

Foreign-Born STEM Workforce in the United States.

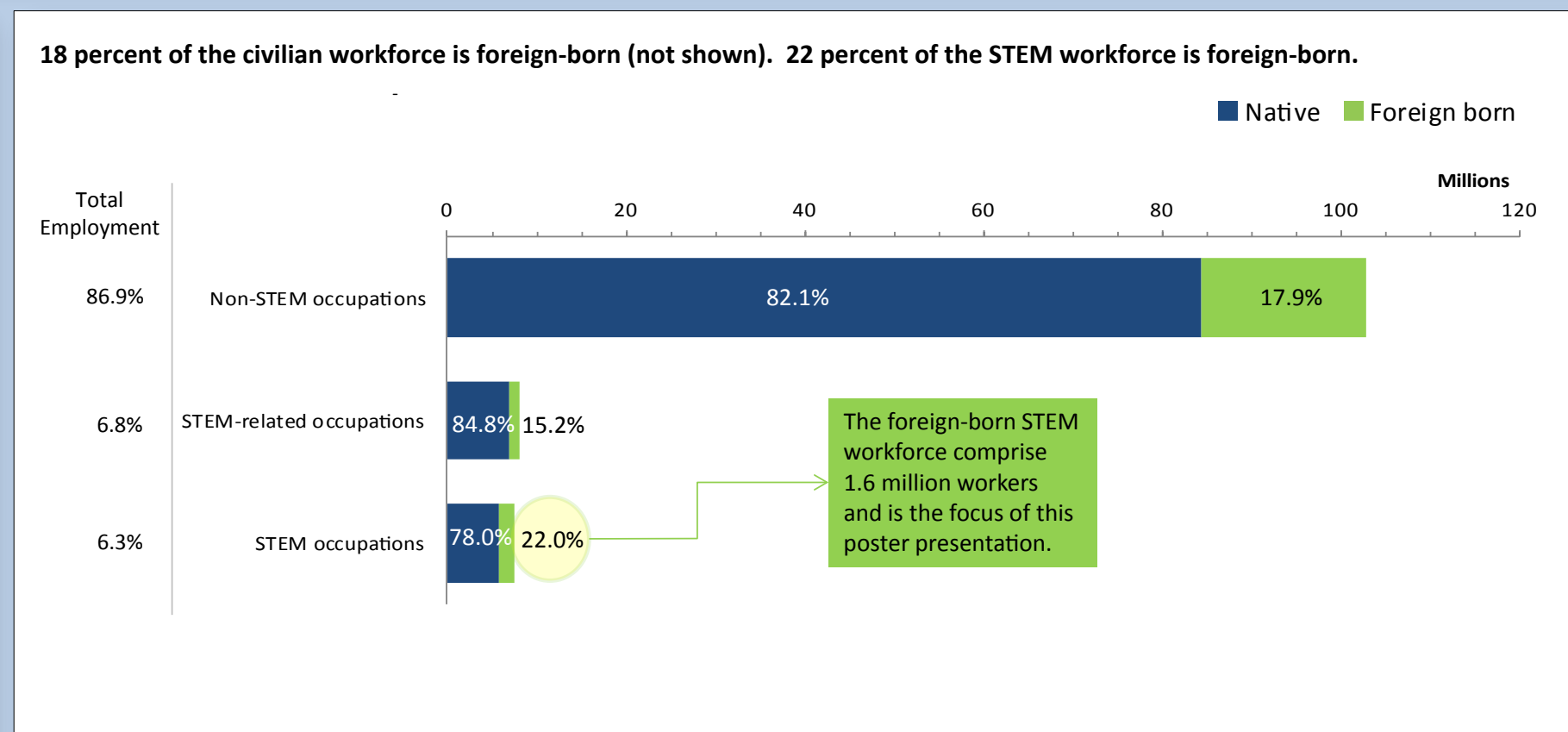
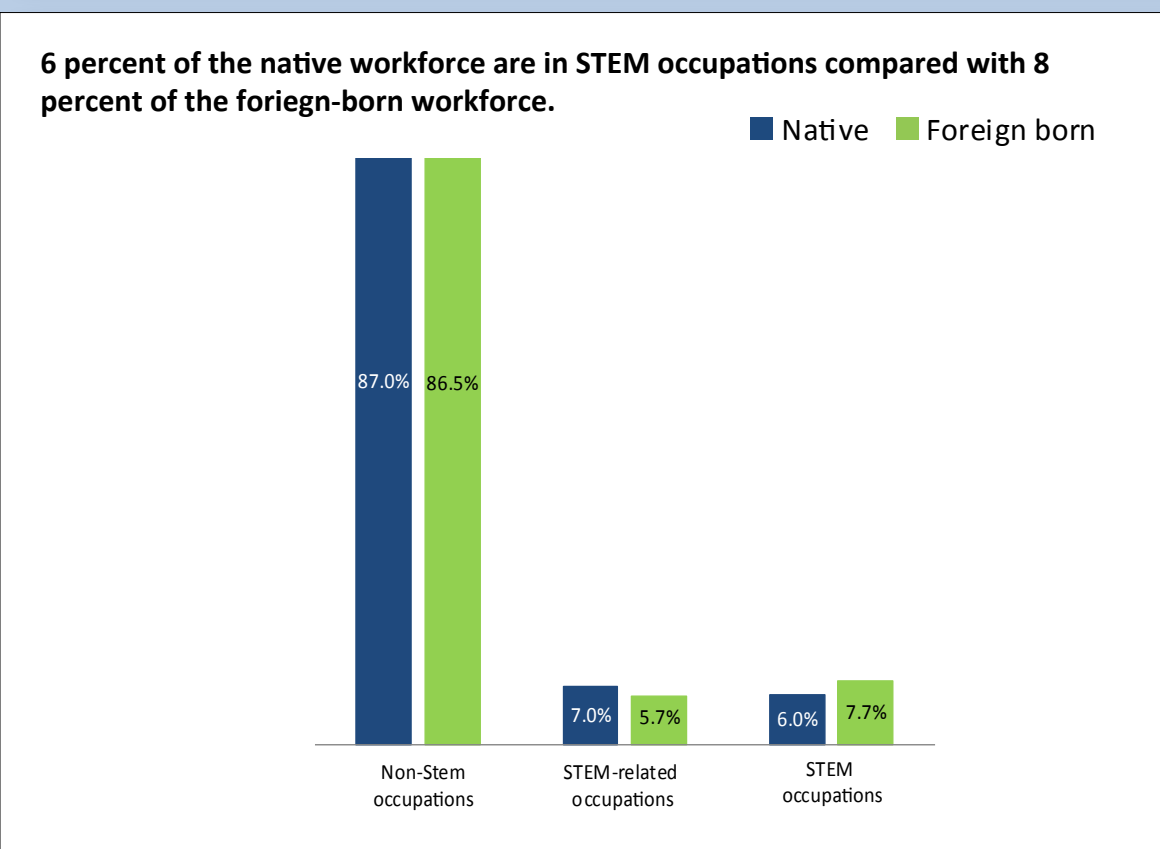
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Background
STEM is important because high-quality and knowledge-intensive jobs improve the U.S. economy justifying increased funding in STEM education and research.¹

