

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/)).

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Data Notes

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.

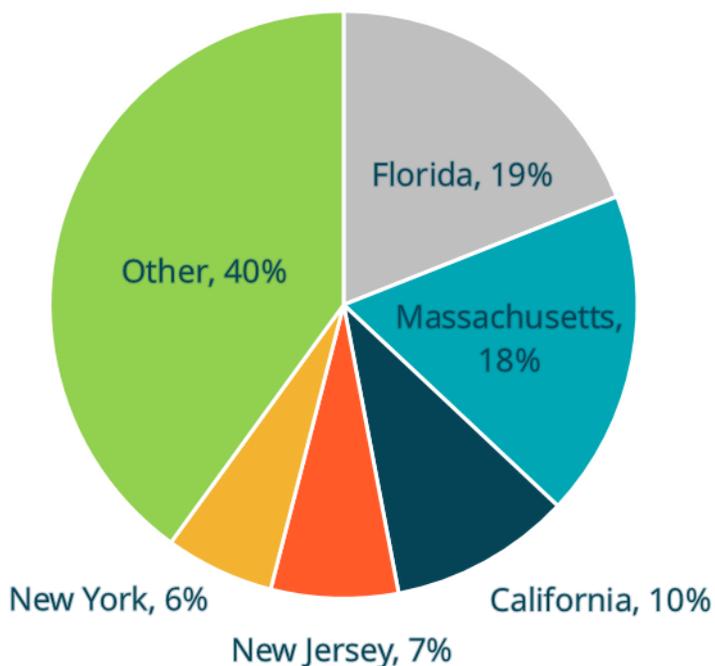
"Latino" includes people who 1. self-describe their ethnicity as "Hispanic or Latino", or 2. were born in Brazil, or 3. who self-describe their ancestry as Brazilian.

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

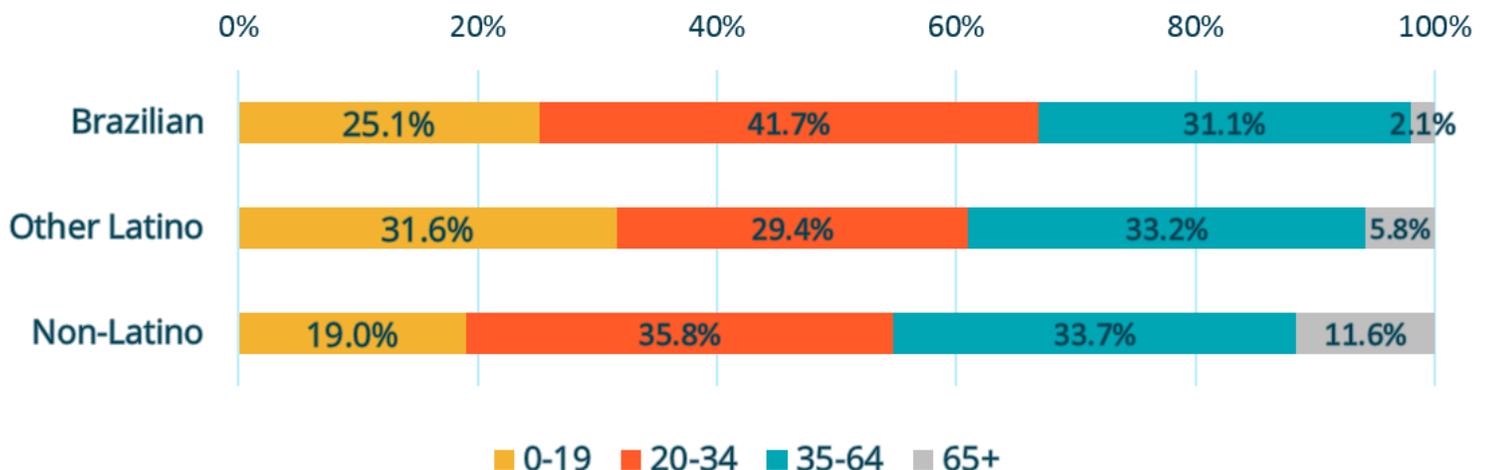


The American Community Survey reports that Boston's Brazilian population was 4,208 in 2015, down from 5,015 in 2010.² Accounting for 3 percent of all Latinos in Boston, Brazilians are the seventh largest Latino population in the city. Other Latino populations include Puerto Ricans (28 percent), Dominicans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



