

Who Are the Born Abroads? An Examination of Nativity in the American Community Survey, 2015

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Introduction

This poster presents general trends and characteristics of the born-abroad population in the United States using data from the 2015 American Community Survey. Data are based on an annual sample of the U.S. population. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/.

American Community Survey Quick Facts

- Purpose:** Provide timely data at national and extensive subnational geography levels.
- Universe:** U.S. resident population (sample size was 3.55 million for 2015).
- Frequency:** Yearly estimates; ACS data are collected continuously throughout the year; monthly samples are aggregated into period data.
- Geography:** Nation, state, county, and place.

American Community Survey Key Migration-Related Items

- Place of birth/nativity
- U.S. citizenship status
- Year of naturalization
- Race, Hispanic origin, ancestry
- Residence 1 year ago
- Year of entry
- Language spoken at home

How the Census Bureau Defines Native and Foreign Born

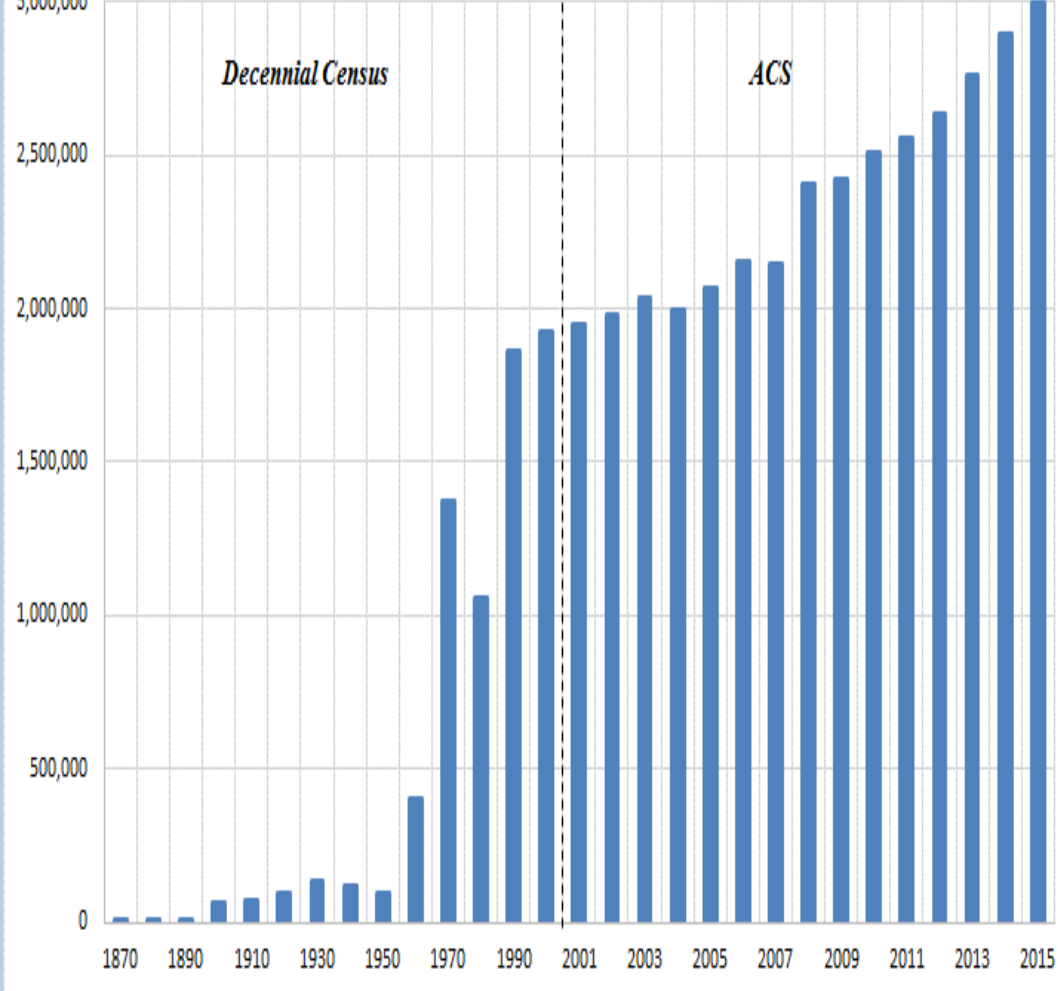
Native – The native population includes anyone who is a U.S. citizen at birth. This includes respondents who indicated they were born in the United States, Puerto Rico, a U.S. Island Area (such as Guam), or abroad of a U.S. citizen parent or parents.

