

The Place-of-Birth Composition of Immigrants to the United States: 2000 to 2013

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INTRODUCTION

In 2013, China became the top sending country for immigrants to the United States, replacing Mexico.¹ This followed a decade where immigration from China increased while immigration from Mexico decreased. In addition to China, several of the other top immigrant-sending countries in 2013 were in Asia including India, Korea, the Philippines, and Japan.² In this poster, we show trends in the national origins of recent immigrants to the United States using data from the American Community Survey. In addition to showing trends in the size of immigrant flows, we also analyze the demographic characteristics of the recent immigrants from the top sending countries.

BACKGROUND

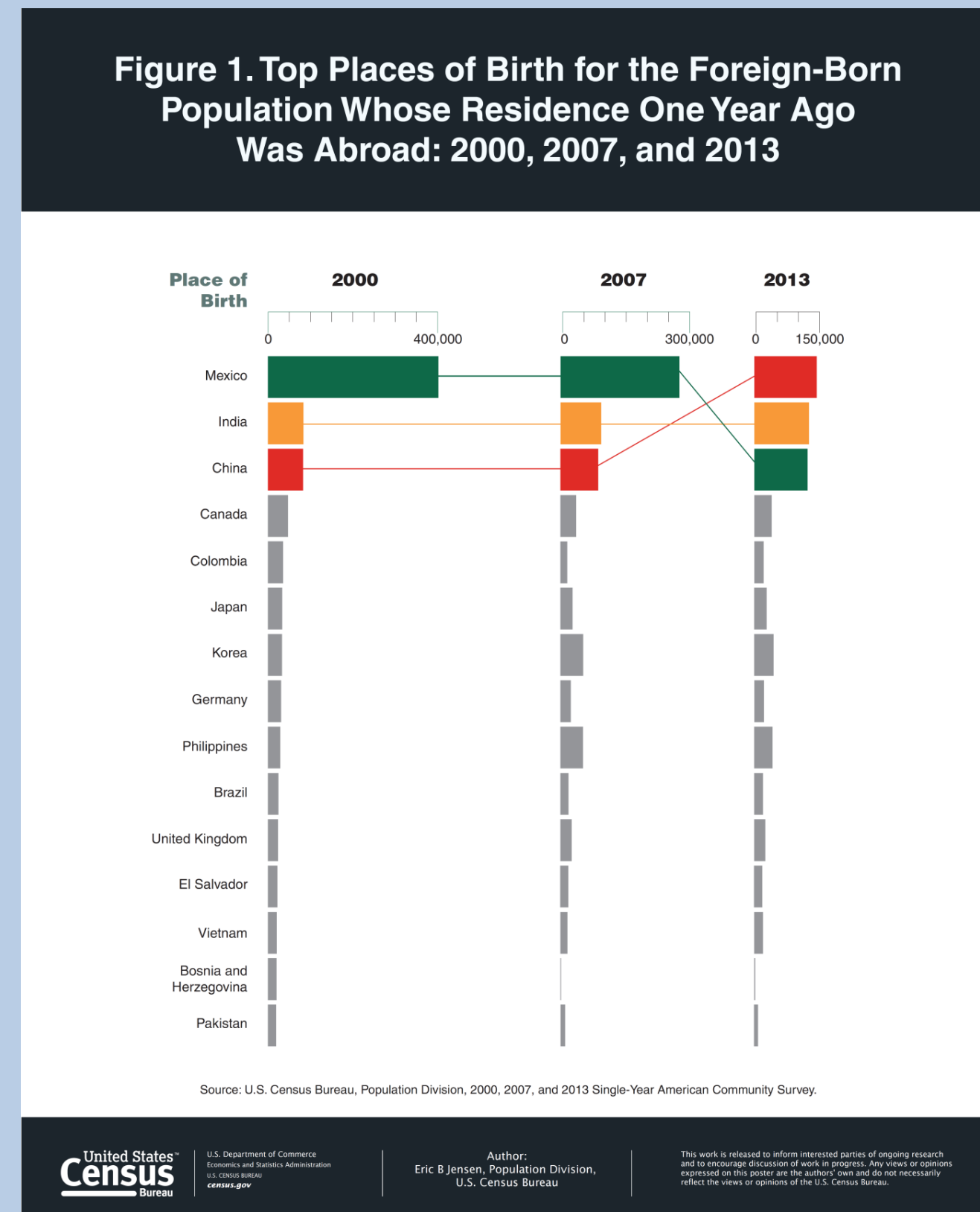
The U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program currently measures annual immigration as the foreign-born population whose residence one year ago was abroad. In the 2013 American Community Survey (ACS) there were 1,201,000 immigrants. China was the top sending country with 147,000 immigrants, followed by India with 129,000 and then Mexico with 125,000. The numbers of immigrants from India and Mexico were not statistically different from each other. In the 2012 ACS data, Mexico and China were the top two sending countries with 125,000 and 124,000 immigrants, respectively. The ACS estimates for Mexico and China in 2012 were not statistically different.