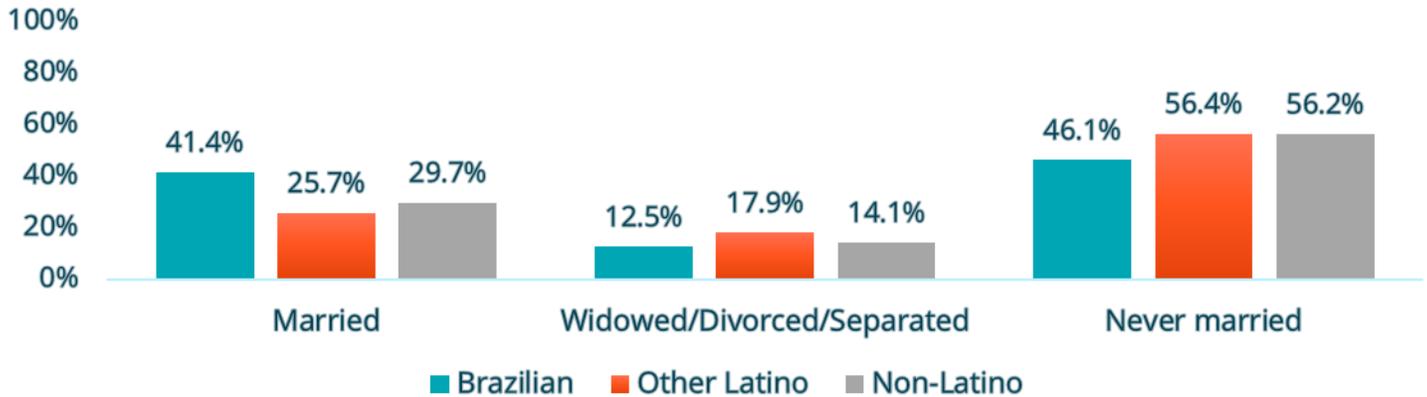
² U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 & 2015 1-year American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

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

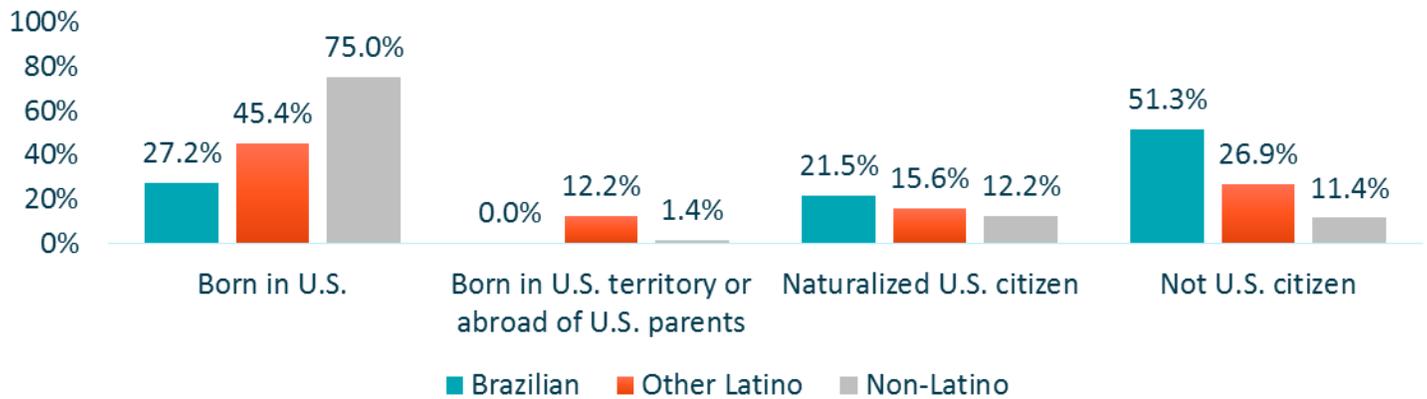
3% of Boston's Latinos are Brazilian



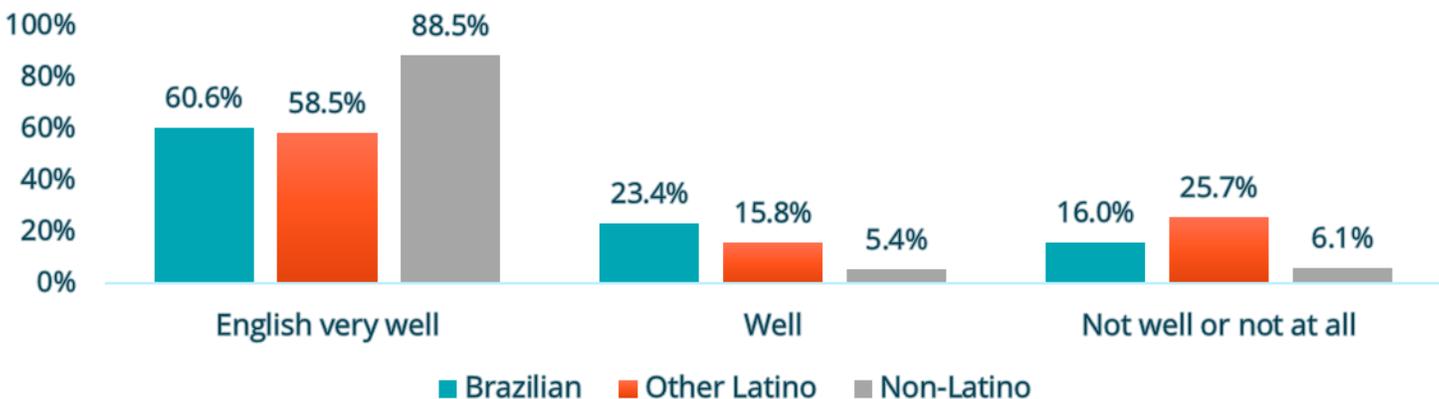
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)



