

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).

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.

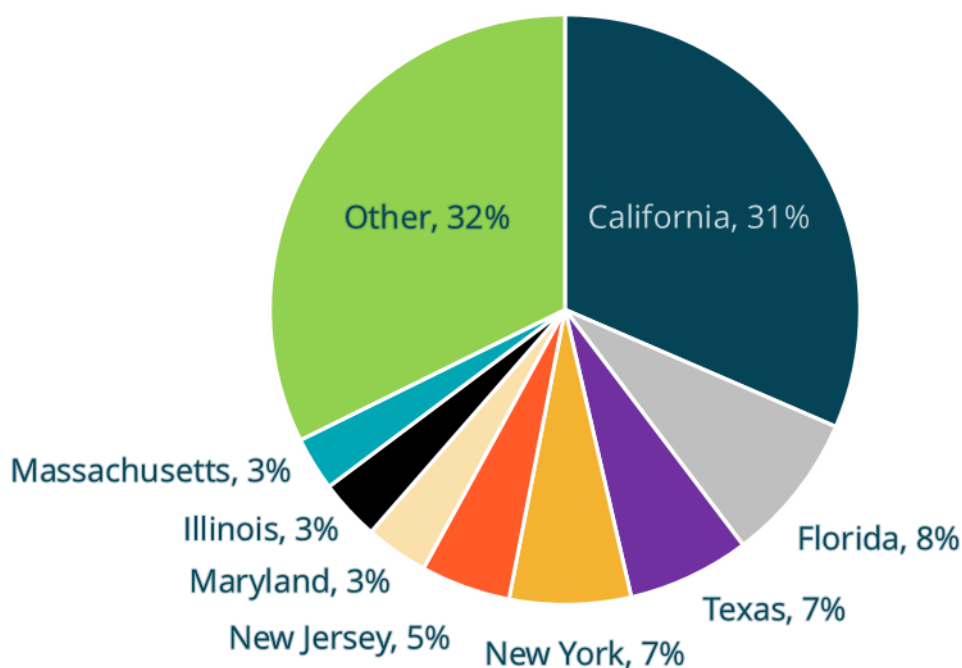
"Latino" includes people who 1. self-describe their ethnicity as "Hispanic or Latino", or 2. were born in Brazil, or 3. self-describe their ancestry as Brazilian.