- Major immigration policy changes of 1965.
- The Immigration Act of 1990 expanded the cap on employment-based visas.
- A booming economy driven by information technology.
- Landivar (2011) highlights disparities in the STEM workforce by sex, race and Hispanic origin in the United States and finds that women, blacks and Hispanics are underrepresented in the STEM workforce.

So, what role does nativity play in understanding the STEM workforce?



Definitions:

Foreign Born = The U.S. Census Bureau uses the term foreign born to refer to anyone who is not a U.S. citizen at birth. This includes naturalized citizens, lawful permanent residents, temporary migrants (such as foreign students), humanitarian migrants (such as refugees), and undocumented migrants.

Native = The term native refers to anyone born in the United States, Puerto Rico, or a U.S. Island Area, or those born abroad of at least one U.S. citizen parent.

STEM employed = STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics occupations. It consists of workers employed in computer and mathematical occupations, engineers, life scientists, physical scientists, and social scientists. STEM employed accounts for 6 percent of the total civilian workforce aged 25 to 64.

Race = This poster presentation will refer to non-Hispanic Whites as White, non-Hispanic Blacks as Black, non-Hispanic Asians as Asian, and Hispanics as Hispanic. The non-Hispanic Other is referred to as Other and includes the American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander estimates because of the small number of sample observations. Other also refers to the population that is two or more races.

