

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).

The Boston Planning & Development Agency

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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.

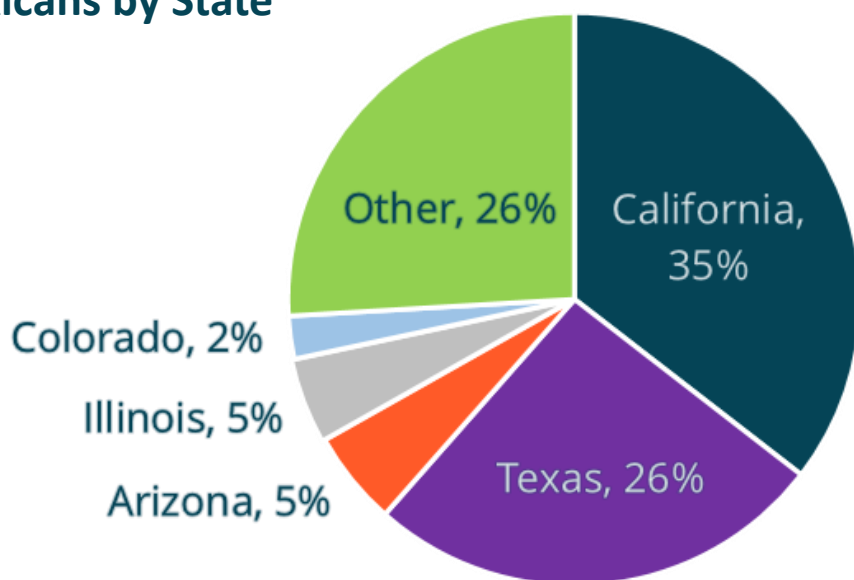
"Latino" includes people who 1. self-describe their ethnicity as "Hispanic or Latino", or 2. were born in Brazil, or 3. self-describe their ancestry as Brazilian.