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

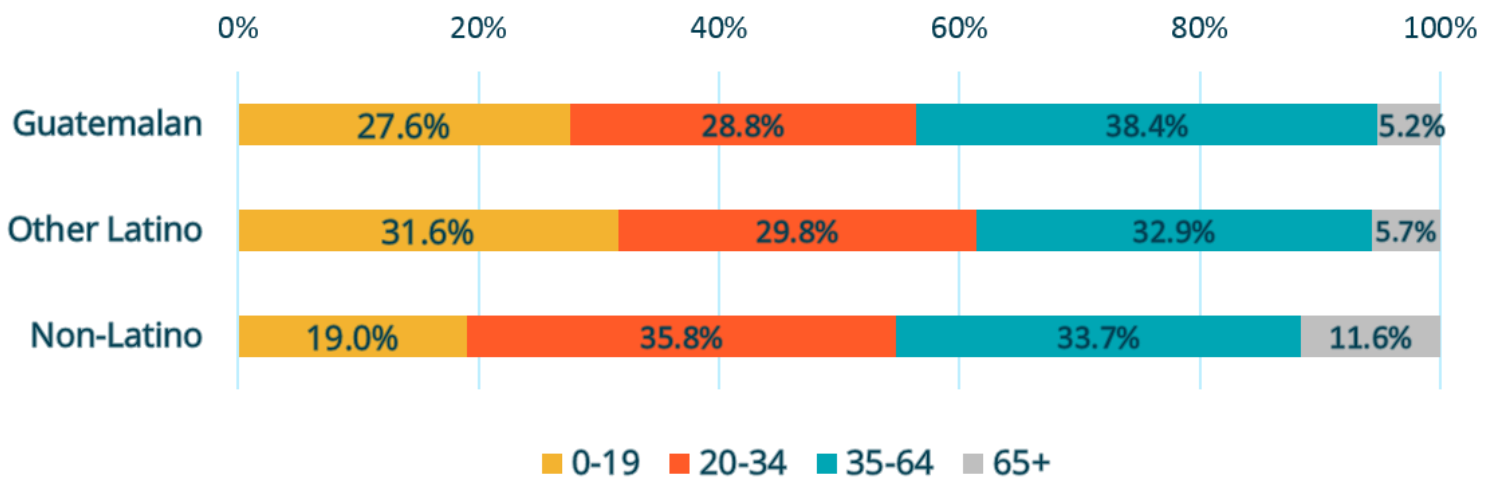
Guatemalans in Boston



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



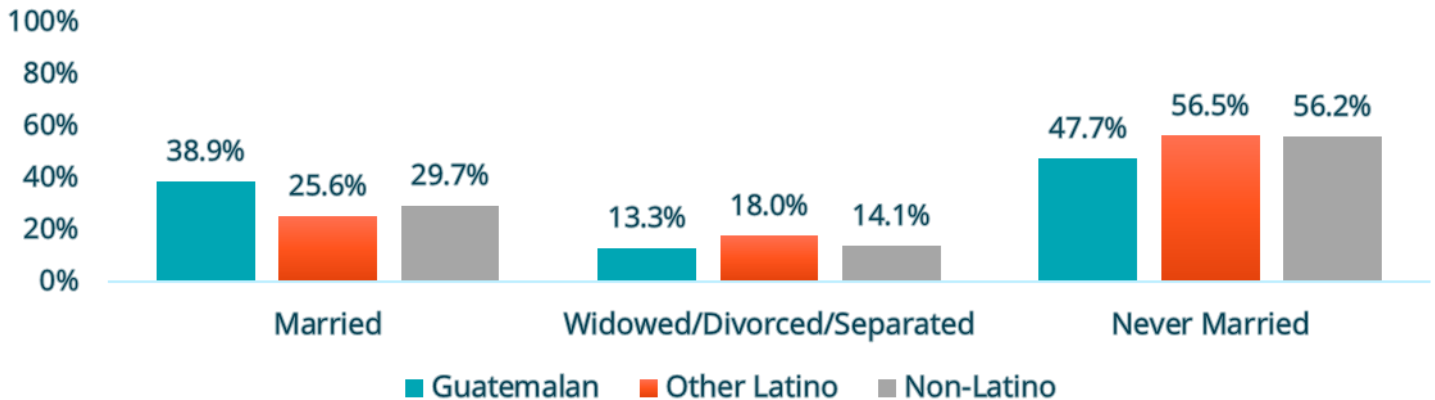
² U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 & 2010 Decennial Censuses, 2015 American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