Citizenship



English Proficiency (ages 5 and older)



Standard of Living

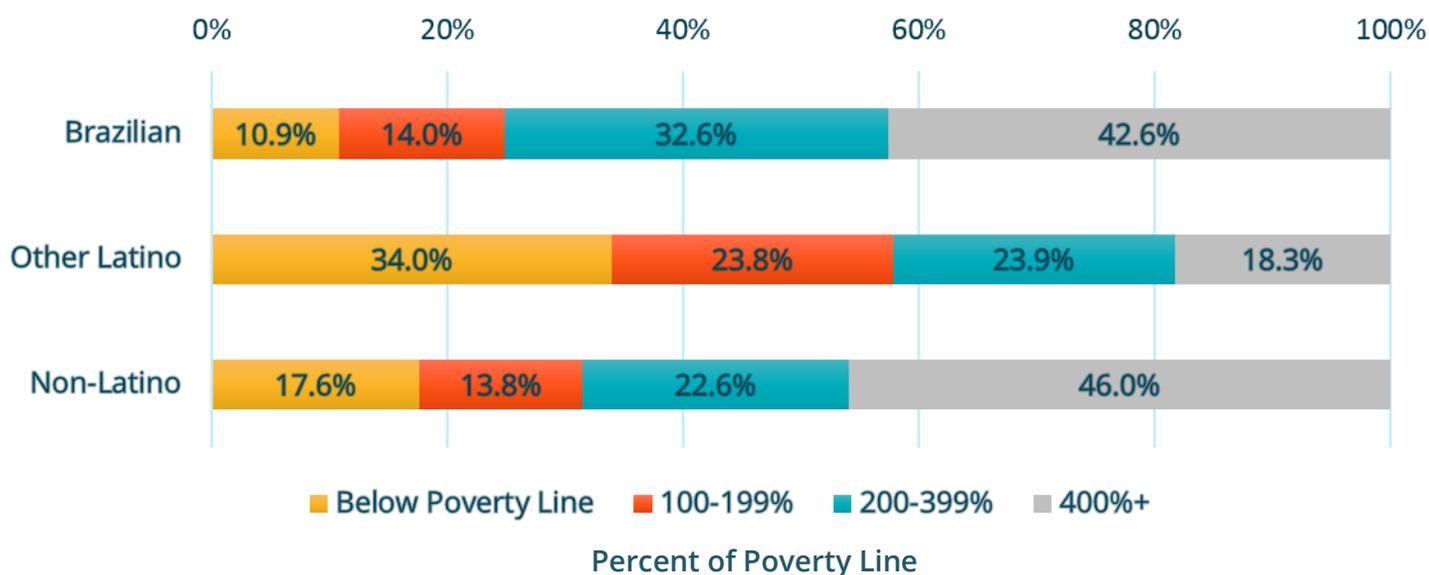


Brazilians in Boston have a higher standard of living than other Latino groups. Only 11 percent of Brazilians live below the Census poverty line, and 43 percent have achieved a middle class standard of living. A family income four times the poverty line is used as a proxy for a middle-class standard 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