Research Questions:

This poster presentation examines the STEM workforce by comparing the characteristics of the foreign-born workforce relative to the native workforce. It also explores in detail the foreign-born STEM workforce by occupational groups and by racial and ethnic characteristics.

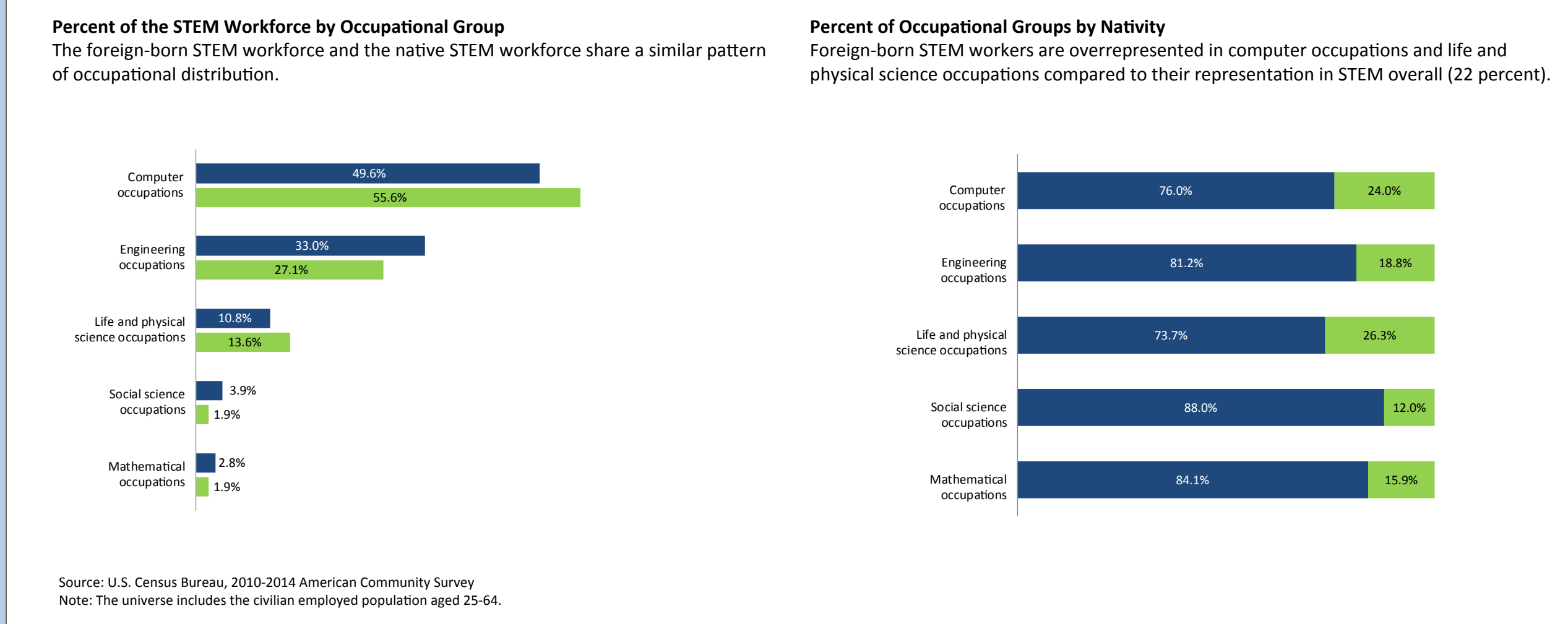
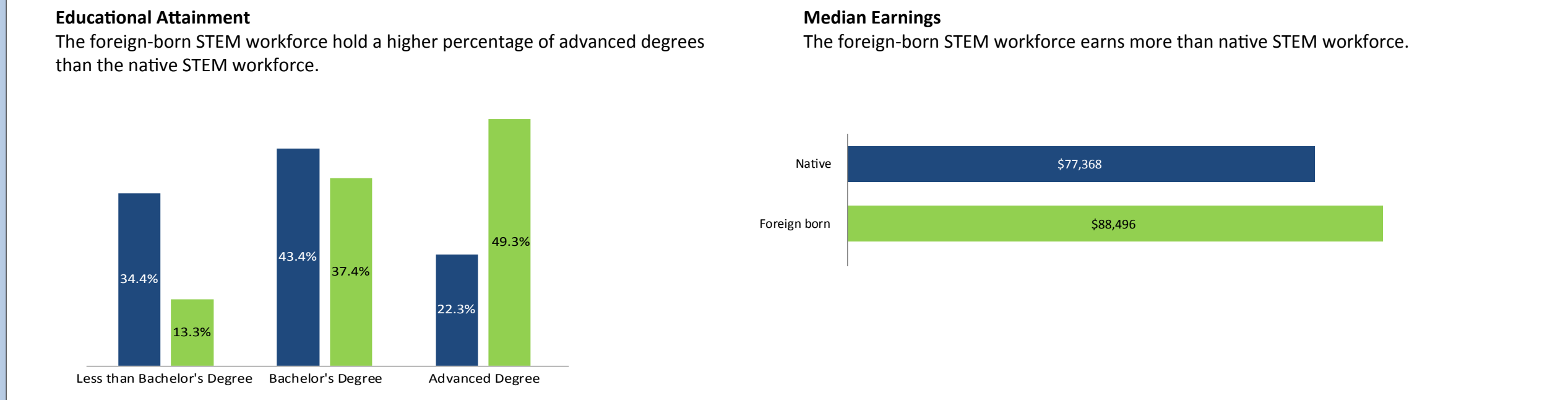
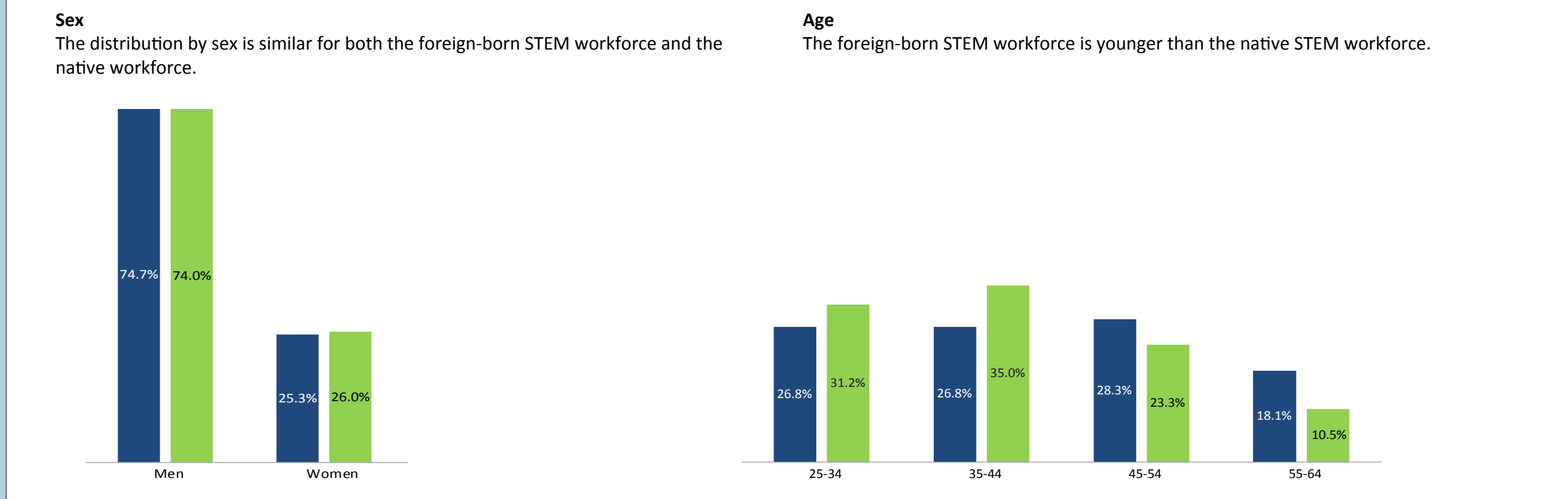
Key Questions:

- How does the foreign-born STEM workforce compare with the native STEM workforce by sex, age, educational attainment, earnings, STEM occupation distribution, and nativity in STEM?
- How does the foreign-born workforce compare with the native workforce across racial and ethnic groups by STEM occupation distribution, nativity in STEM, educational attainment and median earnings?

Data and Sample
Data: 2010-2014 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year File
Sample: Civilian Employed Population aged 25 to 64 (N=118 million)

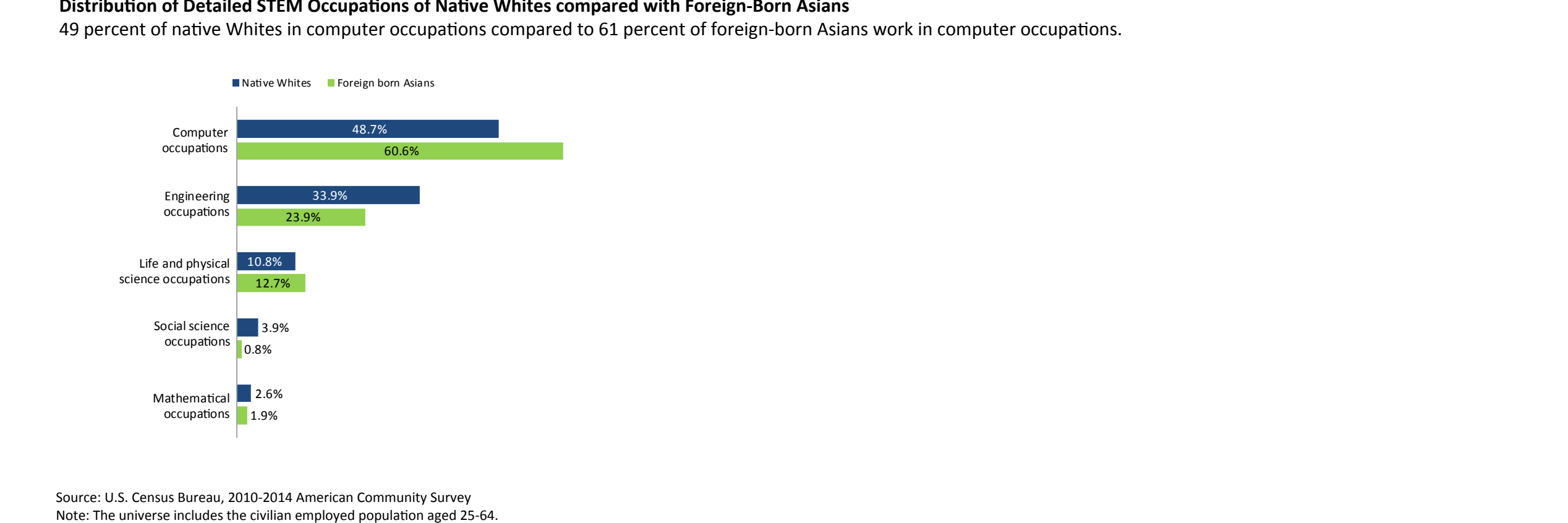
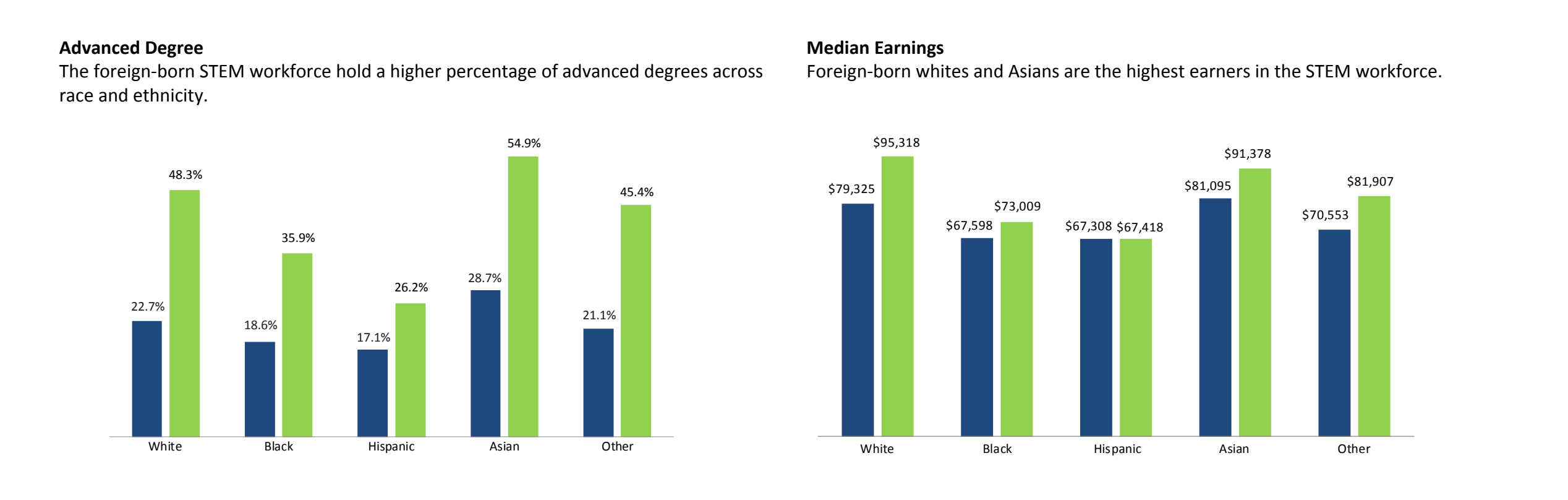
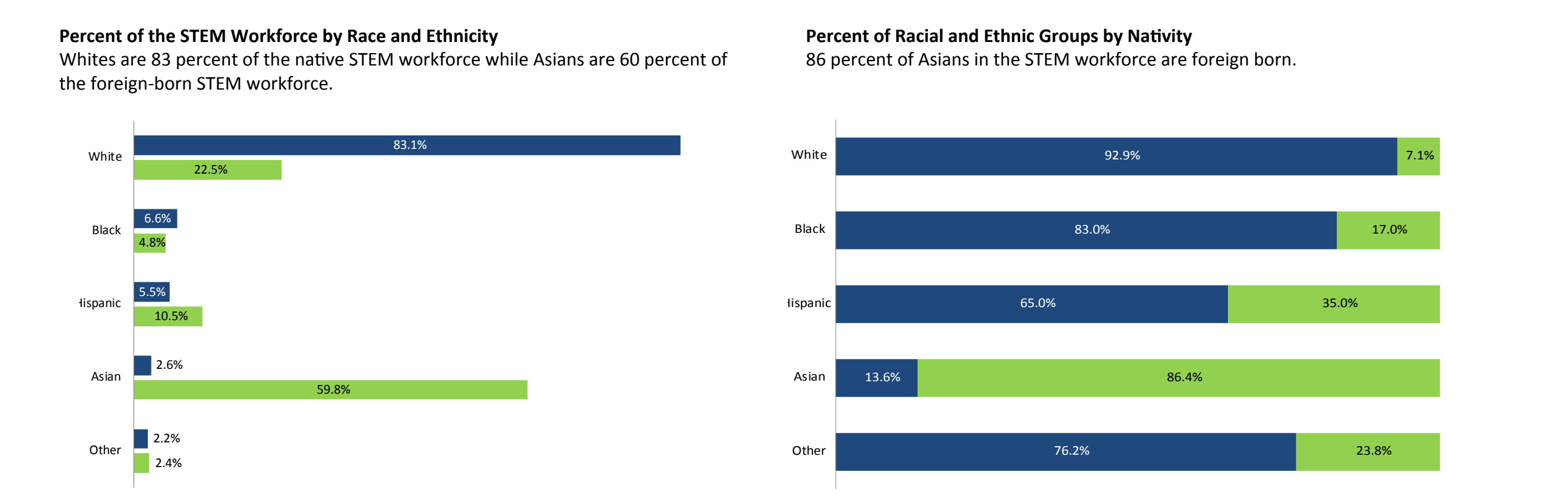
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Total STEM Workforce
(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www/)



How does the foreign-born workforce compare with the native workforce across race and ethnic groups by STEM occupation distribution, nativity in STEM, educational attainment and median earnings?

Total STEM Workforce by Race and Ethnicity
(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www/)



Key Findings Summarized

- The foreign-born STEM employed population is largely male, young, highly educated and high income earners.
- The foreign-born are overrepresented in STEM occupations.
- The majority of the white, black and Hispanic STEM workforce is native-born. In contrast, the majority of the Asian STEM workforce is foreign-born.
- The foreign-born STEM workforce hold a higher percentage of advanced degrees than the native STEM workforce.
- Foreign-born whites and Asians earn more than foreign-born blacks and Hispanics in the STEM workforce.
- Foreign-born Asians are overrepresented in STEM occupations among the foreign born and work primarily in computer occupations.

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