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

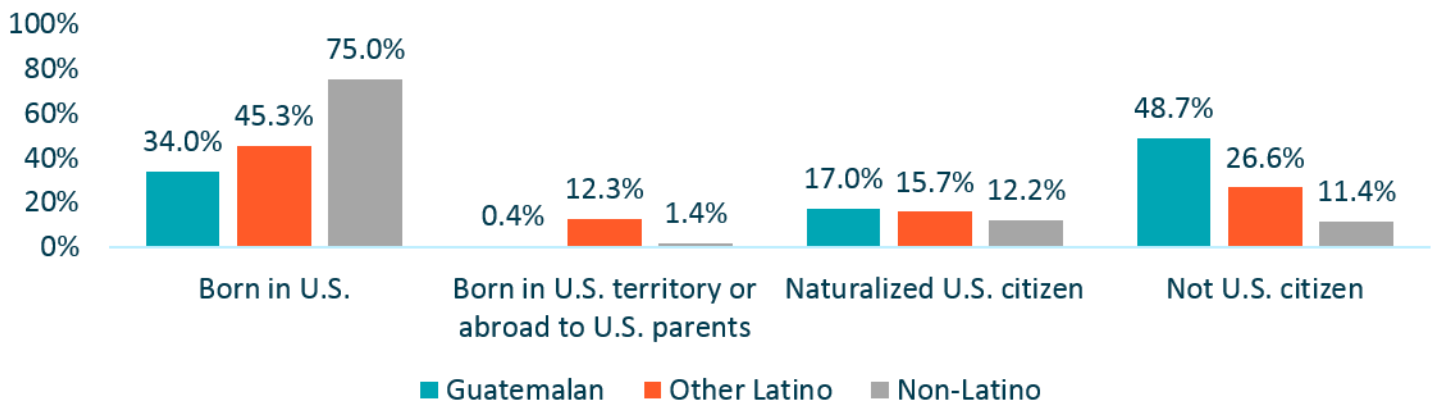
3% of Boston's Latinos are Guatemalan



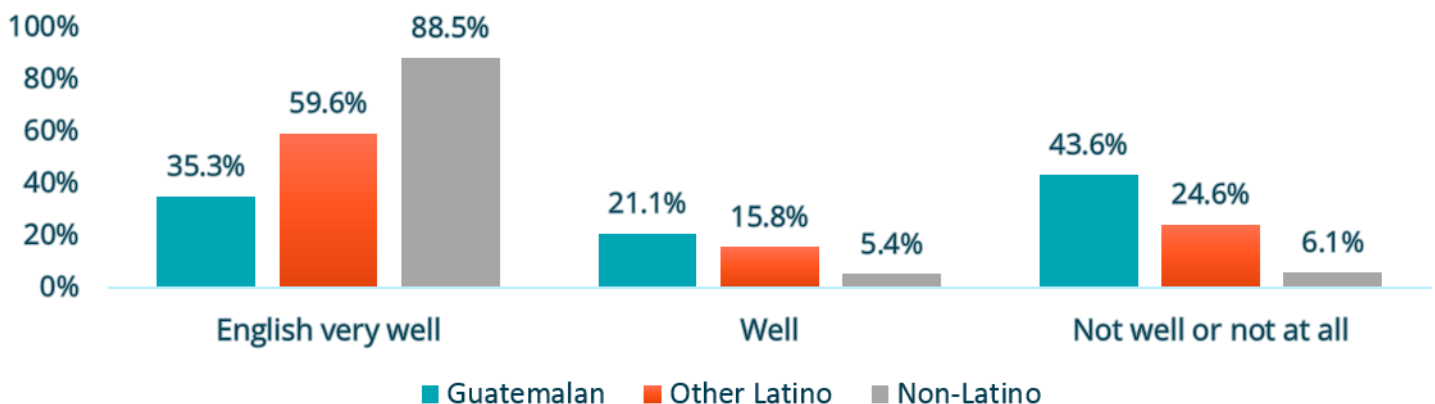
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)



Citizenship



English Proficiency (ages 5 and older)



Standard of Living

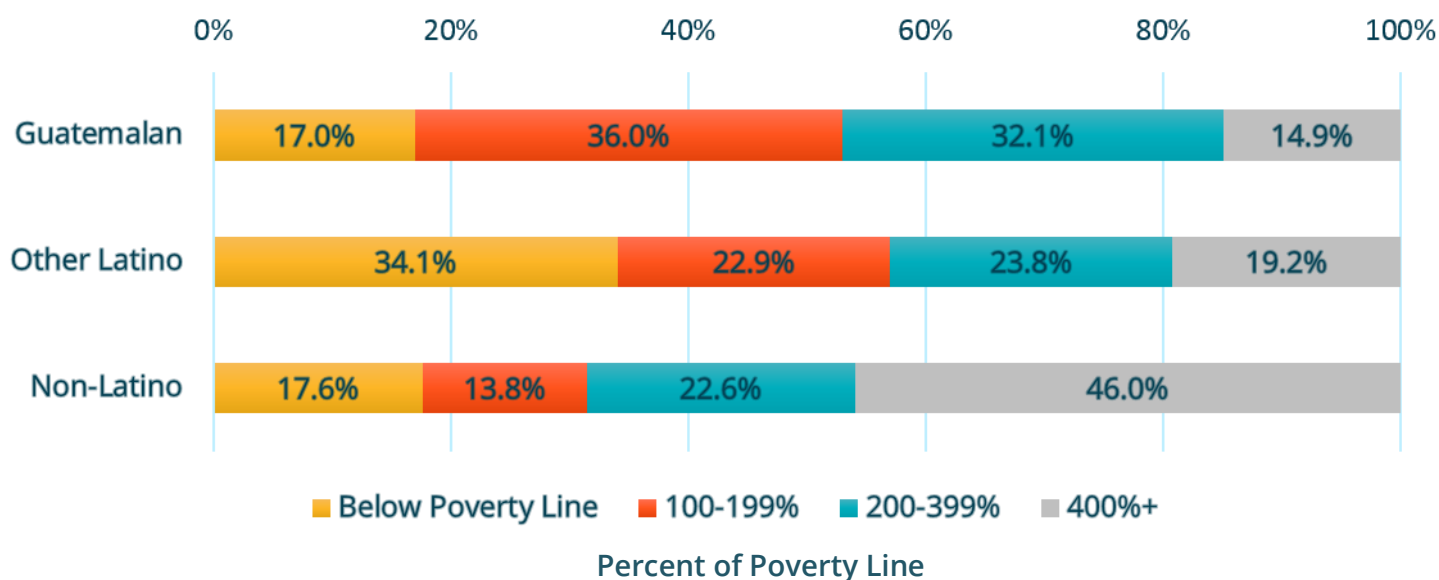


A similar share of Guatemalans (17 percent) compared to non-Latinos (18 percent) live below the Census poverty line. In contrast, only 15 percent of Guatemalans have achieved a middle class standard of living, compared to 46 percent for non-Latinos. A family income four times the poverty line is used 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