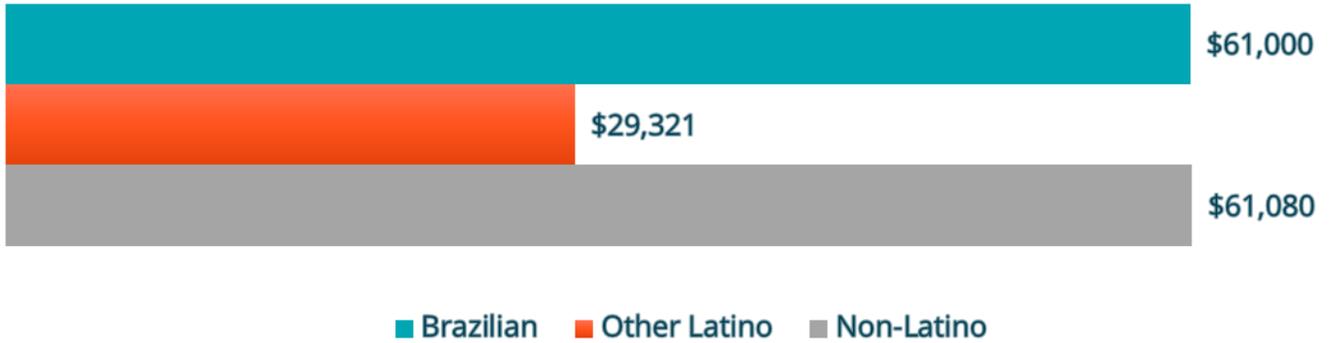


⁴ The ACS excludes households that are vacant, being bought, occupied without rent payment, have no household income or are group quarters when reporting owner/renter costs as a percentage of household income. Therefore, the sum of housing-burdened and non-housing-burdened households may not add exactly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

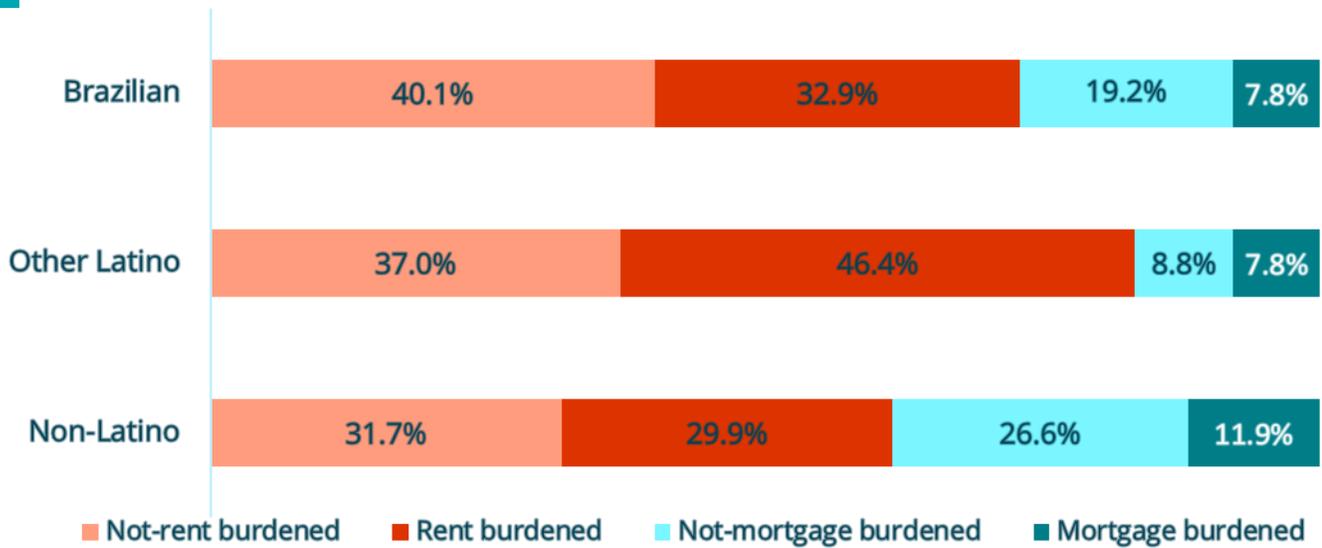
11% of Brazilians in Boston live in poverty