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

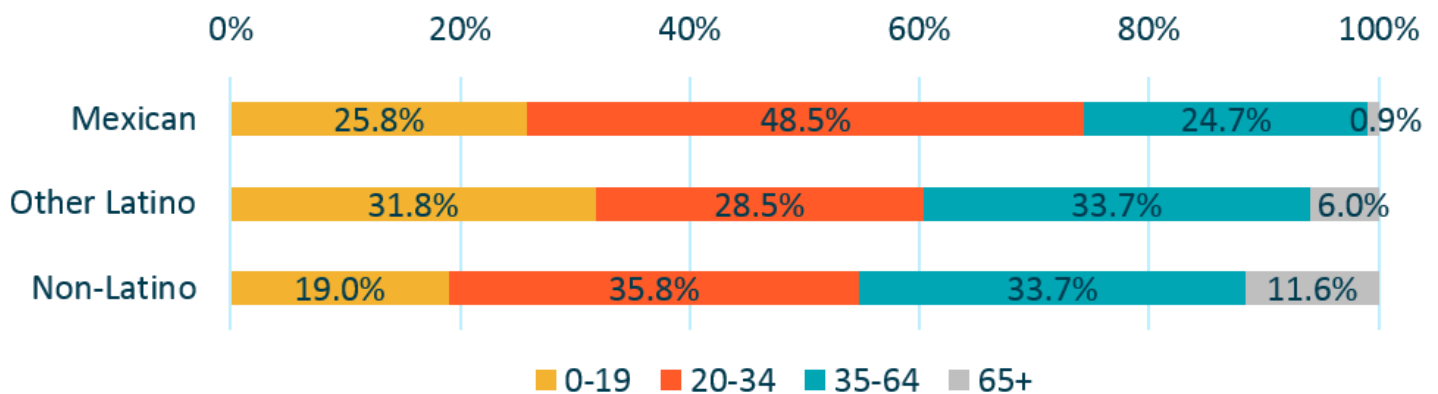
Mexicans in Boston



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



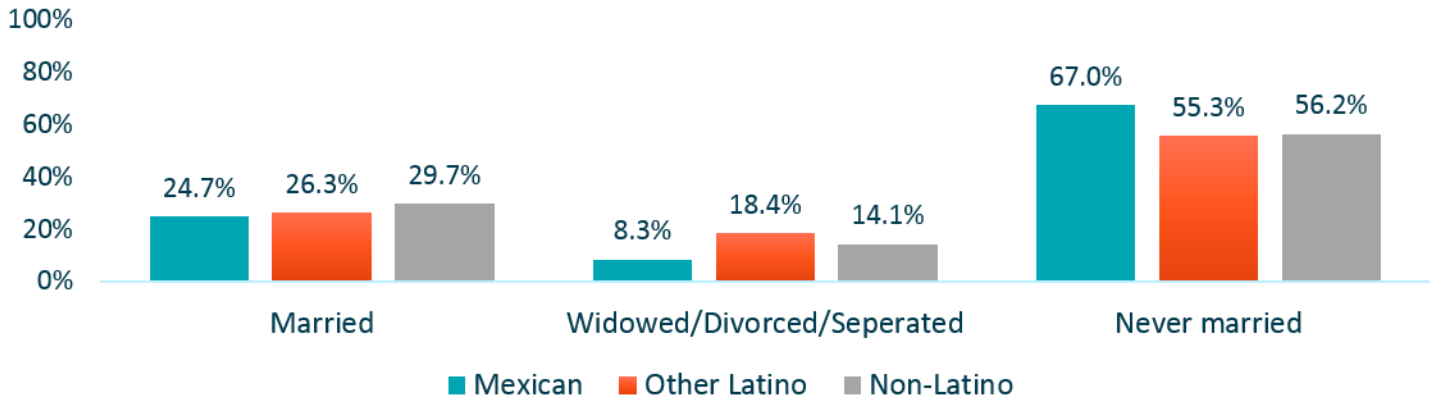
² U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 1-year American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

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

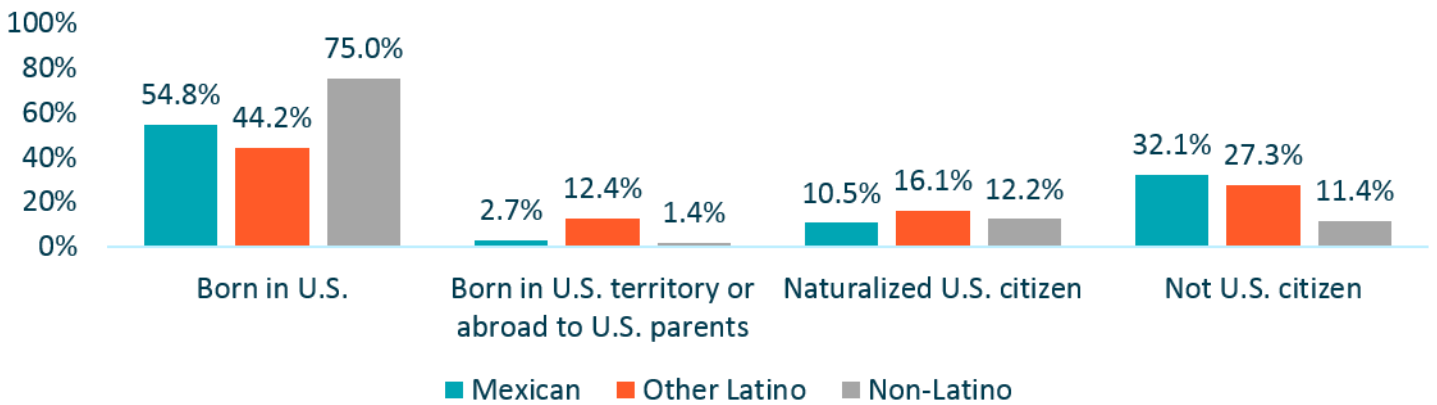
5% of Boston's Latinos are Mexican



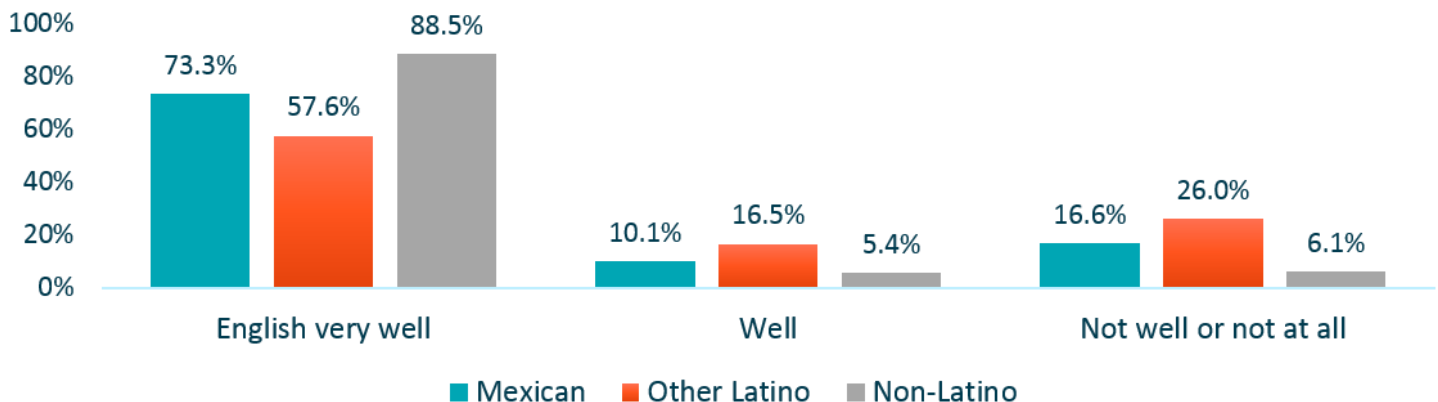
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)



