

# Noncitizens Under Age 35: 2010–2012

## *American Community Survey Briefs*

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According to the 2010–2012 American Community Survey, 10.3 million noncitizens under age 35 lived in the United States, representing less than 4 percent of the total U.S. population. Most of these immigrants—80 percent—were young adults between the ages of 18 and 34. About three in five have lived in this country for 5 years or longer, and over half arrived when they were under age 18. About one-third of noncitizens aged 18 to 24 were enrolled in college. When considering educational attainment, about two-thirds of noncitizens aged 25 to 34 had attained at least a high school degree, with one-fourth having earned at least a bachelor's degree.

While a small proportion of the total population, noncitizens under age 35 represent a unique immigrant group that is notably different from comparable groups, such as citizens under age 35. This difference is due, in part, to the legal status composition of younger noncitizens.<sup>1</sup> While some are legal permanent residents ("green card" holders), others are temporary migrants—such as international students or temporary workers—who may stay for several years and then return home. Noncitizens also include humanitarian migrants, such as refugees and asylees, and unauthorized immigrants residing in the United States. By virtue of their various legal statuses, noncitizens under age 35 exhibit key characteristic differences that contribute to the ever-changing profile of the American people.

<sup>1</sup> In this report, the terms "younger noncitizens," "young noncitizens," and the "young noncitizen population" all refer to noncitizens under age 35.

This report uses multi-year data from the 2010–2012 American Community Survey (ACS) to present demographic and socioeconomic information about the noncitizen population under age 35. Because the ACS

### **NATIVITY AND CITIZENSHIP**

**Nativity status:** Whether a United States resident is native born or foreign born.

**Native born:** Anyone who is a U.S. citizen at birth. This includes people born in the United States, Puerto Rico, or a U.S. Island Area (U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or born abroad of a U.S. citizen parent or parents. In this report, the terms "native" and "native born" are used interchangeably.

**Foreign born:** Anyone who is not a U.S. citizen at birth, including those who have become U.S. citizens through naturalization.

**U.S. citizen:** Respondents who are either 1) native born or 2) foreign born who indicated that they became U.S. citizens through naturalization.

**Noncitizen:** Respondents who indicated that they were not U.S. citizens at the time of the survey. In this report, the terms "not a U.S. citizen" and "noncitizen" are used interchangeably.

Table 1.

### Population by Age, Citizenship Status, and Nativity: 2010-2012

(Numbers in thousands. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/acs/www/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/))

Age, citizenship status, and nativity	Number	Margin of error ( $\pm$ ) <sup>1</sup>	Percent	Margin of error ( $\pm$ ) <sup>1</sup>
<b>All ages . . . . .</b>	<b>311,609</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>X</b>
Citizen . . . . .	289,272	73	92.8	Z
Native . . . . .	271,159	74	87.0	Z
Naturalized citizen . . . . .	18,113	48	5.8	Z
Noncitizen . . . . .	22,338	73	7.2	Z
<b>Under 35 years . . . . .</b>	<b>146,702</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>47.1</b>	<b>Z</b>
Citizen . . . . .	136,355	39	43.8	Z
Native . . . . .	132,810	46	42.6	Z
Naturalized citizen . . . . .	3,545	25	1.1	Z
Noncitizen . . . . .	10,347	46	3.3	Z
<b>35 years and over . . . . .</b>	<b>164,907</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>52.9</b>	<b>Z</b>
Citizen . . . . .	152,917	55	49.1	Z
Native . . . . .	138,349	55	44.4	Z
Naturalized citizen . . . . .	14,568	35	4.7	Z
Noncitizen . . . . .	11,991	42	3.8	Z

Z Rounds to zero.

X Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error is in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. When added to and subtracted from the estimate, the margin of error forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

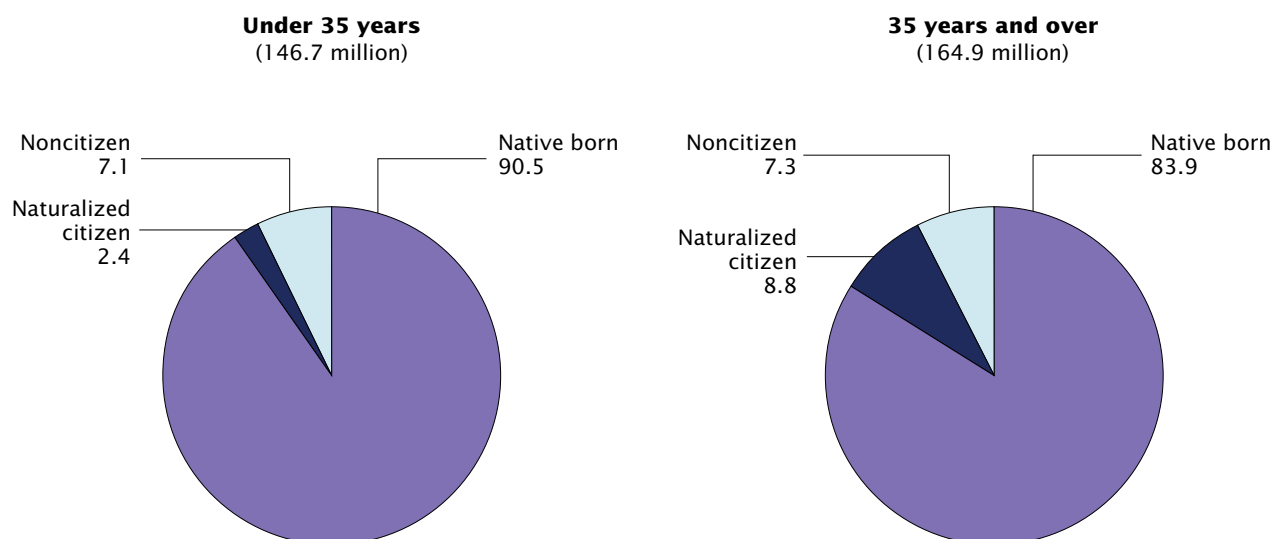
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2012 American Community Survey.

does not include a question on legal status, this report compares only the characteristics of citizens—including both native born and naturalized foreign born—with noncitizens. It begins by discussing the distribution of the total population by citizenship status and age, then reviews the geographic distribution of noncitizens under age 35 by state and metropolitan statistical area. The labor force participation, employment status, and occupation distribution of both citizens and noncitizens aged 25 to 34 are then compared. The report closes with a discussion of selected demographic and educational characteristics of noncitizens under age 35, which includes median age, age at arrival to the United States, years since entering the United States, college enrollment, and educational attainment.