Foreign born – The foreign-born population includes anyone who is not a U.S. citizen at birth. This includes respondents who indicated they were a U.S. citizen by naturalization or not a U.S. citizen.

What is meant by the term “born abroad”?

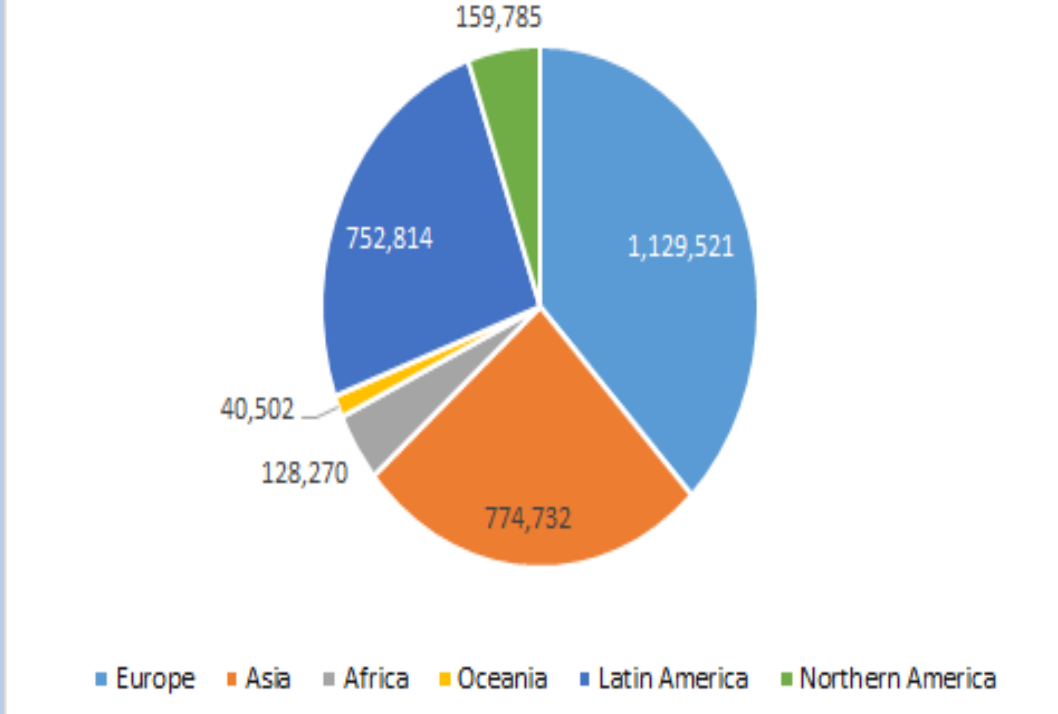
The born-abroad population includes anyone born outside the United States, Puerto Rico, or a U.S. Island Area who also was a U.S. citizen at birth. One example of a born-abroad person may be an individual born to U.S. citizens whose parents were working in another country or serving overseas in the military. Since the person’s parents include at least one U.S. citizen, the person is a U.S. citizen at birth, even though the individual was born outside the United States or U.S. territories. Note that for purposes of this research, persons born in Puerto Rico or in U.S. Island Areas are categorized separately from “born in the U.S.” and “born abroads,” but are not shown in the comparisons here due to small sample size.

