

**imagine  
all the  
people**

# Barbadians

CITY OF BOSTON  
Martin J. Walsh  
*Mayor*

2016

## Barbadians in Boston

*"imagine all the people"* is a series of publications produced by the Boston Redevelopment Authority for the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Advancement. The series provides a comprehensive profile of Boston's diverse immigrant communities and their numerous contributions to the city's social, cultural and economic landscape. It is part of an ongoing effort to celebrate immigrants and gain insight into how they shape our city.



Photo: Petr Kratochvi



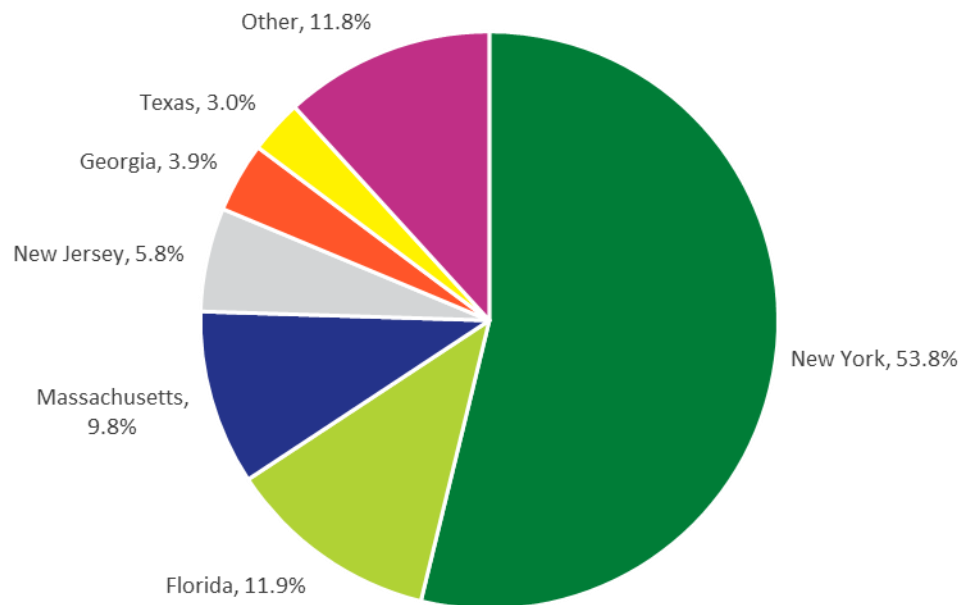
Cambridge Carnival Photo

# Introduction

Barbados is an island nation in the Caribbean that gained its political independence from England in 1966. The island was originally visited by the Spanish and Portuguese but not colonized until 1627 by the British. As with other Caribbean islands, sugar plantations were developed on the island, and these formed the island's base industry. Today, Barbados' economy has developed tourism and light industry to make it comparable to Trinidad and Tobago in economic development. Barbados had a population of 290,000 in 2015, but experienced a negative net migration rate.<sup>1</sup>

The United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada are the leading destinations of Barbadian migration.<sup>2</sup> Massachusetts has the third largest share (10 percent) of the 46,799<sup>3</sup> foreign-born Barbadians living in the United States in 2014. States with the largest concentrations of Barbadians also include New York (54 percent), Florida (12 percent), and New Jersey (6 percent).

## Share of Foreign-Born Barbadian Population by State



U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey, PUMS, BRA Research Division Analysis

## Demographics of Barbadians in Boston

Of the 4,570<sup>4</sup> foreign-born Barbadians residing in Massachusetts, approximately 2,595<sup>5</sup> live in Boston. Barbados is the 15<sup>th</sup> largest country of origin among Boston's foreign-born population. Overall, foreign-born Barbadians in Boston constitute 1.5 percent of the city's total foreign-born residents.

Boston's foreign-born Barbadians, live mostly in the neighborhoods of Dorchester (50 percent), Mattapan (17 percent), Hyde Park (11 percent), and Roxbury (10 percent). Neighborhoods with smaller shares are the South End, Jamaica Plain, and Roslindale.<sup>6</sup>

The U.S. Census Bureau's ACS Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) allows for the detailed socio-economic analysis of specific populations. For smaller populations like foreign-born Barbadians in Boston, a 5-year sample is required to limit variation due to sampling error. The analysis that follows uses 2009-2013 ACS PUMS data.

