higher than for Other Latinos (38%) and Non-Latinos (25%)

Figure 11: Housing Cost Burden

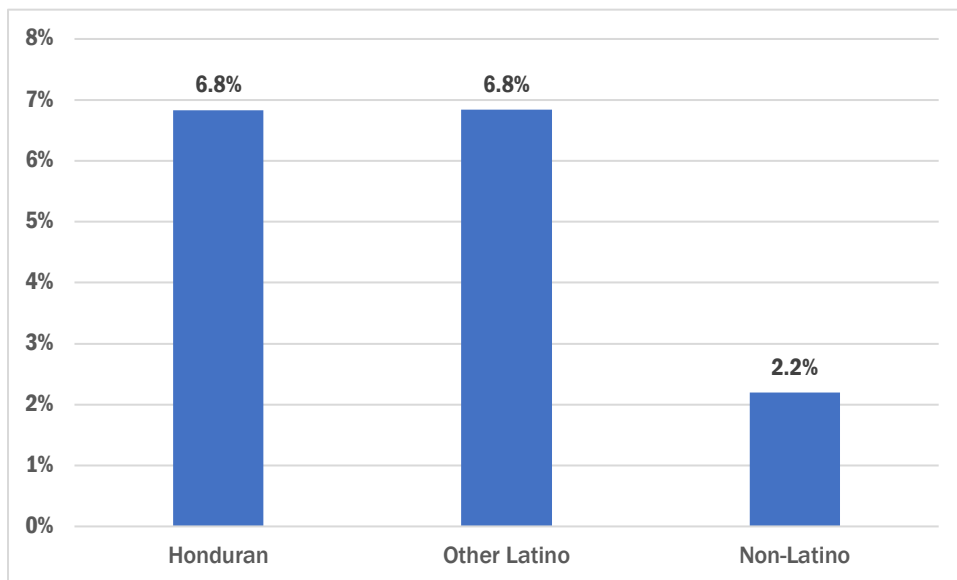


Source: 2017 American Community Survey

Medical Insurance

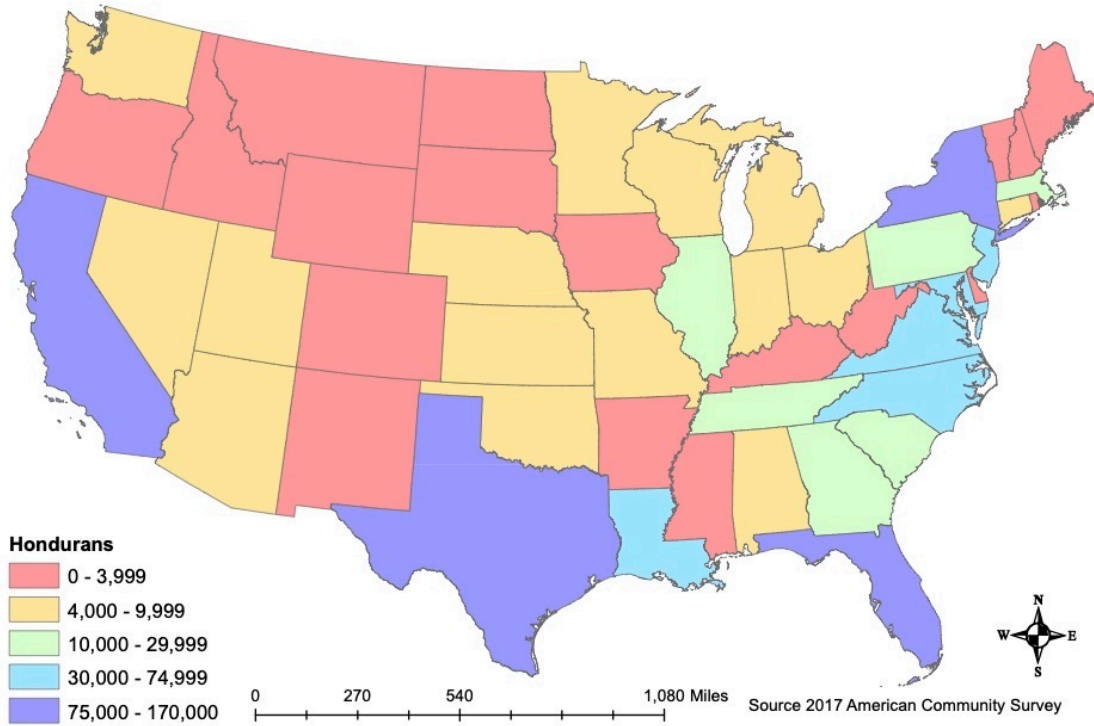
The same proportion of Hondurans as of Other Latinos (7%) had less access to health insurance in 2017, while the figure for Non-Latinos (2%) was barely above zero. However, Honduran children had higher rates of uninsurance 4% compared to 2% for Other Latinos and 1% for Non-Latinos.