Figure 1. Total Born Abroad Population in U.S., 1870-2015



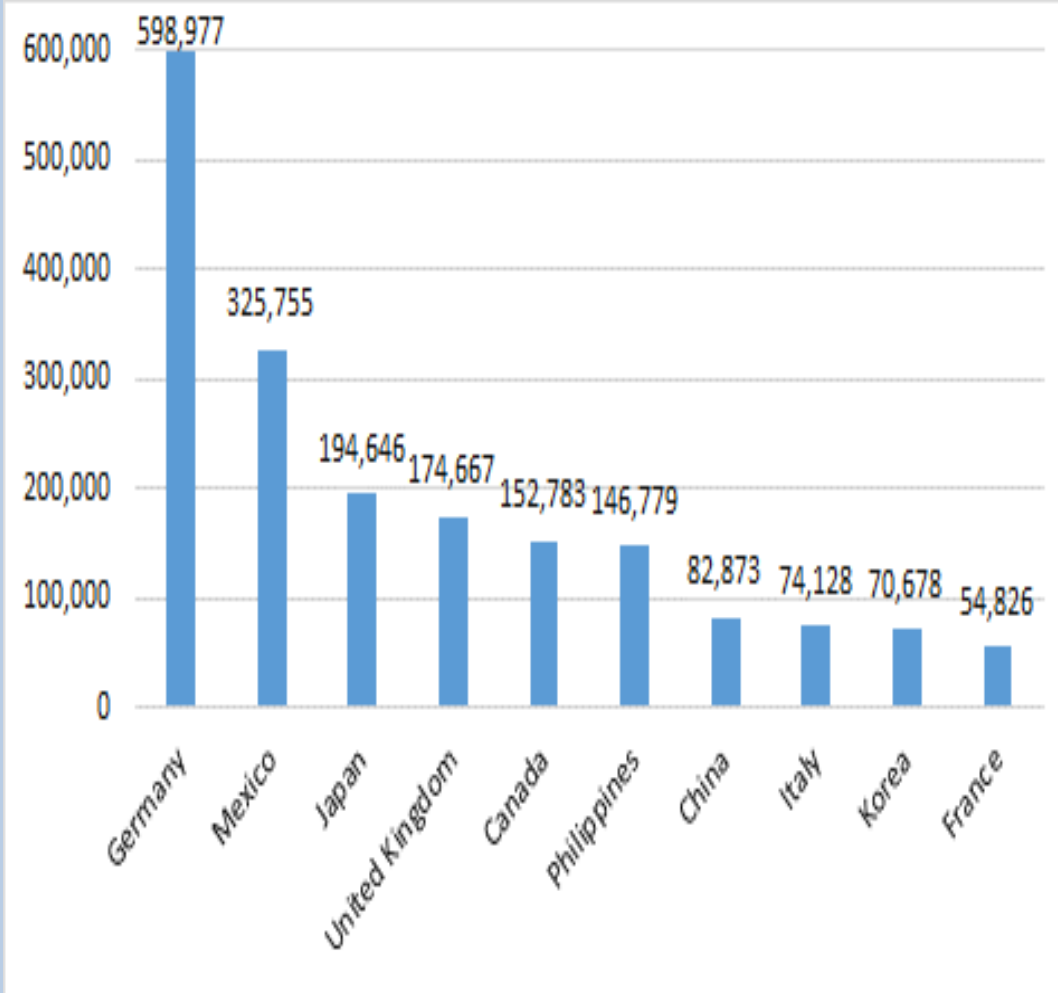
There were approximately 3 million born abroad persons in the U.S. in 2015. The total number of born abroads in the U.S. has increased considerably since 1950, except for a decrease in 1980. This decrease may be related to the end of the Vietnam war in the mid-1970s or to other effects.