*More than 50%  
of the  
Barbadians in  
Massachusetts  
live in Boston.*

Elan Trotman  
Barbadian American  
Berkeley-educated saxophonist



Cardinal Warde  
Barbadian American  
physics professor at MIT

## Demographics and Education

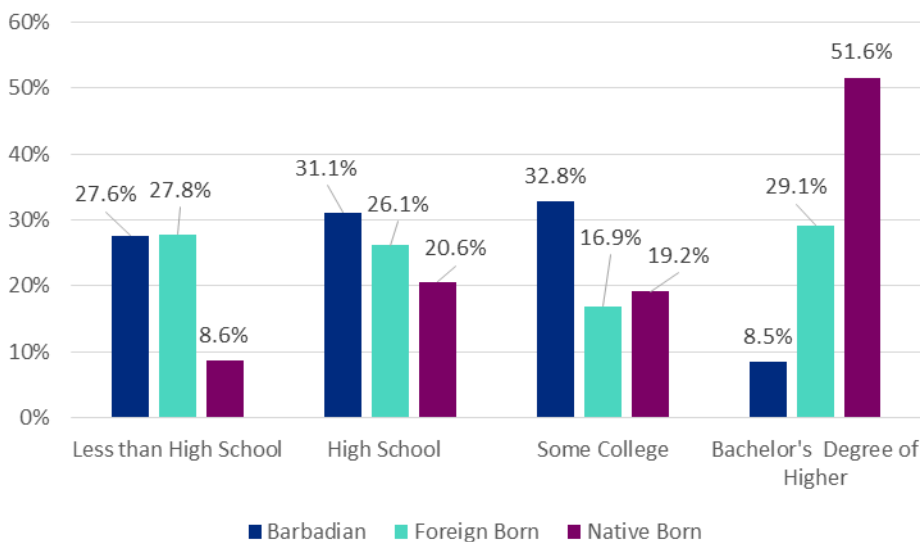
Barbadian migration is disproportionately female, as 66 percent of foreign-born Barbadians in Boston are female. Nearly 70 percent of foreign-born Barbadians in Boston are either married (30 percent) or divorced, separated or widowed (41 percent). Approximately 61 percent of all foreign-born Barbadians are between the ages of 35 and 64. Fewer foreign-born Barbadians in Boston entered the United States after 2000 (11 percent) compared to all foreign born (43 percent). Because they have been in the United States longer than other foreign-born populations, it is not surprising that the majority of foreign-born Barbadians (68 percent) are naturalized U.S. citizens.

Only 28 percent of foreign-born Barbadians ages 25 years or older in Boston have not completed high school. This share is similar to all foreign-born residents (28 percent), but greater than the native-born population (9 percent). Approximately 31 percent of foreign-born Barbadians have a high school diploma as their highest level of educational attainment.

While 41 percent of foreign-born Barbadians 25 years or older have attended college, only 9 percent have completed at least a bachelor's degree, compared with 29 percent of the entire foreign-born population and 52 percent of the native born. Less than 5 percent of foreign-born Barbadians living in Boston hold a graduate or professional degree, compared with 14 percent of all foreign born and 22 percent of the native born.

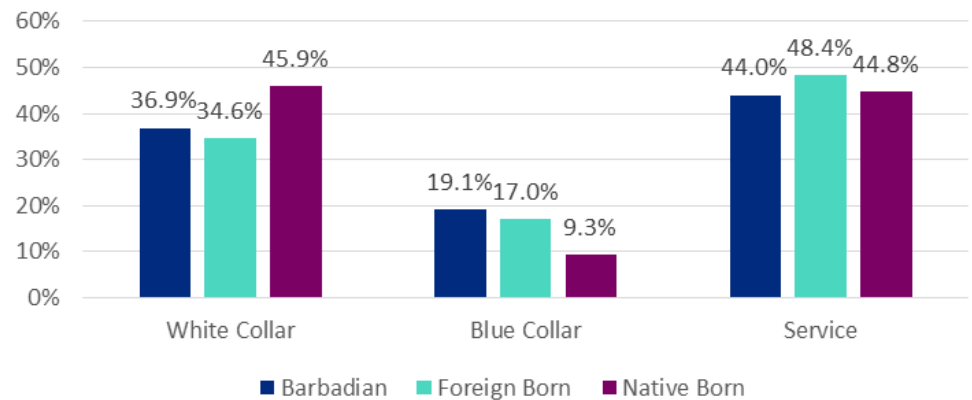
*68% of foreign-born Barbadians are naturalized U.S. citizens.*

