Data Snapshots

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IMMIGRATION
in Greater Philadelphia
2021 Update

DELAWARE VALLEY

data

dvrpc
DELAWARE VALLEY
REGIONAL
PLANNING COMMISSION

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for a diverse nine-county region in two states: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia in Pennsylvania; and Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Mercer in New Jersey.

DVRPC's vision for the Greater Philadelphia Region is a prosperous, innovative, equitable, resilient, and sustainable region that increases mobility choices by investing in a safe and modern transportation system; that protects and preserves our natural resources while creating healthy communities; and that fosters greater opportunities for all.

DVRPC's mission is to achieve this vision by convening the widest array of partners to inform and facilitate data-driven decision-making. We are engaged across the region, and strive to be leaders and innovators, exploring new ideas and creating best practices.

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Introduction

Greater Philadelphia's population became more diverse between 2010 and 2018, continuing the trend observed in *Immigration in Greater Philadelphia, 2012.* Greater Philadelphia's foreign-born population has grown and changed rapidly since the mid-2000s. This Snapshot update examines the foreign-born population in Greater Philadelphia using 2010 and 2018 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. It analyzes household demographic variables, such as median household income, educational attainment, and occupation relative to native households in the region.

Definitions

DVRPC Region: The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) covers 353 municipalities in nine counties: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia in Pennsylvania and Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Mercer in New Jersey; this term is used interchangeably with *Greater Philadelphia*.

Foreign-Born: The foreign-born population includes anyone who is not a U.S. citizen at birth, including those who have become U.S. citizens through naturalization. All immigrants are foreign-born, but not all foreign-born are immigrants. The foreign-born population includes nonimmigrants, such as students, business personnel, and diplomats, who have been admitted to the United States temporarily. Not all foreign-born arrived in the United States recently; some have spent many years in the country and are naturalized U.S. citizens.

Native: The native population includes anyone who is a U.S. citizen at birth, including those who are born in the United States, Puerto Rico, a U.S. Island Area (American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the U.S. Virgin Islands), or abroad of a U.S. citizen parent or parents.

Refugee: This is a person who is unable or unwilling to return to his or her country of nationality because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution based on the alien's race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. See the Refugee Act of 1980.

Greater Philadelphia Immigrant Profile

As shown in Table 1, the foreign-born population for Greater Philadelphia in 2018 is estimated at 666,029 (+/- 17,561). While the foreign-born population grew by 18.2 percent from 2010 to 2018, Data Snapshot 3.1 from May 2012 indicated that the foreign-born population grew by 39 percent between 2000 and 2010. Additionally, the foreign-born share of the region's total population rose from 10.1 percent in 2010 to 11.7 percent in 2018. Philadelphia County continues to have the highest number of foreign-born residents (218,489), while Mercer County continues to have the highest share of foreign-born population at 22.0 percent. Gloucester County, on the other hand, continues to have the lowest foreign-born share (5.3 percent) and the lowest number of foreign-born residents, which is driven by its relatively low population and foreign-born share (Bucks County had the next-lowest share at 9.0 percent).

Table 1: County Population by Nativity and Citizenship Status, 2018

County	Total Population	Native	Foreign-Born	Foreign-Born; Naturalized Citizen	Foreign-Born; Not a U.S. Citizen
Bucks	626,370	91.0%	9.0%	5.8%	3.2%
Burlington	446,367	90.3%	9.7%	6.2%	3.5%
Camden	507,367	89.0%	11.0%	6.2%	4.8%
Chester	517,156	90.4%	9.6%	4.1%	5.5%
Delaware	563,527	89.9%	10.1%	5.7%	4.4%
Gloucester	290,852	94.7%	5.3%	3.6%	1.7%
Mercer	368,762	78.0%	22.0%	10.4%	11.7%
Montgomery	821,301	89.2%	10.8%	6.1%	4.7%
Philadelphia	1,575,522	86.1%	13.9%	7.0%	6.9%

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates (2014–2018)

Figure 1 highlights the change in the foreign-born population by county from 2010 to 2018. On average, the foreign-born share of the population increased by at least 8 percent. The largest increase in the foreign-born share of the population occurred in Philadelphia County, which went from 11.5 to 13.9 percent during this period—an increase of 20.9 percent, or 37,812 persons. The second largest increase—18.8 percent— occurred in Delaware County. Conversely, the smallest increase—4.3 percent—occurred in Burlington County.

Figure 1: Change in Foreign-Born Share of Population by County, 2010–2018
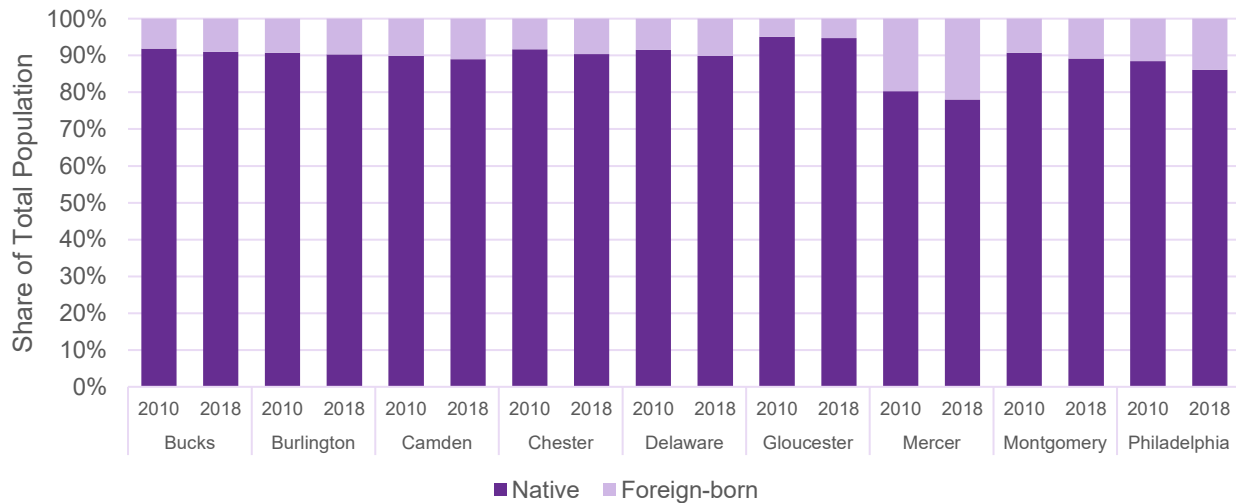
Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates (2014–2018)

Figure 2 outlines the change in citizenship status by county. The largest change in citizenship status among the foreign-born population was in Camden County. In 2010, 48 percent of the foreign-born population were naturalized citizens, and by 2018 that had risen to 56 percent—an increase of 18.8 percent. The smallest increase—7.5 percent—was in Montgomery County. In 2018, Gloucester County had the highest share—68 percent—of foreign-born naturalized citizens. The lowest share was Chester County at 43 percent.

Figure 2: Change in Citizenship Status by County, 2010–2018
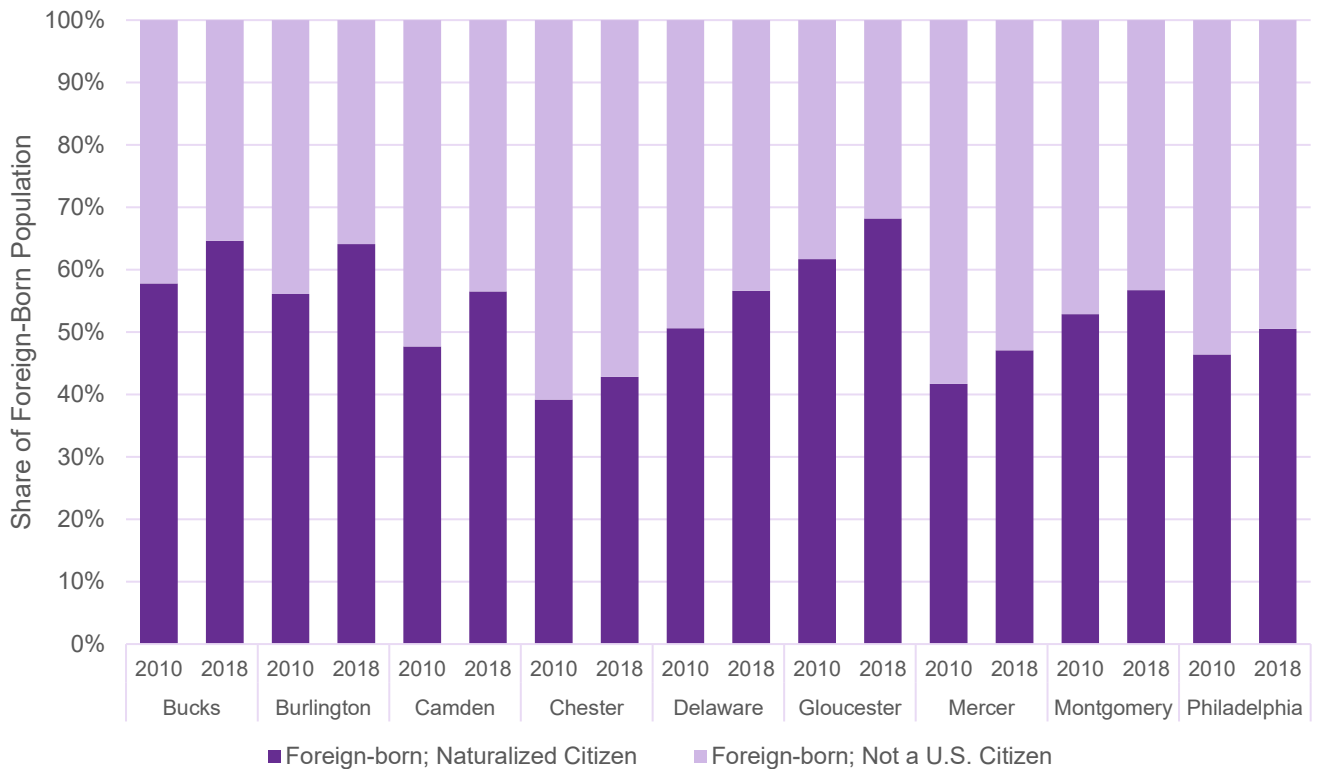
Sources: ACS 5-Year Estimates (2006–2010, 2014–2018)

Place of Birth

Figure 3 shows the foreign-born population by place of birth by county. In eight of the counties, the highest number of foreign-born residents are from Asia. The highest share of foreign-born residents from Asia is in Montgomery County, as they represent 51 percent of the foreign-born population in the county. Mercer County is the only county in the region where Asia does not account for the largest share of the foreign-born population's place of birth; instead, 41 percent of its foreign-born population immigrated from Latin America. The highest share of the foreign-born population from Europe is in Bucks County at 32 percent and the highest share from Africa is in Delaware County at 20.6 percent.