Figure 2. Region of Birth for Born Abroads: 2015



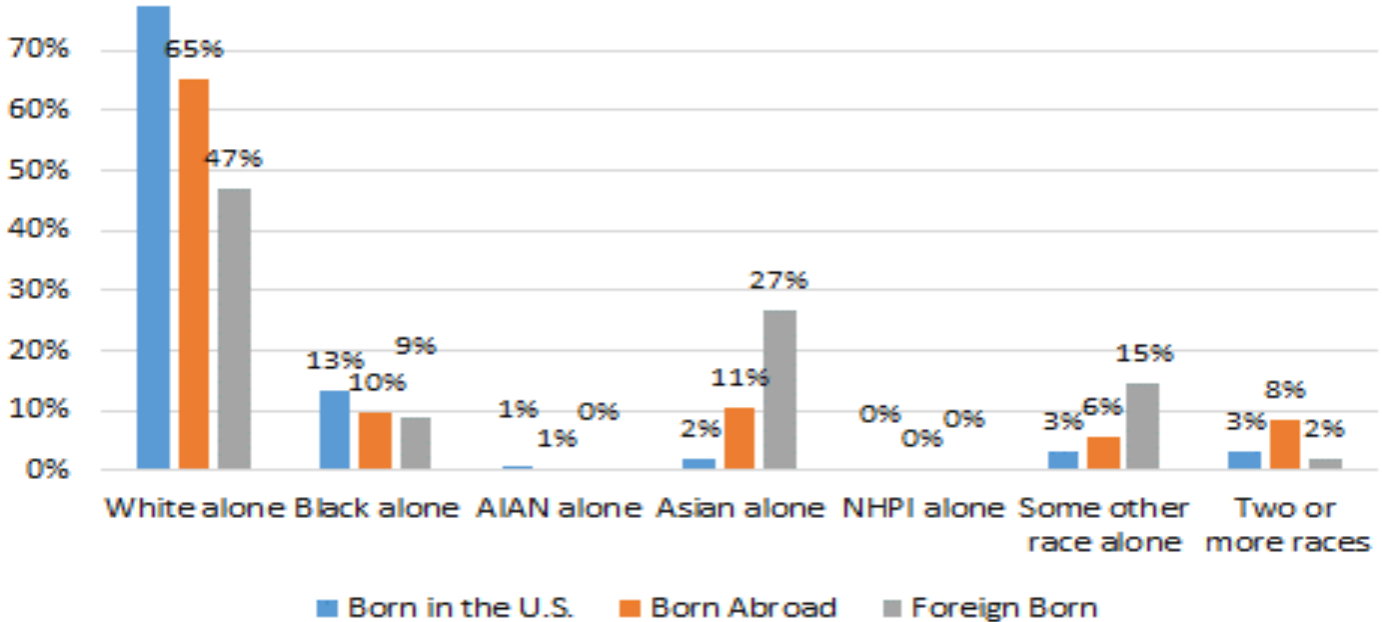
Born abroads were most likely to report having been born in Europe (~1.1 million), followed by Asia (774,732) and Latin America (752,814)*.

Figure 3. Top Ten Countries of Birth for Born Abroads: 2015



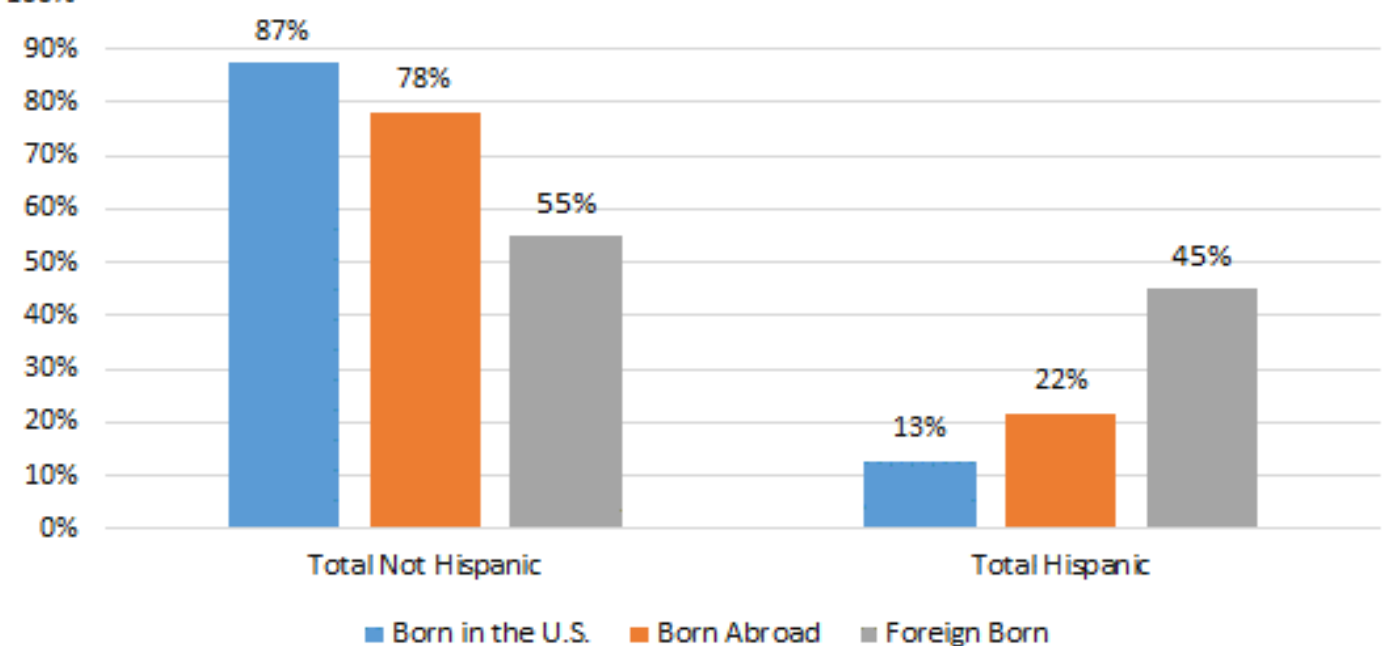
Born-abroad persons are from a wide number of countries of birth. The most common countries of birth were Germany (598,977), Mexico (325,755), and Japan (194,646).