Change in the racial and ethnic composition of immigrant flows contributes to the overall racial and ethnic make-up of the United States. While Hispanics are still the largest racial or ethnic minority group, a larger proportion of the Asian population was foreign born (65.4 percent) compared to the Hispanic population (35.2 percent) in 2013. The contribution of immigration to overall population growth could be greater for Asians than for Hispanics in the future.

Historically, the national origins of immigrant flows have changed dramatically. The earliest waves of immigrants originated in Northern and Western Europe. Immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe later predominated. The most recent wave of immigrants has largely been from Latin America, and to a lesser extent, Asia. Whether these recent trends signal a new and distinct wave of immigration is yet to be seen.

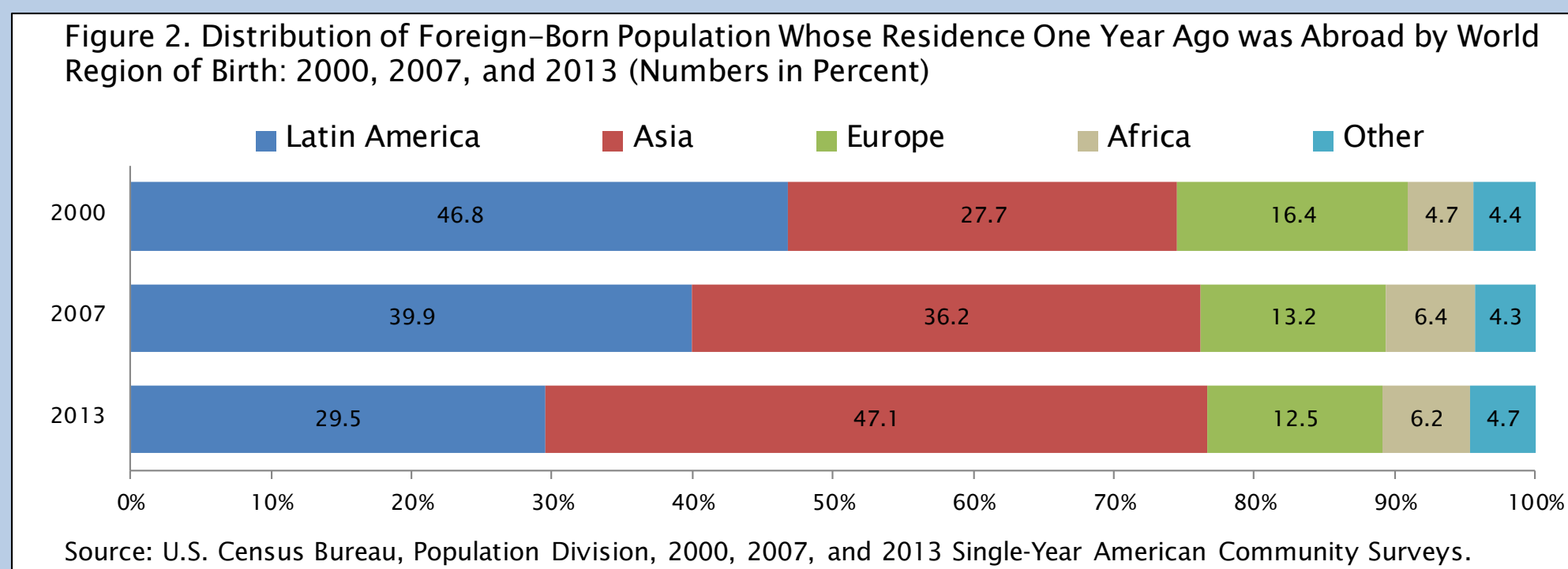
¹ Statistics for the China immigrant category include Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan.
² Statistics for the Korea immigrant category include North Korea and South Korea.
Note: The ACS estimates presented in this poster are subject to sampling and non-sampling error. For more information, see: http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/documentation_main/.