Figure 3: Foreign-Born Population Place of Birth by County, 2018
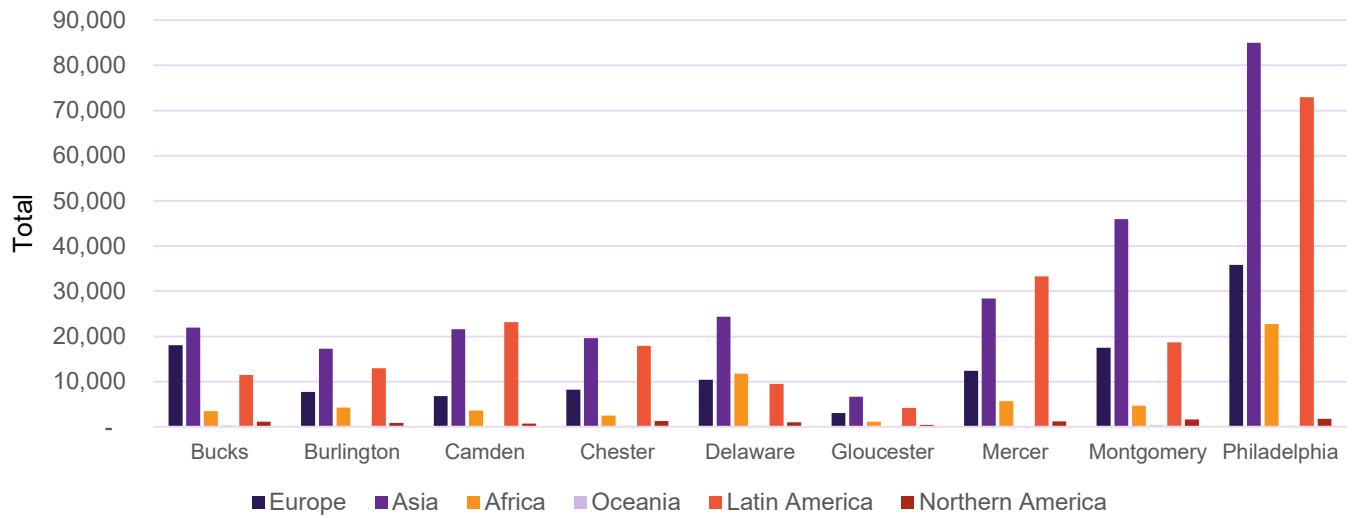
Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates (2014–2018)

Year of Entry

As shown in Figure 4, the majority of the foreign-born population arrived in the United States prior to the year 2000. Approximately 62.8 percent of the foreign-born population in Gloucester County arrived during this period, which is the largest share for all counties. Conversely, only 42.1 percent of the foreign-born population in Chester County arrived prior to the year 2000, making it the lowest share for this period. Between 2000 to 2009, 35.4 percent the foreign-born population in Chester County entered the United States, making it the highest share during this period. Philadelphia County had the largest share of its foreign-born population enter the United States since 2010, which accounts for 25.5 percent of its foreign-born population. For all three periods, Philadelphia County had the highest number of foreign-born residents enter the United States, which is primarily attributed to Philadelphia's relative population.

Figure 4: Foreign-Born Population by Year of Entry
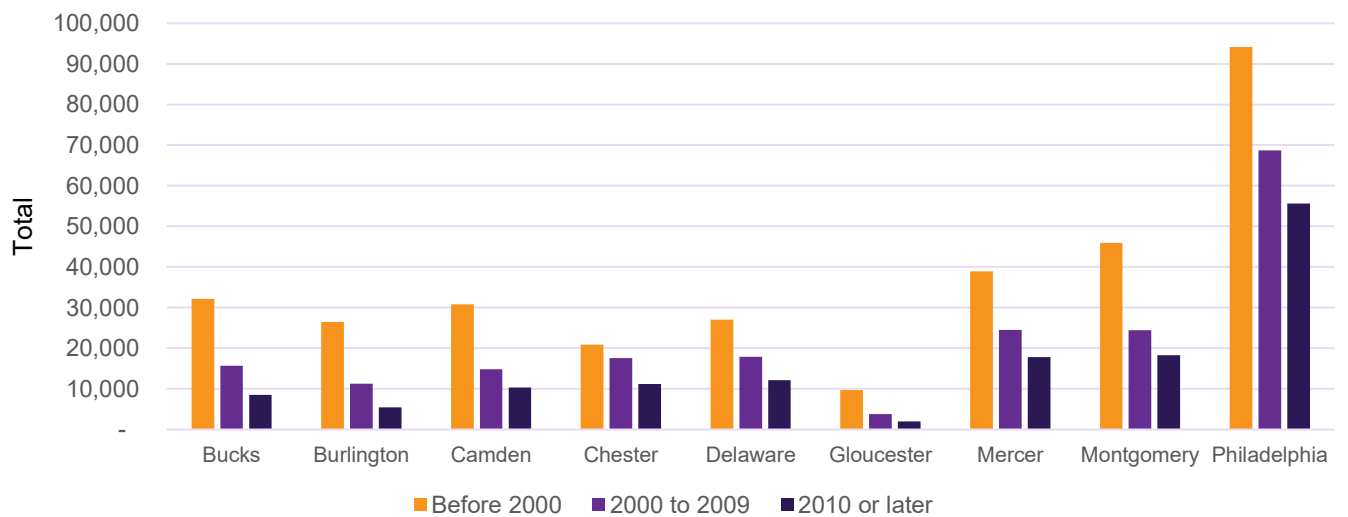
Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates (2014–2018)

Citizenship Status

Figure 5 outlines the citizen status by year of entry for the region's foreign-born population. The data shows that foreign-born residents that have been in the United States longer are more likely to be naturalized citizens. This is presumably due to the time it takes to gain U.S. citizenship. Additionally, foreign-born residents that have temporary visa status might leave the country when those visas expire, thereby lowering the number of foreign-born residents and growing the share of naturalized citizens.

Approximately 70 percent of the foreign-born population in Greater Philadelphia that arrived prior to the year 2000 are naturalized citizens. In Bucks County, 84.8 percent of the foreign-born population that arrived prior to the year 2000 are naturalized citizens, which is the highest in the region, followed by Montgomery and Burlington counties (84.0 and 82.4 percent, respectively). The lowest share is located in Chester County, where 71.2 percent of the foreign-born population that arrived since the year 2000 are naturalized citizens.

Between the years 2000 and 2009, the share of the foreign-born population that are naturalized citizens is relatively low. Gloucester and Bucks counties had a foreign-born population where more than half of the residents are naturalized citizens—57.8 and 50.8 percent, respectively. Comparatively, 30.8 percent of the foreign-born population that entered the United States during this period in Chester County are naturalized citizens, which is the lowest in the region. Foreign-Born residents that entered the United States since the year 2010 are the least likely to be naturalized citizens.

Figure 5: Foreign-Born Population Citizenship Status by Year of Entry (County)

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates (2014–2018)

Figure 6 outlines citizenship status by year of entry and aggregates county-level data to show the overall trends in the region. The share of the foreign-born population that are naturalized citizens is positively correlated with the period of entry in the United States. Over nine in 10 residents (90.1 percent) that entered the United States prior to the year 2000 are naturalized citizens in 2018 estimates, compared to 56.0 percent for entry from 2000 to 2009 and 21.1 percent for residents that entered the United States since 2010.

Figure 6: Foreign-Born Population Citizenship Status by Year of Entry (Region)
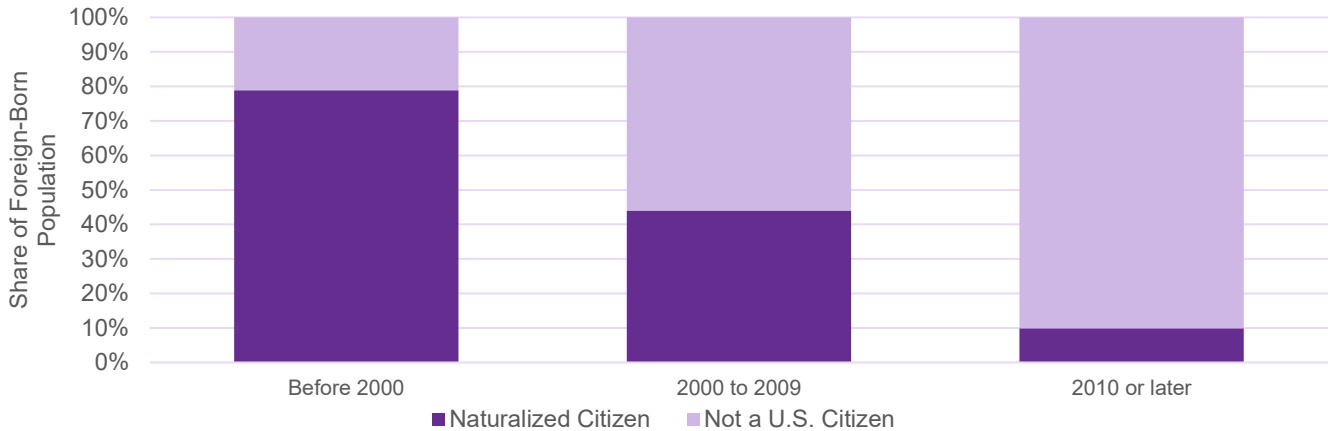
Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates (2014–2018)

Foreign-Born Population by Municipality, 2018

This section analyzes the foreign-born population at the municipal level in 2018. Table 2 shows municipalities with the fewest foreign-born residents. Tavistock Borough and Pine Valley Borough had zero foreign-born residents (they only had three and four residents, respectively). The remaining eight municipalities listed in this table, however, had a total population of at least 450 and very few foreign-born residents. Four of the municipalities listed in this table are located in Camden County, suggesting a heterogeneous distribution of foreign-born residents in the region.

Table 2: Municipalities with the Fewest Foreign-Born Residents, 2018

Municipality	County	State	Total Population	Native	Foreign-Born
Tavistock Borough	Camden	NJ	3	3	-
Pine Valley Borough	Camden	NJ	4	4	-
Green Lane Borough	Montgomery	PA	454	451	3
Audubon Park Borough	Camden	NJ	912	904	8
Upland Borough	Delaware	PA	3,304	3,296	8
Honey Brook Borough	Chester	PA	1,865	1,851	14
Silverdale Borough	Bucks	PA	751	737	14
Chesilhurst Borough	Camden	NJ	1,499	1,482	17
Bridgeton Township	Bucks	PA	1,092	1,074	18
Durham Township	Bucks	PA	1,093	1,069	24

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates (2014–2018)

As shown in Table 3, Philadelphia has 10 times more foreign-born residents (218,489) than the next highest municipality of Trenton City, which had the next-highest number of foreign-born residents (19,496). Like previous tables and charts, this statistic is the result of Philadelphia's relative population. Of the 10 municipalities listed, eight had at least 10,000 foreign-born residents. Approximately half of the municipalities listed are located in Mercer County, continuing the pattern of heterogeneous distribution of foreign-born residents within the region.

Table 3: Municipalities with the Most Foreign-Born Residents, 2018

Municipality	County	State	Total Population	Native	Foreign-Born
Philadelphia City	Philadelphia	PA	1,575,522	1,357,033	218,489
Trenton City	Mercer	NJ	83,734	64,238	19,496
Upper Darby Township	Delaware	PA	82,846	65,858	16,988
Hamilton Township	Mercer	NJ	87,799	73,448	14,351
Bensalem Township	Bucks	PA	60,370	48,916	11,454
Cherry Hill Township	Camden	NJ	70,859	59,438	11,421
Camden City	Camden	NJ	74,608	63,276	11,332
West Windsor Township	Mercer	NJ	28,007	16,836	11,171
East Windsor Township	Mercer	NJ	27,294	18,229	9,065
Lawrence Township	Mercer	NJ	32,794	24,999	7,795

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates (2014–2018)

Figure 7 shows the foreign-born population by municipality in the region. The foreign-born population is clustered around both Philadelphia and Trenton. Although the foreign-born population is low in the peripheral areas of the region, this could be influenced by the low populations in these areas relative to other municipalities.

Table 4 shows the municipalities with the lowest share of foreign-born residents in 2018. Excluding Tavistock and Pine Valley Borough because of population size, Upland Borough in Delaware County had the lowest share of foreign-born residents with 0.2 percent. Green Lane Borough in Montgomery County has the next-lowest share with 0.7 percent of the population.