Figure 4. Race by Nativity: 2015



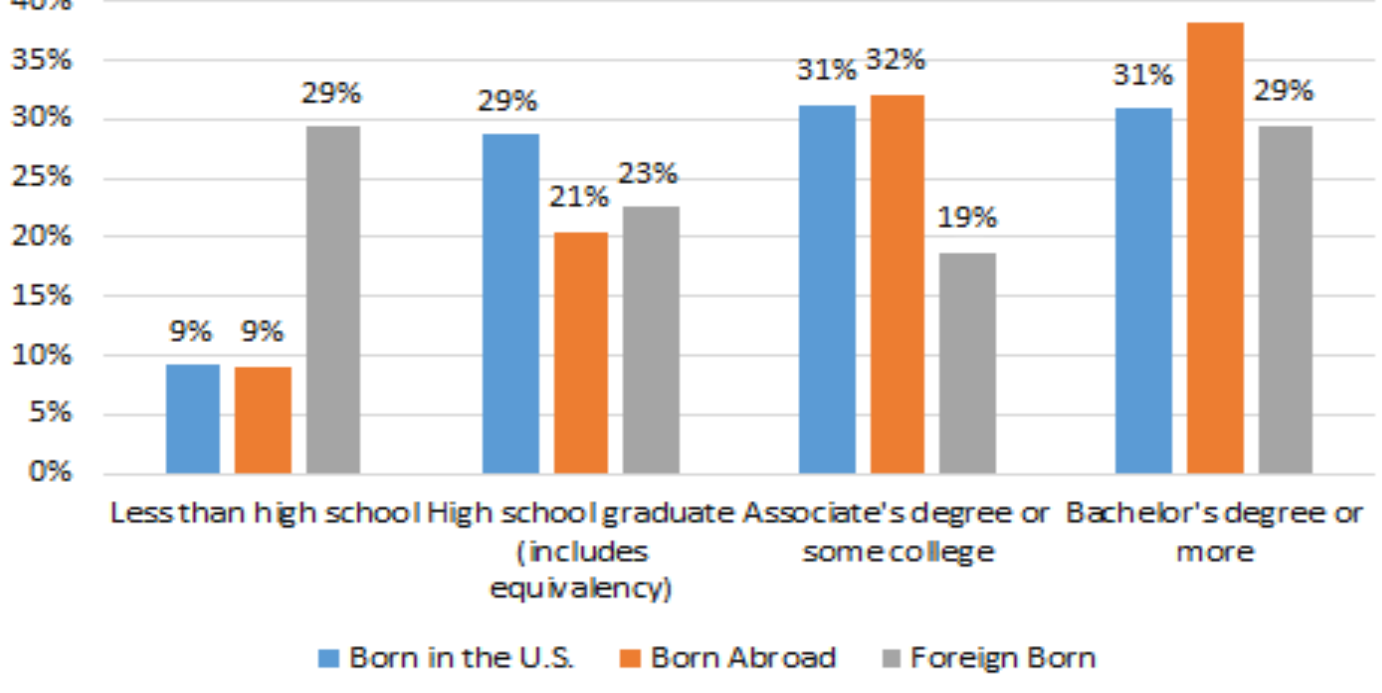
Born-abroad persons were more likely to report having two or more races than either those born in the U.S. or the foreign born.