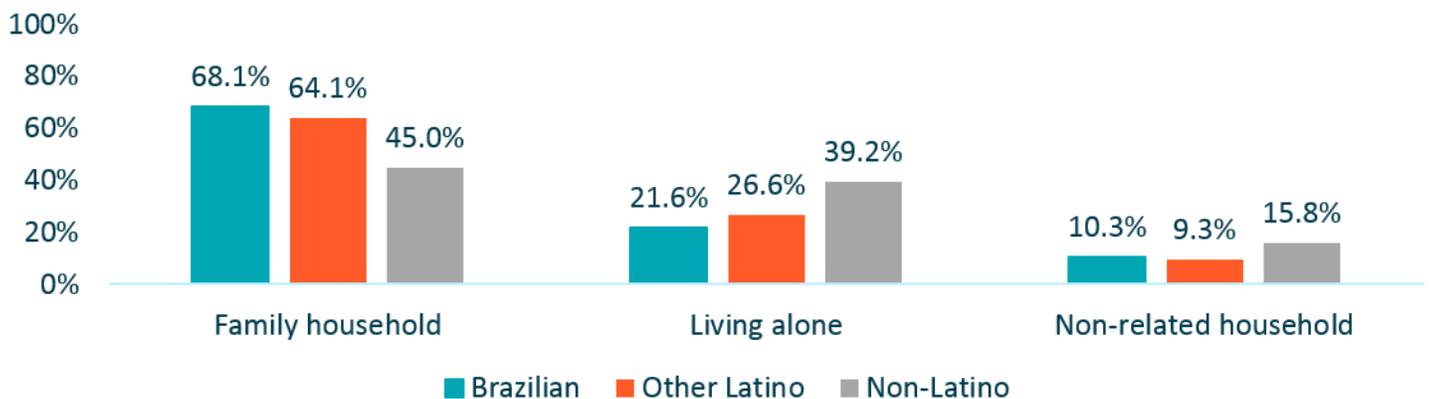
Median Household Income



Tenure and Housing Burden

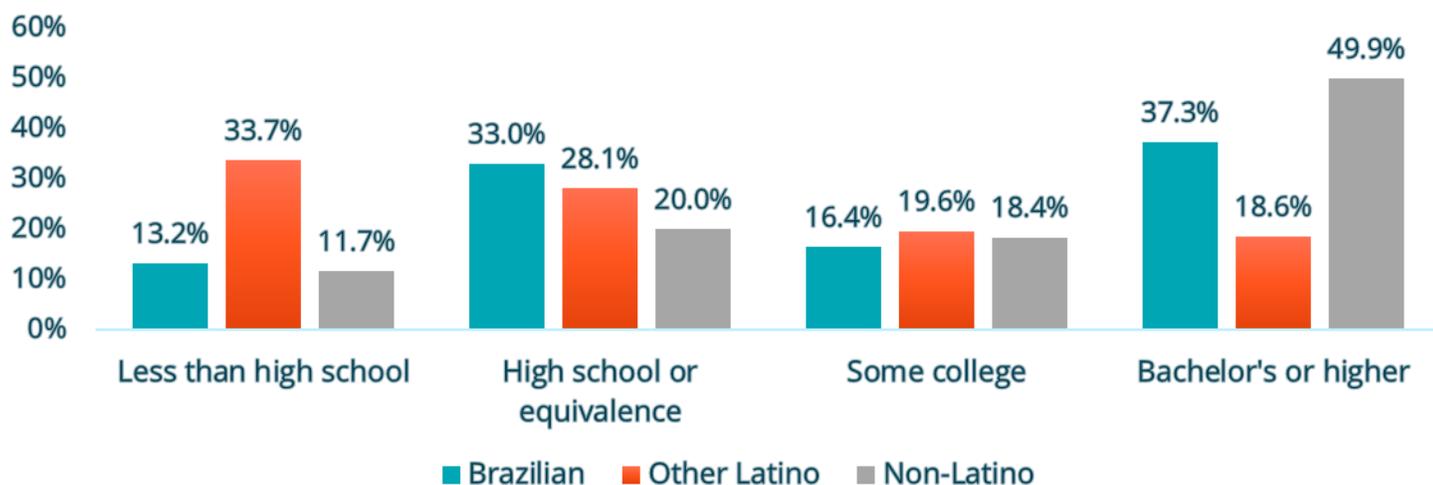


Household Type





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.

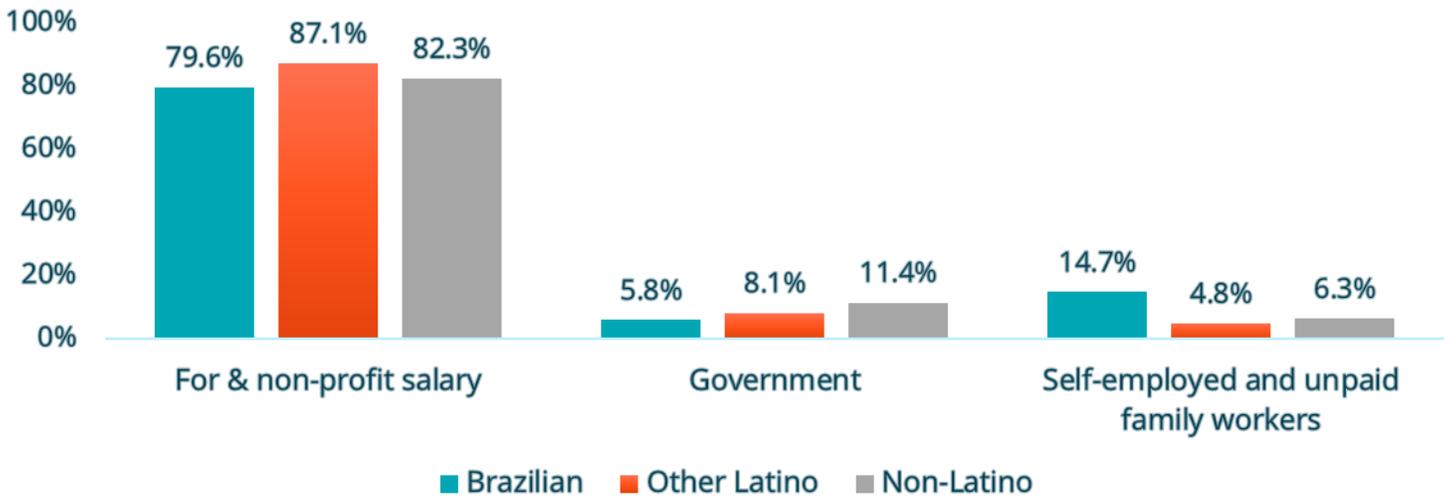
Labor Force Participation | About 71 percent of Brazilians ages 16 and over participate in the labor force. Labor force participation is higher for Brazilian men than women (81 percent vs. 60 percent).