Table 4: Municipalities with the Lowest Share of Foreign-Born Residents, 2018

Municipality	County	State	Total Population	Native	Foreign-Born
Tavistock Borough	Camden	NJ	3	100.0%	0.0%
Pine Valley Borough	Camden	NJ	4	100.0%	0.0%
Upland Borough	Delaware	PA	3,304	99.8%	0.2%
Green Lane Borough	Montgomery	PA	454	99.3%	0.7%
Honey Brook Borough	Chester	PA	1,865	99.2%	0.8%
Audubon Park Borough	Camden	NJ	912	99.1%	0.9%
Marlborough Township	Montgomery	PA	3,349	99.1%	0.9%
Medford Lakes Borough	Burlington	NJ	4,031	98.9%	1.1%
Chesilhurst Borough	Camden	NJ	1,499	98.9%	1.1%
Honey Brook Township	Chester	PA	8,205	98.9%	1.1%

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates (2014–2018)

Figure 7: Foreign-Born Population by Municipality, 2018

Foreign-Born Population

- 0 to 1,000
- 1,001 to 3,000
- 3,001 to 6,000
- 6,001 to 10,000
- 10,001 to 20,000
- 218,489

Bucks

Mercer

Montgomery

12

Chester

Philadelphia

Delaware

Burlington

Camden

12

Gloucester

N

0 2.5 5   10 Miles

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Source: U.S. Census ACS 5-year Estimates (2014-2018)

Table 5 highlights the number of foreign-born residents by municipality by their share of the total population. Although Philadelphia had the highest number of foreign-born residents, it is not in the top 10 as far as foreign-born share of the population is concerned. Trenton City, which is second in the previous table, did not make the cutoff either, as most of these municipalities are relatively small except for West and East Windsor Township (28,007 and 27,294 residents, respectively). The remainder of the municipalities listed in this table had less than 6,500 residents. The listed municipalities in Table 5 had a foreign-born share of at least 25 percent. The highest share was in Millbourne Borough in Delaware County, whose share of 58.4 percent is much higher than the next highest share of 42.5 percent in Avondale Borough.
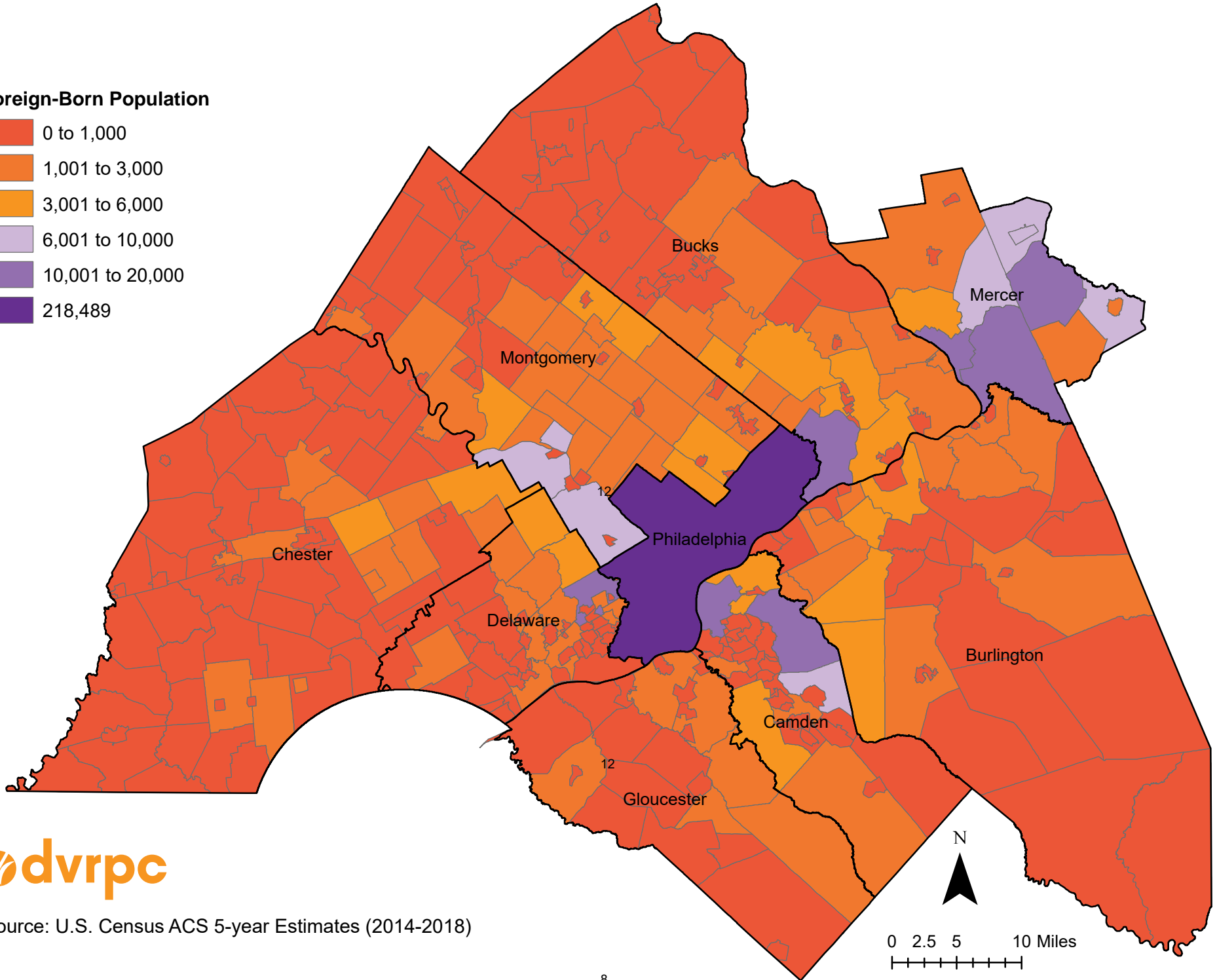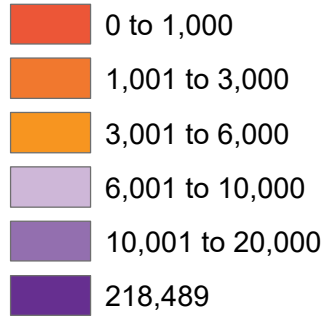
Table 5: Municipalities with the Highest Share of Foreign-Born Residents, 2018

Municipality	County	State	Total Population	Native	Foreign-Born
Millbourne Borough	Delaware	PA	1,287	41.6%	58.4%
Avondale Borough	Chester	PA	1,295	57.5%	42.5%
West Windsor Township	Mercer County	NJ	28,007	60.1%	39.9%
Kennett Square Borough	Chester	PA	6,159	64.5%	35.5%
East Windsor Township	Mercer County	NJ	27,294	66.8%	33.2%
Hightstown Borough	Mercer County	NJ	5,413	71.3%	28.7%
East Lansdowne Borough	Delaware	PA	2,678	71.7%	28.3%
Hatfield Borough	Montgomery	PA	3,332	72.9%	27.1%
Woodlynne Borough	Camden County	NJ	2,915	74.5%	25.5%
West Grove Borough	Chester	PA	2,846	75.0%	25.0%

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates (2014–2018)

Figure 8 shows the foreign-born share of the total population by municipality. With total population for added context, the foreign-born population appears to be more scattered throughout the region. Although there is still clustering of the foreign-born population around the region's cities, there are also relatively high numbers of foreign-born residents in Chester, Montgomery, and Burlington counties.

Figure 8: Foreign-Born Share of Total Population by Municipality, 2018

Foreign-Born Share of Population

- 0% to 5.0%
- 5.1% to 10.0%
- 10.1% to 15.0%
- 15.1% to 20.0%
- 20.1% to 30.0%
- 30.1% to 58.4%

Bucks

Mercer

Montgomery

Philadelphia

Chester

Delaware

Burlington

Camden

Gloucester

dvrpc

Source: U.S. Census ACS 5-year Estimates (2014–2018)

N

0   2.5   5   10 Miles

10
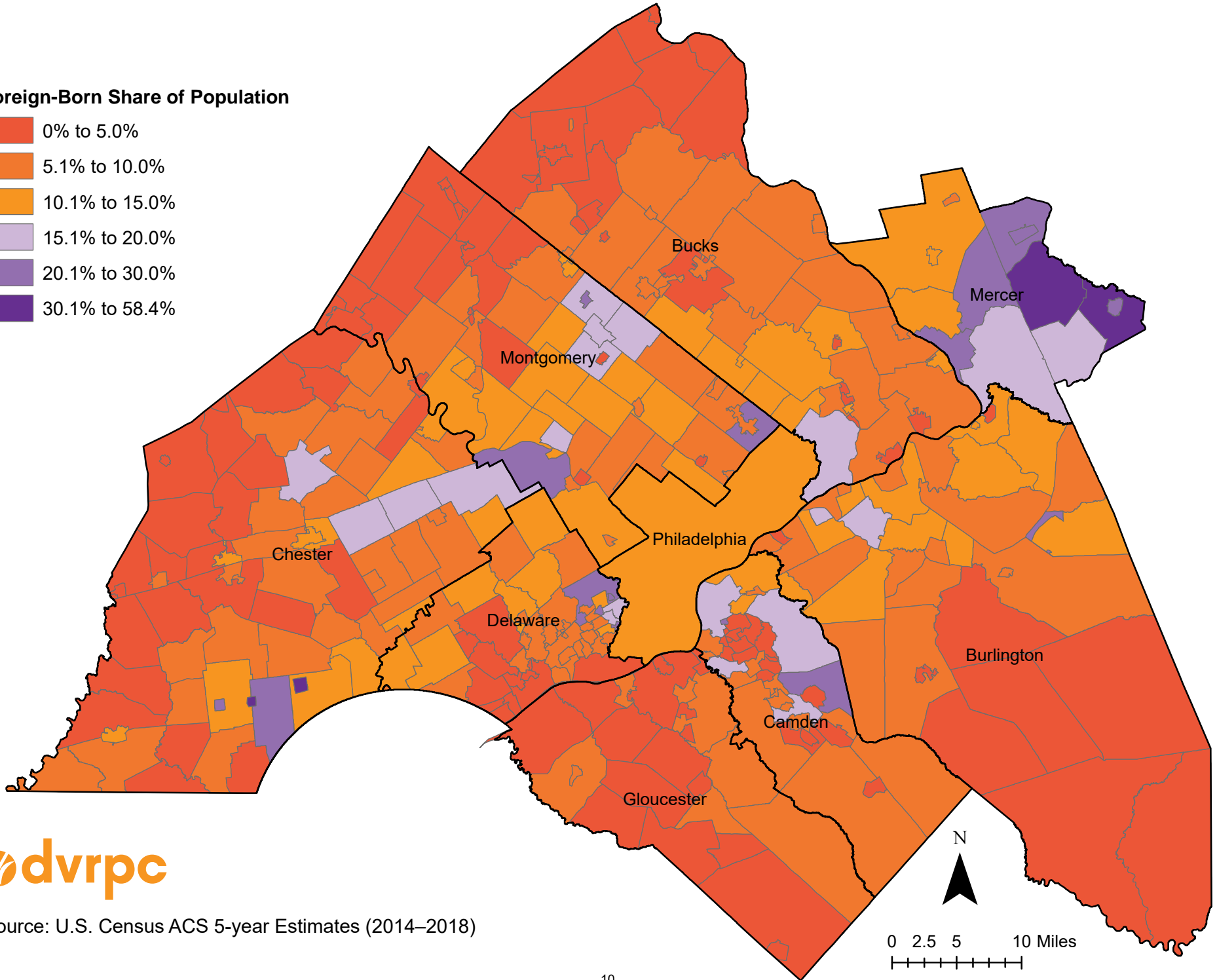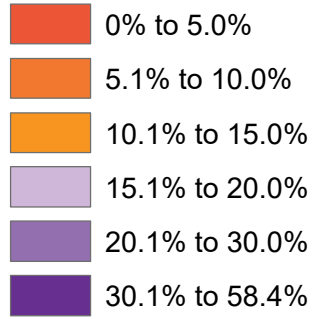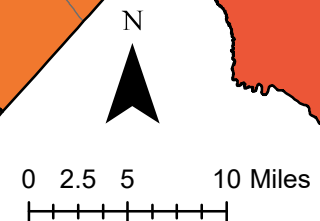
Foreign-Born Population Change, 2010–2018

Table 6 highlights the top 10 municipalities with the largest increase in foreign-born residents between 2010 and 2018. Philadelphia added more than 46,000 foreign-born residents from 2010 to 2018, which is substantially higher than the remaining municipalities listed in this table. West Windsor Township added 3,422 foreign-born residents. The remainder of the municipalities listed in this table added less than 2,500 foreign-born residents. Multiple counties are represented in this table, indicating that the increase in foreign-born residents happened throughout the region.