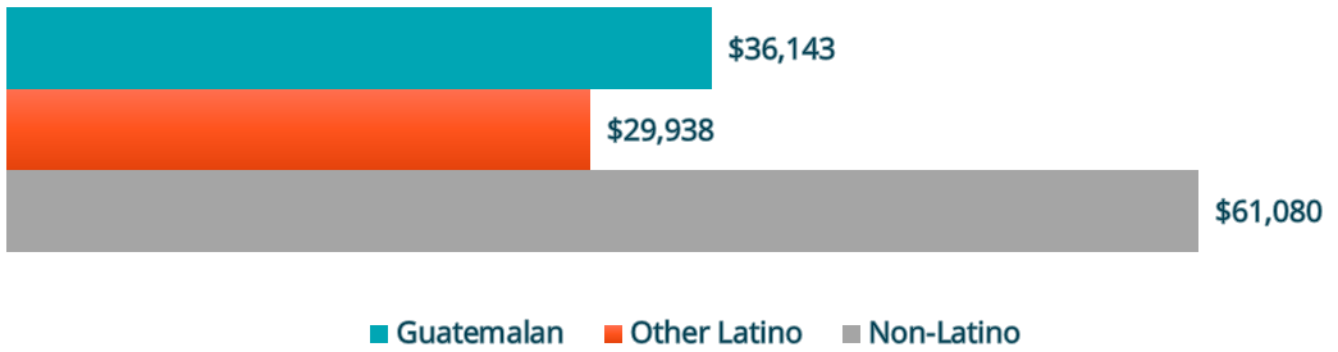


⁴ The ACS excludes households that are vacant, being bought, occupied without rent payment, have no household income or are group quarters when reporting owner/renter costs as a percentage of household income. Therefore, the sum of housing-burdened and non-housing-burdened households may not add exactly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

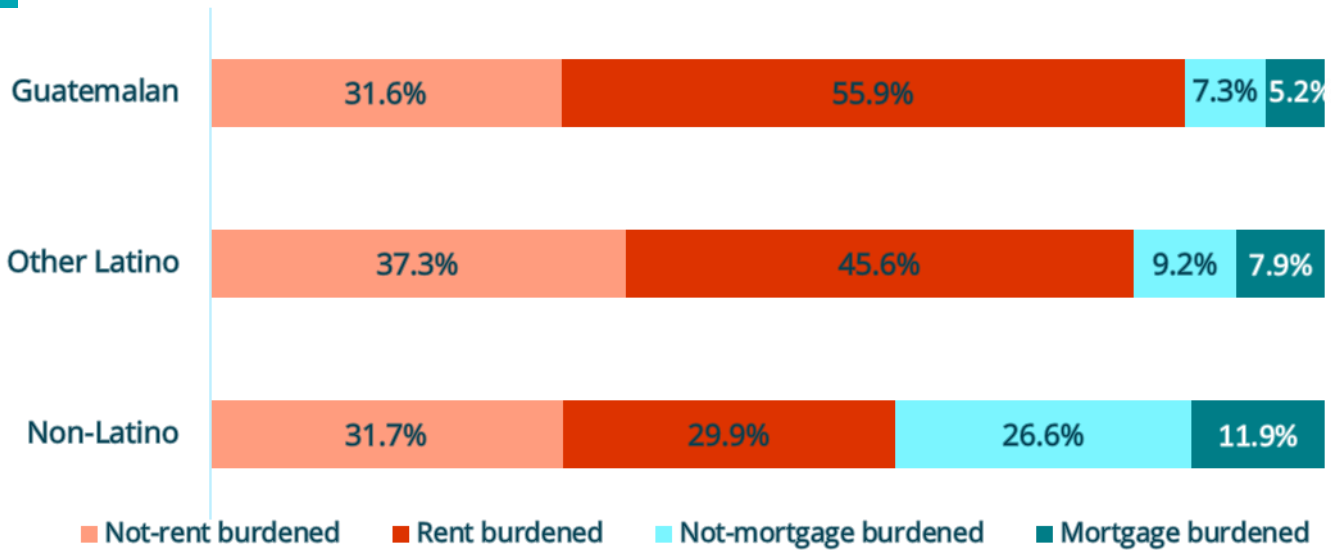
17% of Guatemalans in Boston live in poverty