### Educational Attainment—Population 25 Years and Older



As an older population, Barbadians' labor force participation rate<sup>7</sup> is lower (63 percent) than for all foreign born (68 percent) and for the native born (69 percent). Similar to other foreign born, the majority of foreign-born Barbadians work in what are generally categorized as service occupations (44 percent) and fewer work in white-collar occupations than the native born.<sup>8</sup> They are slightly overrepresented in blue-collar occupations (19 percent) when compared to all foreign born (17 percent). The most common occupation among foreign-born Barbadians is nursing and home health aides.

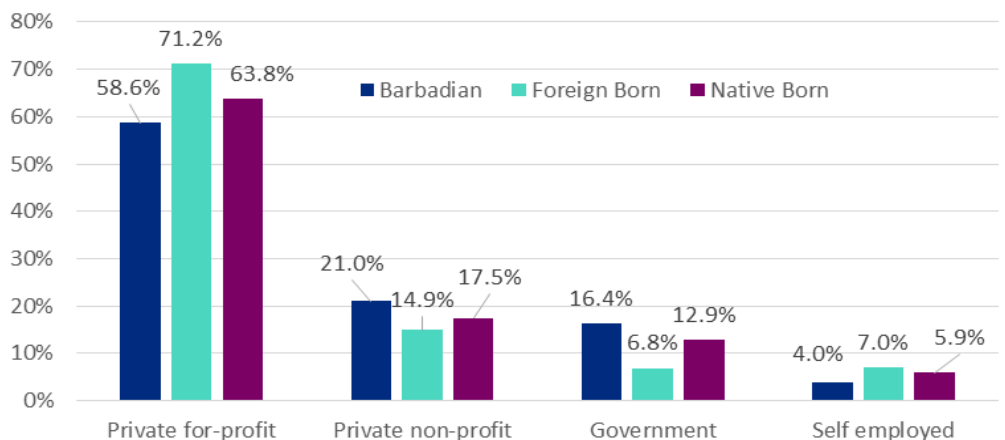
### Occupations by Nativity



U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, PUMS, BRA Research Division Analysis

A greater share (21 percent) of foreign-born Barbadian workers (excluding unpaid family workers) work for a private non-profit company, compared to all foreign born (15 percent) and native born (18 percent). Fewer foreign-born Barbadians are self-employed (4 percent) than other foreign born in Boston (7 percent).