Figure 1.

### Nativity and Citizenship Status by Selected Age Group: 2010-2012

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/acs/www/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2012 American Community Survey.

## NATIVITY, CITIZENSHIP STATUS, AND AGE

In 2010–2012, 311.6 million people lived in the United States, including 289.3 million citizens and 22.3 million noncitizens (Table 1). Citizens—including both native born and naturalized foreign born—represented 93 percent of the total population, while noncitizens

represented 7 percent. Additionally, 146.7 million people—less than half (47 percent) of the total population—were under age 35, 10.3 million of whom were noncitizens. By comparison, 12.0 million of the 164.9 million people aged 35 and older were noncitizens. Noncitizen residents of the United States under age 35 and those aged 35 and older made up 3 percent and

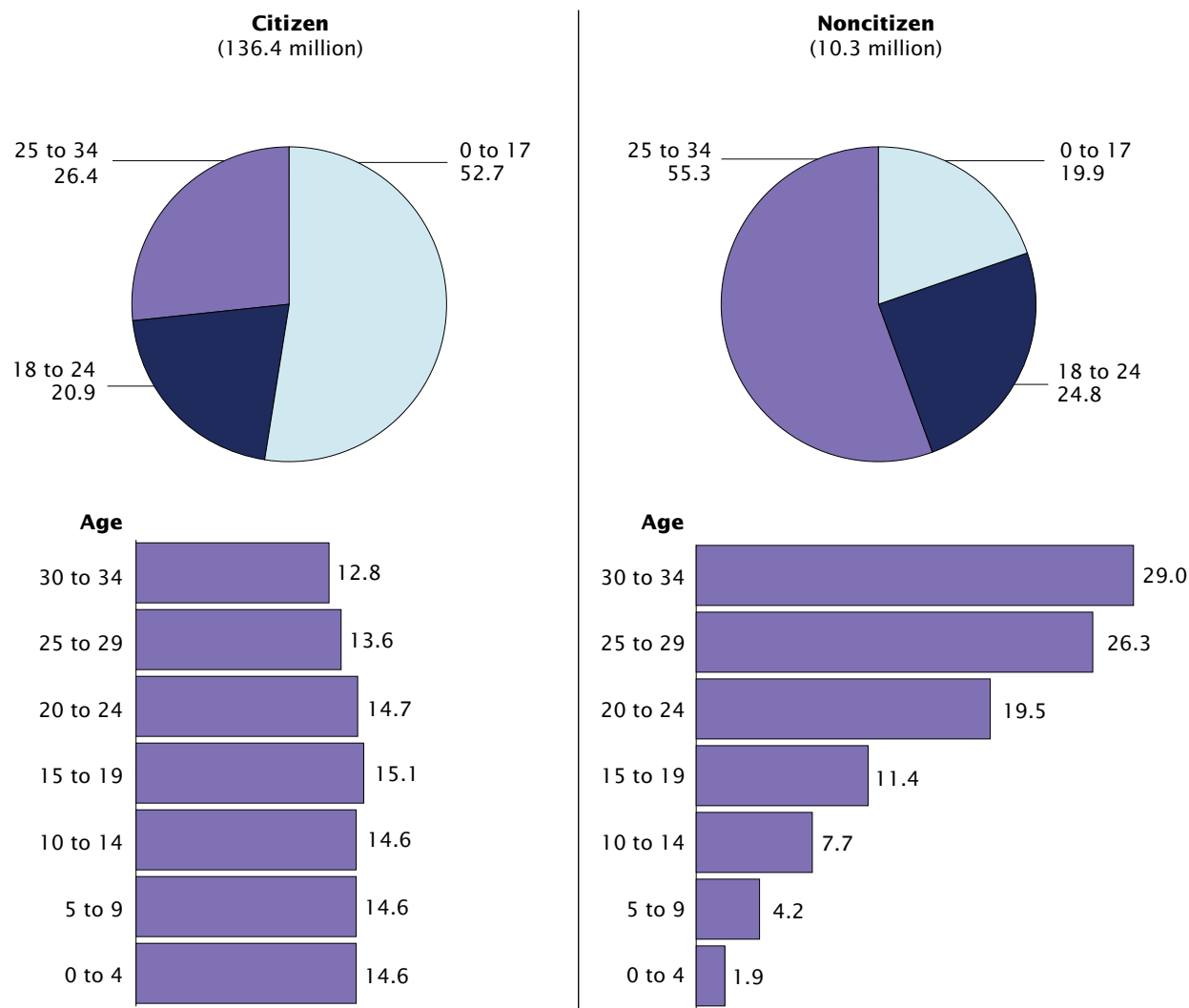
4 percent of the total population, respectively.

Within the two broad age groups, the native born were the majority—91 percent of people under age 35 and 84 percent of people aged 35 and older (Figure 1). The population under age 35 was less likely to be naturalized citizens (2 percent) than the population

Figure 2.

### Age Distribution of Population Under Age 35 by Citizenship Status: 2010–2012

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/acs/www/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010–2012 American Community Survey.

aged 35 and older (9 percent), while noncitizens composed about 7 percent in each age group.

Also, the age distribution of the population under 35 varied substantially by citizenship status. While citizens under age 35 were generally evenly distributed across five-year age groups, the distribution of noncitizens under age 35 demonstrated an upward pattern, where each five-year age group was larger than the previous one (Figure 2).<sup>2</sup> Less than half (47 percent) of citizens under age 35 were between the ages of 18 and 34, compared with 80 percent of noncitizens under age 35. Furthermore, noncitizens under age 35 were more than twice as likely as citizens under age 35 to be aged 25 to 34 (55 percent and 26 percent, respectively). However, citizens under age 35 were more likely to be children than noncitizens under age 35. Over half (53 percent) of citizens were less than 18 years old, compared with about 1 in every 5 (20 percent) noncitizens. This difference is most apparent in the youngest age groups: 29 percent of citizens under age 35 were less than 10 years old, compared with 6 percent of noncitizens under age 35.

### GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF NONCITIZENS UNDER AGE 35

Although noncitizens under age 35 resided in all states across the country, higher concentrations were found in some states. The states with the largest foreign-born populations—California, Florida, New York, and Texas—were also the states with the highest number of younger noncitizens (Table 2, Figure 3).

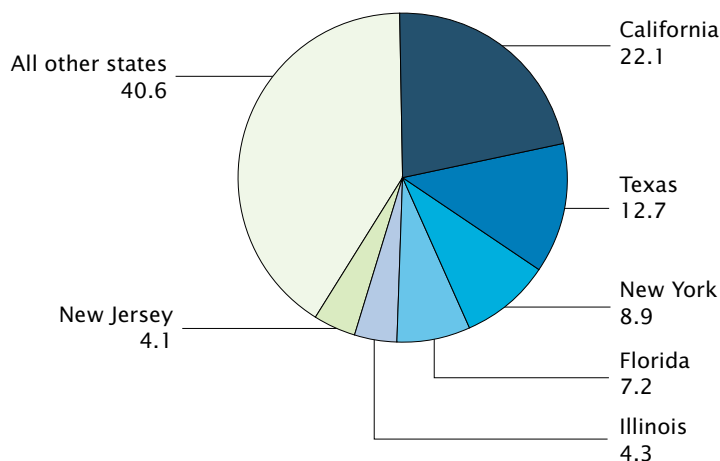
Collectively, over half of the foreign-born population and the noncitizen

<sup>2</sup> The difference in age structure between the citizens under age 35 and the noncitizens under age 35 can be partly explained by the fact that all children born in the United States are native born, regardless of parental nativity.

Figure 3.

### Noncitizens Under Age 35 by State: 2010-2012

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/acs/www/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/))



Percentages do not sum to 100.0 due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2012 American Community Survey.

population under age 35—56 percent and 51 percent, respectively—resided in these four states in 2010–2012. In fact, one out of three (35 percent) younger noncitizens lived in either California (22 percent) or Texas (13 percent), both of which had over 1 million noncitizens under age 35. An additional one-quarter of this population (25 percent) lived in four other states: Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, and New York.

As a percent of the state's total population, California (6.1 percent) had the highest proportion of noncitizens under age 35, followed by Texas (5.1 percent), Nevada (4.8 percent), New Jersey (4.8 percent), New York (4.7 percent), and the District of Columbia (4.2 percent).<sup>3</sup> An additional six states—Arizona,

<sup>3</sup> The percentages for Nevada, New Jersey, and New York were not significantly different from each other, nor were the percentages for Florida and the District of Columbia.

Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, and Washington—had proportions higher than the national average of 3.3 percent. The proportion of younger noncitizens was lowest in five states—Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Vermont, and West Virginia—all of which had less than 1 percent.<sup>4</sup>

Nationwide, noncitizens under age 35 represented about one-fourth (26 percent) of the total foreign-born population. At the state level, this proportion varied from about one out of five (18 percent) to two out of five (41 percent). In 17 states, one-third or more of their foreign-born population were noncitizens under age 35. By comparison, in 17 other states, one-fourth or less of their foreign-born population were noncitizens under age 35.

<sup>4</sup> The percentages for Maine, Mississippi, and Vermont were not significantly different from each other, nor were the percentages for West Virginia and Montana.

Table 2.

**Total, Foreign-Born, and Young Noncitizen Population by State: 2010–2012**

(Numbers in thousands. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/acs/www/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/))