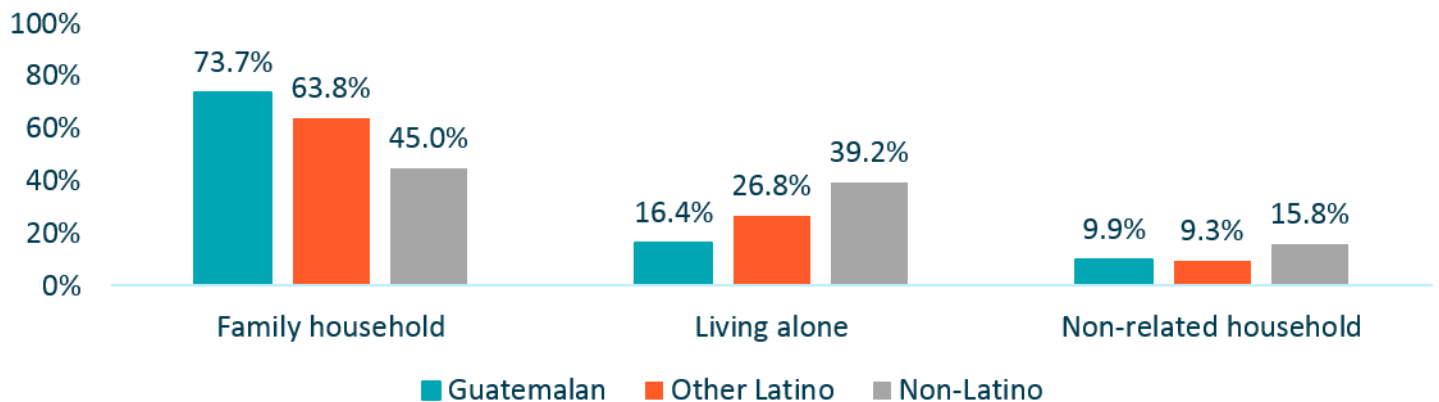
Median Household Income



Tenure and Housing Burden

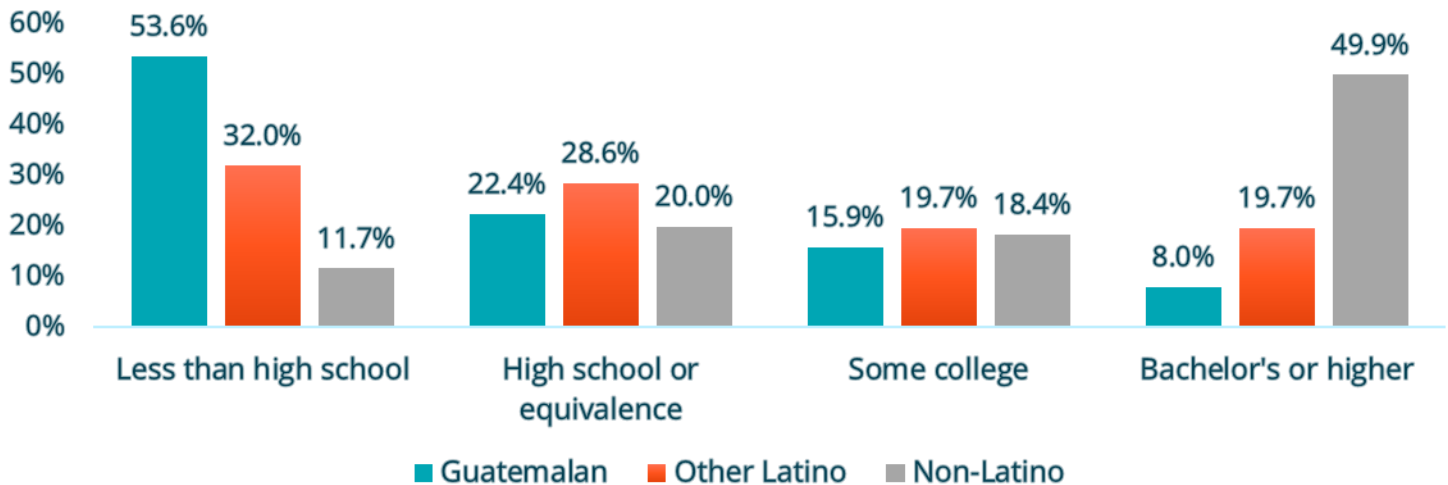


Household Type





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.