Table 6: Municipalities with the Largest Increase in Foreign-Born Residents, 2010–2018

Municipality	County	State	Foreign-Born Population 2010	Foreign-Born Population 2018	Change	% Foreign-Born
Philadelphia City	Philadelphia	PA	172,415	218,489	46,074	13.9%
West Windsor Township	Mercer	NJ	7,749	11,171	3,422	39.9%
Hamilton Township	Mercer	NJ	12,068	14,351	2,283	16.3%
Tredyffrin Township	Chester	PA	2,979	5,241	2,262	17.8%
Bensalem Township	Bucks	PA	9,460	11,454	1,994	19.0%
Upper Darby Township	Delaware	PA	15,164	16,988	1,824	20.5%
Mount Laurel Township	Burlington	NJ	3,664	5,037	1,373	12.1%
Concord Township	Delaware	PA	911	2,185	1,274	12.4%
East Windsor Township	Mercer	NJ	7,813	9,065	1,252	33.2%
Voorhees Township	Camden	NJ	5,052	6,246	1,194	21.4%

Sources: ACS 5-Year Estimates (2006–2010, 2014–2018)

Figure 9 shows the change in the foreign-born population by municipality from 2010 to 2018. Again, the increases in the foreign-born population were highest in Philadelphia and Trenton and the municipalities that surround them. This is likely due to these areas having a higher capacity for population increases and does not necessarily indicate a high increase in foreign-born residents relative to the overall population.

Figure 9: Change in Foreign-Born Population by Municipality, 2010–2018

Change in Foreign-Born Population

- -755 to -100
- -99 to 0
- 1 to 500
- 501 to 1,000
- 1,001 to 6,000
- 46,074

Bucks

Mercer

Montgomery

Chester

Philadelphia

Delaware

Burlington

Camden

Gloucester

N

0 2.5 5   10 Miles

Source: U.S. Census ACS 5-year Estimates (2006–2010, 2014–2018)

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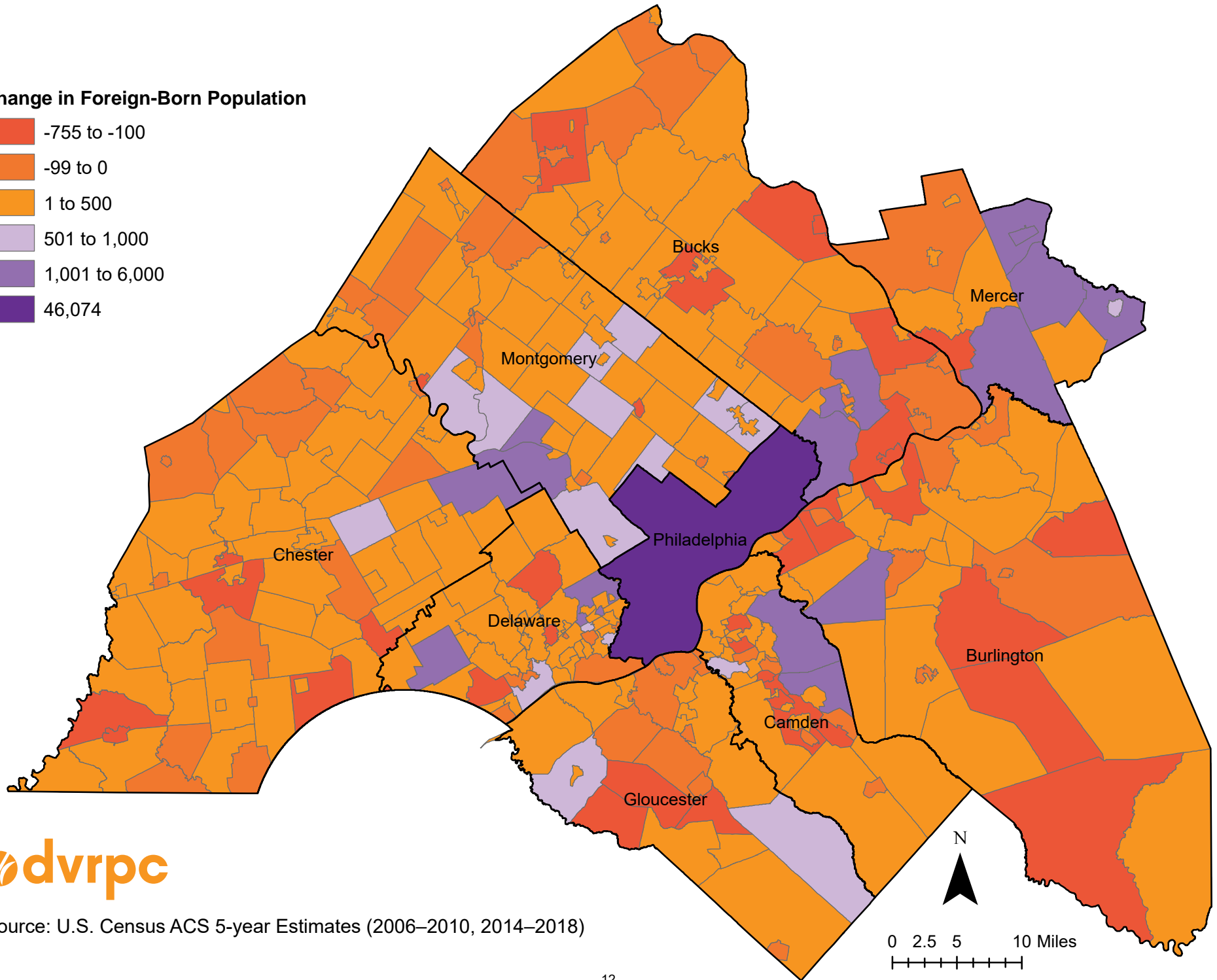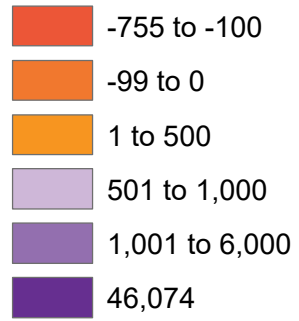
Table 7 outlines the municipalities with the largest increase in the foreign-born share of the population between 2010 and 2018. The top 10 municipalities in the region all had an increase in their foreign-born share of at least seven percentage points. Two municipalities, Hightstown Borough and West Windsor Township, both had an increase in their foreign-born population of at least 10 percent. Although most of these changes resulted in a large percentage point increase because of a small denominator, West Windsor Township and Tredyffrin Township had an increase of at least 2,000 foreign-born residents during this period.

Table 7: Municipalities with the Largest Increase in Foreign-Born Share of Population, 2010–2018

Municipality	County	State	Foreign-Born Population		% Foreign-Born Population		% Change
			2010	2018	2010	2018	
Hightstown Borough	Mercer	NJ	999	1,555	18.2%	28.7%	10.5%
West Windsor Township	Mercer	NJ	7,749	11,171	29.5%	39.9%	10.4%
Bridgeport Borough	Montgomery	PA	232	659	5.1%	14.4%	9.3%
Wrightstown Borough	Burlington	NJ	114	162	16.0%	24.6%	8.6%
Pennsbury Township	Chester	PA	155	461	4.3%	12.6%	8.3%
Woodlynne Borough	Camden	NJ	508	742	17.2%	25.5%	8.3%
Bellmawr Borough	Camden	NJ	1,153	2,081	9.9%	18.2%	8.3%
Chadds Ford Township	Delaware	PA	229	533	6.4%	14.3%	7.9%
Tredyffrin Township	Chester	PA	2,979	5,241	10.1%	17.8%	7.7%
West Norriton Township	Montgomery	PA	825	1,999	5.3%	12.7%	7.4%

Sources: ACS 5-Year Estimates (2006–2010, 2014–2018)

Figure 10 shows the change in the foreign-born share of the population by municipality from 2010 to 2018. The results appear to be quite scattered. Disregarding Philadelphia (since it is both a municipality and a county), each county in the region had municipalities that saw large increases in its foreign-born population while others were large decreases.

Figure 10: Change in Foreign-Born Share of Population by Municipality, 2010–2018

Change in Foreign-Born Share of Population

- -49.2%
- -12.0% to -5.0%
- -4.9% to 0%
- 0.1% to 2.0%
- 2.1% to 5.0%
- 5.1% to 10.5%

Bucks

Mercer

Montgomery

Philadelphia

Chester

Delaware

Burlington

Camden

Gloucester

Source: U.S. Census ACS 5-year Estimates (2006–2010, 2014–2018)

0 2.5 5   10 Miles

N

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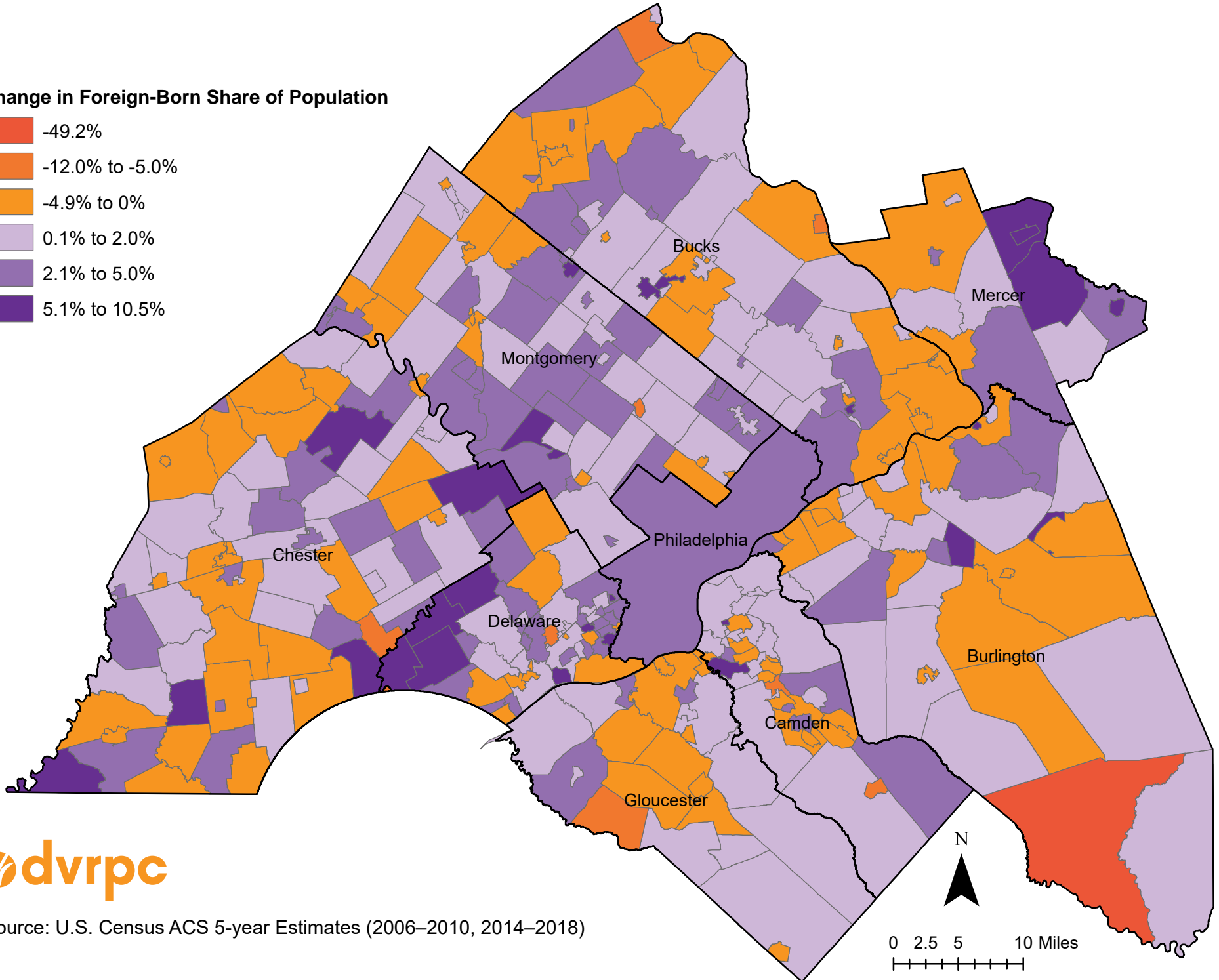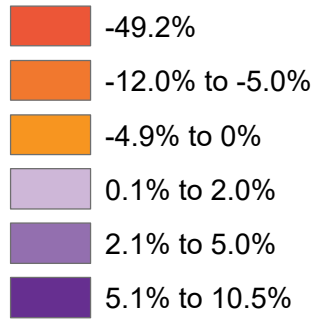
Demographics