### Employment by Type of Employer

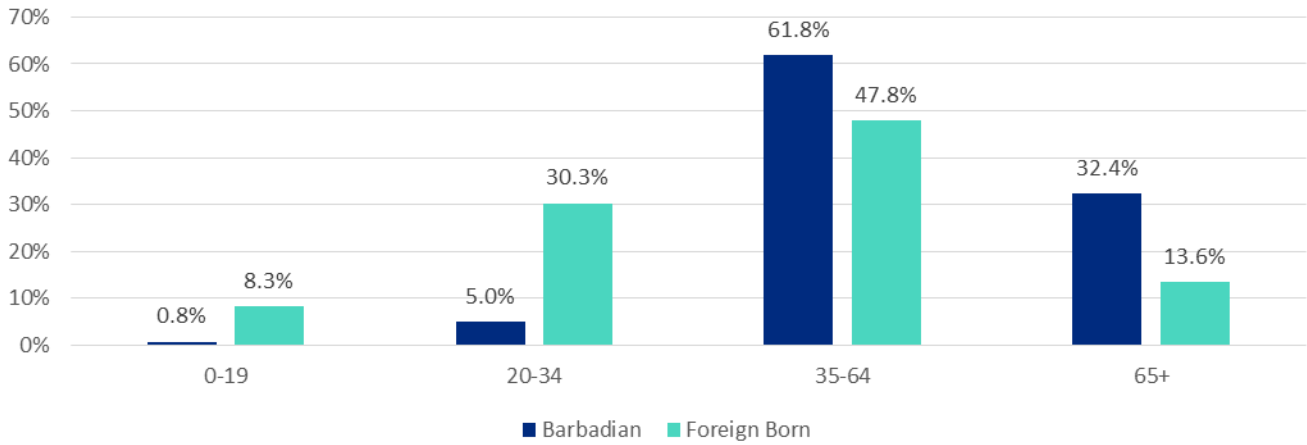


U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, PUMS, BRA Research Division Analysis