PLACE-OF-BIRTH COMPOSITION

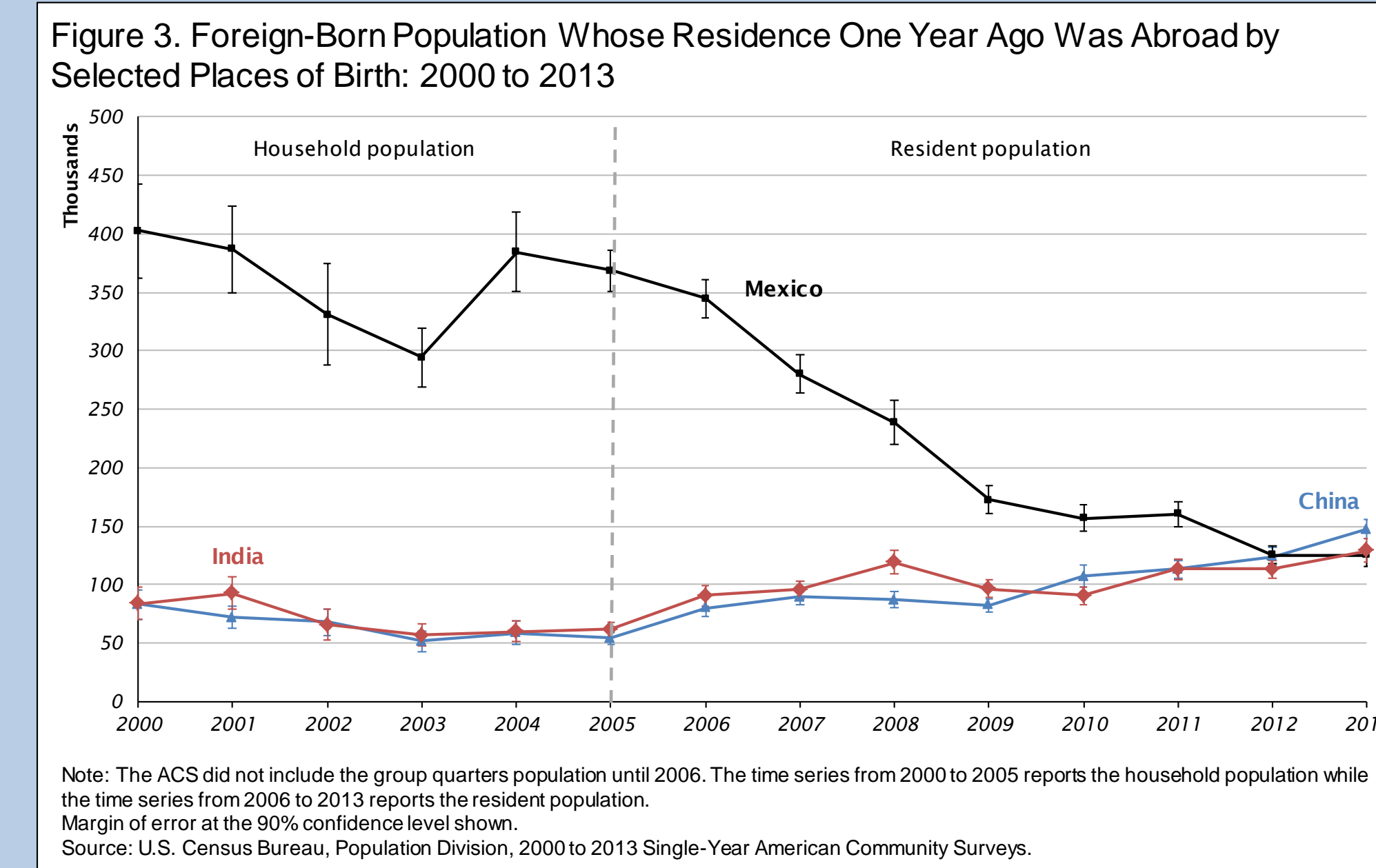


- The place-of-birth composition of immigrant flows to the United States shifted between 2000 and 2013.
- In 2013, China became the top sending country for foreign-born immigrants.
- Mexico was the largest sending country in 2000 and 2007.
- India was in the top three sending countries in each period.