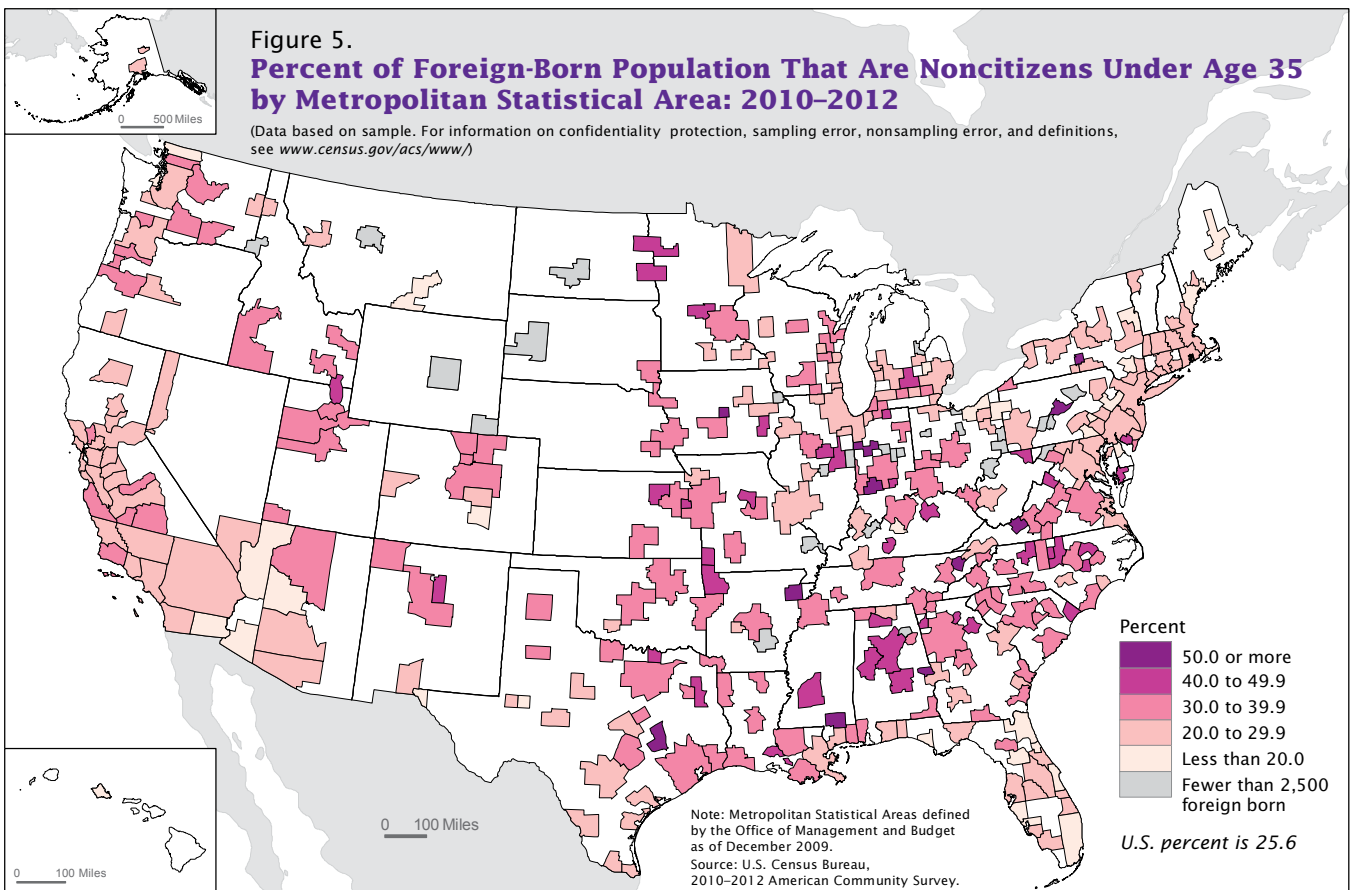
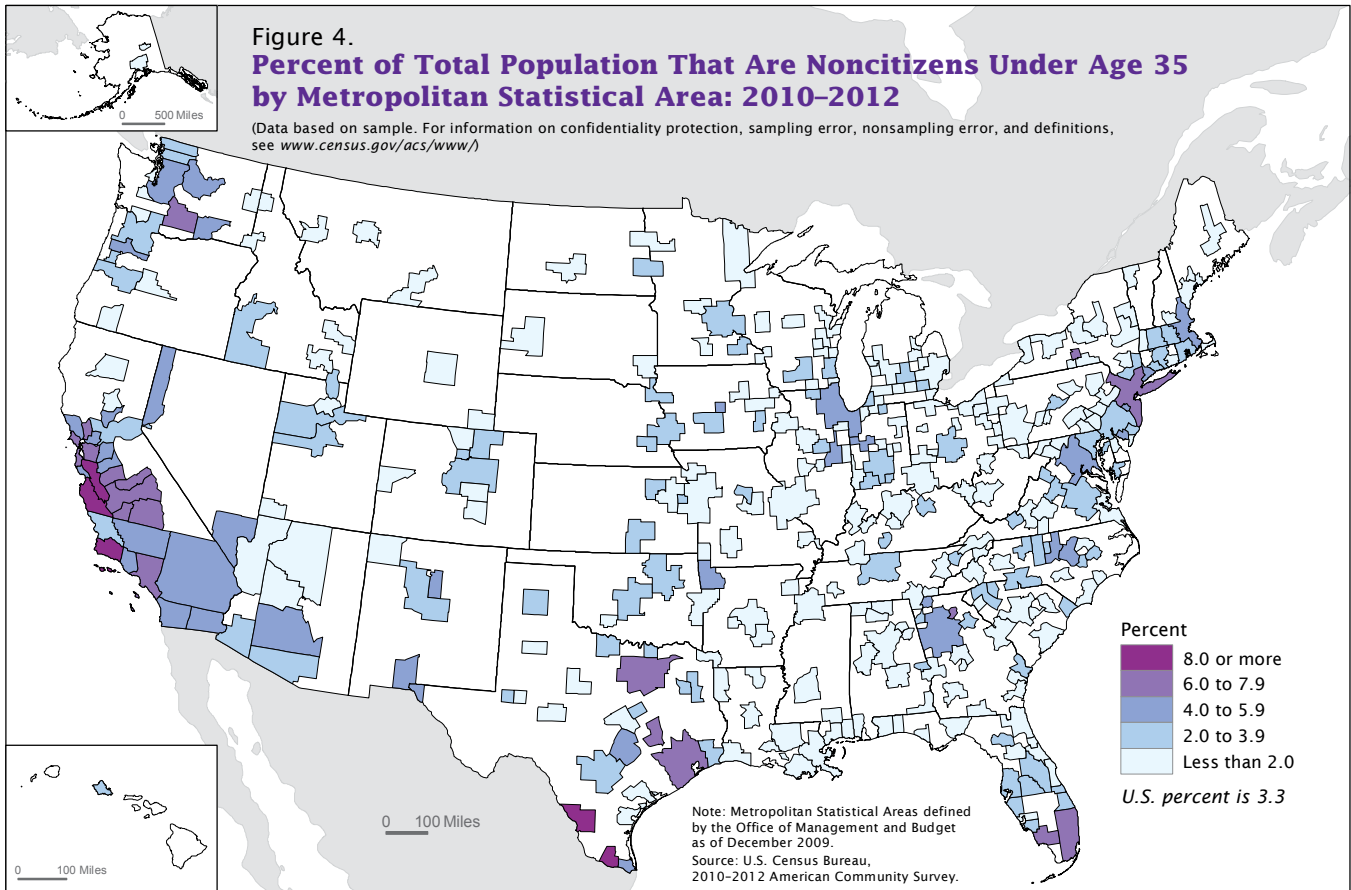
Area	Total population	Foreign-born population		Noncitizen population under 35 years					
		Number	Margin of error (±) <sup>1</sup>	Number	Margin of error (±) <sup>1</sup>	Percent of total population	Margin of error (±) <sup>1</sup>	Percent of foreign-born population	Margin of error (±) <sup>1</sup>
<b>United States . . . . .</b>	<b>311,609</b>	<b>40,451</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>10,347</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>Z</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Alabama . . . . .	4,803	169	4	67	3	1.4	0.1	39.6	1.2
Alaska . . . . .	723	50	2	11	1	1.5	0.2	21.4	2.1
Arizona . . . . .	6,477	867	9	235	6	3.6	0.1	27.1	0.6
Arkansas . . . . .	2,937	133	3	55	3	1.9	0.1	41.2	1.3
California . . . . .	37,687	10,211	30	2,290	16	6.1	Z	22.4	0.1
Colorado . . . . .	5,117	497	7	155	5	3.0	0.1	31.3	0.8
Connecticut . . . . .	3,585	487	7	118	3	3.3	0.1	24.2	0.5
Delaware . . . . .	908	76	3	22	1	2.4	0.2	29.4	1.5
District of Columbia . . . . .	619	85	3	26	2	4.2	0.3	30.6	1.7
Florida . . . . .	19,082	3,713	22	747	12	3.9	0.1	20.1	0.3
Georgia . . . . .	9,816	944	10	309	6	3.1	0.1	32.7	0.4
Hawaii . . . . .	1,378	249	5	44	3	3.2	0.2	17.5	1.0
Idaho . . . . .	1,583	93	3	31	2	2.0	0.1	33.5	1.6
Illinois . . . . .	12,858	1,783	13	450	7	3.5	0.1	25.2	0.3
Indiana . . . . .	6,515	304	5	113	3	1.7	0.1	37.3	0.7
Iowa . . . . .	3,063	139	3	50	2	1.6	0.1	35.9	1.3
Kansas . . . . .	2,872	193	4	67	3	2.3	0.1	34.9	1.1
Kentucky . . . . .	4,365	141	3	53	2	1.2	0.1	37.2	1.3
Louisiana . . . . .	4,574	175	4	56	3	1.2	0.1	32.0	1.1
Maine . . . . .	1,328	46	2	8	1	0.6	0.1	18.1	1.9
Maryland . . . . .	5,837	819	8	223	5	3.8	0.1	27.2	0.4
Massachusetts . . . . .	6,605	991	9	241	6	3.7	0.1	24.3	0.5
Michigan . . . . .	9,879	600	8	148	4	1.5	Z	24.6	0.6
Minnesota . . . . .	5,346	390	6	123	4	2.3	0.1	31.5	0.7
Mississippi . . . . .	2,977	64	3	25	2	0.8	0.1	38.2	2.2
Missouri . . . . .	6,009	236	5	75	3	1.2	0.1	31.7	1.0
Montana . . . . .	998	20	1	4	1	0.4	0.1	21.5	3.0
Nebraska . . . . .	1,842	117	3	42	2	2.3	0.1	35.9	1.1
Nevada . . . . .	2,728	520	6	131	4	4.8	0.1	25.3	0.6
New Hampshire . . . . .	1,318	71	3	15	1	1.2	0.1	21.5	1.7
New Jersey . . . . .	8,834	1,879	12	423	7	4.8	0.1	22.5	0.3
New Mexico . . . . .	2,076	204	6	60	3	2.9	0.2	29.3	1.3
New York . . . . .	19,490	4,348	20	916	12	4.7	0.1	21.1	0.2
North Carolina . . . . .	9,654	730	8	274	5	2.8	0.1	37.5	0.5
North Dakota . . . . .	686	18	1	7	1	1.1	0.1	40.6	3.0
Ohio . . . . .	11,541	459	7	127	4	1.1	Z	27.7	0.7
Oklahoma . . . . .	3,786	210	3	79	3	2.1	0.1	37.7	0.9
Oregon . . . . .	3,869	378	6	117	4	3.0	0.1	31.0	0.8
Pennsylvania . . . . .	12,740	757	8	183	4	1.4	Z	24.2	0.5
Rhode Island . . . . .	1,051	138	3	33	2	3.1	0.2	23.8	1.2
South Carolina . . . . .	4,678	223	5	81	3	1.7	0.1	36.1	1.1
South Dakota . . . . .	824	23	1	9	1	1.1	0.1	38.9	3.7
Tennessee . . . . .	6,404	296	5	111	3	1.7	0.1	37.4	0.9
Texas . . . . .	25,645	4,198	20	1,316	12	5.1	Z	31.3	0.2
Utah . . . . .	2,815	235	5	82	3	2.9	0.1	34.8	0.9
Vermont . . . . .	626	26	1	5	1	0.7	0.1	18.0	2.3
Virginia . . . . .	8,105	925	10	249	7	3.1	0.1	26.9	0.5
Washington . . . . .	6,821	905	9	246	6	3.6	0.1	27.2	0.5
West Virginia . . . . .	1,855	26	2	8	1	0.4	0.1	30.5	2.8
Wisconsin . . . . .	5,709	267	5	82	3	1.4	Z	30.7	0.8
Wyoming . . . . .	569	19	2	7	1	1.2	0.2	35.4	4.0