Figure 5. Hispanic Origin by Nativity: 2015



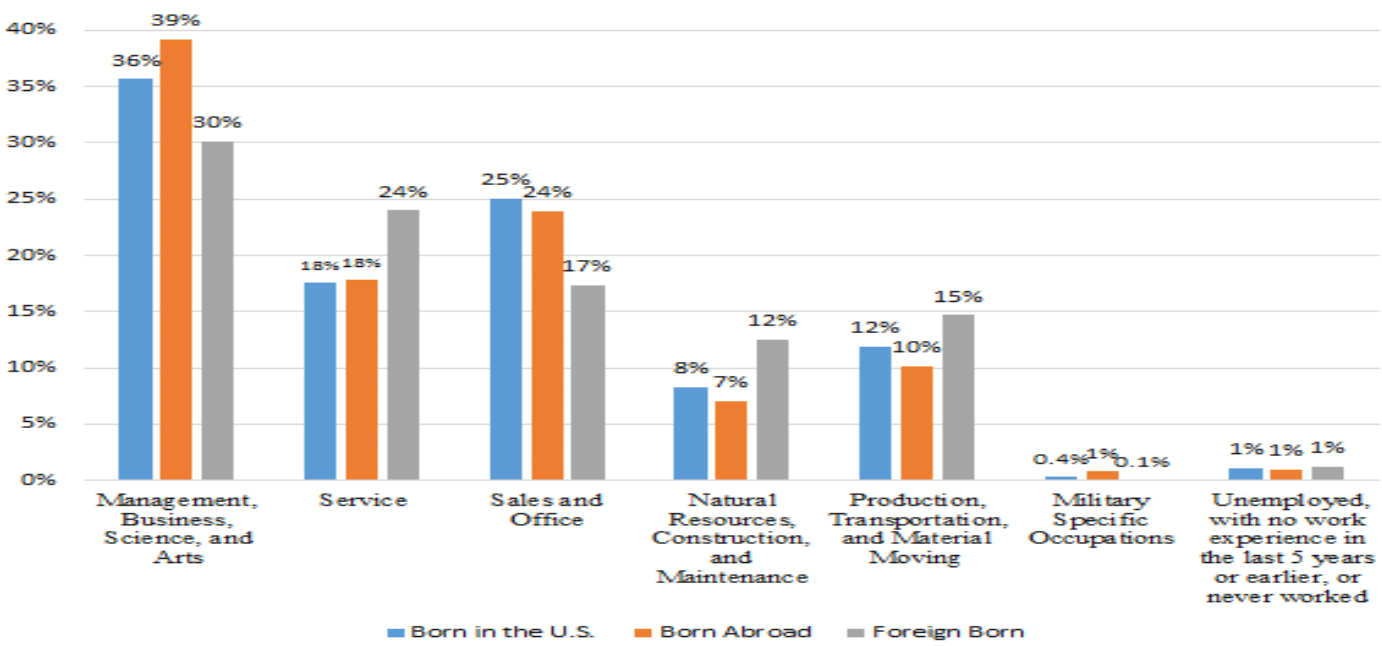
Born-abroad persons were more likely to report their ethnicity as Hispanic than those born in the U.S., but less likely to report as Hispanic than the foreign born.

Figure 6. Educational Attainment by Nativity: 2015



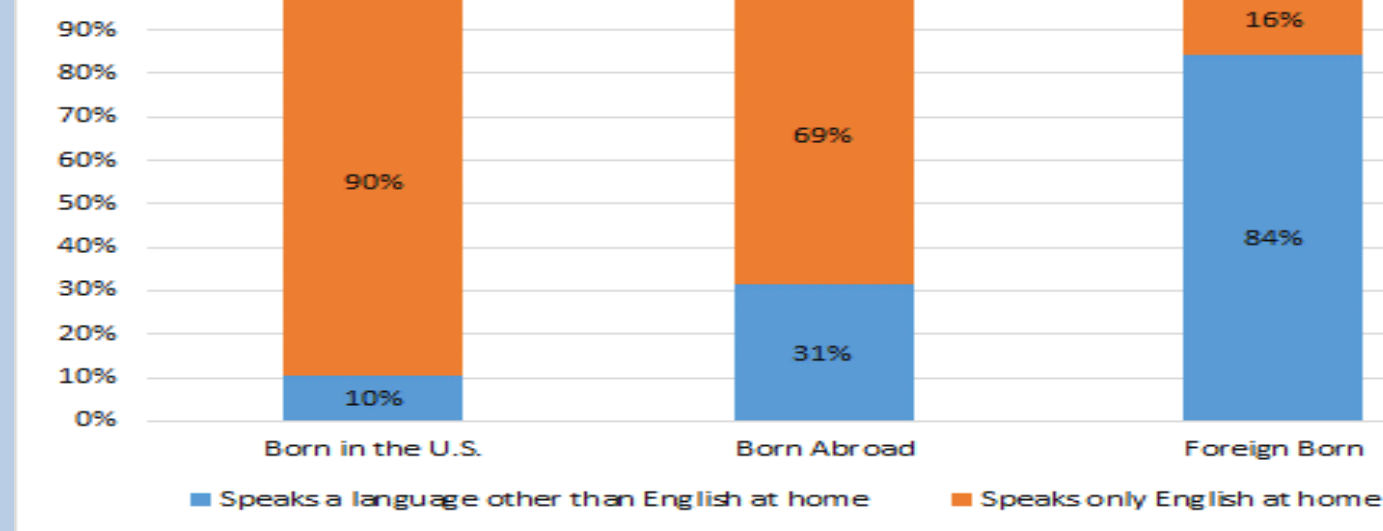
Born abroads were more likely to report having at least some college education than those born in the U.S. or the foreign born.