- The changes in rank between the top sending countries of foreign-born immigrants influence the rank of their respective regions.

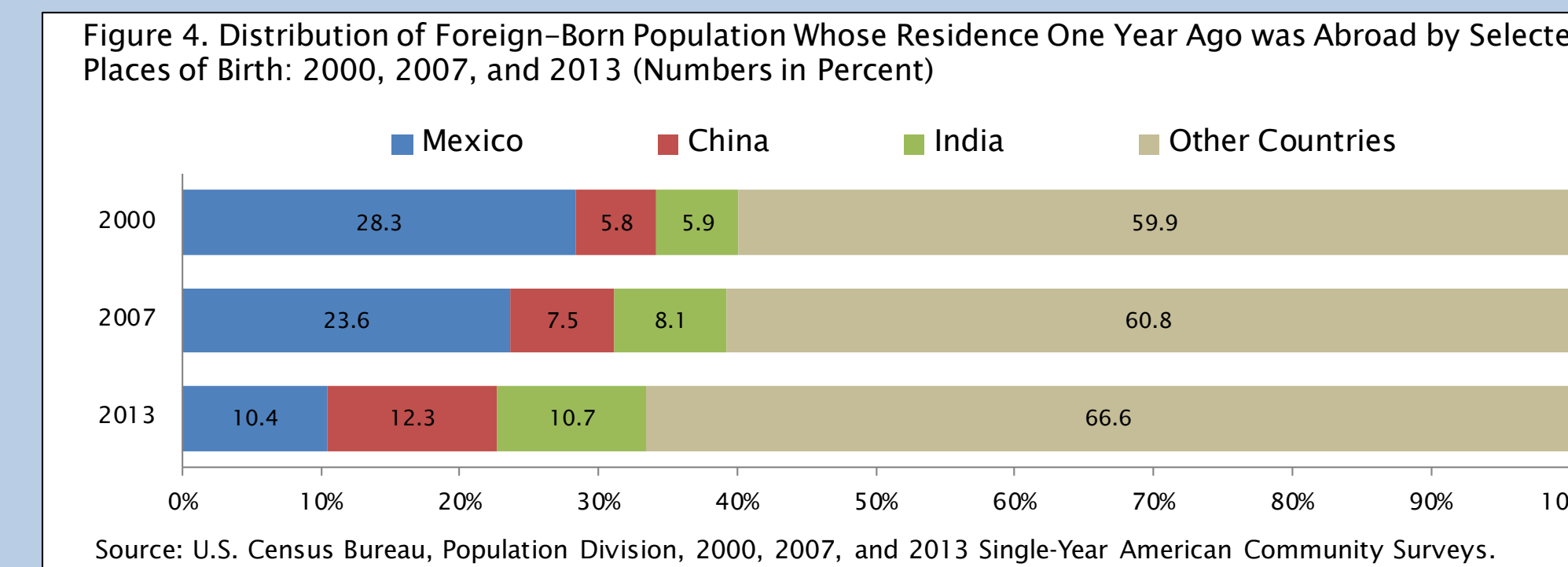
- The percentage of foreign-born immigrants from Asia increased from 2000 to 2013, while the percentage from Latin America decreased.
- There was a slight increase in the percentage of foreign-born immigrants from Africa from 2000 to 2013, while the percentage from Europe declined.