Z Rounds to zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error is in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. When added to and subtracted from the estimate, the margin of error forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

Note: "Young noncitizen population" refers to noncitizens under age 35.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010–2012 American Community Survey.



The metropolitan areas with the largest number of noncitizens under age 35 were New York (1.2 million) and Los Angeles (0.9 million), followed by Houston, Miami, Chicago, and Dallas (each with 0.4 million).<sup>5,6</sup> As a percent of the total population, the proportion of noncitizens under age 35 in 13 metropolitan areas was about two or more times the national proportion (3.3 percent; Figure 4). In five metropolitan areas—including Salinas, CA (11 percent); McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX (9 percent); Laredo, TX (8 percent); San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA (8 percent); and Santa Barbara-Santa Maria-Goleta, CA (8 percent)—the proportion of noncitizens under age 35 was about 8 percent or more of the total population.<sup>7</sup>

In 11 metropolitan areas, noncitizens under age 35 represented about half or more of the total foreign-born population (Figure 5). This included several metropolitan areas with large universities, such as Ames, IA (Iowa State University); Bloomington, IN (Indiana University); College Station-Bryan, TX (Texas A&M University); Ithaca, NY (Cornell University); Lafayette, IN (Purdue University); and State College, PA (Pennsylvania State University).

When considering the geographic distribution of noncitizens under age 35, two patterns emerge. First, relative to the total population, large population centers and immigration gateways, both traditional (such as southern California, southern Florida, Chicago-area Illinois, New

York City, Texas, and Washington) and recent (such as Georgia, Nevada, North Carolina, and northern Virginia), tend to have higher proportions of noncitizens under age 35 in their total populations. Second, relative to the foreign-born population, higher concentrations of noncitizens under age 35 are found in less populous metropolitan areas, particularly those located east of the Mississippi River and west of the New England states. These areas were typically the sites of colleges and universities, as previously noted.