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.

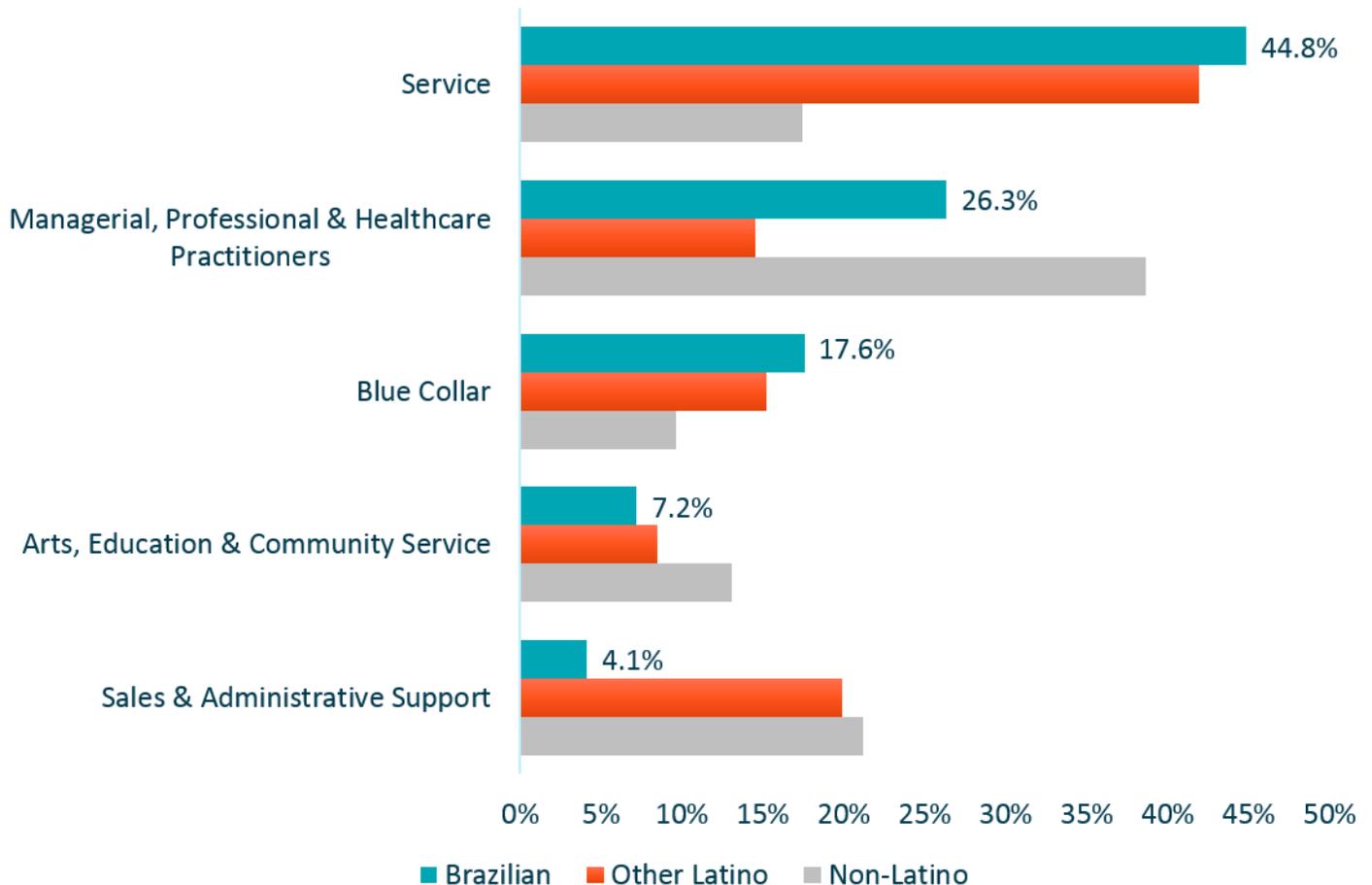


66% of Brazilians are employed

Employment Type (ages 16 and older)