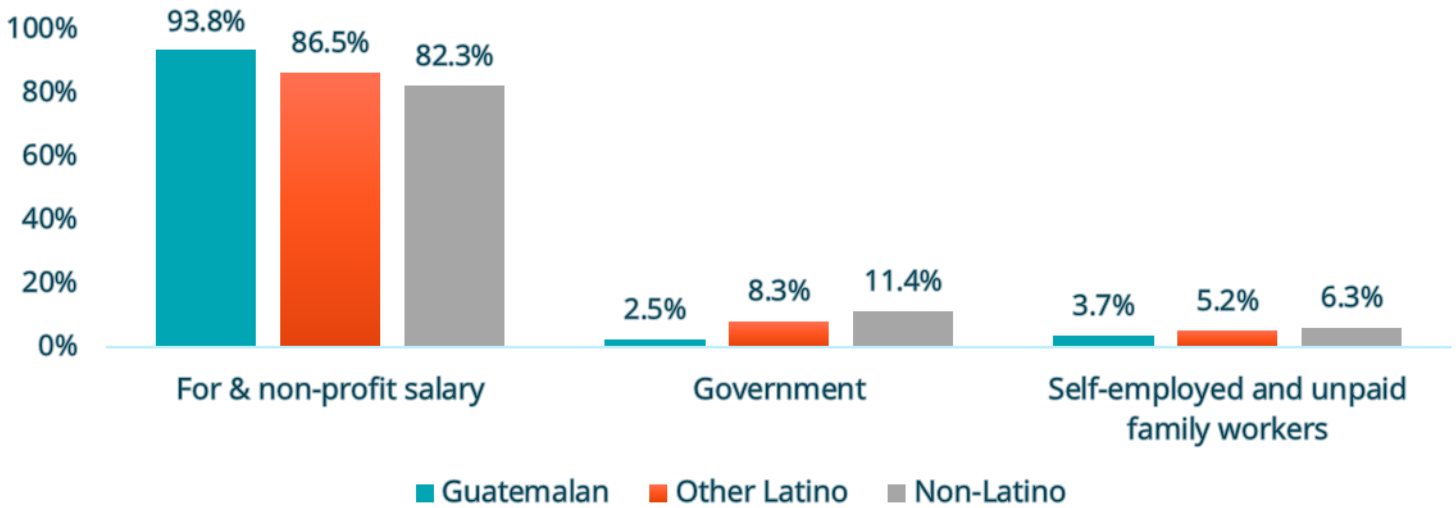
Labor Force Participation | A higher share (77 percent) of Guatemalans age 16 and over participate in the labor force than other Latinos (67 percent) and non-Latinos (68 percent). Labor force participation is much higher for Guatemalan men than women (90 percent vs. 60 percent).

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.