This section provides socioeconomic and demographic details on foreign-born individuals and households. It evaluates economic status by comparing variables, such as median household income, educational attainment, and worker occupation and class, to the native population in the respective counties. Additionally, it analyzes household dynamics and formation by looking at median age, tenure, and marital status. It also looks at vehicle possession, which can serve as a proxy for density in the areas in which foreign-born households live.

Median Age

Figure 11 shows that the median age of the foreign-born population in all nine counties is higher than the median age of the native population in 2018. The largest split is in Philadelphia County, where the foreign-born population's median age of 40.9 is 8.1 years higher than the native population's median age of 32.8. The foreign-born population in every county has a median age of at least 40. The median age of the foreign-born population in Burlington County is the highest (47.5), followed by Gloucester County (46.6). Chester County's foreign-born population has the lowest median age (40.7), which is higher than the median age for the native population in every county besides Bucks County (43.4). The median age for the foreign-born population in each county went up by at least 1.8 years from 2010 to 2018. The highest increase was Burlington County's foreign-born population (+4.7), and the lowest was Philadelphia County's (+1.8). Comparatively, the median age of the native population decreased in Mercer and Delaware counties. Additionally, of the seven counties where the native population's median age increased, three of them had increases of less than one year. The highest increase belonged to Bucks County, with an increase of 3.3 years.

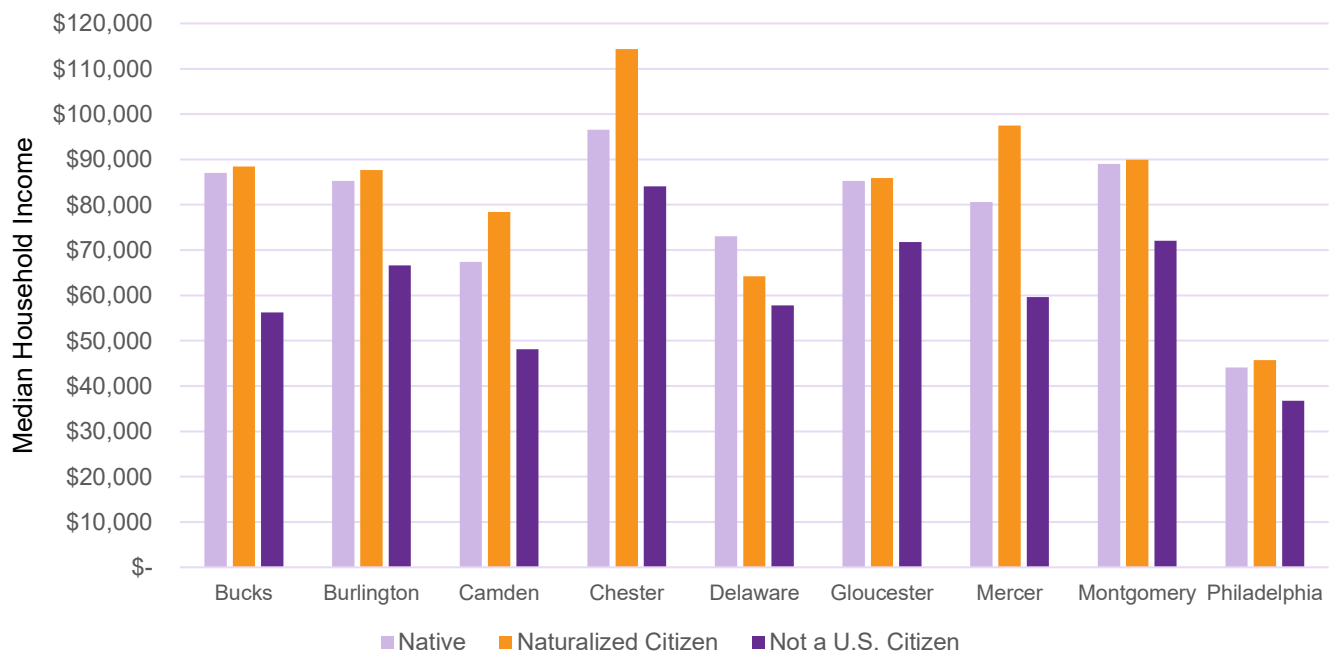**Figure 11:** Change in Median Age by Nativity, 2010–2018
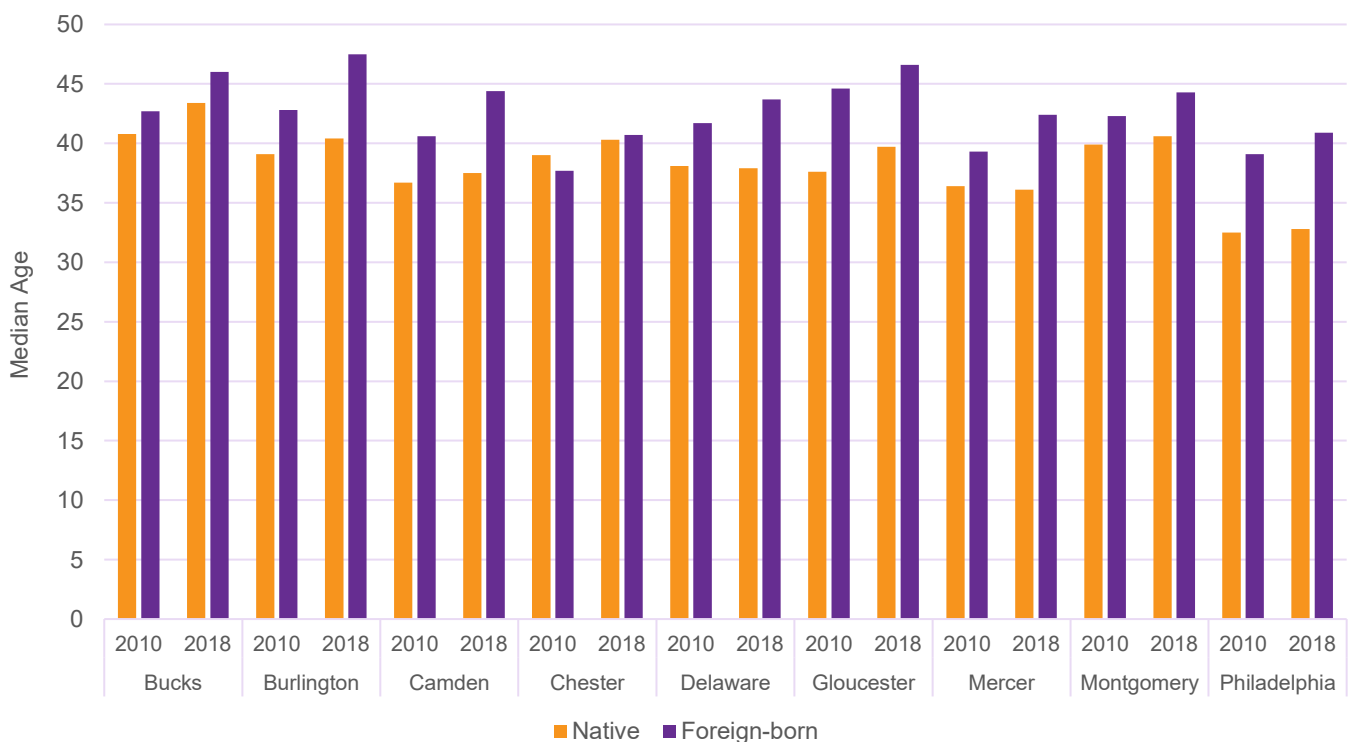
Sources: ACS 5-Year Estimates (2006–2010, 2014–2018)

Median Household Income

Figure 12 highlights that naturalized citizen households had higher median incomes than native households in eight of the counties in the region in 2018. The exception is Delaware County, where the median household income of naturalized citizen households is 12.1 percent less than native households. The largest gap is in Mercer County, where median household income of naturalized citizen households is 21.0 percent higher than native households. Naturalized citizen households in Chester County have the highest median household income at $114,354, while naturalized citizen households in Philadelphia County have the lowest at $45,730. The median household income for non-U.S. citizen households is lower across the board than the native population. The highest median income among non-U.S. citizen households is in Chester County at $84,046, which is still 12.9 percent less than the native median household income. The lowest median household income among non-U.S. citizen households is in Philadelphia County at $36,738, followed by Camden County at $48,117.

Figure 12: Median Household Income by Nativity and Citizenship Status, 2018

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates (2014–2018)

As shown in Figure 13, the changes in median household income for native and foreign-born households are mostly similar between 2010 and 2018. Foreign-Born households in Gloucester County had the highest increase in median household income with an increase of 9.5 percent. This growth outpaced the native households in the county, which increased by 2.1 percent during this period. The largest decrease for foreign-born households is 6.5 percent in Bucks County, compared to an increase of 1.2 percent for native households.