Occupations of Employed Workers

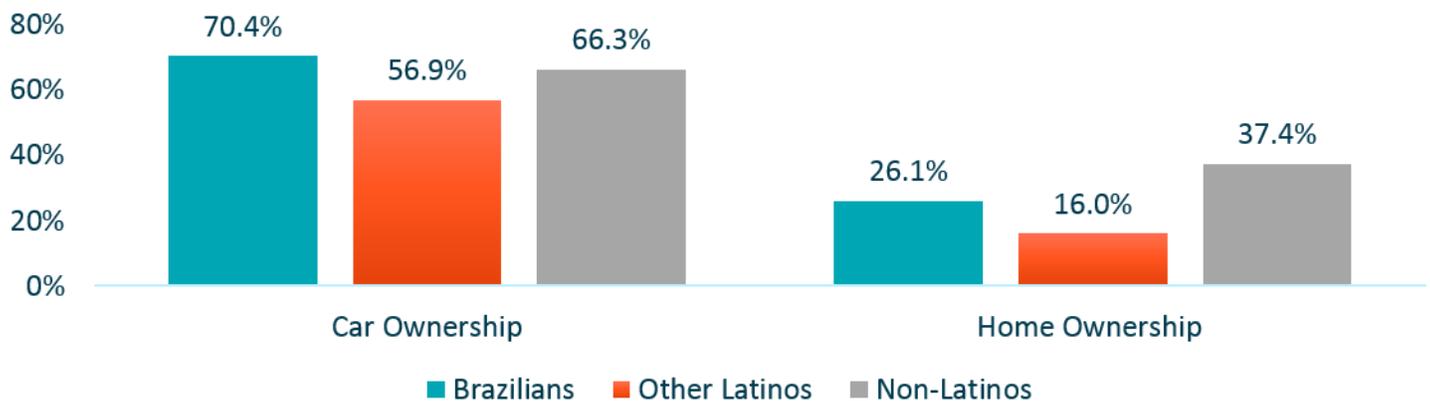


Transportation

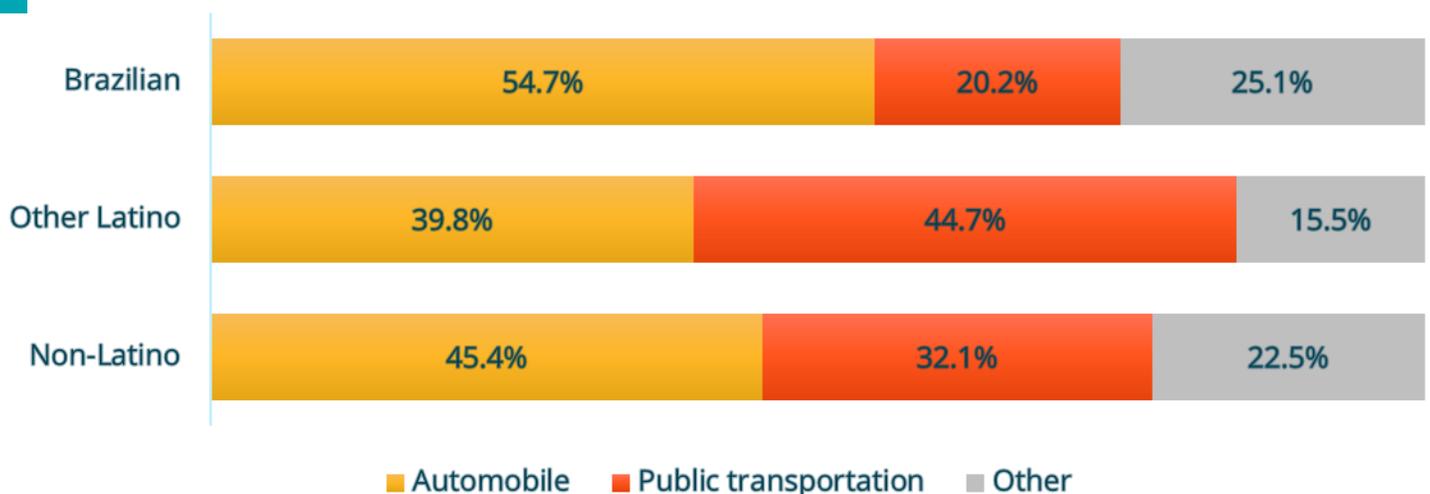


Brazilians are concentrated in East Boston, Allston, Brighton, and West Roxbury, as well as Jamaica Plain, Hyde Park, and South Boston. A smaller share of Brazilians (24 percent) work outside of Suffolk County than other Latinos (30 percent) and non-Latinos (33 percent). The average Brazilian commute 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.