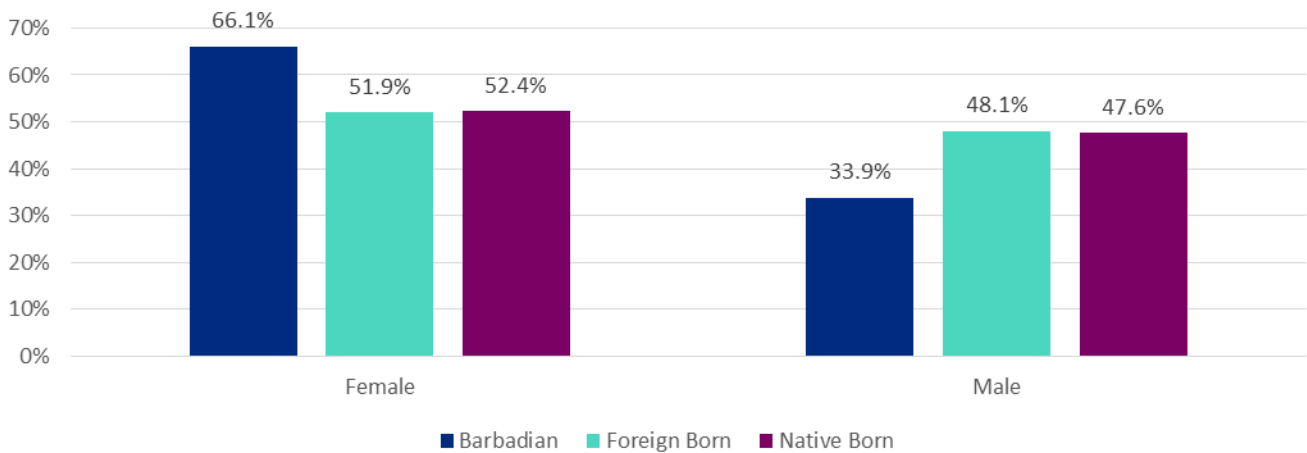


# Imagine all the people: Barbados

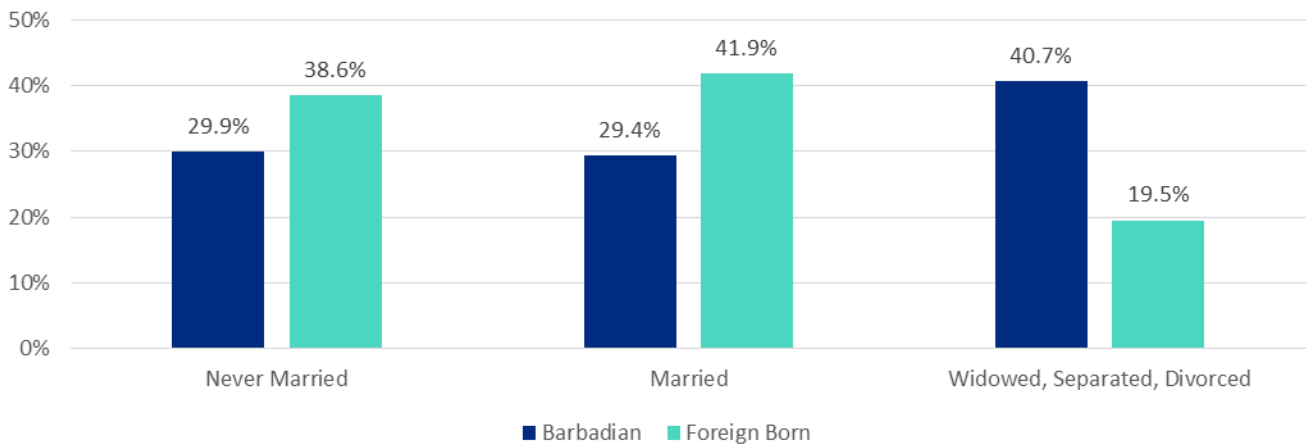
## Age



## Gender

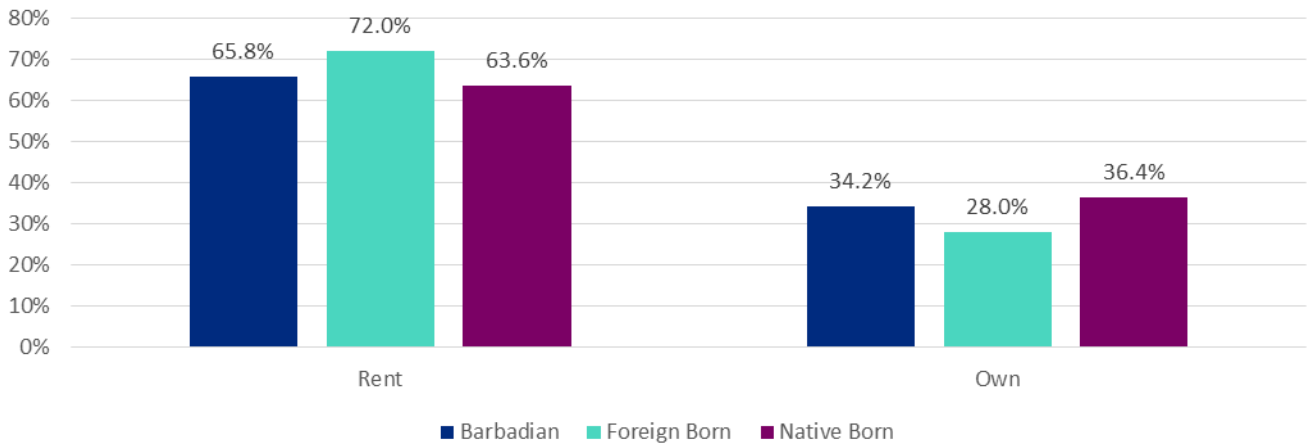


## Marital Status

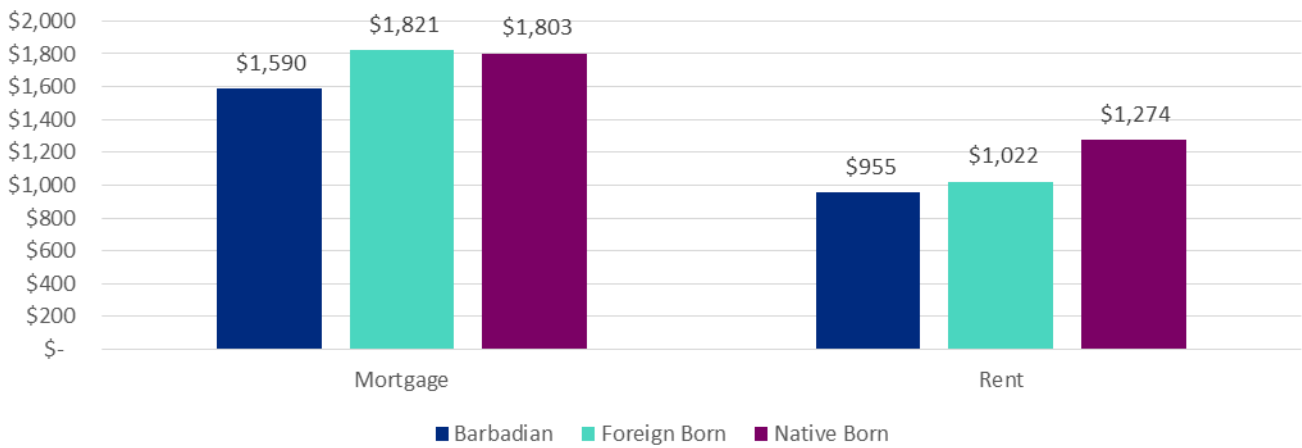


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, PUMS, BRA Research Division Analysis