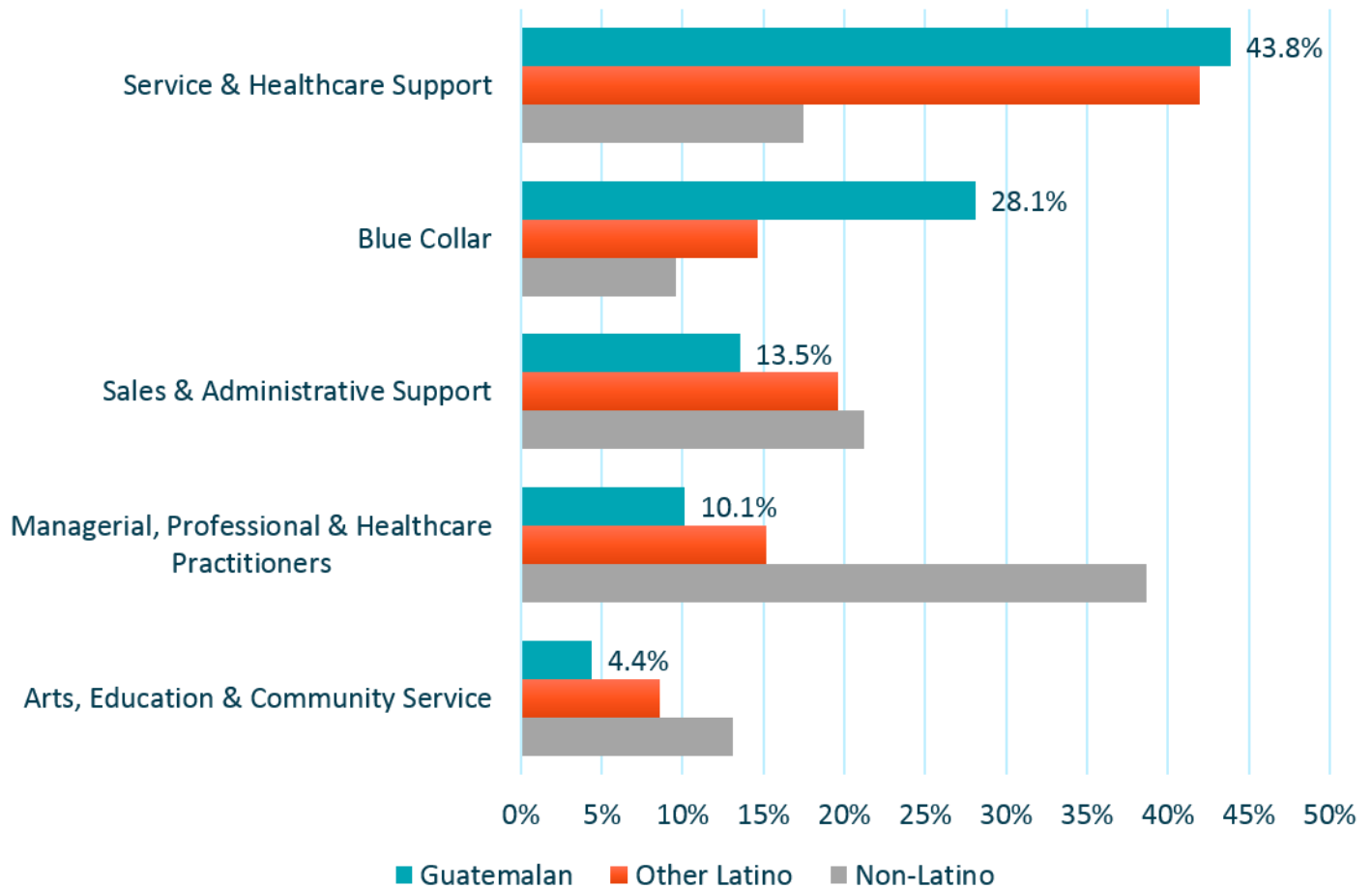


66% of Guatemalans are employed

Employment Type (ages 16 and older)



Occupations of Employed Workers

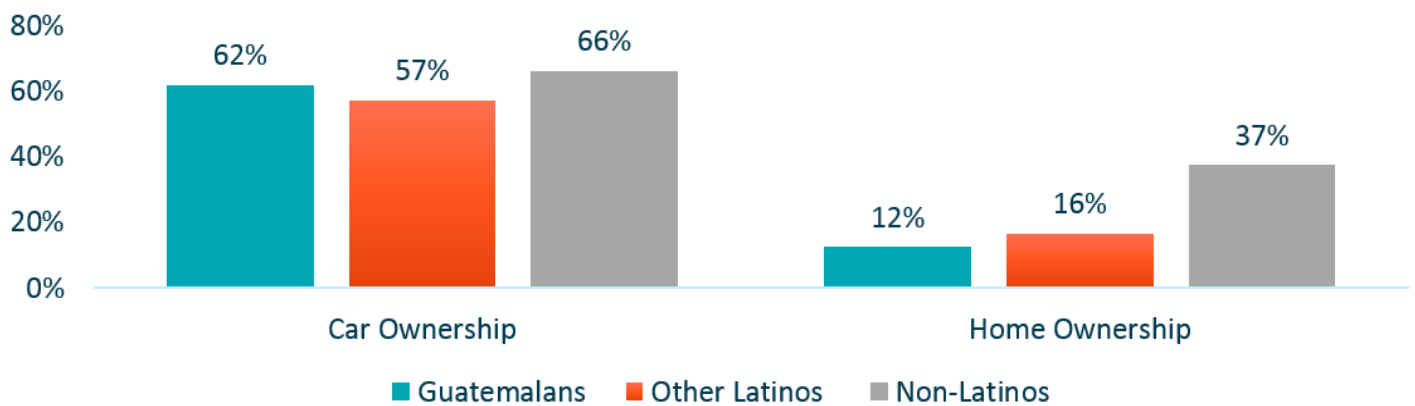


Transportation

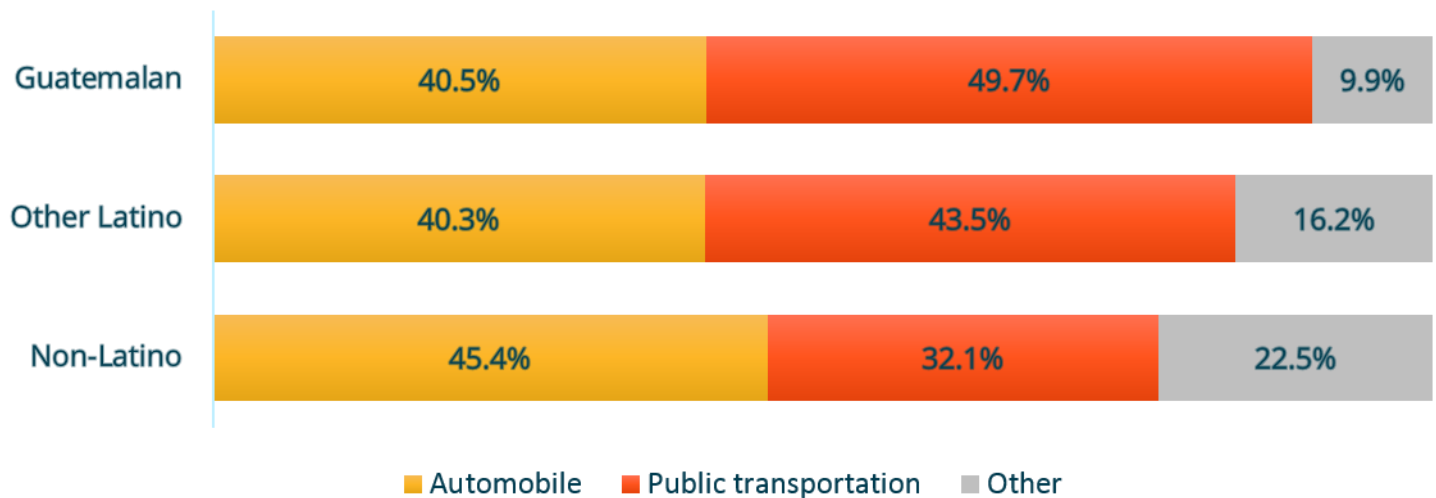


Guatemalan residents of Boston are concentrated in East Boston (34 percent), and smaller shares live in Dorchester (21 percent) and Jamaica Plain (13 percent). About 68 percent of employed Guatemalans work in Suffolk County (Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop). The average Guatemalan commute time 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.