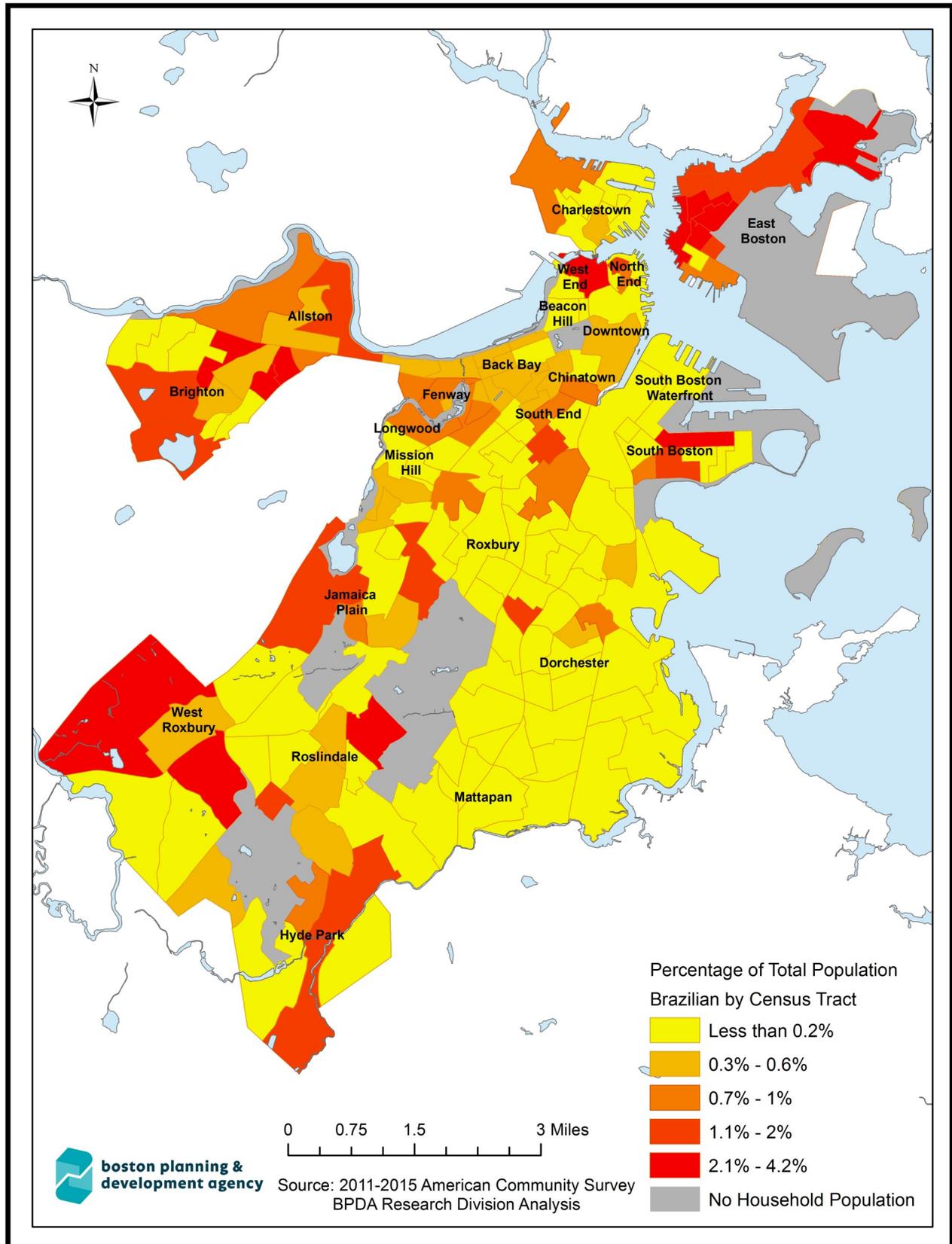
Car and Homeownership



Transportation Type



Map of Brazilians in Boston



Latinos in Boston

Puerto Ricans

Dominicans

Salvadorans

Colombians

Mexicans

Guatemalans

Brazilians



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