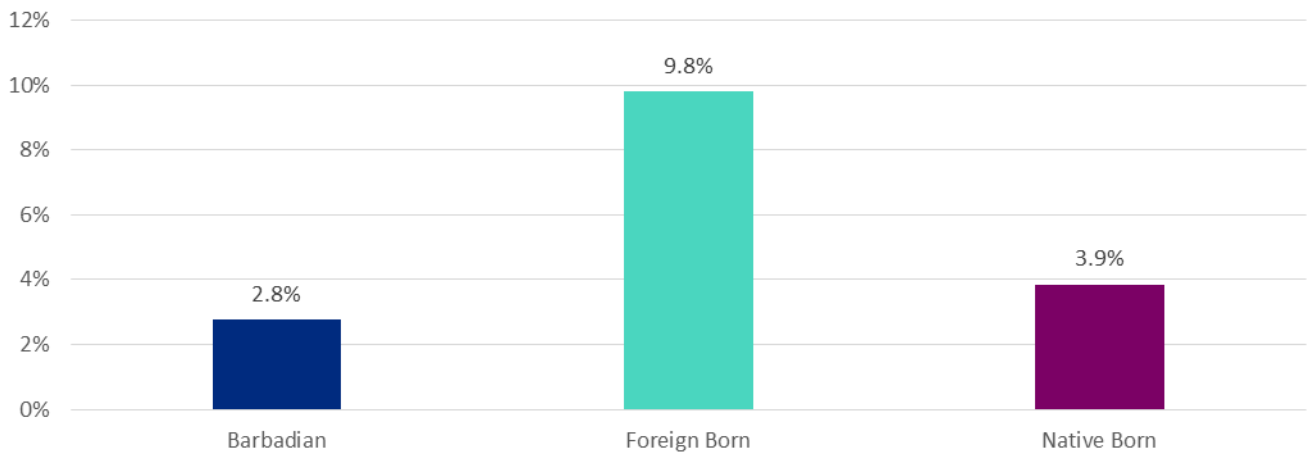
### Housing Tenure\*



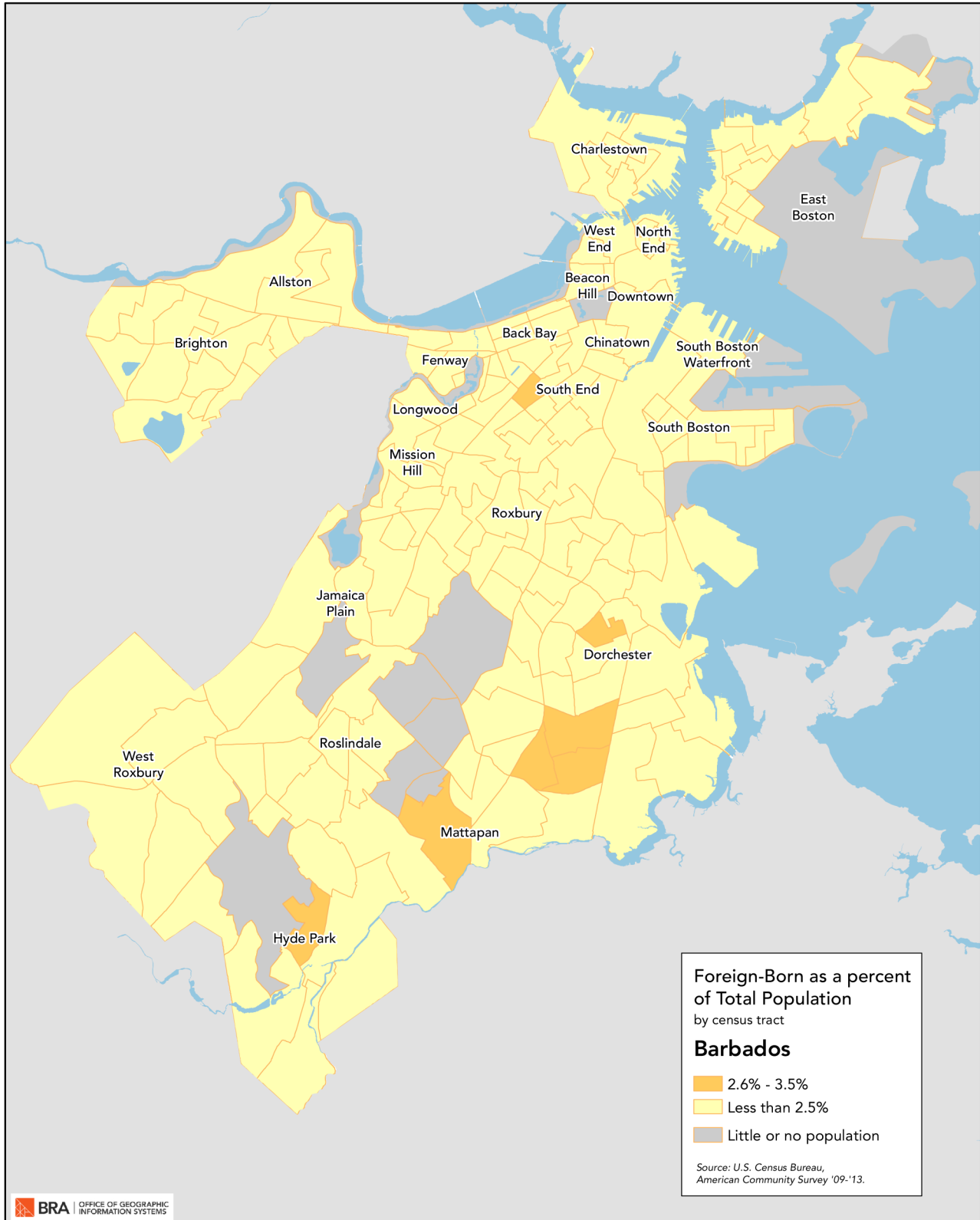
### Housing Costs\*



### Medical Uninsurance



\*Housing data are based on the householder’s nativity.



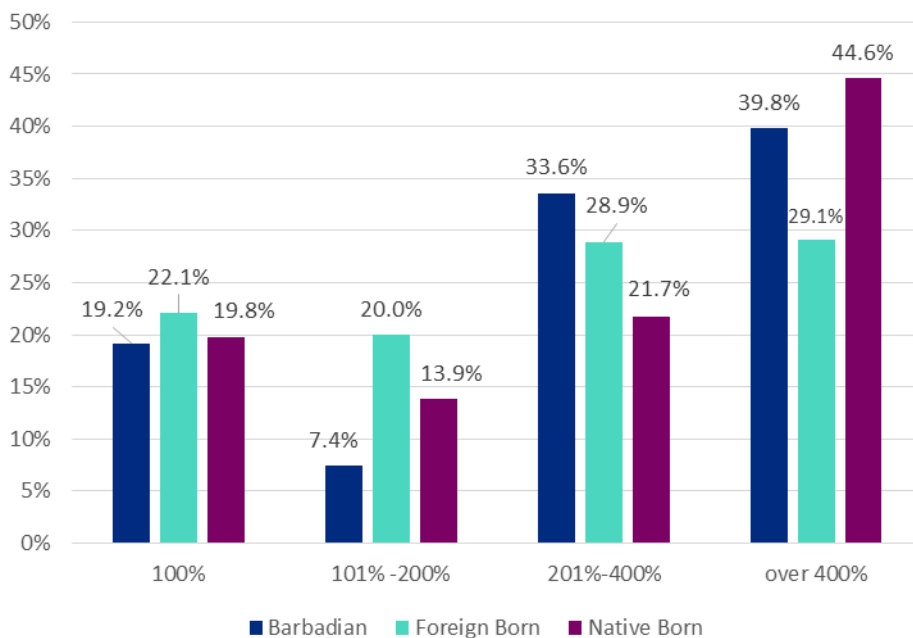


## Standard of Living

Nearly 40 percent of foreign-born Barbadians have achieved a middle class standard of living, compared with 45 percent of Boston's native-born population, and 29 percent of all foreign born. A family income four times the poverty level is used as a proxy for a middle-class standard of living. The actual income needed to achieve this standard depends on the size and composition of the family. For a two-person family in 2014, a middle class income would be at least \$62,920. About 19 percent of foreign-born Barbadians live below the federal poverty level compared to 20 percent for the city's population as a whole.