Citizenship

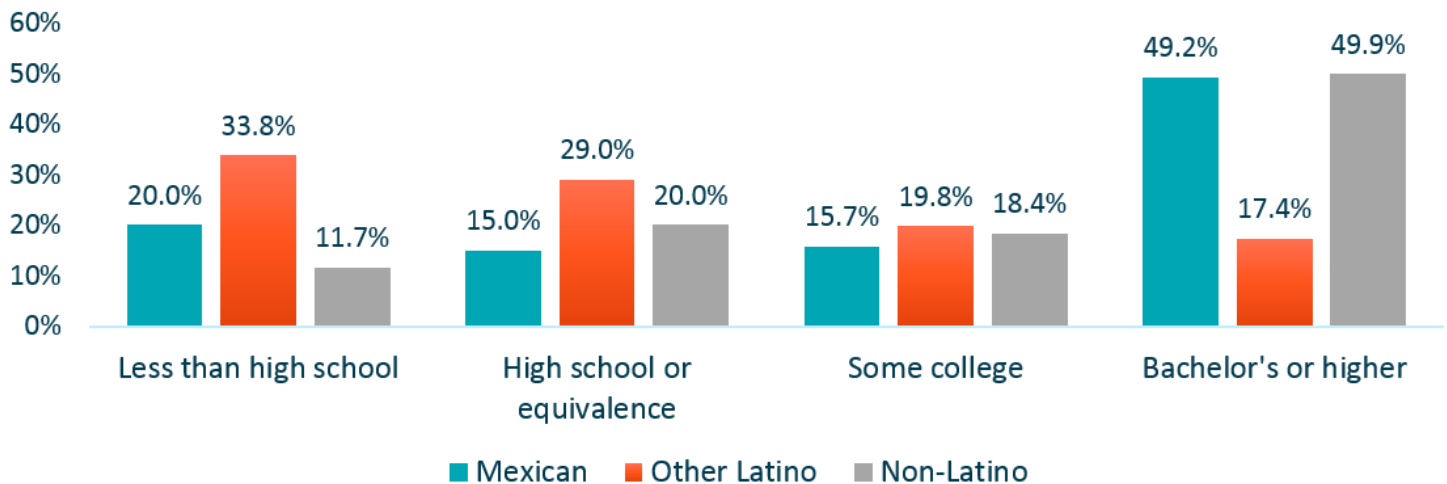


English Proficiency (ages 5 and older)





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.

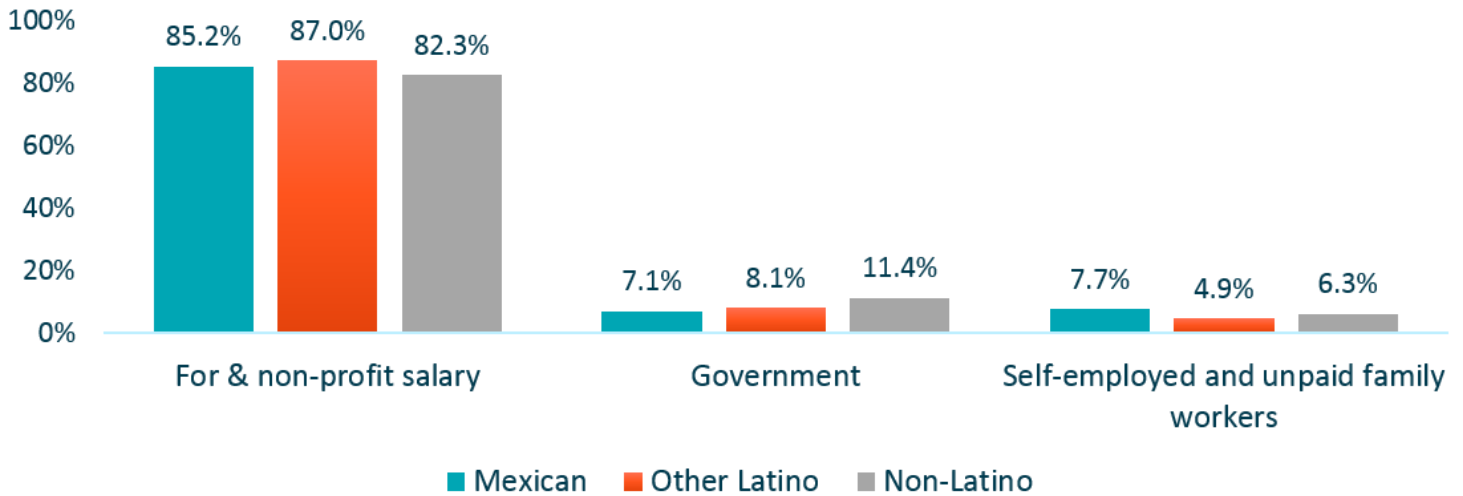
Employment | Almost 8 percent of Mexicans in Boston are self-employed, a higher rate than other groups. Unlike other Latino groups, the largest occupation group for Mexicans is managerial and professional occupations (27 percent).