Figure 12: Medical Uninsurance

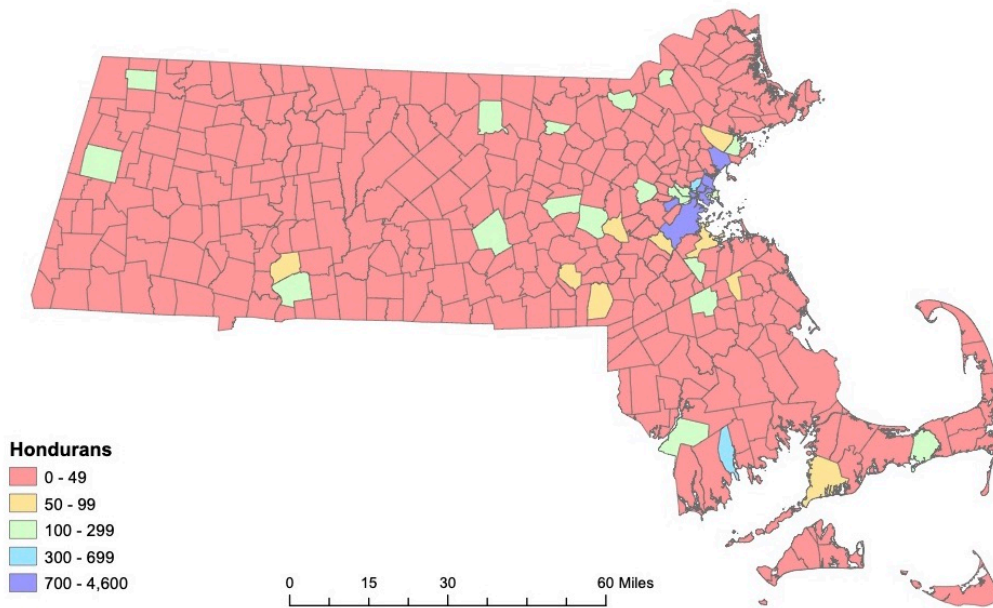


Source: 2017 American Community Survey

Appendix A: Hondurans in the United States



Appendix B: Hondurans in the Massachusetts



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 - 2017 American Community Survey, American Factfinder Table: B03001

Latinos in Massachusetts: Hondurans

by Phillip Granberry, PH.D., and Krizia Valentino.

September, 2020

We are grateful for the support of **Andrés Torres Paper Series, Marie Kennedy and Chris Tilly**, and the following sponsors:



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 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.

Krizia Valentino is a 2020 graduate from the Applied Economics program at UMass Boston. She has supported data collection and analysis for a wide range of projects at the Gastón Institute, including a Survey Report for English for New Bostonians and the Latino Non-Profit Mapping Project with Amplify Latinx.



THE MAURICIO GASTÓN INSTITUTE
FOR LATINO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AND PUBLIC POLICY
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON

www.umb.edu/gastoninstitute
gastoninstitute@umb.edu

| [@GastonInstitute](https://twitter.com/GastonInstitute)
| 617.287.5790