Figure 13: Change in Median Household Income by Nativity, 2010–2018
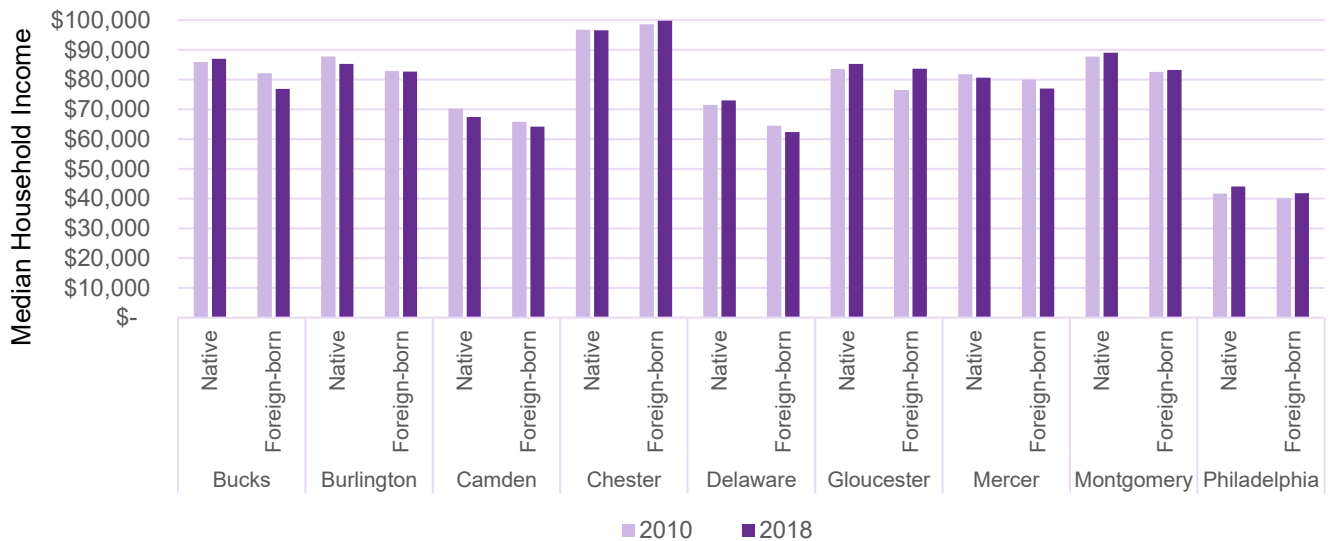
Sources: ACS 5-Year Estimates (2006–2010, 2014–2018)

Marital Status

Figure 14 illustrates the change in marital status by nativity between 2010 and 2018. The share of the native population that has never been married is higher than the share for both naturalized citizens and non-U.S. citizens. Nearly 40 percent of the native population never married, compared to 18.8 percent for naturalized citizens and 32.2 percent for non-U.S. citizens. Naturalized citizens have the highest marriage rate at 62.8 percent, followed by non-U.S. citizens at 56.9 percent and the native population at 43.1 percent. Although the share of the eligible population that is divorced or separated is similar for the native and naturalized citizen population (11.2 and 11.5 percent, respectively), the share for the non-U.S. citizen population is much lower at 7.5 percent. This is also true for the share that is widowed, which is only 3.4 percent for non-U.S. citizens but 6.2 percent for the native population and 7.0 percent for naturalized citizens. The marital status for the native and foreign-born populations remained steady between 2010 to 2018. The largest change for the native population was the share that had never married, which increased 2.5 percentage points from 37.0 to 39.5 percent in 2018. Comparatively, the share of the foreign-born population that had never married decreased 1.2 percentage points from 26.0 to 24.8 percent. Other notable changes include the native population's married share, which decreased by 1.8 percentage points, and the foreign-born population's divorced/separated share, which increased by 1.2 percentage points.

Figure 14: Change in Marital Status by Nativity, 2010–2018

Legend: Never Married | Married | Divorced/Separated | Widowed

Y-axis: Share of Population
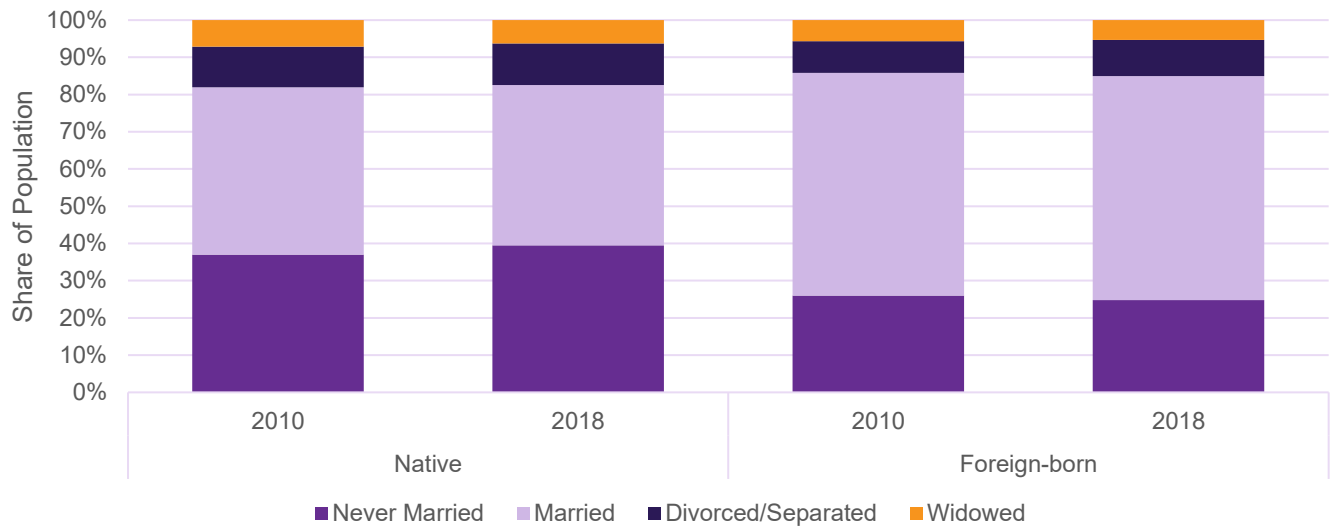
Sources: ACS 5-Year Estimates (2006–2010, 2014–2018)

Homeownership

Figure 15 illustrates the change in homeownership for the foreign-born population between 2010 and 2018. Across the region, the native population has higher rates of homeownership than the foreign-born population. Philadelphia County has the lowest rate of homeownership for the foreign-born population among the nine counties, while 53.2 percent of native-occupied units are owner-occupied compared to 51.6 percent of foreign-born-occupied units. The largest difference is in Chester County where the homeownership rate for the foreign-born population is 59.6 percent, which is 22.6 percent less than the native population's homeownership rate of 77 percent. The foreign-born population in Gloucester County has the highest rate of homeownership at 72 percent. The homeownership rate for the foreign-born population decreased for each county in the region from 2010 to 2018. The foreign-born population in Chester County had the largest decrease in its homeownership rate, going from 63.6 percent in 2010 to 59.6 percent in 2018—a 6.3 percent decrease. Meanwhile, the homeownership rates for the foreign-born population in Bucks and Philadelphia counties decreased by less than 1 percent.

Figure 15: Change in Foreign-Born Population Homeownership, 2010–2018

Legend: Owner-Occupied | Renter-Occupied

Y-axis: Share of Occupied Units
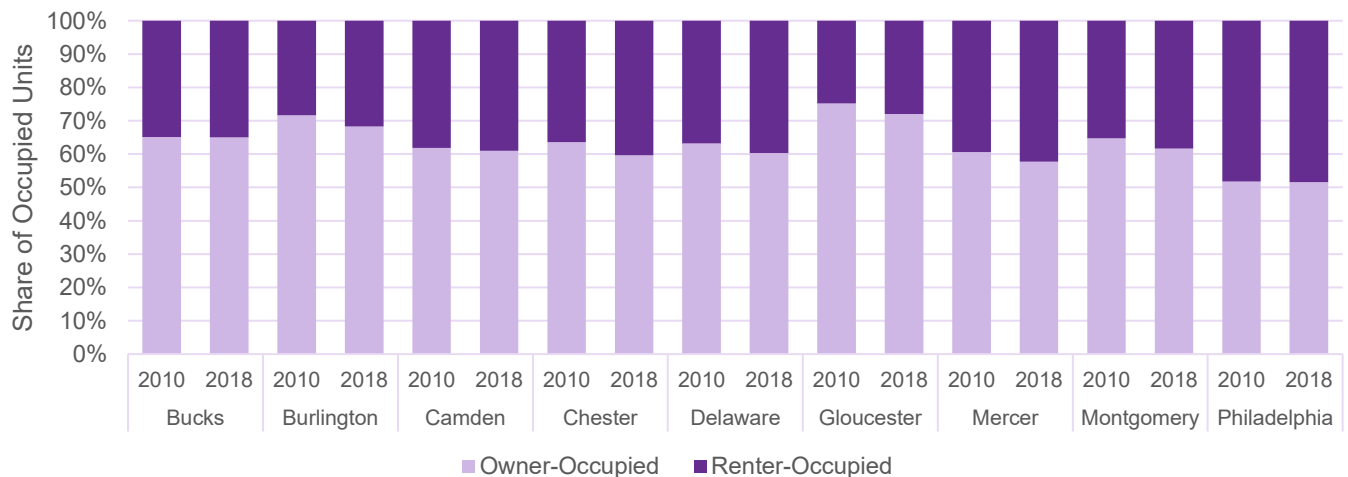
Sources: ACS 5-Year Estimates (2006–2010, 2014–2018)

Vehicle Possession

As shown in Figure 16, foreign-born households in Philadelphia County have the lowest vehicle possession rate at 74 percent. Foreign-Born households in Chester County have the highest vehicle possession rate at 95 percent. Between 2010 to 2018, the share of foreign-born households with a vehicle did not change much for most of the counties. The rate changed by less than 1 percent during this period for six counties. Foreign-Born households in Gloucester County had the highest increase in vehicle possession rate (+4.3 percent), followed by foreign-born households in Philadelphia County (+4.1 percent). The vehicle possession rate for foreign-born households decreased in two counties (Bucks and Chester), although it was less than 1 percent for either county.

Figure 16: Change in Foreign-Born Population Vehicle Possession, 2010–2018
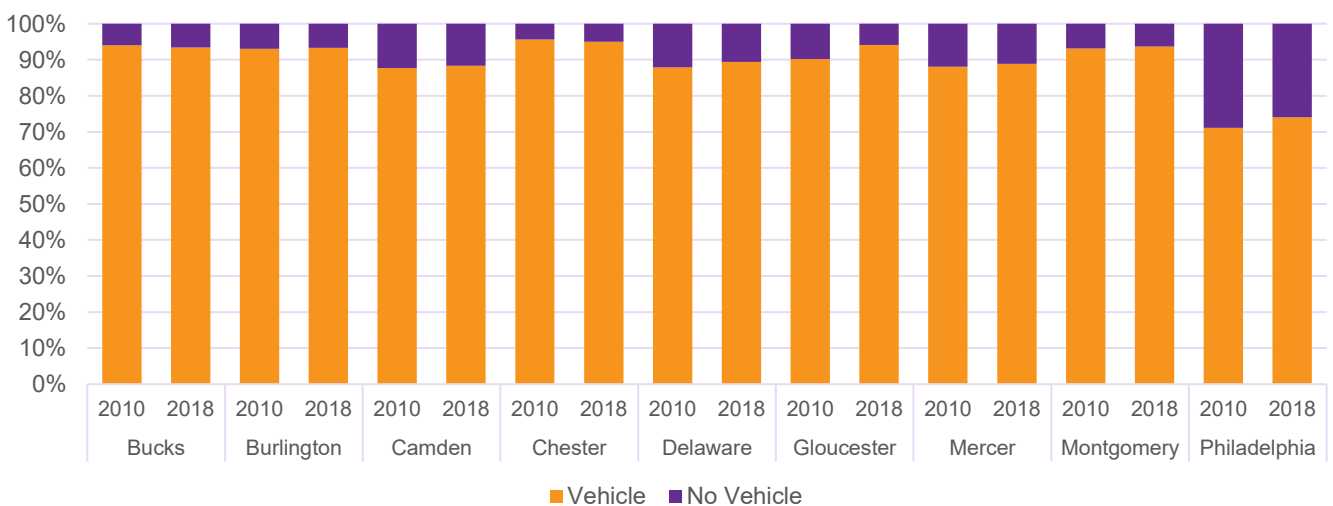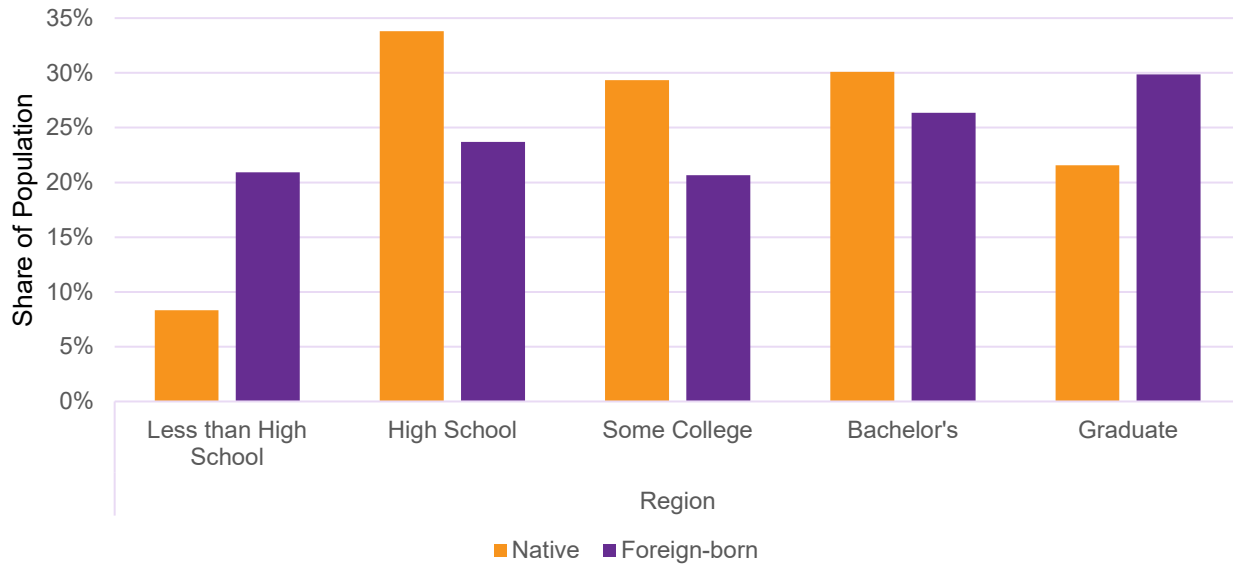