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.

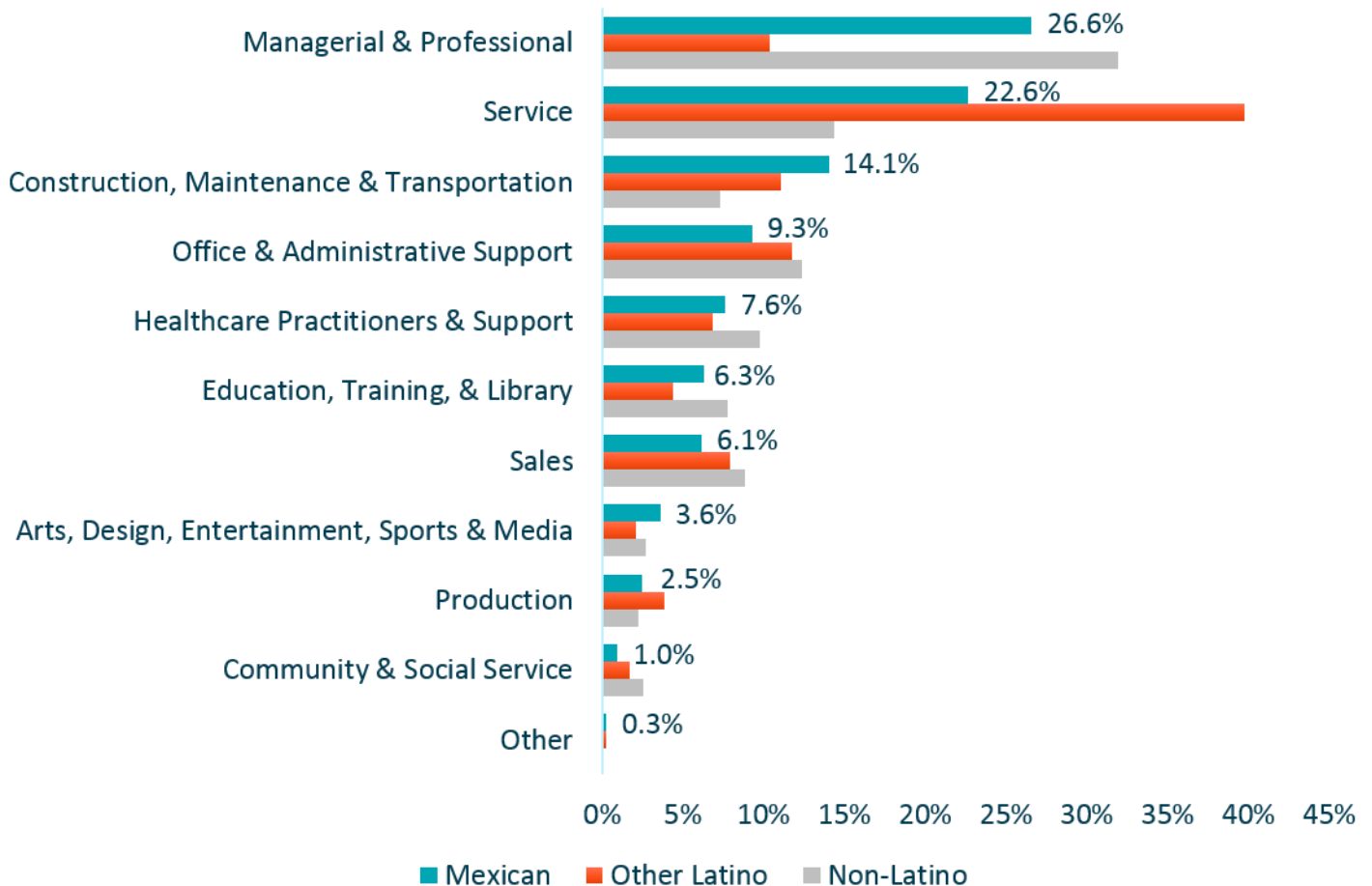


62% of Mexicans are employed

Employment Type (ages 16 and older)