### **LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT STATUS, AND OCCUPATION BY CITIZENSHIP STATUS**

When citizens and noncitizens aged 25 to 34 are compared, citizens are more likely to be in the civilian labor force, to have full-time employment, and to be working in management, business, science, and arts occupations or sales and office occupations.<sup>8</sup> In 2010–2012, there were 35.6 million citizens and 5.7 million noncitizens aged 25 to 34 in the civilian population (Figure 6).<sup>9</sup> Of those, 83 percent of citizens and 75 percent of noncitizens were in the civilian labor force. Citizens aged 25 to 34 in the civilian labor force were also more likely than their noncitizen counterparts to be employed full-time: 65 percent and 60 percent, respectively. However, among those in the labor force aged 25 to 34, over one-third (35 percent) of noncitizens were employed part-time, compared with under one-third (30 percent) of citizens.

<sup>8</sup> In this report, full-time employment refers to those working at least 35 hours a week and at least 50 weeks per year. Part-time employment includes those who worked less than full-time and year-round.

<sup>9</sup> The civilian population refers to the portion of the resident population not in the active duty military.

Among employed civilians aged 25 to 34, occupation patterns differed by citizenship status (Figure 7). Employed noncitizens were most likely to work in service occupations (27 percent), followed by management, business, science, and arts occupations (25 percent) and natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations (20 percent). Meanwhile, employed citizens were most likely to work in management, business, science, and arts occupations (39 percent), sales and office occupations (25 percent), and service occupations (18 percent). Comparatively, noncitizens were about 50 percent more likely than their citizen counterparts to work in either service occupations (27 percent and 18 percent, respectively) or production, transportation, and material moving occupations (15 percent and 10 percent, respectively), while citizens were 50 percent more likely than their noncitizen counterparts to work in either management, business, science, and arts occupations (39 percent and 25 percent, respectively) or sales and office occupations (25 percent and 14 percent, respectively). Notably, noncitizens in this age group were over twice as likely as citizens to work in natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations (20 percent and 9 percent, respectively).

### **DEMOGRAPHIC AND EDUCATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS BY REGION OF BIRTH**

Of the 40.5 million foreign born (both citizens and noncitizens) living in the United States in 2010–2012, the majority were born in Latin America and the Caribbean (53 percent), followed by Asia (29 percent), Europe (12 percent), Africa (4 percent), and other regions

<sup>5</sup> The New York Metropolitan Statistical Area includes several counties from the states of New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. The Chicago Metropolitan Statistical Area includes several counties from the states of Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin.

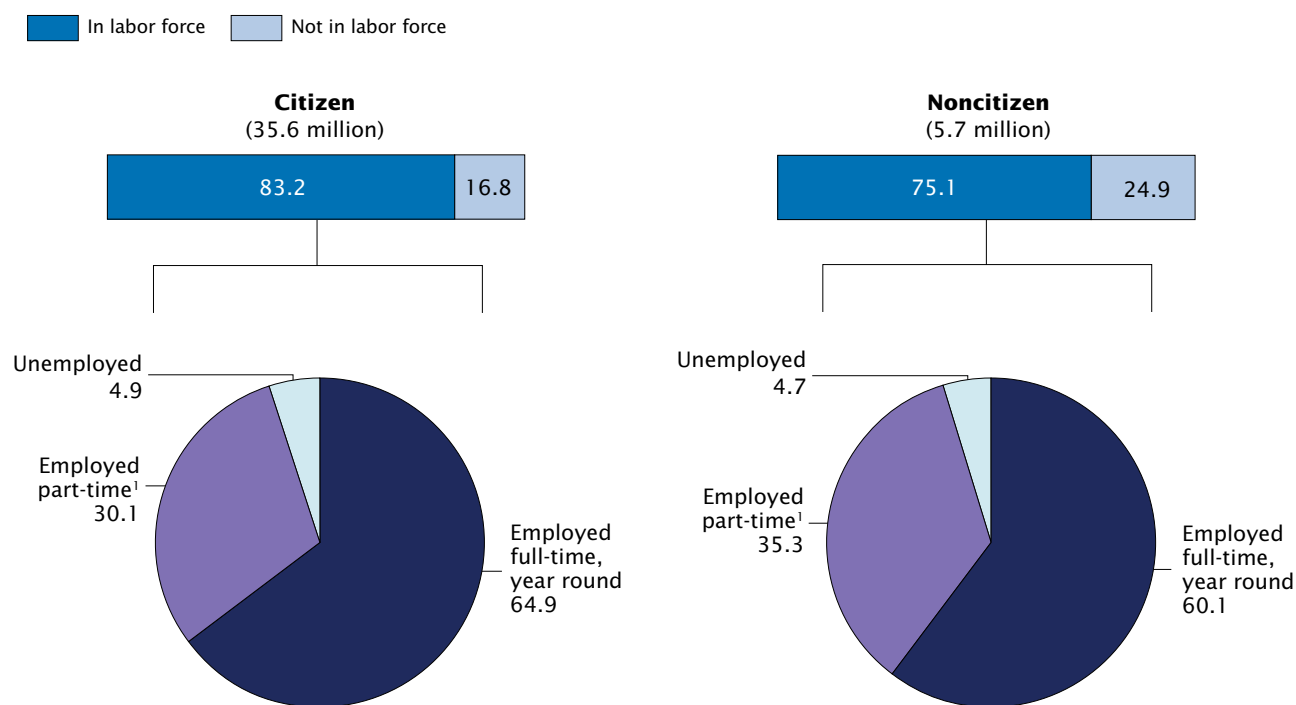
<sup>6</sup> The number for the Miami metropolitan area is not significantly different from the numbers for the Chicago metropolitan area and the Houston metropolitan area.

<sup>7</sup> The Laredo, McAllen, San Jose, and Santa Barbara metropolitan areas are not significantly different from each other.

Figure 6.