Figure 7. Occupation by Nativity: 2015



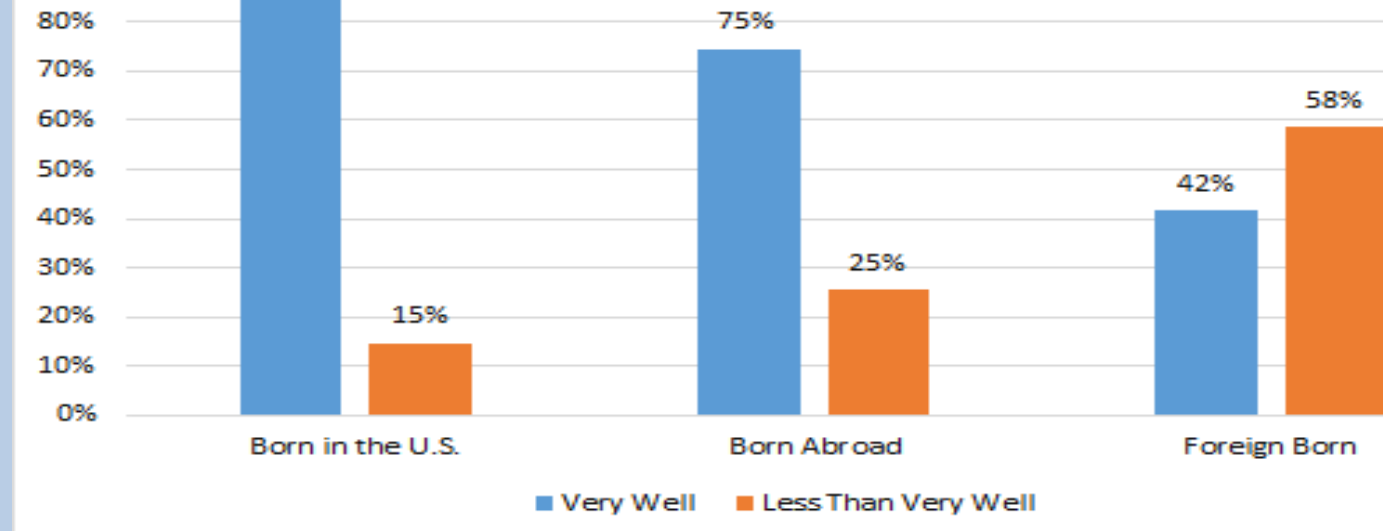
Born abroads were more likely to report working in a management/business/science/art occupation than either the foreign born or those born in the U.S.