Occupations of Employed Workers



Standard of Living

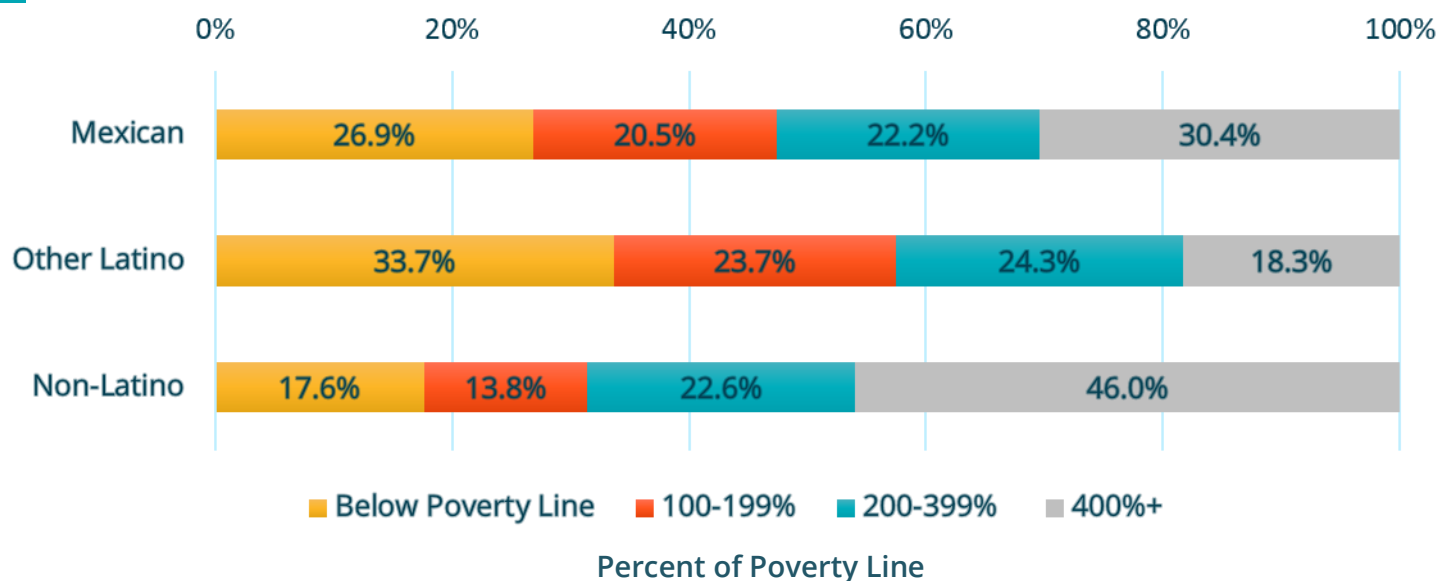


About 27 percent of Mexicans live below the Census poverty line, and approximately 30 percent have achieved a middle class standard of living. . A family income four times the poverty line is used as a proxy for a middle-class standard of living. The actual income needed to achieve this standard depends 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

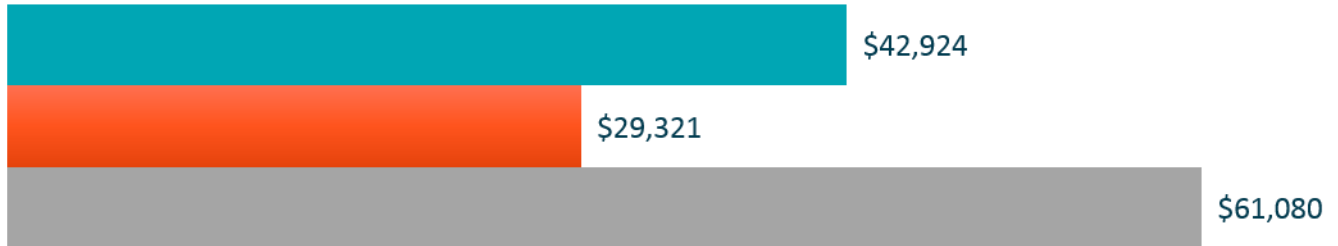


⁴ The ACS excludes households that are vacant, being bought, occupied without rent payment, have no household income or are group quarters when reporting owner/renter costs as a percentage of household income. Therefore, the sum of housing-burdened and non-housing-burdened households may not add exactly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