# **Labor Force Participation and Employment Status of the Civilian Population Aged 25-34 by Citizenship Status: 2010-2012**

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/acs/www/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/))



<sup>1</sup> "Employed part-time" refers to those who are employed but are working less than full-time, year-round (which is defined as those working at least 35 hours a week and at least 50 weeks per year).

Note: The civilian population refers to the portion of the resident population not in the active-duty military.

Some percentages do not sum to 100.0 due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2012 American Community Survey.

(3 percent; Figure 8).<sup>10</sup> The 10.3 million noncitizens under age 35 represented about one-fourth (26 percent) of the total foreign-born population, and they were similarly distributed by region, though the proportion from Latin America and the Caribbean (64 percent) was higher, while the shares from Asia (23 percent) and Europe (6 percent) were lower.

<sup>10</sup> The term "other regions" includes North-ern America and Oceania.

Looking at the proportion by world region of birth (Table 3), 31 per-cent of the foreign born from Latin America and the Caribbean were noncitizens under age 35, making it the highest region-of-birth proportion. Conversely, the foreign born from Europe, with 13 percent noncitizens under age 35, had the lowest proportion, meaning that the foreign born from Latin America and the Caribbean were over twice as likely as the European foreign

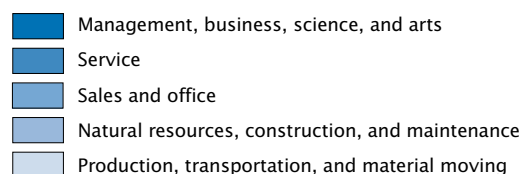
born to be younger noncitizens. The same can be said for the African foreign born—over one in four (28 percent) were noncitizens under age 35.

The median age of all noncitizens under age 35 was 26 years; by region of birth, the median age varied slightly, ranging between 24 and 26 years. However, there were differences among the regions in the proportion that entered the United

Figure 7.

## Occupation of the Employed Civilian Population Aged 25-34 by Citizenship Status: 2010-2012

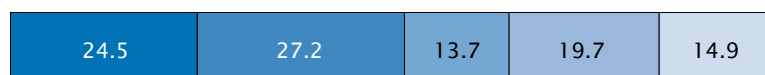
(Percent distribution. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/acs/www/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/))



### Citizen (26.5 million)



### Noncitizen (3.9 million)



Note: The civilian population refers to the portion of the resident population not in the active-duty military.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2012 American Community Survey.

States before age 18.<sup>11</sup> Overall, over half (52 percent) of all noncitizens under age 35 came to live in this country when they were less than 18 years old. Noncitizens under age 35 from Asia had the lowest proportion that arrived before age 18 (39 percent), while those from Latin America and the Caribbean had the highest (58 percent). This suggests that noncitizens under age 35 from Asia tend to come to live in the

<sup>11</sup> Age at arrival is approximated through a two-step process. First, the number of years since entry to the United States is approximated by subtracting year of entry (e.g., 2000) from the year the survey was administered (e.g., 2011). Then, this result is subtracted from the person's age. Using this method to derive the percentage of noncitizens under age 35 entering before age 18 excludes some people who actually entered at 17 but turned age 18 in the survey year.

United States later in life than those born elsewhere, while those from Latin America and the Caribbean tend to come earlier in life than those born elsewhere.

Three out of five noncitizens under age 35 (61 percent) entered the United States 5 years or more prior to participation in the survey.<sup>12</sup> This proportion varied greatly by region of birth—noncitizens under age 35 born in Asia had the lowest percentage, while those born in Latin

<sup>12</sup> Years since entry to the United States is approximated (see footnote 11). To derive the percentage of noncitizens under age 35 that entered 5 years ago or more, calculated differences of 6 or more were included, while those of 5 or less were excluded. People with differences equal to 5 were excluded since about half of those people actually would have entered 4 years ago.

America and the Caribbean had the highest percentage (36 percent and 72 percent, respectively). Therefore, noncitizens under age 35 from Asia were more likely to be recent arrivals to the United States than those born elsewhere, while those born in Latin America and the Caribbean were less likely to be recent arrivals.

Among the 2.6 million noncitizens aged 18 to 24, one out of three (33 percent) were enrolled in college.<sup>13</sup> College enrollment rates varied by region of birth. About two-thirds of noncitizens aged 18 to 24 from Asia (65 percent) and over half from Europe (54 percent) and Africa (54 percent) were enrolled in college.<sup>14</sup> By comparison, fewer than one in five (18 percent) of noncitizens aged 18 to 24 from Latin America and the Caribbean were enrolled in college.

Among the 5.7 million noncitizens aged 25 to 34, about two-thirds (65 percent) had attained a high school or higher educational degree, including 25 percent with at least a bachelor's degree. Overall, educational attainment levels varied among the region of birth groups. Notably, about half (49 percent) of noncitizens aged 25 to 34 from Latin America had not graduated from high school, while over half of the foreign born from Asia and Europe had attained a bachelor's degree or higher (68 percent and 54 percent, respectively).

## SOURCE AND ACCURACY

The data presented in this report are based on the ACS sample interviewed from January 2010 through December 2012. The estimates based on this sample describe the actual average values of person,