CHINA, MEXICO, AND INDIA



- In 2013, China became the top sending country for foreign-born immigrants to the United States. India and Mexico, which were the second and third largest sending countries, were not statistically different.
- This is the result of a decade where the number of foreign-born immigrants from China and India increased while the number from Mexico declined.
- Not only did the absolute number of immigrants from China and India increase, but also the percentage of total migrants from these countries.
- The share of immigrants from Mexico decreased from 2000 to 2013.
- The percentage of foreign-born immigrants from all Other Countries except China, Mexico, and India increased.



AGE AND SEX

- We analyzed changes in the age and sex distributions of immigrants born in China, Mexico, and India between two periods: 2005-2007 and 2011-2013

China

- Initially, immigrants born in China were concentrated around the 20-29 age group. Also, there was a relatively high percentage of females relative to males in the 0-4 age group.

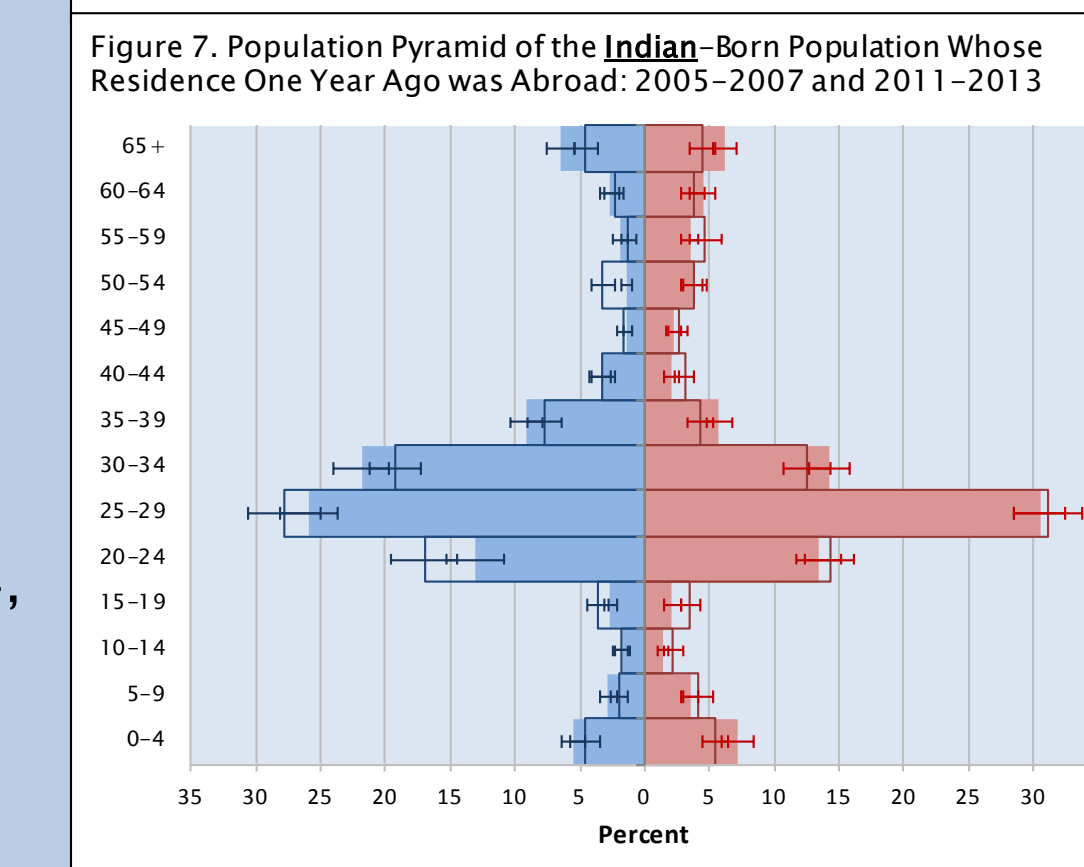
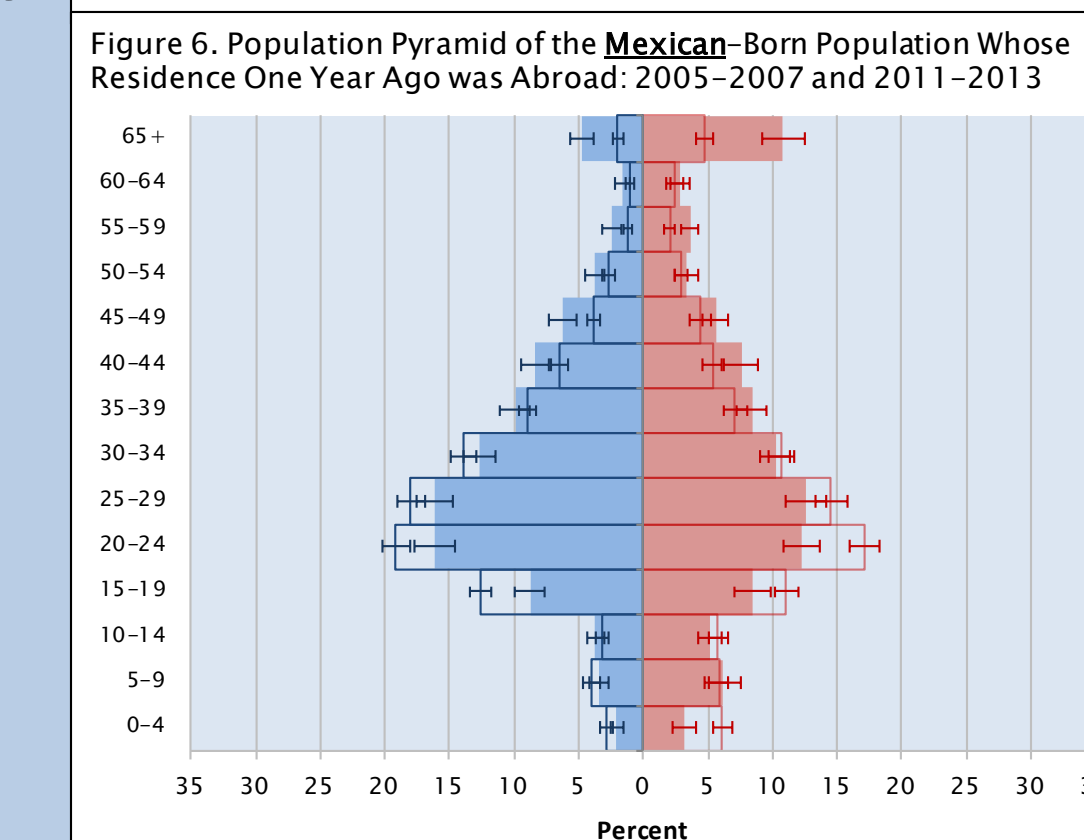
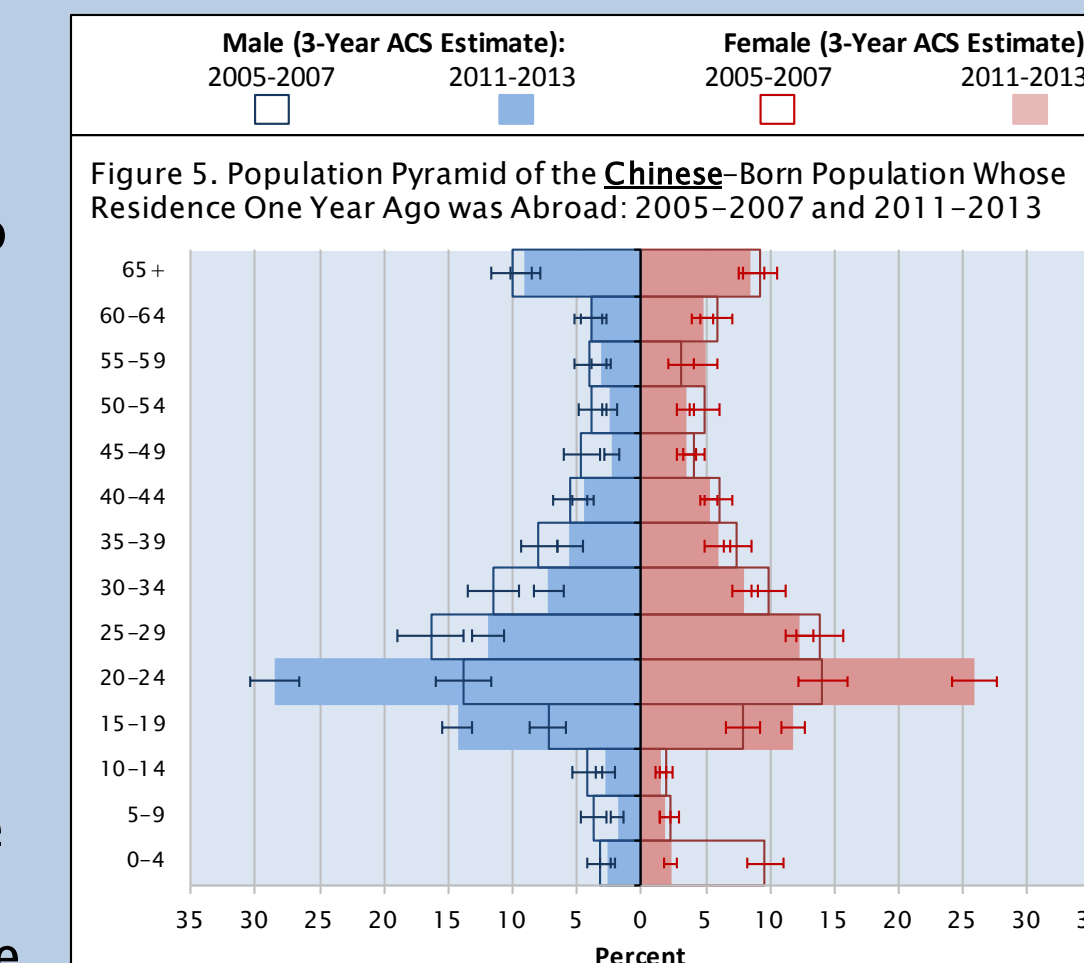
- More recently, the age structure is concentrated around the college-aged populations, with the largest percentage point increases in the 15-19 and 20-24 age groups for both males and females.

Mexico

- The age distribution of immigrants born in Mexico became older between the 2005-2007 and 2011-2013 periods.
- The percentage of males and females in the 0-4, 15-19 and 20-24 age groups declined.
- The percentage in the 40-44, 55-59, and 65 and over age groups increased for both males and females.

India

- Most immigrants born in India are concentrated in ages 20-34, with the largest percentage in the 25-29 age bracket. This is consistent for both males and females.
- This patterns is consistent across time periods.



Note: Margin of error at the 90% confidence level shown. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, 2005-2007 and 2011-2013 3-Year American Community Surveys.