27% of Mexicans in Boston live in poverty

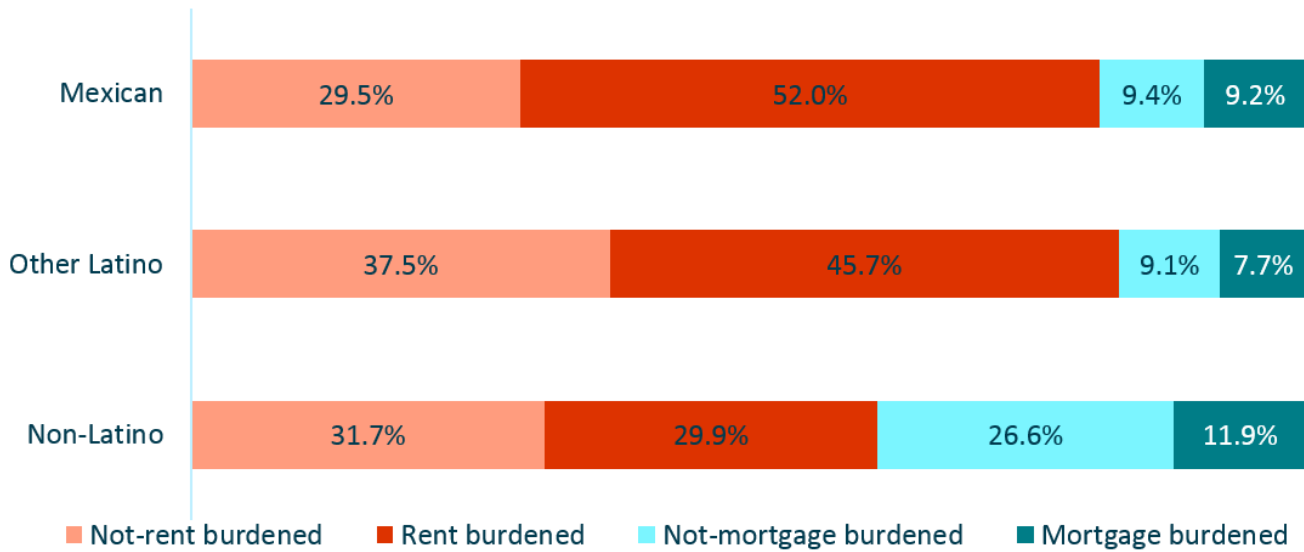


Median Household Income



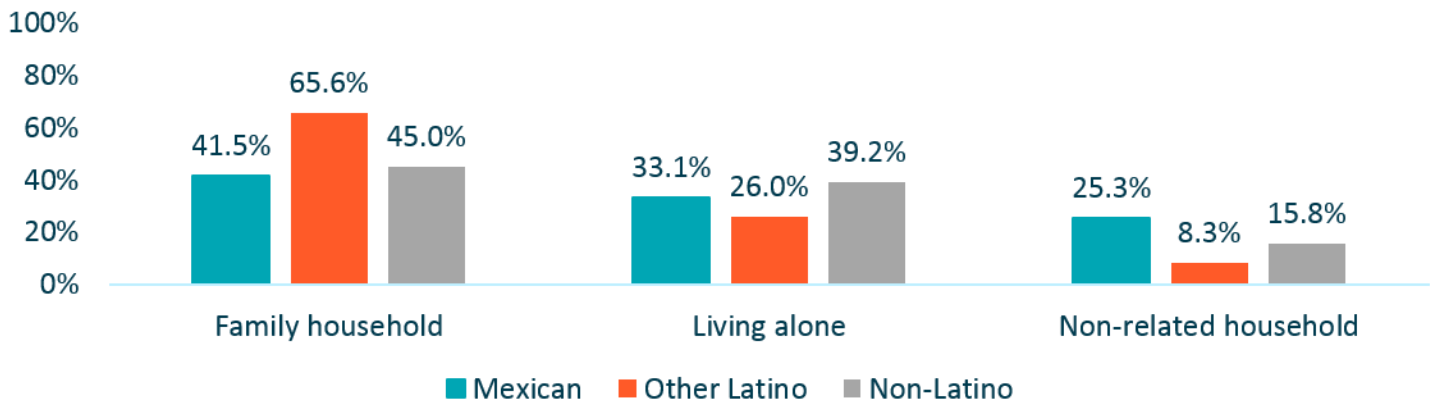
■ Mexican ■ Other Latino ■ Non-Latino

Tenure and Housing Burden