Sources: ACS 5-Year Estimates (2006–2010, 2014–2018)

Educational Attainment

Figure 17 outlines the educational attainment by nativity of the foreign-born population. More than 20 percent of the foreign-born residents had less than a high school degree, which is 151.8 percent higher than the native population's share of 8.3 percent. The share of the foreign-born population with a graduate degree is almost 30 percent, which is 38.5 percent higher than the native share of 20.6 percent. The bifurcation stands out in this chart, as more than 50 percent of foreign-born residents either had less than a high school degree or had a graduate degree, which only applied to 30 percent of the native population. Therefore, the share of the native population that had a high school degree, some college, or a bachelor's degree is higher than the foreign-born share for each category. The share of the foreign-born population with a high school degree or some college is nearly 30 percent less than the native population, and it is 12.4 percent lower than the native share for a bachelor's degree.
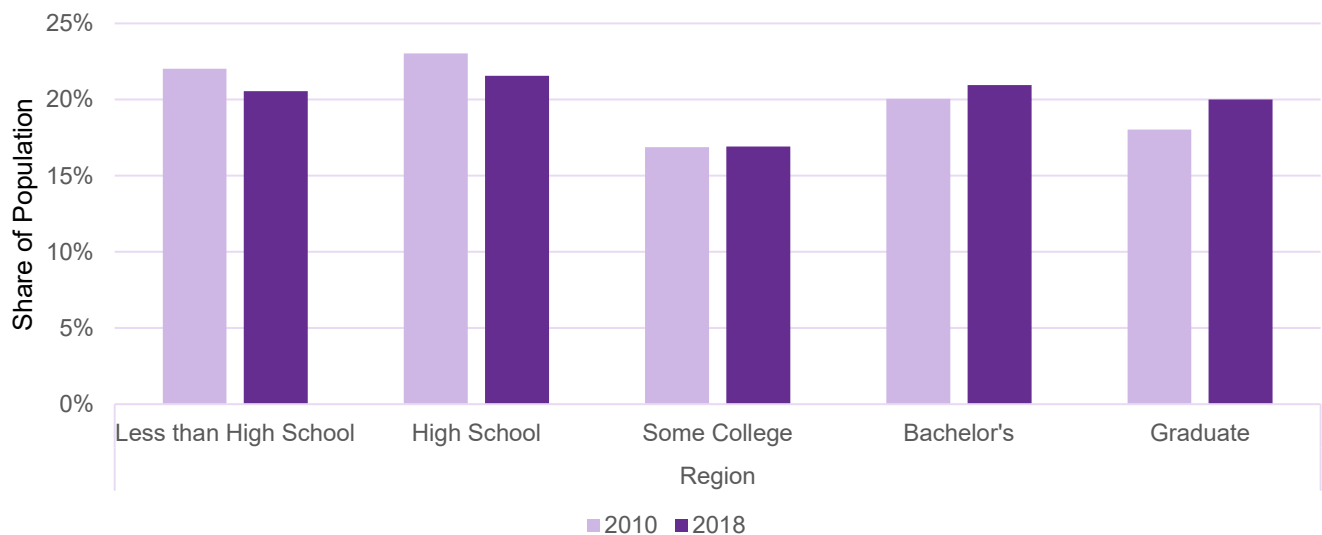
Figure 17: Educational Attainment by Nativity, 2018

As shown in Figure 18, the educational attainment for the foreign-born population shifted toward higher education from 2010 to 2018. Although the share of the population with less than a high school degree and a high school degree decreased by 6.7 and 6.4 percent, respectively, the other three categories increased. The largest increase is in graduate degrees, which went from 18 percent to 20 percent—an increase of 10.9 percent. Additionally, the share of the foreign-born population with a bachelor's degree increased by 4.6 percent from 20 to 21 percent. These trends matched the native population's change in educational attainment during this period. The share of the native population with some college, a bachelor's degree, or a graduate degree increased by 1.6, 13.1, and 19.7 percent, respectively.

Figure 18: Change in Foreign-Born Population Educational Attainment, 2010–2018

Occupation by Nativity

Figure 19 shows occupation by nativity in 2018 at the regional level. The share of foreign-born workers who work in the Management/Business/Science/Arts occupations is 42.3 percent, compared to 44.3 percent of native workers. The share of foreign-born workers is higher than the share of native workers in five of the nine counties: Burlington, Gloucester, Bucks, Chester, and Montgomery. The largest difference in these occupations is in Philadelphia County; 31.6 percent of foreign-born workers work in these occupations compared to 40.1 percent share of native workers in these occupations. This is also the lowest share of foreign-born workers in these occupations. Comparatively, the share of foreign-born workers in these occupations is highest in Montgomery County at 52.3 percent.
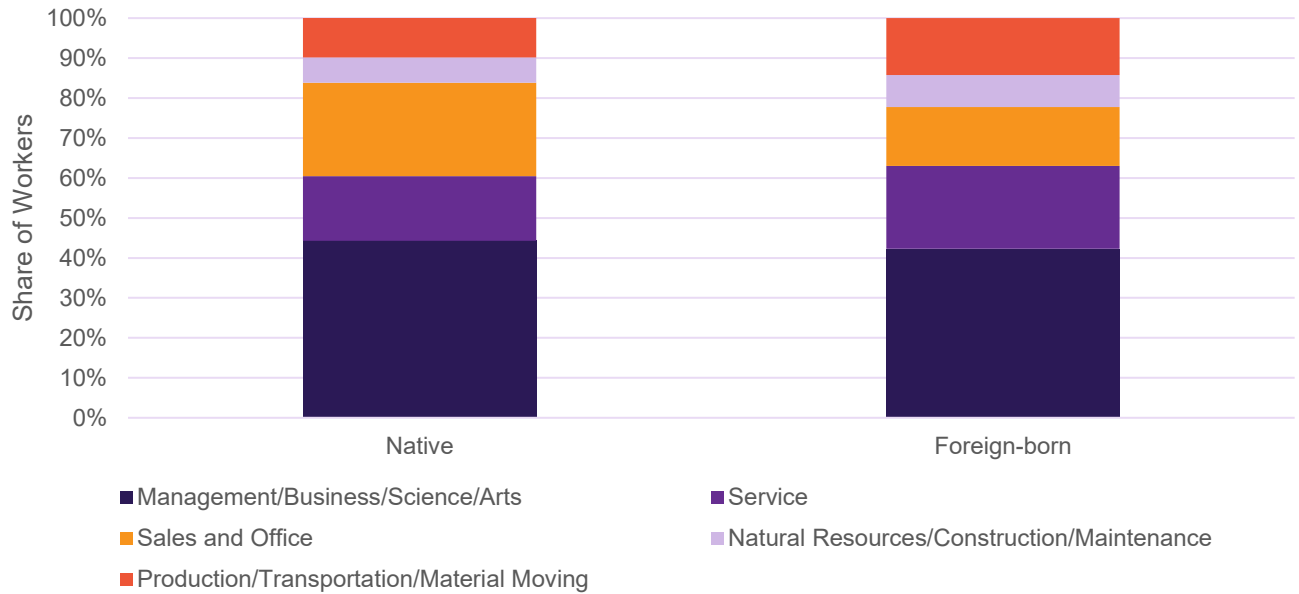
In the Services occupations, the share of foreign-born workers (20.6 percent) is higher than the share of native workers (16.1 percent). The share of foreign-born workers in these occupations is higher than the share of native workers in every county except Gloucester. The highest share of foreign-born workers in these occupations is in Philadelphia County at 26.6 percent, while Gloucester County had the lowest share at 14.4 percent.

The Sales and Office occupations comprise 14.8 percent of foreign-born workers, which is lower than the share of native workers at 23.4 percent. The share of foreign-born workers in these occupations is lower than the share of native workers in every county. Chester County has the lowest share of foreign-born workers in these occupations. Comparatively, the highest share of foreign-born workers in these occupations is in Camden County at 19.9 percent.

There is a higher share of foreign-born workers than native workers in the Natural Resources/Construction/Maintenance occupations. These occupations account for 8 percent of foreign-born workers, which is higher than the 6.3 percent share of native workers. In four counties—Gloucester, Bucks, Delaware, and Montgomery—the share of native workers is actually higher than the share of foreign-born workers. However, the share of foreign-born workers is substantially higher in Chester and Philadelphia counties. The share of foreign-born workers (15.6 percent) in these occupations in Chester County is the highest among the counties. Additionally, 9.5 percent of foreign-born workers are in these occupations in Philadelphia County. The lowest share of foreign-born workers in these occupations was Montgomery County at 5 percent.

The Production/Transportation/Material Moving occupations also have a higher share of foreign-born workers than native workers. The share of foreign-born workers in this occupation is 14.2 percent, which is higher than the native 9.9 percent share of native workers. The share of foreign-born workers is higher across all counties, which is the inverse of the Sales and Office occupations. The share foreign-born workers in these occupations is highest in Philadelphia County at 18.2 percent. The lowest share of foreign-born workers in the Production/Transportation/Material Moving is in Chester County at 8.2 percent.

Figure 19: Regional Occupation by Nativity, 2018

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates (2014–2018)

Figure 20 illustrates the share of foreign-born workers decreased in three of these occupation groupings and increased in two of them between 2010 and 2018. The biggest change is in the Sales and Office occupations, where the share of foreign-born workers decreased 16.2 percent from 17.7 percent in 2010 to 14.8 percent in 2018. Management/Business/Science/Arts remained the occupations with the highest share of foreign-born workers, increasing 6.7 percent from 39.6 percent to 42.3 percent during this period. The share in the Service occupations is steady, going from 20.9 to 20.7 percent. Natural Resources/Construction/Maintenance decreased by 5.4 percent from 8.4 percent to 8 percent, and Production/Transportation/Material Moving increased from 13.4 percent to 14.2 percent (6.1 percent).