Figure 8. Speak Other Language at Home by Nativity: 2015



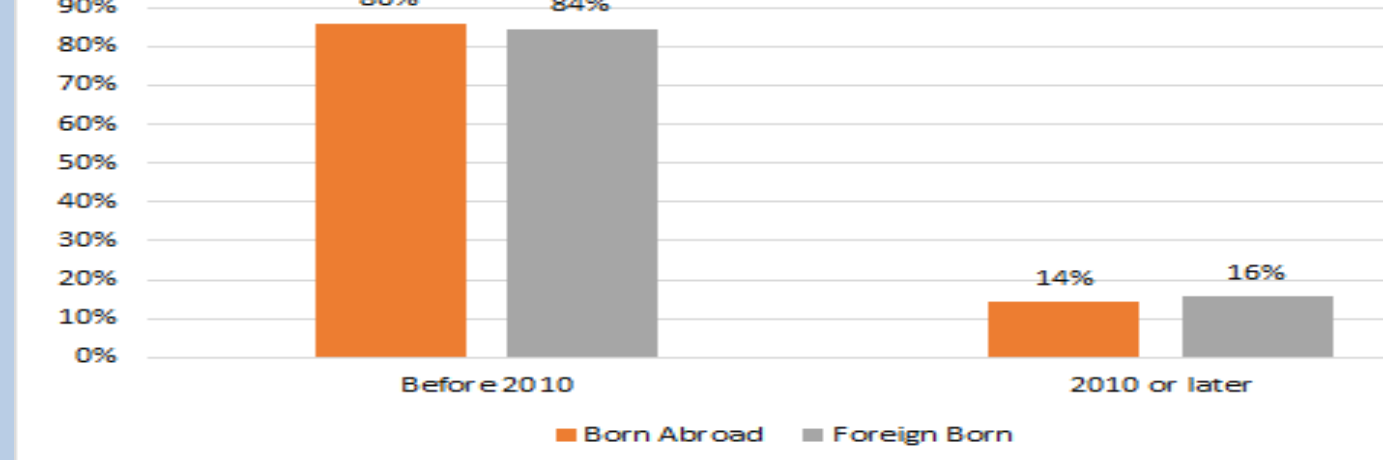
Born abroads were more likely to speak a language other than English at home than those born in the U.S., but less likely than foreign-born persons.

Figure 9. English Proficiency by Nativity: 2015



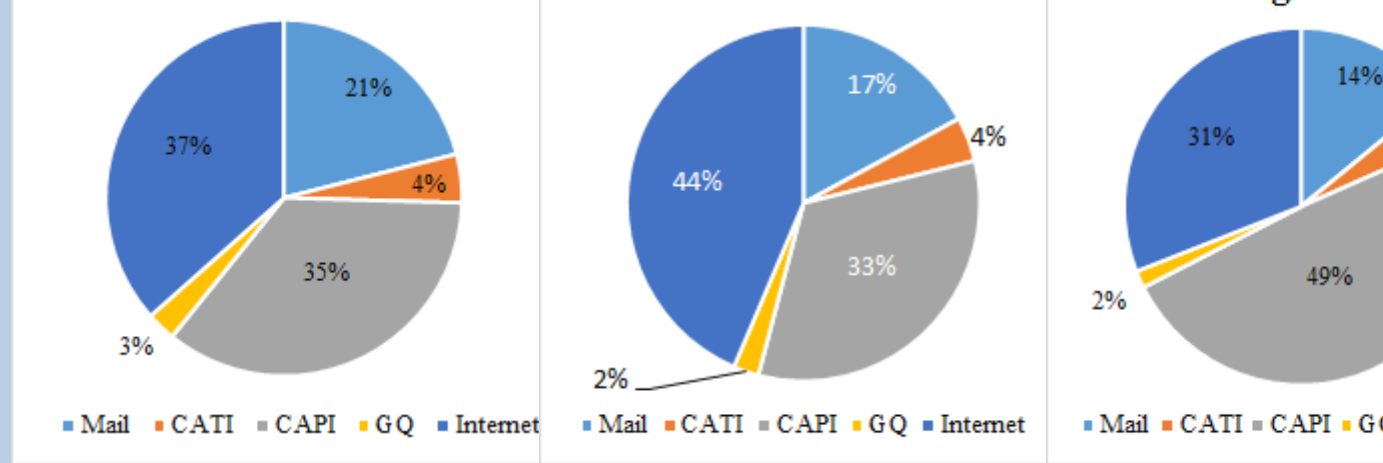
Born-abroad persons were more likely to speak English “very well” than foreign-born persons, but less likely than those born in the U.S.

Figure 10. Year of Entry by Nativity: 2015



Born-abroad persons were more likely to have arrived in the U.S. before 2010 than foreign-born persons.

Figure 11. Mode of Response by Nativity: 2015



Born abroads were more likely to reply to the ACS by the Internet than either those born in the U.S. or the foreign born.

Conclusion

There were approximately 3 million born-abroad persons in the U.S. in 2015, and the total number of born abroads in the U.S. has increased considerably since 1950. Born abroad persons are from a wide number of countries of birth, and were most likely to report having been born in Europe. Born abroads were different from both those born in the U.S. and from the foreign born in educational attainment, occupation, speaking another language at home, English proficiency, and in mode of response to the ACS.

This poster is released to inform interested parties of ongoing research and to encourage discussion. Any views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the U.S. Census Bureau.