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

Household Type

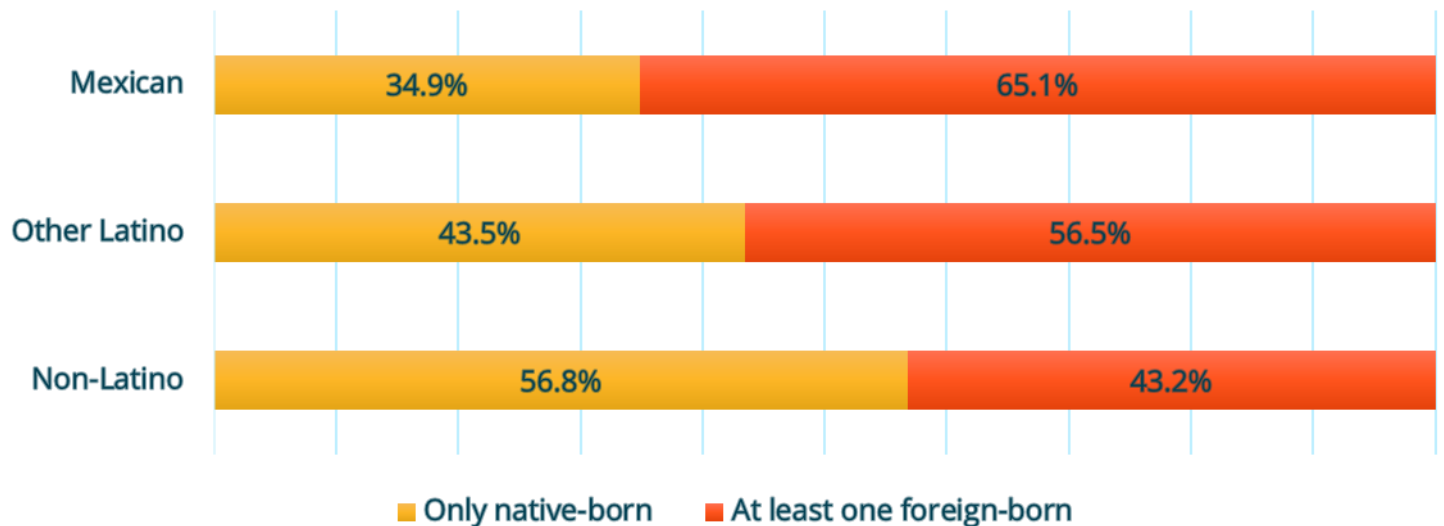


■ Mexican ■ Other Latino ■ Non-Latino

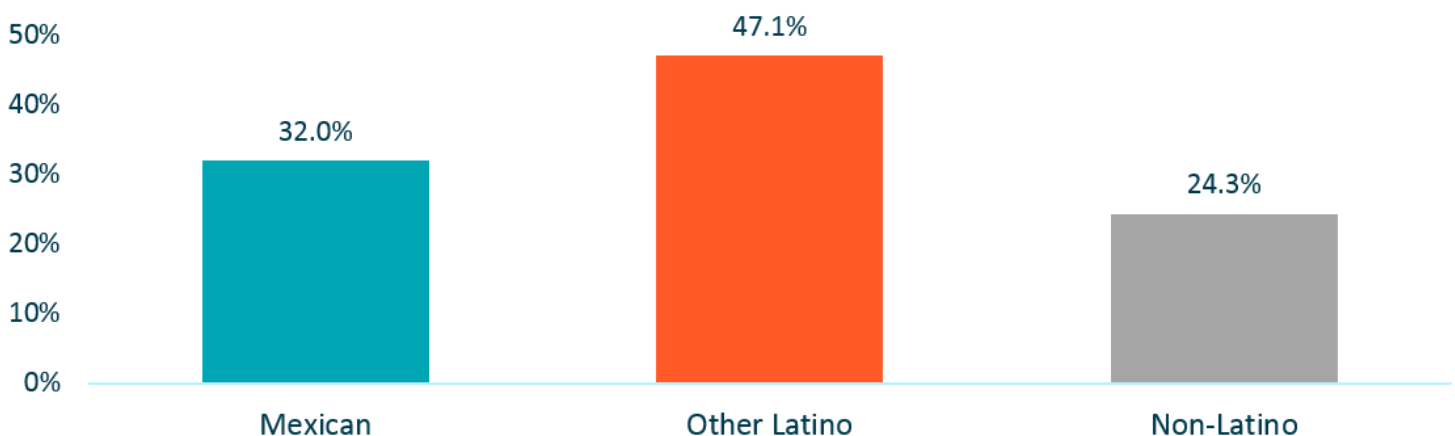
Mexican Children

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.