*Collectively,  
foreign-born  
Barbadians  
contributed close  
to \$28 million to  
the regional  
economy in  
2014.*

## Household Income Compared to Poverty



U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, PUMS, BRA Research Division Analysis

## Economic Impact

Foreign-born Barbadians contribute to the local economy through their labor and consumer spending. The total value of their economic contributions were estimated using a Regional Economic Model (REMI) that calculated the value of goods and services consumed on each dollar spent. Foreign-born Barbadians in Boston generated total expenditures of nearly \$47 million in 2014.<sup>9</sup> These annual expenditures contributed to \$28 million to the regional product and generated \$1.5 million in state and local taxes.<sup>10</sup> In total, these expenditures supported 200 jobs in the Massachusetts economy.<sup>11</sup>

THE BARBADIAN CULTURAL COMMITTEE OF BOSTON, INC. (BCCB)  
INVITES YOU TO SUPPORT OUR

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## Conclusion

The number of Barbadians who migrate to Boston is smaller compared to other foreign-born populations residing in Boston. They are the 15th largest foreign-born population in the city, but this small Boston population is larger than that found in four states. Foreign-born Barbadians in Boston contribute to the economy, culture, and civic life of the city. Foreign-born Barbadians' labor force participation is lower than that of other foreign-born populations. Similar to Jamaicans, they are more likely to work in the non-profit sector. They have a middle-class income similar to the native-born population and have a smaller share of their population living below the federal poverty level than others in Boston.

<sup>1</sup> The CIA World Factbook (2016).

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF Migration Profiles, 2013.

<sup>3</sup> American Factfinder website Table B05006 reports 51,378 Barbadians residing in the United States in 2014 with a margin of error of +/- 4,171. The 46,799 estimate reported for this analysis was tabulated from 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Public Use Microdata Sample data. Both estimates contain a margin of error due to sampling methodology. For more information on American Fact Finder please see: [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?\\_lang=en](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en)

<sup>4</sup> American Factfinder website Table B05006 reports 4,131 Barbadians residing in Massachusetts with a margin of error of +/- 1,426 in 2014. The 4,570 estimate reported for this analysis were tabulated from 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Public Use Microdata Sample data. Both estimates contain a margin of error due to sampling methodology.

<sup>5</sup> American Factfinder website Table B05006 reports 1,934 Barbadians in Boston with a margin of error of +/-,869 in 2014. The 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Public Use Microdata Sample data estimates 2,595 foreign-born Barbadians for Boston. Lower survey response rates due to documentation issues may result in an undercount of the population. Both estimates contain a margin of error due to sampling methodology.

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey, BRA Research

<sup>7</sup> Defined as the share of the working-age population that is either currently employed or seeking work. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2016).

<sup>8</sup> For a smaller population like foreign-born Barbadians in Boston, occupations fall into three broad categories. White collar includes managerial & professional, health care, education, and arts, design entertainment, sports & media occupations. Service includes service, sales, office & administrative support, community & social service occupations. Blue collar includes construction, farming, fishing, and forestry, and production occupations. Military specific occupations and long-term unemployed are excluded from the analysis.

<sup>9</sup> BRA Research Division Analysis, 2014, Regional Economic Model, Inc., REMI calculations.

<sup>10</sup> BRA Research Division Analysis, 2014, Regional Economic Model, Inc., REMI calculations.

<sup>11</sup> BRA Research Division Analysis, 2014, Regional Economic Model, Inc., REMI calculations.

# End Notes



CITY OF BOSTON  
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor



MAYOR'S OFFICE  
FOR IMMIGRANT  
ADVANCEMENT

*Martin J. Walsh, Mayor of Boston*



BOSTON  
REDEVELOPMENT  
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