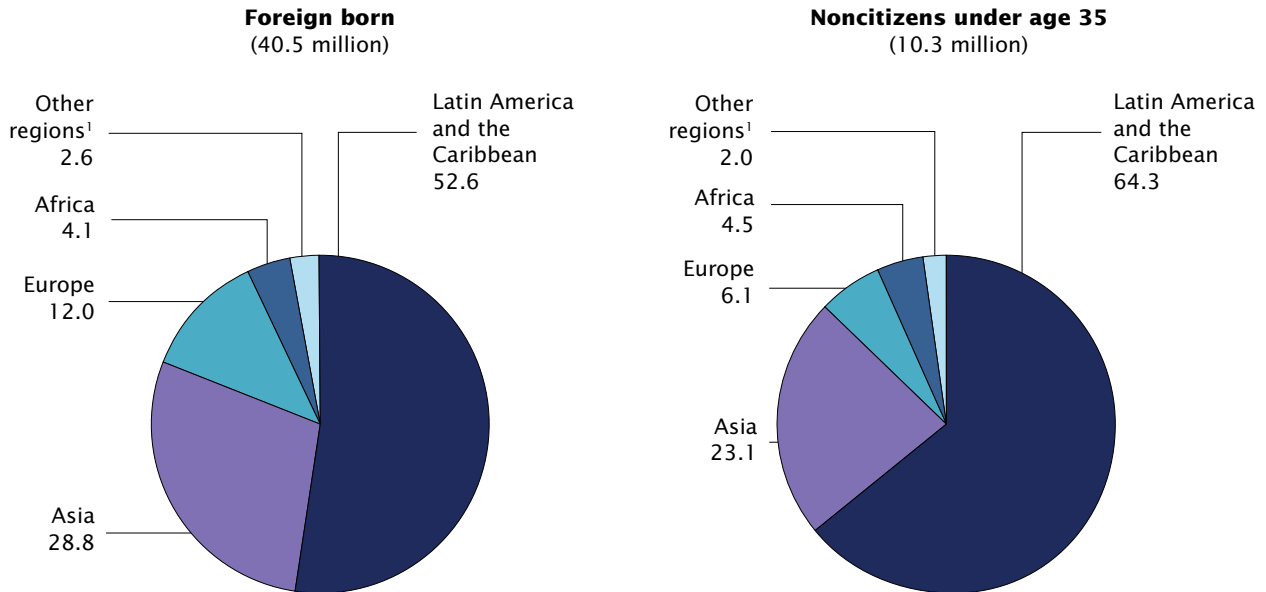
<sup>13</sup> College enrollment can refer to enrollment at the undergraduate, graduate, or professional levels; no distinction is made between full-, part-, or less than part-time enrollment.

<sup>14</sup> The college enrollment rates for Europe and Africa were not significantly different.

Figure 8.

### Foreign-Born and Young Noncitizen Populations by World Region of Birth: 2010–2012

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/acs/www/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/))



<sup>1</sup>Other regions includes Oceania and Northern America.

Note: "Young noncitizen population" refers to noncitizens under age 35.

Some percentages do not sum to 100.0 due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010–2012 American Community Survey.

household, and housing unit characteristics over this period of collection. Sampling error is the uncertainty between an estimate based on a sample and the corresponding value that would be obtained if the estimate were based on the entire population (as from a census). Measures of sampling error are provided in the form of margins of error for key estimates included in this report. All comparative statements

in this report have undergone statistical testing, and comparisons are significant at the 90 percent level unless otherwise noted. In addition to sampling error, nonsampling error may be introduced during any of the operations used to collect and process survey data such as editing, reviewing, or keying data from questionnaires. For more information on sampling and estimation methods, confidentiality protection,

and sampling and nonsampling errors, please see the *ACS Multiyear Accuracy of the Data* document located at [www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data\\_documentation/Accuracy/MultiyearACSAccuracyofData2012.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/MultiyearACSAccuracyofData2012.pdf).

Table 3.

**Demographic and Educational Characteristics of Young Noncitizens: 2010–2012**

(Estimates in thousands. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/acs/www/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/))

Characteristic	Total		World region of birth									
			Africa		Asia		Europe		Latin America and the Caribbean		Other regions <sup>1</sup>	
	Estimate	Margin of error (±) <sup>2</sup>	Estimate	Margin of error (±) <sup>2</sup>	Estimate	Margin of error (±) <sup>2</sup>	Estimate	Margin of error (±) <sup>2</sup>	Estimate	Margin of error (±) <sup>2</sup>	Estimate	Margin of error (±) <sup>2</sup>
<b>Noncitizens under age 35 . . . . .</b>	<b>10,347</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2,387</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6,654</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>4</b>
Percent of foreign-born population . . . . .	25.6	0.1	28.3	0.4	20.5	0.1	13.1	0.2	31.3	0.1	19.6	0.4
Median age (in years) . . . . .	26.0	Z	24.9	0.2	25.8	0.1	25.8	0.2	26.2	Z	24.0	0.3
Percent entered United States												
5 years ago or more . . . . .	60.5	0.2	41.5	1.0	35.9	0.4	49.2	0.7	72.1	0.3	48.6	1.1
At age under 18 . . . . .	51.9	0.2	46.7	1.0	38.6	0.4	45.9	0.8	57.5	0.2	53.9	1.3
<b>Noncitizens aged 18 to 24 . . . . .</b>	<b>2,568</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1,666</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>2</b>
Percent enrolled in college <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	33.1	0.3	53.6	1.6	65.4	0.7	54.5	1.6	17.6	0.3	59.4	2.5
<b>Noncitizens aged 25 to 34 . . . . .</b>	<b>5,722</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1,282</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3,772</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>3</b>
Percent less than high school graduate . . . . .	35.1	0.2	11.6	0.8	7.6	0.3	4.5	0.3	49.4	0.3	5.5	0.7
Percent high school graduate . . . . .	24.1	0.2	20.0	0.9	10.6	0.3	17.6	0.6	29.7	0.3	15.4	1.3
Percent some college or associate's degree . . . . .	15.6	0.2	34.6	1.1	14.3	0.3	24.0	0.8	13.8	0.2	26.1	1.4
Percent bachelor's degree or higher . . . . .	25.2	0.2	33.8	1.2	67.5	0.5	53.8	0.9	7.0	0.2	53.1	1.7

Z Rounds to zero.

<sup>1</sup>Other regions includes Oceania and Northern America.

<sup>2</sup>Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error is in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. When added to and subtracted from the estimate, the margin of error forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

<sup>3</sup>Includes enrollment at the undergraduate, graduate, or professional levels.

Note: Age at arrival is approximated through a two-step process. First, the number of years since entry to the United States is approximated by subtracting year of entry (e.g., 2000) from the year the survey was administered (e.g., 2011). Then, this result is subtracted from the person's age. To derive the percentage of noncitizens under age 35 that entered 5 years ago or more, calculated differences between year of survey and year of entry of 6 or more were included, while those of 5 or less were excluded. People with differences equal to 5 were excluded since about half of those people actually would have entered 4 years ago. Additionally, using this method to derive the percentage of noncitizens under age 35 entering before age 18 excludes some people who actually entered at 17 but turned age 18 in the survey year.

Some percentages do not sum to 100.0 due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010–2012 American Community Survey.