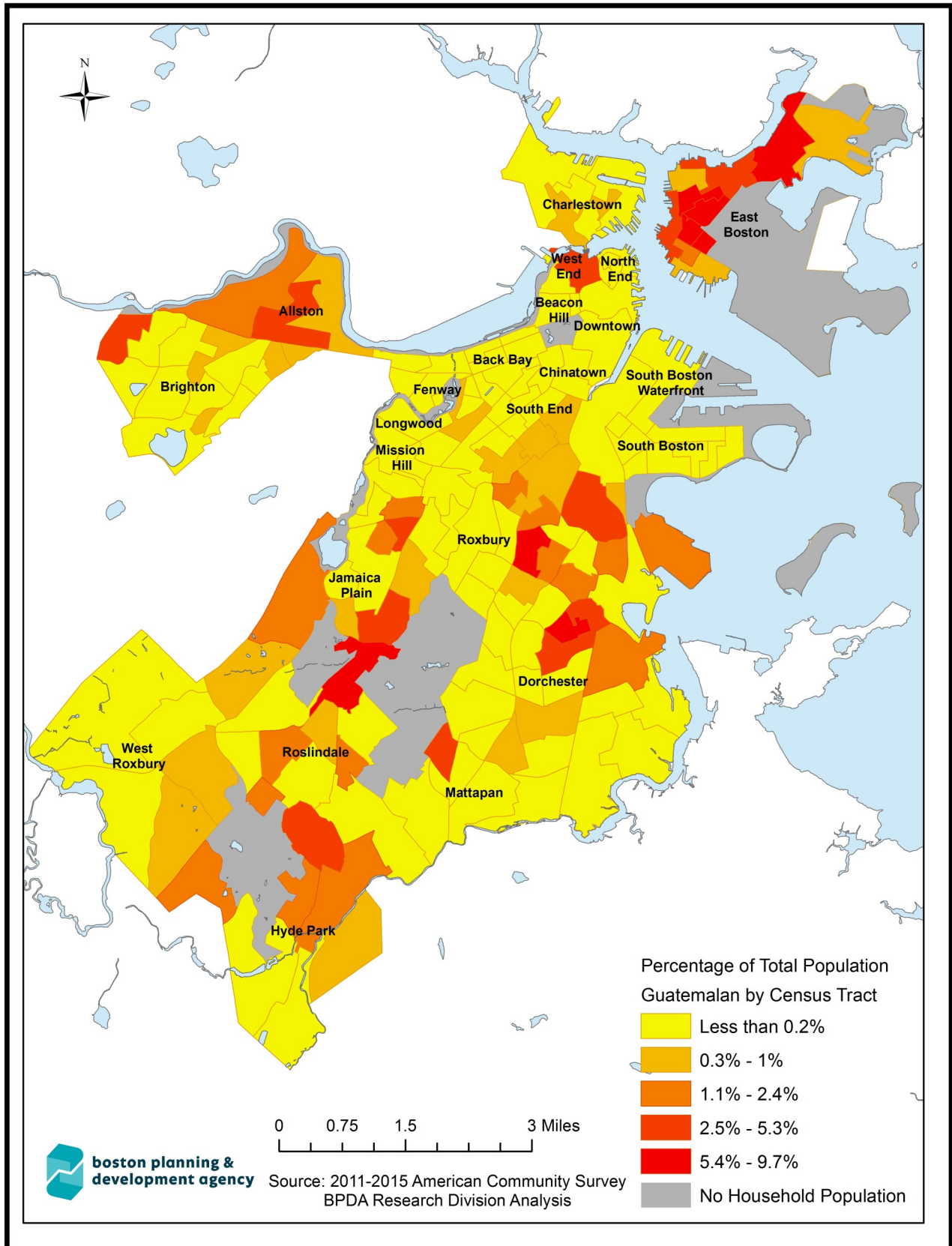
Car and Home Ownership



Transportation Mode to Work



Map of Guatemalans in Boston



Latinos in Boston

Puerto Ricans

Dominicans

Salvadorans

Colombians

Mexicans

Guatemalans

Brazilians



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