Figure 20: Foreign-Born Population Change in Occupation, 2010–2018
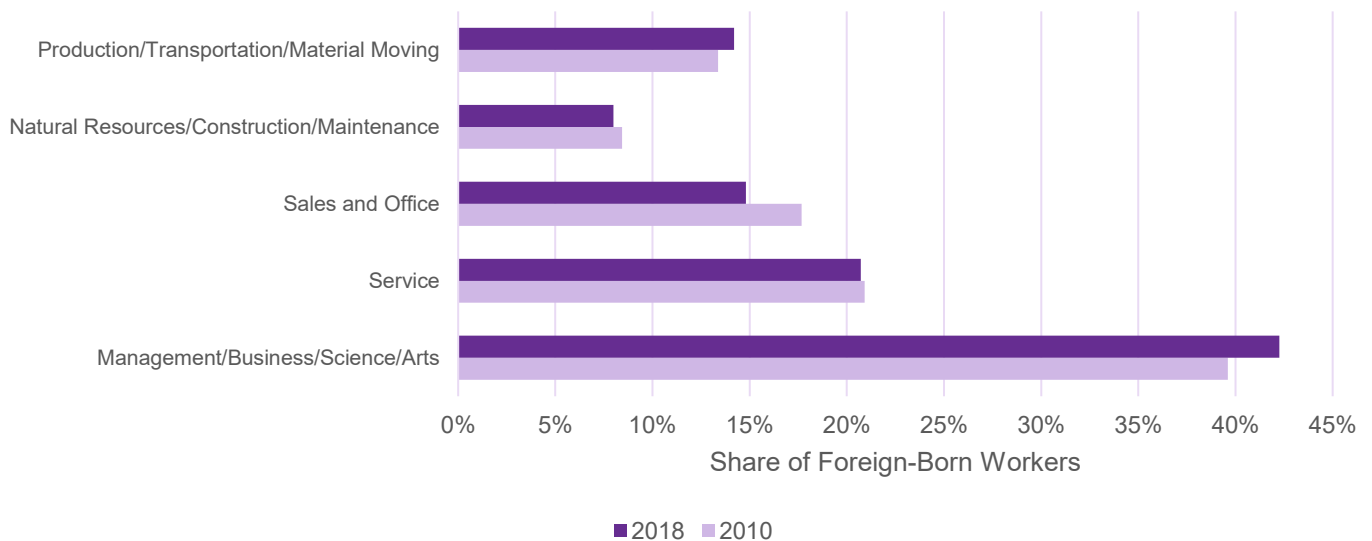
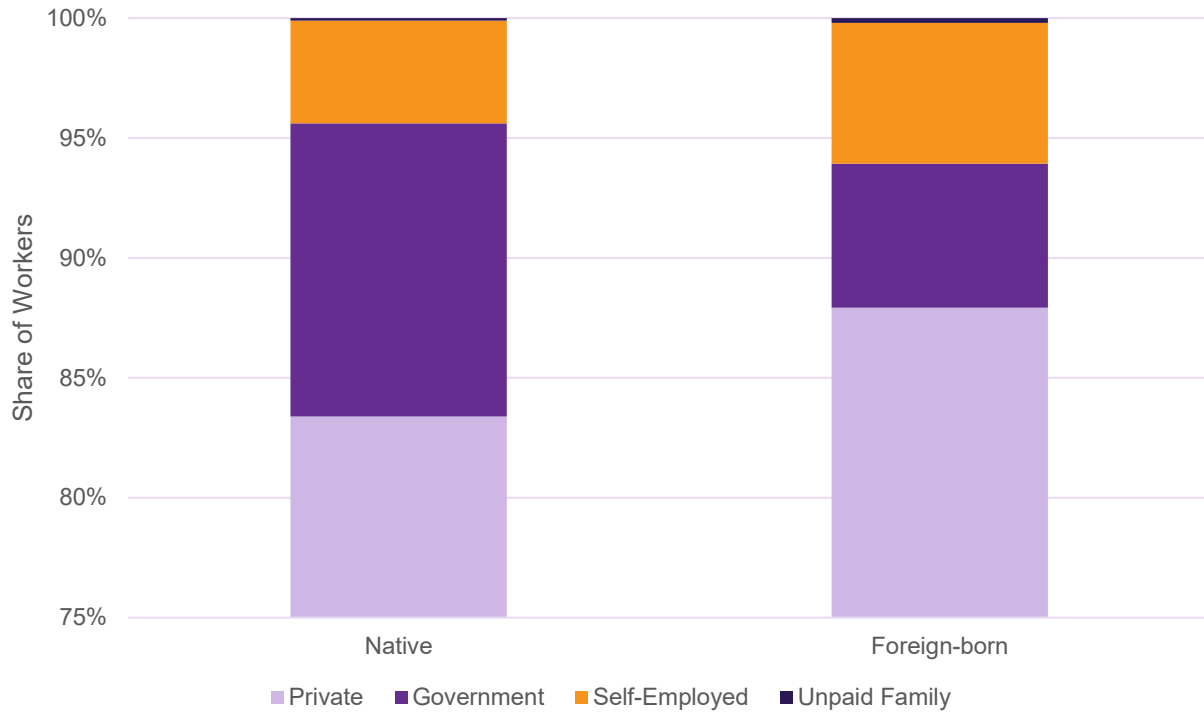*Sources: ACS 5-Year Estimates (2006–2010, 2014–2018)*

Worker Class

Figure 21 shows worker class by nativity at the regional level. The private sector accounted for at least 80 percent of native and foreign-born workers in the region. The share of foreign-born workers (87.9 percent) in the private sector is 5.5 percent higher than the share of native workers (83.3 percent). Conversely, the share of native workers in the public sector (government) is much higher than the share of foreign-born workers. Although the native share of workers is 12.2 percent, the foreign-born share is only 6 percent—50.8 percent lower than the native share. Lastly, the share of foreign-born workers (5.9 percent) that are self-employed is 36.8 percent higher than the share of native workers (4.3 percent).

In the private sector, the foreign-born share is higher than the native share for all the counties in the region. The largest spread is in Mercer County; the share of foreign-born workers (87.8 percent) is 13.6 percent higher than the native share (77.3 percent). The highest share of foreign-born workers in the sector is in Chester County at 92.7 percent, while the lowest share of foreign-born workers in this sector is in Gloucester County at 83.1 percent.

The public sector had a native share of workers that is higher than the foreign-born share for every county, reversing the trend from the private sector. The biggest difference is in Chester County, where only 3.2 percent of foreign-born workers are in the public sector, which is 63.2 percent lower than the 8.7 percent share of native workers. This also happened to be the lowest share of foreign-born workers among the counties. The highest share, on the other hand, is in Burlington County, where 10.9 percent of foreign-born workers are in the public sector. In eight of the counties, the share of foreign-born workers that are self-employed is higher than the share of native workers. The exception is Chester County, where only 3.9 percent of foreign-born workers are self-employed, which is also the lowest share among the counties. The largest spread is in Philadelphia County, where the share of foreign-born workers (6.6 percent) is 83.6 percent higher than the native share (3.6 percent). The highest share of foreign-born self-employed workers is located in Montgomery County with 7 percent.
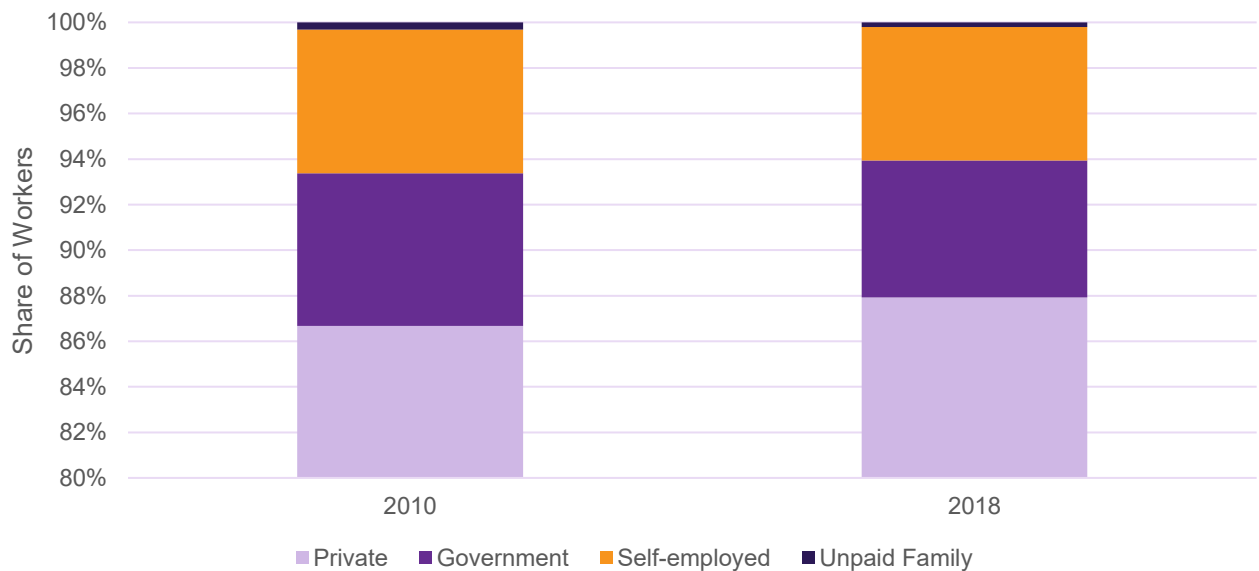
Figure 21: Regional Worker Class by Nativity, 2018

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates (2014–2018)

Figure 22 highlights the change in the foreign-born population worker class between 2010 and 2018. The share of foreign-born workers in the private sector remained stable between 2010 to 2018, increasing from 86.7 percent to 87.9 percent, but the public sector dropped by 10.1 percent during the same period, dropping from 6.7 to 6 percent. The self-employed share also decreased from 6.3 to 5.9 percent.

Figure 22: Change in Foreign-Born Population Worker Class, 2010–2018

Sources: ACS 5-Year Estimates (2006–2010, 2014–2018)

Snapshot Highlights

Increase in foreign-born share of population	Between 2010 and 2018, the foreign-born share of the region's population grew from 10.1 to 11.7 percent.
Slowdown in growth of foreign-born population	While the foreign-born population grew by 18.2% from 2010 to 2018, Data Snapshot 3.1 from May 2012 indicated that the foreign-born population grew by 39% between 2000 and 2010
Two counties with highest foreign-born populations	Although Philadelphia has the highest number of foreign-born residents, Mercer County has the highest share of foreign-born residents.
Growth in foreign-born population throughout the region	The growth in the share of foreign-born residents appeared to be scattered throughout the region, suggesting that the distribution of foreign-born residents in the region is slowly becoming more homogeneous.
Foreign-Born population is older throughout the region	The foreign-born population had a higher median age than the native population in every county.
Citizenship status is correlated with median household income and marital status	Naturalized citizen households had higher median incomes and higher marriage rates than the native population, while the median household incomes and marriage rates for non-U.S. citizen households are lower.
Relatively low homeownership rates for foreign-born population	In each county, the homeownership rates of native households are higher than those of the foreign-born households. Additionally, the rates of homeownership for the foreign-born population decreased in each county.
Bifurcation of educational attainment for foreign-born population	Foreign-Born residents are more likely to either have less than a high school degree or a graduate degree than the native population as seen in 2000-2010 as well. From 2010 to 2018, the share of foreign-born residents with higher education credentials increased.
Overrepresentation in particular occupations and worker class	Foreign-Born workers are disproportionately represented in the Services, Natural Resources/Construction/Maintenance, and Production/Transportation/Material Moving occupations and are more likely to be self-employed or working in the private sector than the native population.

Sources

U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B05012; generated by Brian Carney; using data.census.gov; <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>; (17 November 2020).

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U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S0502; generated by Brian Carney; using data.census.gov; <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>; (17 November 2020).

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U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S0505; generated by Brian Carney; using data.census.gov; <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>; (15 October 2020).

Immigration in Greater Philadelphia: FY 2021 Update

Abstract:
Greater Philadelphia's population became more diverse between 2010 and 2018, continuing the trend observed in *Immigration in Greater Philadelphia, 2012.* Greater Philadelphia's foreign-born population has grown and changed rapidly since the mid-2000s. This Snapshot update examines the foreign-born population in Greater Philadelphia using 2010 and 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. It analyzes household demographic variables, such as median household income, educational attainment, and occupation relative to native households in the region.

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