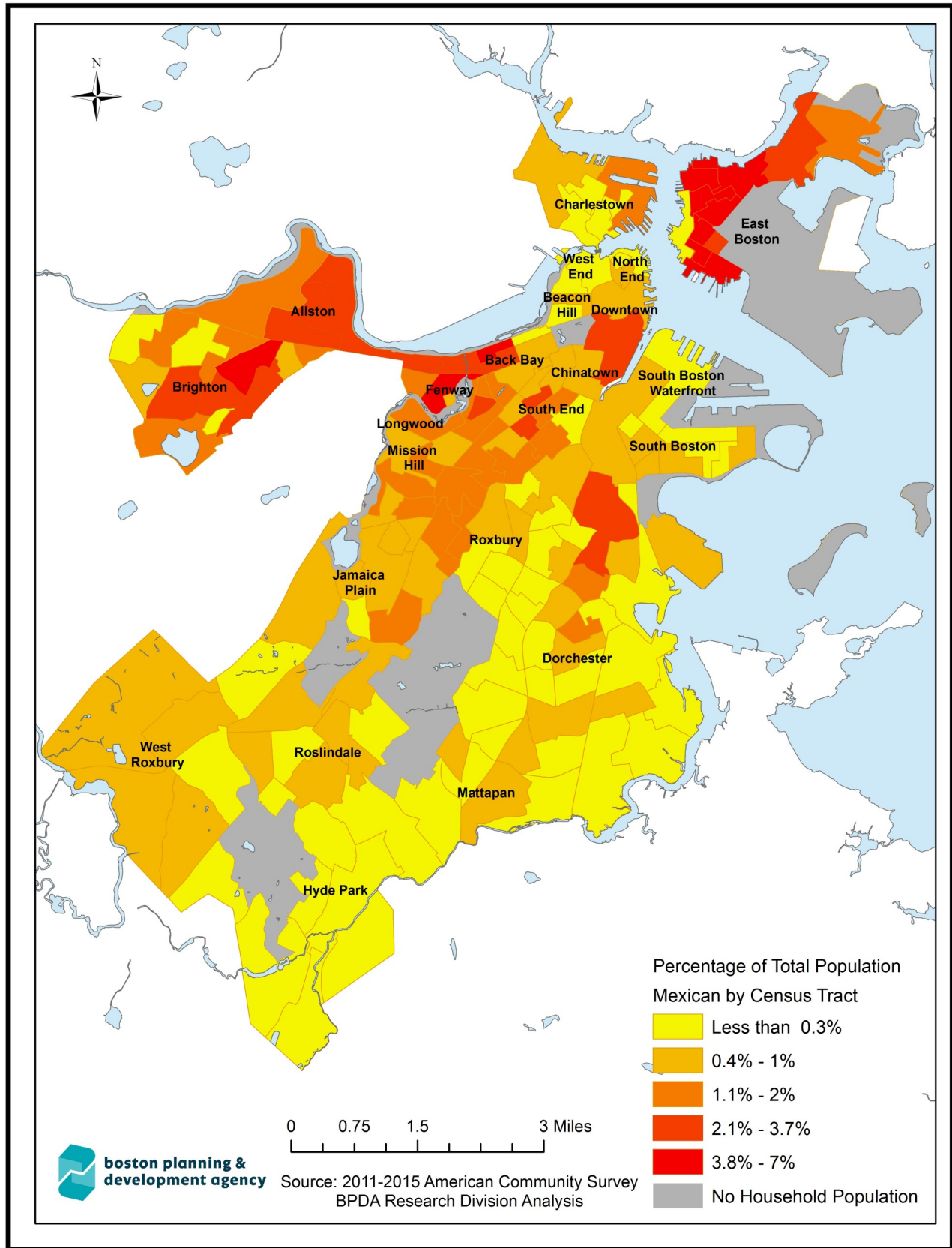
Parent Nativity



Child Poverty



Map of Mexicans in Boston



Latinos in Boston

Puerto Ricans

Dominicans

Salvadorans

Colombians

Mexicans

Guatemalans

Brazilians



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